



The Impact of Bias on Afro-Latino/e/x Communities in New Jersey

AGENDA

10/08/2024

Moderator:

Angela Campos, Community Relations Specialist, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

Opening Remarks:

Patricia "Trish" Perlmutter, Associate Director for Policy, Outreach, & Community Relations
New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

Panelists:

Dr. Vânia Penha-Lopes, Professor of Sociology Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

Deliana Acosta, MSW, LSW

Vanessa Jimenez, Retention Assistant, The College of New Jersey

Know Your Rights Presentation

Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks

Angela Campos, Community Relations Specialist, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights

Moderator & Panelists Bios

Angela Campos (Moderator)

Community Relations Specialist, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights



Angela Campos (she/her) is a multilingual community relations specialist at the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights in the Community Relations Unit (CRU). As a lifelong advocate for trauma informed services to support survivors of harm through a plethora of roles. She joined the division with a diverse history of communal engagement to mitigate the impact of harm.

In her roles in tertiary prevention, she worked directly with impacted community members by providing medical accompaniment to survivors of sexual violence in New Jersey during their forensic medical exam and supportive counseling to families impacted by domestic violence, as well as assisting service providers from domestic violence programs with technical assistance navigating economic barriers experienced by survivors of violence

in their journey to obtaining self-reliance after experiencing harm.

During her capacity in secondary prevention Angela facilitated trainings and programs to community members on social emotional skills as a pathway to prevent and reduce the prevalence of chronic mental health challenges in the K- 12 youth and their caregivers. She is a certified facilitator for PreVenture, Botvin's Middle School Life Skills, and the Strengthening Families Program. In addition, Angela is also a certified facilitator of the Safe Dates curriculum and continues to uplift new early childhood educators in collaboration with the Council of Professional Recognition as a Professional Development Specialist.

Angela holds a master's in child advocacy and public policy from Montclair State University and a Domestic Violence Professional certification through the New Jersey Association of Domestic Violence Professionals. Through her academic journey Angela has been trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, is a certified Lead Safe Renovation Contractor, and is certified as a Danger Assessor through the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

In transitioning to supporting the community through her role in the Community Relations Unit Angela is helping to prevent and eliminate acts of bias, prejudice, and discrimination in New Jersey through education and community engagement building towards the DCR vision of a New Jersey where all people are treated equally.

Patricia “Trish” Perlmutter (Opening Remarks)

Associate Director for Policy, Outreach, & Community Relations NJ Division on Civil Rights



Patricia “Trish” Perlmutter (she/her) serves as Associate Director for Policy, Outreach, and Community Relations for the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. In that role, she leads anti-bias initiatives to proactively prevent discrimination. Throughout her career, Trish has worked to combat discrimination and drive institutional reform.

Previously, Trish served as Policy Counsel at Partners, advocating on behalf of survivors domestic and sexual violence. Prior to that, Trish was a clinical professor at the Center for Social Justice at Seton Hall University School of Law, where she led class action lawsuits to address the abuse and neglect of individuals, detained in jails and prisons.

She holds a B.A. from Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Deliana Acosta, MSW, LSW (Panelist)



Deliana Acosta is a bilingual, licensed social worker based in New Jersey with a Master of Social Work degree from Rutgers University.

With a diverse background in supporting children, adolescents, and adults dealing with a range of mental health issues, Deliana employs an eclectic approach to therapy, integrating various techniques to best meet the unique needs of each client.

She is passionate about raising awareness and dismantling stigma around mental health, particularly within minority communities. By fostering strong, collaborative relationships and combining different therapeutic methods, Deliana works to eliminate the shame associated with seeking help and encourages individuals to consult licensed mental health professionals.

Vanessa Jimenez (Panelist)

Retention Assistant, The College of New Jersey



Vanessa Jimenez is a Retention Assistant at The College of New Jersey working with the Black and Latinx students as an advisor for the College's P.R.I.D.E. Mentoring Program.

She received her bachelor's degree at TCNJ in History & Secondary Education with a minor in Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. She is currently working on completing a master's degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling which she plans to finish in May of 2025.

Her passion for working with families and students of color stems from the years of support she and her family received as first-generation Americans and a drive to contribute to a prosperous future for all people regardless of their cultural backgrounds.

Dr. Vânia Penha-Lopes (Panelist)

Professor of Sociology Bloomfield College of Montclair State University



Dr. Vânia Penha-Lopes is Professor of Sociology at Bloomfield College, co-chair of the Brazil Seminar at Columbia University (2008-present), a member of the Laboratório de Estudos Negros -LEN at Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, a research fellow at the Washington-Brazil Office-WBO (2022-23), and a former member of the executive committee of the Brazilian Studies Association-BRASA (2010-14).

A native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Penha-Lopes graduated with honors from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro with a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences (1982) and from New York University, with a Master's degree in Anthropology (1987) and a Ph.D. in Sociology (1999).

As a post-doctoral fellow at the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (2006-07), she did research on the first graduating class of Brazilian university quota students. Dr. Penha-Lopes has lectured extensively on comparative race relations and has been interviewed by the BBC of London, UOL, Época, Diverse Issues in Higher Education, O Estado de São Paulo, and The Washington Post. She is the author of *The Presidential Elections of Trump and Bolsonaro, Whiteness, and the Nation* (2022), *Racismo Lá e Cá: 60 Crônicas* (2020), *Confronting Affirmative Action: University Quota Students and the Quest for Racial Justice* (2017), *Pioneiros: Cotistas na Universidade Brasileira* (2013), and co-editor of *Religiosidade e Performance: Diálogos Contemporâneos* (2015).

On social media, she can be found at www.vaniapenhalopes.com, on Facebook (@vaniapenhalopes.phd), on Instagram (vaniapenhalopes_phd), and on YouTube, on her channel, *Racismo Lá e Cá*.