

CSREA

CENTER FOR THE STUDY
OF RACE AND ETHNICITY
IN AMERICA

what I am thinking about now

An on-going informal workshop/seminar series to which campus scholars, faculty and graduate students are invited to present recently published work and work in progress.

All are invited to attend and join the discussion.

RSVP: csrea@brown.edu

“Organizing for Social Services: Labor Migration, Welfare Rights, and Women’s Activism in the Puerto Rican Diaspora after 1948”

Emma Amador

Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow at CSREA, Brown University

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 12:00pm - 1:00pm

CSREA, Lippitt House, 96 Waterman Street

This presentation explores histories of organizing for social services and welfare rights within Puerto Rican diasporic communities in the United States. Examining the role of Puerto Rican women social workers as architects of the “Migration Division” of the Puerto Rican government’s Department of Labor after 1948, the presentation reveals how within this state agency a generation of social workers challenged the racial and gender discrimination faced by Puerto Rican migrants seeking social services, housing, and care in the United States. It also shows how this agency fostered the emergence of a new generation of women activists who in the 1960s and 70s moved into new roles as community organizers, civil rights activists, and participants in the Welfare Rights movement. By focusing on Puerto Rican women’s role in shaping and challenging U.S. social welfare institutions to better address colonial citizens, this paper addresses the widespread omission of the colonial contours of social welfare policy in U.S. histories of the welfare state.