

Community Discussion

Equitable Narratives on Race & Ethnicity in Spain

Onsite Perspectives for
Study Abroad Students

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 | 3PM ET / 9pm CET



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Diversity Abroad's Inclusive Advising for Education Abroad Professionals
eLearning Course



Thank You to the Task Force

The webinar is coordinated by the [Task Force on Education Abroad: Student Support and Advising](#). A special thanks to the members who planned today's webinar.

- Daniel Garcia – Chapman University
- Erin Kelly-Weber – San Jose State University
- Matt Lynn – Princeton University
- Rachel Mantiñán – Academic Solutions
- Ariana Stuhl – Susquehanna University

Moderated by



CHRISTINA THOMPSON

Founder, Compear Global Education Network,
Director of Partnership Development and
Diversity Initiatives, Barcelona SAE

Disclaimers

Today's conversation will not be all encompassing.

Our language and our perspectives will be biased.

We hope to crowdsource the knowledge of those connected to the conversation!

Session Overview



Conciencia Afro Madrid

- Introduction of Guest Speakers
- Overview of Spain & its Communities of Color
- Student Testimonials
- Panel Discussion
- Live Q&A
- Resource Sharing
- Diversity Abroad Updates
- Poll – future country climate webinars

Panelists



**PAULA-ADJO SOLI
CONSUEGRA**

Coordinator of EU-funded project
on the rights of migrants and
undocumented peoples for City
Rights United



ADIL QURESHI, PhD

Lecturer at Geneva Business
School and IES Abroad,
Research Consultant in
Transcultural Psychiatry



NICOLE WILLIAMS

Chapman University '20
Alumnus of the Spanish Studies
Abroad - Integrated Studies in Seville,
Spain Program

What points of history have influenced Race in Spain today?

- In the 8th century, and lived there for almost 800 years the North Africans (Berber Muslims) made a mark on Spanish culture, including influencing everything from [Music](#) to Mathematics. Over 4,000 Arabic words and Arabic-derived phrases have been absorbed into the Spanish language.
- By 1614, all Berber Muslims were expelled from Spain; Islam and Judaism were entirely eradicated from the Iberian Peninsula. The population of Muslims in Spain decreased from 500,000 to 0 within 100 years.
- July 18, 1936, Franco started an uprising the northwest of Spain with the support of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Franco also outlawed unions and all religions except for Catholicism, as well as banning the Catalan and Basque languages.
- Until the early 1970s, Spain lived in isolation. There was little to no immigration. Cultural diversity even for Spaniards was banned - including bullfighting and Flamenco dancing.
- Rita Bosaho, Spain elected the first black member to Parliament, Rita Bosaho, December 2015.



[El Pais](#)

Snapshot of some of the Communities of Color in Spain today

THE INDO-PAKISTANI COMMUNITY

In 1972, the first Pakistani immigrants arrived in Catalunya, coming mainly from the Punjab region. Today there are over 17,000 immigrants from India and Pakistan living in Barcelona. (Source:

<https://www.barcelona-metropolitan.com/features/report-barcelona-pakistani-community/>

THE CHINESE COMMUNITY

From 2017, the Chinese community is the second largest community. The vast majority of Chinese residents started arriving in Spain around the 1980's. Today there are more than 66,000 Chinese residents living in Spain, many residing in Madrid and Barcelona (Source: Gómez, Luis, "[El poder chino en España](#)".

THE AFRO-SPANIARD COMMUNITY

It wasn't until the 1970's that we had the first wave of black immigrants coming from diverse countries such as Gambia, Senegal and Sierra Leona. There are currently 1,301,296 people residents in Spain who were born in countries of the African continent, excluding the 1,802,810 born in Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands which are Spanish territories geographically located in Africa. Source:

<https://www.ine.es>)

THE MOROCCAN COMMUNITY

Small groups of Moroccan immigration to Catalonia began in 1967, and increased in 1972 after the consulate of the Kingdom of Morocco was established in Barcelona. Today there are more than 900,00 Moroccans living in Spain. (Source: <https://www.ine.es>)

LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Latin Americans are one of the largest community of color in Spain. According to data from, INE (Instituto Nacional de Estadística) noted that Colombia (500,000+) and Argentina (300,000+), Bolivia (100,000+) having the largest populations. Source: (<https://www.ine.es>)

What other communities of color do you believe are overlooked or are underrepresented in Spain today?



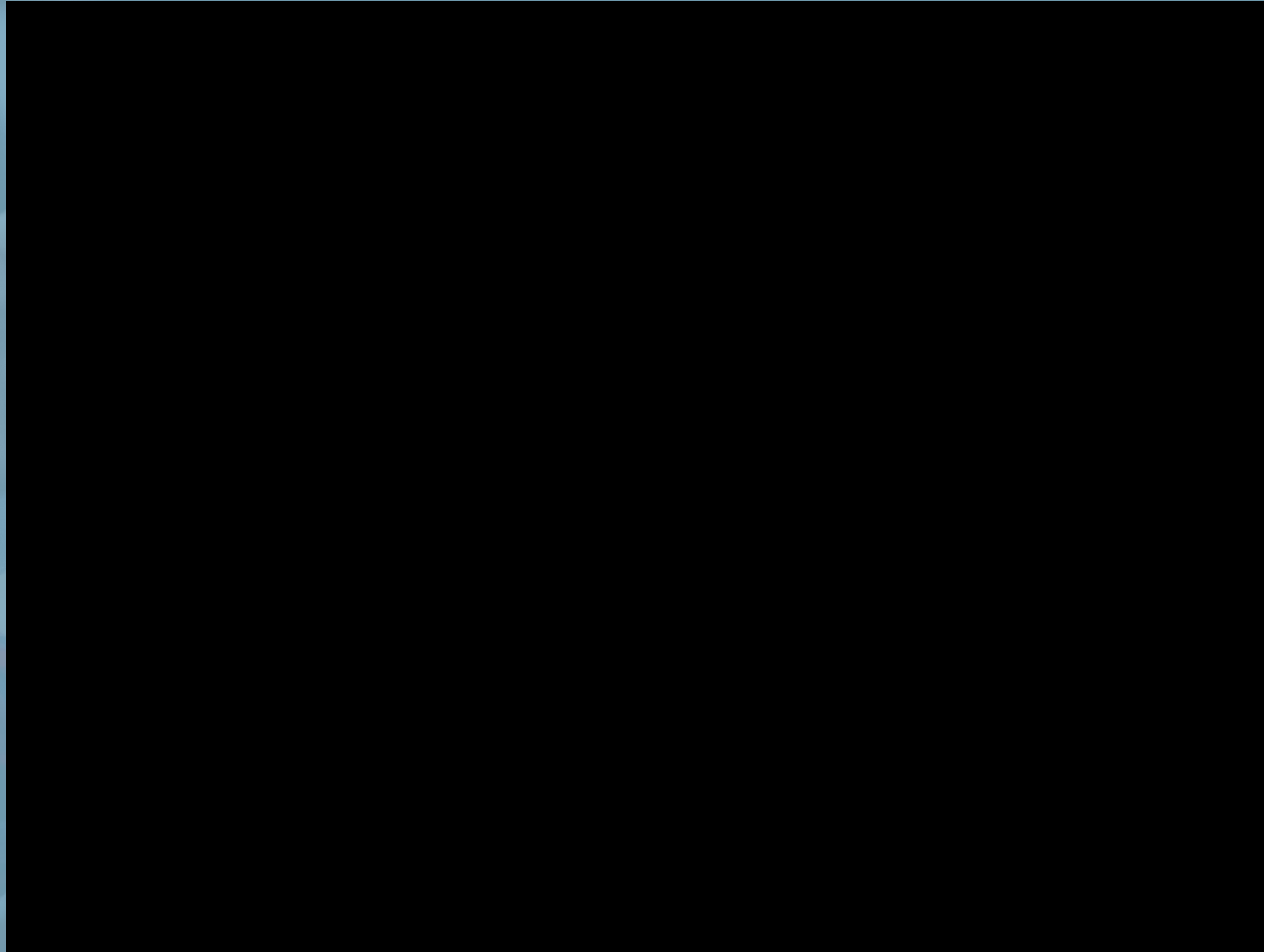
Racial and Ethnic Climate in Spain an Overview

- Spain (like most EU countries) does not collect ethnicity data; the only official data points are national origin and citizenship
- Until the end of the millenium Spain was a country of migration; immigration is a relatively new phenomenon
- Foreign-born populations tend to be differentiated between “migrants/refugees” and “expats”
- Recent surveys indicate high levels of ambivalence towards migration with both favorable and unfavorable attitudes reported
- There are some negative associations of immigrants with organized crime, delinquency, and prostitution
- The far right political party Vox expresses anti non European immigrant sentiments



Yinka Esi Graves

Student Testimonials

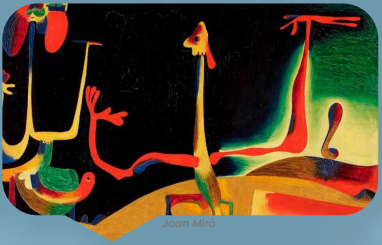




Panel Reflection on Student Testimonials

Juan Miró

Based on the student testimonials, what experiences did both students share in common being Latinx in Spain? What observations did they share about the experiences of other students of color? Were those experiences different or similar?



Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the key racial and ethnic tensions that exist in Spain today? What are some of the broad historical roots of these tensions or ignorance?
2. What are some of the key historical movements (or moments) that have advanced the cause for ending racial injustice in Spain? How do these connect to global movements for ending racial injustice?
3. What do you think students traveling to Spain from other countries should know about race and ethnicity before they go?
4. What information would you recommend that advisors share with students, particularly students of color, interested in studying abroad in Spain?

Resources



- [The Afropean](#) journal, exploring the social, cultural and aesthetic interplay of black and European cultures, and the synergy of styles and ideas brought about because of this union.
- [Africanidad](#) is an online newspaper for Spanish-speaking people of African descent in Spain.
- [Las Morenas de España](#) is an online platform and blog where women of color share their experience abroad and learn from others. While it is mostly aimed towards expats working in Spain, the blog also has pieces that are aimed at anyone living abroad.
- [Intersect Madrid](#) is a grassroots organization that creates and fosters communities of educators dedicated to promoting anti-racism and addressing intersectional forms of oppression.
- [Black Barcelona](#) is Barcelona's main meeting point for Black folx in Barcelona. They organize an annual festival run and led by a large team of volunteers.
- [Afroféminas](#) is an online community for Spanish-speaking women of African descent
- [Asociación de Estudiantes Latinoamericanxs](#): "Somos estudiantes universitarias/os latinoamericanas/os de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid con primordial interés por América Latina y sus relaciones con España."
- [Conciencia Afro](#): The Conciencia Afro team is made up of African and Afro-descendant people based in Madrid. They work on a variety of projects and host discussion groups and an annual festival.
- [STAMPED](#) podcast, highlighting study abroad stories of Black/African American students and industry professionals.
- [Glimpse: Study Abroad Acclimation Guides](#), RaceAbroad
- [ALLAbroad](#), helping all students to study abroad
- Diversity Abroad's [Black Students Guide to Global Programs](#)
- Diversity Abroad's [Spain DEI Climate Guide](#)

POLL

- Which countries would you like to see for the next Country Climate Webinar? (please respond to poll in webinar)
 - *Note:* The specific identities for each webinar will be determined based on country of focus.



What's Next?

- **Full Recording of Community Discussion**
 - Added to Education Abroad Resource Center for Members
- **PowerPoint Presentation & Resource Sheet**
 - Sent to All Participants
- **Upcoming Community Discussion:**
 - Inclusive Support for Students of Asian Descent in Global Education | May 10 at 3pm ET
 - Career Advancement and Belonging | June 8

Contact Us



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