

## FACT SHEET

### WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

Founded in 1992 and housed at The City College of New York, the Dominican Studies Institute of the City University of New York (CUNY DSI) is the nation's first, university-based research institute devoted to the study of people of Dominican descent in the United States and other parts of the world.

CUNY DSI's mission is to produce and disseminate research and scholarship about Dominicans, and about the Dominican Republic itself. The Institute houses the Dominican Archives and the Dominican Library, the first and only institutions in the United States collecting primary and secondary source material about Dominicans. CUNY DSI is the locus for a community of scholars in the field of Dominican Studies. It is home to pioneering research projects, lectures, conferences, exhibitions, and a rigorous doctoral fellowship program in Dominican Studies.

Ramona Hernández, Ph.D.  
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The Institute is headed by renowned sociologist Ramona Hernández, a leading public intellectual in the United States and author of pioneering texts in the areas of migration, labor, and Dominican studies, including *The Mobility of Workers under Advanced Capitalism: Dominican Migration to the United States* (2002) and, as co-author, *The Dominican Americans* (1998). Dr. Hernández's work is celebrated also in the Dominican Republic where she has received the country's highest civilian honor, the Orden del Mérito de Duarte, Sanchez y Mella, and was named a trustee of the Instituto Global de Altos Estudios en Ciencias Sociales.

### THE DOMINICAN LIBRARY

The Library of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute officially opened in 1994. It is a unique reference collection whose mission is to identify, acquire, organize, preserve and make available bibliographical sources documenting the Dominican experience in the United States and in the rest of the world. Currently, the Dominican Library houses approximately 4,000 books, 750 doctoral and master's degree dissertations by U.S. scholars; 5,000 newspaper articles; 8,000 articles from academic journals; 150 audio visual resources including film and music CDs; and a small but growing collection of prints by Dominican artists in New York.

## THE DOMINICAN ARCHIVES

The Dominican Archives was established in 2002 as a repository of archival materials documenting the experience and contributions of Dominicans in the United States. Its mission is to identify, appraise, accession, process, preserve and provide access to archival materials that document the contributions and experience of the Dominican community in the United States. Currently, the Dominican Archives houses 16 large and 31 small collections.

The Dominican Archives has begun to digitize its collections and participates in the New York State Archives *Ventana al Pasado*, a bilingual web-based research collection documenting New York's Latino/Hispanic community. The Dominican Archives also participates in the New York State Electronic Schoolhouse, a bilingual educational resource that uses historical records as learning tools in elementary, middle, and secondary education.

## THE CUNY DSI GALLERY

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Gallery (CUNY DSI Gallery) opened in 2010 to outside art exhibitions. The Gallery is housed in the multipurpose room of the Institute's Archives and Library facility at The City College of New York. It is the only exhibit space in New York City devoted to works of art by and about people of Dominican descent. The Gallery celebrates and showcases artists who have a unique perspective on the Dominican experience, one that transcends the self-imposed boundaries of academic research. The inaugural exhibition, which ran from October 15 to December 21, 2010, was *Manifestaciones: Expressions of Dominicanidad* in Nueva York, a portfolio of 12 prints by artists of Dominican York Proyecto GRAFICA.

CUNY DSI also mounts exhibitions to highlight its archival collections, and on topics of academic and research interest in the field of Dominican Studies. Past exhibitions have included:

- **DOMINICANS IN NEW YORK (2008-09)**  
Using primary source materials from the Dominican Archives collections as well as secondary source materials from the Dominican Library, this exhibition highlights the experiences and contributions of Dominicans in New York. This exhibition was funded by the New York Council for the Humanities.
- **THE ARTISTRY OF DOMINICAN CARNIVAL (2007)**  
A radiant display of traditional masks and costumes typically used during carnival in different provinces of the Dominican Republic, but created for Dominican carnival in the United States.

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- **UPDATE OF “SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE OF DOMINICANS IN THE UNITED STATES”**  
An expanded update—with a wealth of tables, graphs, and maps—of CUNY DSI's landmark study. *To be released 2011.*

- **HOUSING PATTERNS AMONG DOMINICANS**

A study of the housing patterns observable in the Dominican population of New York City, with a focus on the impact of gentrification. *To be released in 2011.*

- **DOMINICAN IMMIGRANTS THROUGH ELLIS ISLAND**

A study of Dominican immigration through Ellis Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a topic practically ignored in the existing bibliography on the history of New York City. *To be released 2011.*

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Hernández, R., Ortega, P., (2010). “Estudio comparativo sobre la vida cotidiana de la población de descendencia dominicana residente en los condados del Bronx y Manhattan en la ciudad de New York,” CUNY Dominican Studies Institute and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, December 2010.
- Hernández, R., Restler, L., (2010). “Understanding Financial Behavior Among Dominicans in New York City,” *Dominican Studies Research Monograph Series*. CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.
- Duany, J.,(2008, 2d edition). “Quisqueya on the Hudson: The Transnational Community of Dominicans in Washington Heights,” *Dominican Studies Research Monograph Series*. CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.
- Madera, M., (2008). “Never Forget Syphilis’: Public Health, Modernity and Gender in the Discourse of *Previsión Social* during the Trujillato,” *Dominican Studies Research Monograph Series*. CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.
- Soy, R., Bosworth, S., (2008). “Dominican Women across Three Generations: Educational Dreams, Goals and Hopes,” *Dominican Studies Research Monograph Series*. CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.