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## COLLOQUIUM

### Between Red and Black: Black Women in the Sandinista Revolution

Dr. Courtney Desiree Morris – Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, at The Pennsylvania State University

This talk explores Afro-Nicaraguan women’s participation in the Sandinista Revolution from 1979-1990. It combines oral history and personal biography to foreground Black women’s experiences and



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3:30-5:00pm  
SBSG 1321

analyze their memories of the possibilities and the limits of the revolutionary period. Black women entered into the revolutionary process with their own political aspirations informed by both a socialist-inspired utopian vision of democratization and national sovereignty as well as broader cultural and political currents in African

diaspora thought. It analyzes the experiences of black women who participated in the revolution as combatants, brigadistas, artists, and community workers who fused a politics of diasporic locality with their revolutionary practice and examines how the U.S. civil rights movement, black nationalism, decolonial struggles in Africa and the Caribbean, Rastafari, and black feminist thought shaped black women’s participation in the revolutionary process. The talk will illustrate how this diasporic nationalist politics played a key role in framing black women’s demands for multicultural democracy leading to the approval of the Law 28, which established one of the earliest multicultural citizenship regimes in Latin America and formalized regional autonomy for indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The talk will also consider these women’s responses to the return of the FSLN to power in 2007, and the legacy of Sandinismo in contemporary politics.

Dr. Morris is a visual artist and social anthropologist whose research focuses on black women’s social movements in Latin America and the Caribbean and race, energy and environmental politics in the African Diaspora. Her book, *To Defend this Sunrise: Black Women’s Activism and the Geography of Race in Nicaragua* (forthcoming from Rutgers University Press), examines how black women activists have resisted historical and contemporary patterns of racialized state violence, economic exclusion, territorial dispossession, and political repression from the 19th century to the present. Her work has been published in *American Anthropologist*, the *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, the *Journal of Women, Gender, and Families of Color*, *make/shift: feminisms in motion*, and *Asterix*.

