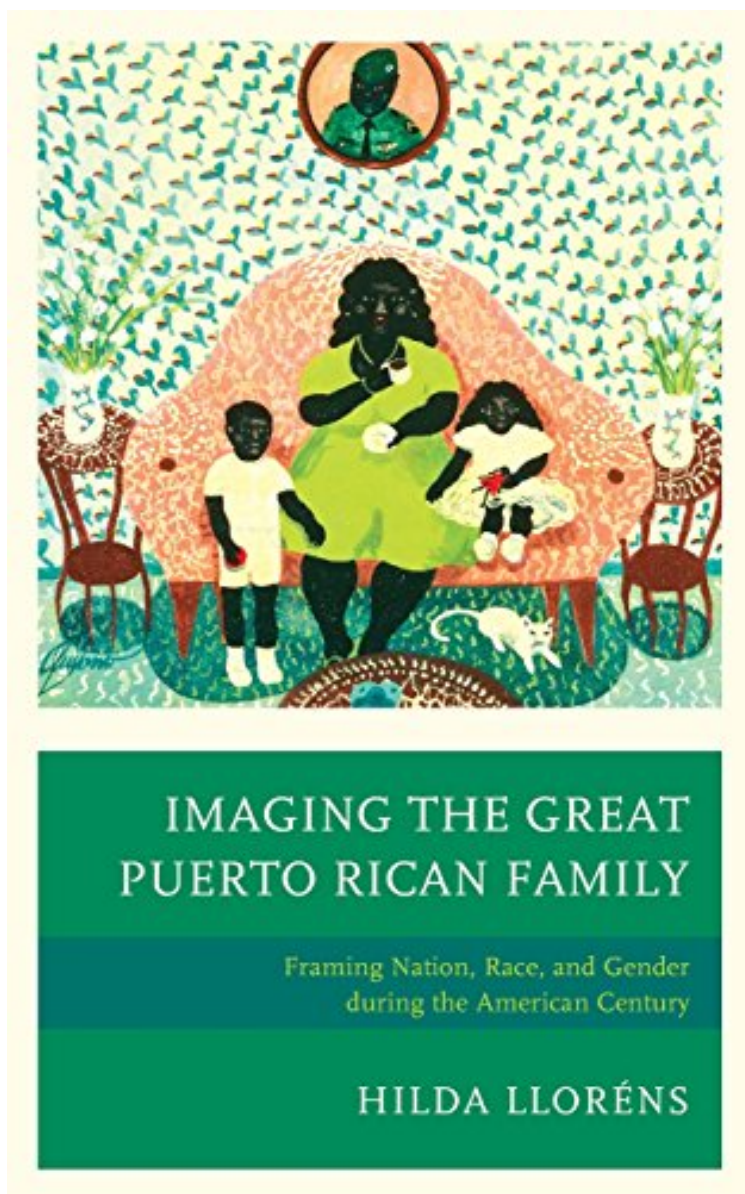


(Download) *Imaging The Great Puerto Rican Family: Framing Nation, Race, and Gender during the American Century*

## **Imaging The Great Puerto Rican Family: Framing Nation, Race, and Gender during the American Century**

*Hilda Llorns*

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In this book, Hilda Lloréns offers a ground-breaking study of images—photographs, postcards, paintings, posters, and films—about Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans made by American and Puerto Rican image-makers between 1890 and 1990. Through illuminating discussions of artists, images, and social events, the book offers a critical analysis of the power-laden cultural and historic junctures imbricated in the creation of re-presentations of Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans by Americans (outsiders) and Puerto Ricans (insiders) during an historical epoch marked by the twin concepts of modernization and progress. The study excavates the ways in which colonial power and resistance to it have shaped representations of Puerto Rico and its people. Hilda Lloréns demonstrates how nation, race, and gender figure in representation, and how these representations in turn help shape the discourses of nation, race, and gender. *Imaging The Great Puerto Rican Family* masterfully illustrates that as significant actors in the shaping of national conceptions of history image-makers have created iconic symbols deeply enmeshed in an emotional aesthetics of nation. The book proposes that images as important conveyers of knowledge and information are a fertile data site. At the same time, Lloréns underscores how colonial modernity turned global, the conceptual framework informing the analysis, not only calls attention to the national and global networks in which image-makers have been a part of, and by which they have been influenced, but highlights the manners by which technologies of imaging and seeing have been prime movers as well as critics of modernity.

Drawing on photographs and works of art, Lloréns explores the representations of Puerto Rican people during 'the American century' and the sociopolitical dimensions of those representations. She develops these arguments using current and popular theorists, including Giorgio Agamben, Michel Foucault, Alfred Gell, and Susan Sontag, and appropriately references contributions from Puerto Rican scholars fairly thoroughly. These qualities contribute to the potential value of the work in broadening recognition of the Puerto Rican experience among scholars in anthropology, art history, and politics of representation, for example. . . .Lloréns' work here is . . . commendable for scholarly audiences, to whom the material is likely to be unfamiliar, and accessible for use at the advanced college level and above. Summing Up: Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above. (CHOICE)Hilda Lloréns offers a special and coherent account of Puerto Rican politics and culture in the 20th century as viewed through the lens of photographic and graphic depiction. Here are the contours of the historic transfer from one colonial regime to another and the passage into the American century, presented with theoretical sophistication and in lucid, engaging prose. Step into this world and walk through it with this highly informed guide and you are sure to emerge more knowledgeable and critically sensitive to the many issues and challenges that have confronted the Great Puerto Rican family, including and highlighting its long-ignored Black stepchildren, while gaining a deft exposure to its rich photographic and artistic traditions. (Juan Flores, New York University)Lloréns book offers a much-needed interdisciplinary analysis of the relationship between art and the visual politics of othering entrenched in colonial practices. Lloréns looks closely at photographs, visual works, and art produced during key periods of Puerto Rican history (between 1890 and 1990). By skillfully contrasting local and colonial visual representations, she reveals how the work of Puerto Rican artists is in dialogue (sometimes also in confrontation) with U. S. economic interests and institutions. (Isar P. Godreau, University of Puerto Rico at Cayey)Hilda Lloréns *Imaging The Great Puerto Rican Family: Framing Nation, Race and Gender during the American Century*, is a ground-breaking study of images—photographs, postcards, paintings, posters, and films—about Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans made by American and Puerto Rican image-makers between 1890 and 1990. The book underscores how colonial modernity turned global, the conceptual framework informing the analysis, not only calls attention to the national and global networks in which image-makers have been a part of, and by which they have been influenced, but highlights the manners by which technologies of imaging and seeing have been prime movers as well as critics of modernity. About the AuthorHilda Lloréns, PhD, is a faculty member in the Sociology and Anthropology department at the University of Rhode Island.