

**Carolle Charles - President of the Caribbean Studies Association
[2011-2012]**



Carolle Charles is a trained sociologist who defines herself as a scholar/activist. Born in Haiti, she migrated to the United States in the mid-1960s joining her mother and siblings in New York City. In Haiti Dr. Charles was very aware of the existence of class and color hierarchies; however, it was in the United States that she really began to become critically aware of and engage in constructive analysis of racialized and gendered forms of power relations dynamics. This led to her ongoing involvement in the political life of her immigrant community and her commitment and participation in the larger political struggles centered on black and women empowerment and on anti-war and anti-colonial efforts.

In the early 70s inspired by the rising tide of political change in Chile under the leadership of Salvador Allende and the Popular Unity Coalition, Dr Charles interrupted her undergraduate education at Queens College, moving to Santiago, Chile to participate in the movement.

In 1973, following the brutal military coup in Chile She moved to Canada. At the University of Quebec in Montreal, she earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in political science. While in pursuit of academic credentials, she would also become very engaged in progressive politics in both the Montreal and New York Haitian communities. Concurrently, her commitment to gender issues continued to develop and to articulate itself through academic and social activism. In 1979, Dr Charles enrolled at the State University of New York, Binghamton campus to pursue a doctorate in sociology completing her studies in 1990.

Dr Charles is currently an Associate Professor of Sociology at Baruch College of The City University of New York. Her research and scholarship focuses on various processes and agencies both in Haitian society and within the Haitian immigrant communities of North America. Labor Migration and Transnational Pattern of Migrants' Identities; the Dynamic of Race, Culture, and History; and Gender and Empowerment are the three main interconnected areas of research pursued by Dr. Charles.

Dr. Charles is a 2000-2001 Fulbright recipient for Haiti. She has been on the editorial board of various Journals, among them, *Gender and Society*, a journal of feminism, *Identity* a journal of Transnationalism, and *Wadabaguei*, a journal of Caribbean studies. She is a member of many scholarly organizations, among , the American Sociological Association (ASA), the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) and a council member of the Haitian Studies Association (HSA).

Dr Charles' selected publications include articles in many prestigious journals such as *Journal of American Ethnic History* 2003; *Journal of Feminist Studies* 1995; *Wadabaguei* 2003;

Revista Vertice/FLACSO 2001 to cite a few. Her work has also appeared in several academic texts, among them **“Popular Imageries of Gender and Sexuality: Poor and working class Haitian women's Discourses on the use of their bodies”** in Linden Lewis Ed. The Culture of Gender and Sexuality in the Caribbean; Florida University Press 2003. **“Being Black Twice”** in Percy Hintzen and Jean Rahier eds, The Invisible Others/Active Presences: Self-Ethnographies Problematizing Blackness. Rutledge Press 2003; **“Haitian Life in New York City”** in The Immigrant Left. Paul Buhle and Dan Georgakas eds. SUNY Press 1996.

In 1999, she co-founded a community based organization, DWA FANM (“*Women Rights*”) which focuses on domestic violence in Caribbean immigrant communities. She is currently serving as the chair of DWA FANM. She was a founding member of the Haitian Dialogue, a conflict resolution project of the American services committee of New York. Dr Charles has developed strong transnational ties with women organizations in Haiti. In 2000, she prepared a report for (UNDP) on Gender and Poverty in Haiti. In 2005, she assisted (CONAP), an umbrella organization of 11 Haitian feminist and women organizations, to record their unique experience of doing “Plaidoyer” as a form of doing politics. The study was funded by the Canadian Organization, Democratie et Droits.

In 2010, Dr. Charles was saddened by the death of many of her fellow activists and friends and founders of CONAP, in the unprecedented earthquake that hit Haiti. Dr Charles resides in Brooklyn, New York and is the proud mother of Jane-Adrienne, who is a practicing attorney.