

The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Department of Puerto Rican and Latin American Studies,
the Department of History, the Department of Political Science,
the Department of Sociology, and the Department of Africana Studies,
presents*

Puerto Rican Citizen History and Political Identity in Twentieth Century New York City



Lorin Thomas joined the Rutgers-Camden faculty in 2004 after completing a Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Hagley Library and Rutgers-Camden. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2002, where she studied the history of the Americas with an emphasis on migration, cities, and racial and political identities. Thomas's research interests focus on ideas about rights and equality in the twentieth century Americas, and particularly how political actors have addressed the real limitations of liberal ideologies of citizenship and inclusion.

Thomas will speak about her new book, *Puerto Rican Citizen: History and Political Identity in Twentieth Century New York City* (University of Chicago Press, 2010). The book explores the complex meanings of citizenship for Puerto Ricans in the United States. The book traces how Puerto Ricans in New York fought for recognition as equals in every era between World War I and the 1970s, criticizing U.S. colonialism and making claims about civil and human rights—and liberalism's failures to protect these rights—well before the civil rights movement increased Americans' awareness about such ideas

**Wednesday, May 4, 2011
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library**

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