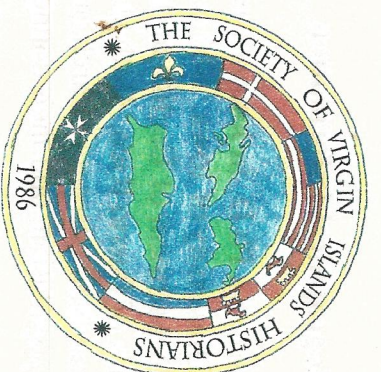


The Society of Virgin Islands Historians

The Society of Virgin Islands Historians is an association of professional historians and associate members, located on the island of St. Croix, but serving all of the Virgin Islands. The membership of the Society hails from the Virgin Islands, other Caribbean islands, the United States, Denmark and other countries. The Society promotes the study and advancement of local history through a number of activities, the most prominent among them being the publication of articles and documents, the holding of an annual meeting and conference and the promotion of issues vital to local history and preservation. Visit the Society's webpage at <http://www.virginislandspubliclibraries.org/usvivi/historians.asp>

The University of Puerto Rico Doctoral Program in English

The doctoral program in Literature, Linguistics, and Culture of the Anglophone Caribbean was established in the year 2000 by the Department of English, College of Humanities. It offers a variety of courses related to the literary works of Caribbean writers, to the analysis of Creole languages and to the study of Caribbean culture. One of the most popular ones is called "Fieldwork Course in St. Croix" in which students from both literature and linguistics travel to the island for two weeks of concentrated work in these two disciplines once a year. St. Croix is an ideal place for the students to take this course for a number of reasons: UVI has provided Professors Faracías and Dannabang the opportunity to teach the course in a Caribbean university environment; there are no passport logistics involved for the students from Puerto Rico; St. Croix is the ideal laboratory for the study of literature, language and culture because of the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of its population. The program presented today is a minute sample of all the works that have been written and published about different aspects of Crucian life. The University of Puerto Rico—Rio Piedras Campus is deeply grateful to St. Croix, its people, and the UVI campus for the support it has always received for its ongoing research. We also want to thank the Society of Virgin Islands Historians for giving us this opportunity.

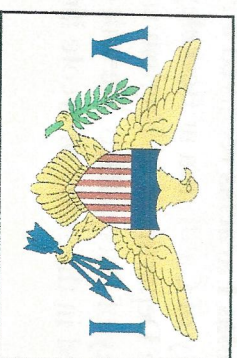


Society of Virgin Islands Historians 25th Annual Conference

Language, Literature, and Culture of the Virgin Islands

A Tribute to St. Croix from
The University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus

January 21, 2012
Visitor's Center
Salt River National Park & Ecological



Brief Biographies of Presenters

2013 Conference of the Society of Virgin Islands Historians

Jose Gabriel Rigau-Perez studied chemistry at the University of Puerto Rico, medicine and pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Southern California and public health at Johns Hopkins University. For 25 years, he served as medical epidemiologist with the US Public Health Service, at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health. He is the author of articles on public health, infectious diseases, and history of medicine, and a member of the American Epidemiological Society and the Academia Puertorriqueña de la Historia. He has published repeatedly on events in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean in the early 19th century in historical journals such as the Bulletin of the History of Medicine and the Hispanic American Historical Review. Rigau served as co-editor of *A Sojourn in Tropical Medicine: Francis W. O'Connor's Diary of a Porto Rican Trip, 1927* (University of Puerto Rico Press, 2008) and recently has contributed the "History of Science" chapter to the *Historia de Puerto Rico* currently in preparation under the auspices of Spain's Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas.

Silvia E. Rabionet is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College (psychology and education). She has a master's and doctorate in higher education administration and social policy from Harvard University. She has worked in curricular innovation and faculty development programs in the health sciences. She is currently an associate professor at the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School of Public Health and Nova Southeastern University College of Pharmacy. She is program director of the Puerto Rico Mentoring Institute for HIV and Mental Health Research funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, which provides comprehensive support to junior researchers, including: mentoring, methodological skills development (quantitative and qualitative), and multi-institution networking. She participates in a wide range of funded and sponsored research projects. She is co-author of *A Sojourn in Tropical Medicine* (University of Puerto Rico Press). She has published in the areas of public health and health promotion, workforce development, mentoring, research capacity building, and sociobehavioral aspects of drug use.

Alma Simounet obtained a BS, in Special Education, an MA in English, and an EdD in applied linguistics. She is currently a Full Professor of English and Linguistics at the University of Puerto Rico. She carries out research in Bilingualism, Ethnolinguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis.