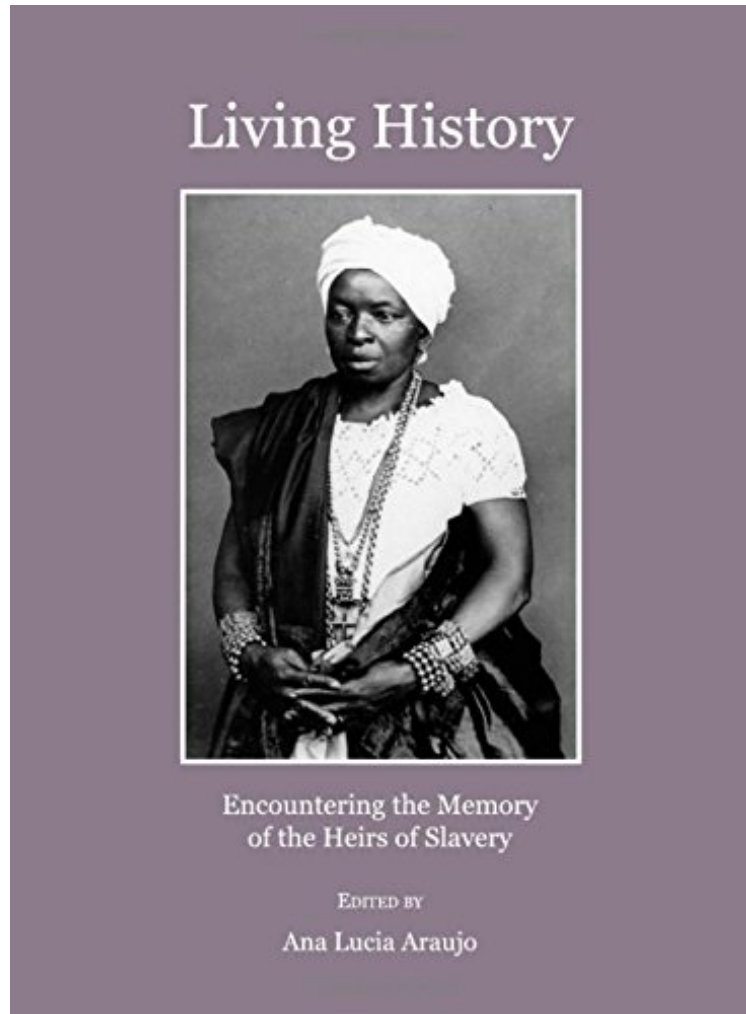


[Library ebook] Living History: Encountering the Memory and the History of the Heirs of Slavery

# Living History: Encountering the Memory and the History of the Heirs of Slavery

Ana Lucia Araujo

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**Ana Lucia Araujo : Living History: Encountering the Memory and the History of the Heirs of Slavery** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living History: Encountering the Memory and the History of the Heirs of Slavery:

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This book focusses on the several forms of reconstructing the slave past in the present. The recent emergence of the memory of slavery allows those who are or who claim to be descendents of slaves to legitimize their demand for

recognition and for reparations for past wrongs. Some reparation claims encompass financial compensation, but very often they express the need for memorialization through public commemoration, museums, and monuments. In some contexts, presentification of the slave past has helped governments and the descendants of former masters and slave merchants to formulate public apologies. For some, expressing repentance is not only a means to erase guilt but also a way to gain political prestige. The authors analyse different aspects of the recent phenomenon of memorializing slavery, especially the practices employed to stage the slave past in both public and private spaces. The essays present memory and oblivion as part of the same process; they discuss reconstructions of the past in the present at different public and private levels through historiography, photography, exhibitions, monuments, memorials, collective and individual discourses, cyberspace, religion and performance. By offering a comparative perspective on the United States and West Africa, as well as on Western Europe, South America, and the Caribbean, the chapters offer new possibilities to explore the resurgence of the memory of slavery as a transnational movement in our contemporary world.

"As other regimes of politically imposed truth, one must wait for an Alice to lead us through the mirror. Ana Lucia Araujo and the volume contributors invite us to an enlightening travel to the other side of the mirror of oblivion and silence tightened by the public space." - Bogumil Jewsiewicki, Universite Laval, Canada "The various contributors look at both sides of the Atlantic, at the descendants of masters and slaves, at the societies that profited and those that were created by the Atlantic slave trade. They explore folklore, photography, art, published literature, religious practices, and the struggles over the creation of suitable memorials. The different contributions are about efforts to shatter silences and to preserve them, to remember formally, to memorialize, and sometimes, to hide from history". - Martin Klein, University of Toronto, Canada

About the Author Ana Lucia Araujo is Full Professor in the Department of History at Howard University (Washington DC). Her research deals with the history and the memory of slavery in Brazil and the Bight of Benin. Her first single-authored book *Romantisme tropical: l'aventure illustree d'un peintre francais au Bresil* was published by the Presses de l'Universite Laval (Quebec, Canada) in 2008. She is preparing a second single-authored book which provisional title is *Victims and Perpetrators: Slaving Memories in the South Atlantic*.