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Candida Laguna has lived in the city of Estelí, Nicaragua, since 1986. She studied social sciences at the National University and law at the Centro Universitario Regional del Norte (CURN). She worked as a librarian and teacher at the Biblioteca Nacional de Nicaragua for 5 years and has also worked at the Escuela de Agricultura y Ganadería in Estelí, where she had a key role in defending the worker's rights as secretary of the workers' union. From 1996 to 2000 Candida worked with the Women's Collective of Matagalpa (a city near Estelí) where she has asserted her gender consciousness through the debates, workshops and marches of the organisation. In 2000, together with other women of the neighbourhoods of Estelí, Candida founded a feminist organisation, AMEX, where she was the coordinator and a member of the directing committee for 7 years. She has been a member of the Red de Mujeres at the national and local levels. She now works with the organisation Entre Mujeres, also based in Estelí, where she is in charge of defending human rights. Her work focuses on the struggle against violence on women and children.

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A Doctor of philosophy, Isabel Rauber is currently professor at the National University of Lanús (Buenos Aires district), where she gives a course on social movements in Latin America. She also directs a research group on the same issue and is the coordinator of the Observatorio del Pensamiento Argentino, at the Centro Cultural Caras y Caretas, Buenos Aires. She is also the editor of the magazine *Pasado y Presente XXI*. She worked as associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Havana University, in Cuba, and as associate researcher in the America Studies Centre, in Havana. She currently focuses on the political formation of social movements in Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia.

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Patricia Roux

A sociologist, Patricia Roux is professor of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lausanne. She contributed to setting up the LIEGE network (Laboratoire Interuniversitaire en Études Genre), a network of more than 650 people in Switzerland integrating a gender perspective in their training, teaching and research tasks, or in other professional activities generally related to questions of equality. She is the director of the newly established Center on Gender Studies LIEGE based in the University of Lausanne, which main mission is to support the development of feminist research. Her own research focuses on the processes of legitimisation of the sexist and racist social order (2007). She also wrote two articles on the intertwining of the socially constructed categories of sex and race in the review *Nouvelles Questions Féministes* (2006, 2007, with Lavinia Gianettoni and Céline Perrin). New results of her research were presented during this colloquium.

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Dr. Jurema Werneck is an activist of the antiracist feminist movement who works mainly with the black women's movement in Latin America. She is also a qualified doctor who has worked on marginalised women's health from the perspective of the Afro-Brazilian cultural tradition. She is currently the coordinator of Criola (an NGO) and she has published extensively on bioethics, health and human rights in international and Brazilian magazines. She is a member of many feminist and anti-racist associations in Latin America and the Caribbean, where she actively participates in the struggle for more equitable health policies for Afro-descendent populations.

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