



LÉLIA GONZALEZ – ENGLISH VERSION

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Abstract: Lélia Gonzalez was a memorable black activist and intellectual. She studied and fought racism and sexism, studies that today are called *intersectionality*, but were already mastered by Lélia before the word appeared. Lélia graduated in History and Geography, achieved a Master's Degree in Communication and a PhD in Political Anthropology. She was also one of the founders of the Unified Black Movement against Discrimination and Racism (MNUCDR) in 1978, which today is known as the Unified Black Movement (MNU). In addition, Lélia published numerous works that contributed and still do to the discussions on the racial issue and black women in Brazil.

Keywords: biography; Lélia González; black feminism; activist.

LÉLIA GONZALEZ

Resumo: Lélia Gonzalez foi uma memorável ativista e intelectual negra. Estudou e combateu o racismo e o sexismo, estudos que hoje são chamados de *interseccionalidade*, mas já eram tratados por Lélia antes do surgimento da palavra. Lélia graduou-se em História e Geografia, foi Mestra em Comunicação e Doutora em Antropologia Política. Também foi uma das fundadoras do Movimento Negro Unificado contra a Discriminação e o Racismo (MNUCDR) em 1978, que hoje é conhecido como Movimento Negro Unificado (MNU). Além disso, Lélia publicou inúmeras obras que contribuíram e contribuem para as discussões sobre a problemática racial e a mulher negra no Brasil.

Palavras-Chave: biografia; Lélia González; feminismo negro; ativista.

LÉLIA GONZALEZ

Resumen: Lélia González fue una activista e intelectual negra memorable. Estudió y luchó contra el racismo y el sexismo, estudios que hoy se llaman interseccionalidad, pero que ya fueron tratados por Lélia antes de que apareciera la palabra. Lélia se graduó en Historia y Geografía, fue Maestría en Comunicación y Doctora en Antropología Política. También fue una de las fundadoras del Movimiento Negro Unificado contra la Discriminación y el Racismo (MNUCDR) en 1978, que hoy se conoce como el

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Movimento Negro Unificado (MNU). Además, Lélia publicó numerosos trabajos que contribuyeron y contribuyen a las discusiones sobre el tema racial y la mujer negra en Brasil.

Palabras-clave: biografía; Lélia González; feminismo negro; activista.

LÉLIA GONZALEZ

Résumé: Lélia Gonzalez a été une mémorable activiste et intellectuel noire. Elle a étudié et combattu le racisme et le sexisme, des études qui sont appelés actuellement de intersectionnalité que étaient déjà abordés par Lélia avant l'apparition de la parole. Lélia est diplômée en Histoire et Géographie, elle était maître en Communication et docteur en Anthropologie Politique. Elle a été aussi une des fondatrices du Mouvement Noire Unifié contre la Discrimination et le Racisme (MNUCDR) en 1978, que aujourd'hui s'appelle Mouvement Noire Unifié (MNU). Lélia a publiée plusieurs ouvrages qui ont contribué pour les discussions sur la problématique raciale et la femme noire au Brésil.

Mots-clés: Bibliographie; Lélia González; Feminisme Noir; Activiste;

Lélia de Almeida was born on February 1, 1935, in Belo Horizonte, being the 17th daughter of the couple Urcinda Serafim de Almeida and Acácio Joaquim de Almeida. Lélia had a sequential educational trajectory, going through primary school (elementary school) and gymnasium (high school). In 1958, she graduated in History and Geography, and in 1962, in Philosophy at the former State University of Guanabara, the current State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ).

After graduation, Lélia taught at several universities, such as the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), the Gama Filho University (UGF), the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), and also at schools such as Santo Inácio and the Colégio de Aplicação da State University of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

She has a Post-Graduation in Communication and Anthropology and also took courses in Sociology and Psychoanalysis. In addition, she worked in the publishing market, where she worked with translations by French authors, a language she spoke fluently.

In the 1960s, she married Carlos Gonzalez, a white Spanish man, who a year after the wedding committed suicide. In this marriage, Lélia suffered prejudices and racism, since the groom's family did not welcome the marriage with a black woman. Following such episode, Lélia travelled to Barcelona and when she returned to Rio de Janeiro, in 1966, she translated the second volume of the authors Denis Huisman and André Vergez,



called “The Action”. In 1967, her mother, Urcinda, passed away and, despite the loss and difficulties, Lélia did not let herself be overwhelmed. In 1968, she translated another volume by the authors Denis Huisman and André Vergez, “The thought”.

Still in the 1960s, debates on philosophy began and thus concerns about racial issues began. Her second marriage was to a man she called “mulatto” and, along with psychoanalysis, she started to discover her blackness.

In 1970, Lélia worked with the construction, elaboration and dissemination of the black movement. Her performance as a militant was beyond civil organizations, she was also present in open positions, exposing and touching on important themes for the black population of women in Brazil. In 1976, she promoted the first Black Culture course at the Parque Lage School of Visual Arts.

In 1980, she participated in the National Council for the Rights of Women, coordinated events on the black theme, made numerous trips around the country and abroad to make her cause visible and strengthened.

Her participation in the MNUCDR (Unified Black Movement Against Racial Discrimination, later only MNU) was very important in her trajectory, since she was one of the founders, he was a member of the National Executive Committee of the MNU between 1978 and 1982. On June 16, 1983, at the Morro dos Cabritos Association, she founded the Nzinga - Collective of Black Women, with other black women, and remained there until 1985.

Lélia was a member of the Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT), between 1981 and 1986, and was a member of the National Directorate of the PT, between 1981 and 1984. She was a candidate for federal deputy in 1982 but was unable to get elected.

In her innovative productions, Lélia contributed to the analysis of race relations in Brazil, adding the gender dimension for greater understanding and bringing the discussion about black women, she also contributed to the deconstruction of the racial democracy discourse. From all her contributions, Lélia built an analysis category, *Amefricanidade*, for a better understanding of the black experience in the Americas, which is related to Afrocentricity, Pan-Africanism, and blackness.

We can find some of her thoughts in her texts, which were considered to be of language and structure outside of academic models - Lélia called this characteristic “pretuguês” - used for the purpose of reviewing the legacy of the languages of the

enslaved people. Among her main contributions, we have: “The political-cultural category of amefricanity”, “Black Woman”, “Racism and sexism in Brazilian culture”, “The black woman in Brazilian society”, “Racial democracy? No way!” and the book “Lugar do negro”, written by Lélia and Carlos Hasenbald.

Figure 1: Lélia González



Source: Palmares Fundação Cultural. Available in: <<http://www.palmares.gov.br/?p=53181>>
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