In his recently published book, Afro-Latin America: Black Lives, 1600-2000, George Reid Andrews, Distinguished Professor of History, examines the heritage of black Latin Americans who made up the majority of descendants from the 11 million Africans who came to Spanish America and Brazil between 1500 and 1870. This heritage is reconstructed from personal testimonies of individual Afro-Latin Americans, writings of African-Americans who visited the area, and the work of scholars and activists. The exclusion of Afro-Latin Americans in Latin-American historical narratives, consistently justified as “racial democracy,” (a scholarly theory that racism was irrelevant due to specific social factors that integrated Afro-Latin Americans into society) is challenged and brought to the present, examining debates of black civil rights movements that challenge this supposed racial equality and demand it be achieved.

Professor Andrews teaches courses on colonial and modern Latin American, including such topics as race relations, society, Afro-Latino America, and relations between Latin-America and the United States.