

### AGOS ISLAND Through the mirror: the curiouser and curiouser case of 😁 Casa do Fernandez





Casa do Fernandez aka Ilojo Bar after demolition in September 2016



© Kola Tubosun

## Research question



Exploring the challenges of the preservation of Afro-Brazilian heritage in Lagos, in order to better understand how to protect such historical monuments in the future, using Casa do Fernandez as a case study.



### Facts

- Lagos Island, Lagos, Nigeria
- National Monument since 1959
- demolished on 11 September 2016



# built when? or whom? by whom?

Casa do Fernandez in the 1950's





# What the 'angel' tells

The statuette 'Primavera' that the locals called angels was the only object that was saved at demolition. Turns out to come from a ceramics factory in Porto opened in 1884, which dates building (finishing) of the house much later than always assumed.





### Another incorrect premisse?

### The actual Fernandez turns out to be a Galician from Spain (Vigo), and not a Brazilian returnee.

and Delivered by the said Amondo Fernandes, the same having first been read over and explained to, in the Spanish Innitiage by and apparently perfectly understood by him) in the presence of





# A much darker past

Oral history: • the current owners say they found slave chains and shackles in the house

### Archives:

• 'illegal' slave traders connected to the early history of the property

# What does this say about my interest in the building?



My unconscious bias: this 'European' building connected with my idea of what a proper monument should look like 222522 111111 



# What does this all mean for my research question?

- the issue is broader than Brazilian heritage
- the story might have been 'forgotten' for a reason
- its connection to the people is different than assumed



# How to review the issue of legacy

- who feels connected to the story?
- who feels excluded?
- should we tell a different story?
- do your own biases play a role?



### Not just Popo Aguda history...

### ...but also Ìsàlè Èkó history

The following Iyan (Yar Amala a Rice and Ir Roast C





ILOJO BAR & RESTAURANT Tinubu Square, LAGOS. The following is the BL&GTZOBARIAGS you could always have at our Restaurant: Iyan (Yam) and Ockro (IIa). Foofoo (Farina) and Amala and Ewedu etc. Gbure (water leaf) Eba and Apon Ewedu or Gbure Rice and tew, Ground Nut Sowp, Curry Soup, Irish Stew, Salad and Sandwiches.

All together with their proper accompaniments at

### ONLY GO A PLATE.

Roast Chickens 1/3 each. BEER 1/3 per bottle.







## Managing heritage

- first know the story: research!
- check your biases
- look for more inclusive stories
- connecting groups in society
- think of new ways to tell the story





Only then can we try to tell the story of Casa do Fernandez