

**JUDITH SIERRA-RIVERA, Ph.D.**

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latinx intellectual history and history of ideas; feminism; masculinity studies; affect theory; (anti) colonialism; and decolonial thought

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2021** Associate Professor of Spanish, Latina/o Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Penn State University
- 2020-2021** Associate Professor of Spanish and Latina/o Studies, Penn State University
- 2013-2020** Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latina/o Studies, Penn State University
- 2012-2013** Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish, Middlebury College

**EDUCATION**

- 2012** Ph.D. Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania
- 2007** M.A. Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania
- 2005** M.A. Comparative Literature, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
- 1996** B.A. Latin American Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras  
*Magna Cum Laude*

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

- 2020-21** Penn State Center for Humanities and Information's Digital Humanities Seed Grant
- 2019** Penn State Humanities Institute Fellowship
- 2015** Penn State Center for Global Studies Career Development Award
- 2010** UPenn Penfield Research Fellowship
- 2009** UPenn Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching
- 2008** UPenn Romance Languages Department Excellence in Teaching Award
- 2006-2011** UPenn Benjamin Franklin/Fontaine Fellowship

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

#### **In progress**

*Mongo Heroes: Vulnerable Masculinities in the Puerto Rican Anti-Colonialism Struggle*

This project is a cultural history that uncovers key *mongo* or vulnerable heroes in the anti-colonialist struggle against U.S. imperialism (1898-) in Puerto Rico its diasporas. In the island's culture *mongo* means heterosexual cisgender men that are passive, weak, and impotent. By combining theoretical frameworks from masculinity studies, affect theory, and decolonial thought, I trace the changes in Puerto Rican society's perception of embodiments and enactments of a *mongo* masculinity throughout the twentieth century. My methodological approach draws from literary criticism, cultural studies, and visual studies and focuses on literary and artistic depictions of *mongos*. I argue that, instead of the iconic patriot, what I call "*mongo* heroes" are the ones that historically have symbolized sovereignty in the colonial context.

2018

*Affective Intellectuals and the Space of Catastrophe in the Americas*. Ohio State UP.

#### **Reviews**

- Fernando Valerio Holguín, *New West Indian Guide*, vol. 94, no. 1-2, 2020, pp. 203-204.
- Laura V. Sánchez, *Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World*, vol. 9, no. 5, 2020, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3683w977>.

### **Digital Humanities Project (in development)**

*Center County's History Otherwise: Narrating and Latina Stories*

Oral history project on Latina women living in State College and surrounding towns.

### **Journal Articles**

2020

- "En el ojo del huracán: Sobre las tretas de la dignidad puertorriqueña en los documentales *Candlelight* y *After Maria*." *Latin American Literary Review* vol. 47, no. 94, November, pp. 28-36.
- "Sobre la 'peleíta monga' y la literatura puertorriqueña: Masculinidades inadecuadas en los cuentos de Manuel Abreu Adorno y Rafael Franco Steeves." *Centro: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, vol. 33, no. 1, Spring, pp. 64-86.

2019

- "The Angrily Bored Condition of Exile: A Small Enunciating Place in Literature from the Neoliberal Caribbean." *Revista Hispánica Moderna* (accepted)

2018

- "Afro-Cuban Cyberfeminism: Love/Sexual Revolution in Sandra Álvarez Ramírez's Blogging." *Latin American Research Review*, vol. 53, no. 2, pp. 330-43.

2017

- "Carlos Mérida's '*Goce Emocional*': An Aesthetics Proposal Circumventing the Space of Catastrophe of Mexican Nationalism." *The Comparatist*, vol. 41, pp. 41-59.

2015

- "El lugar heterotópico y la ética relacional en *Don Segundo Sombra* y *Pedro Páramo*." *Cincinnati Romance Review*, vol. 39, pp. 210-26.
- "The Affective Politics of Friendship in Puerto Rican War Stories." *Latino Studies (Special Issue: Latinos, Militarism, and Militarization)*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 207-26.

- 2009 • “En la réplica del mí: ‘performance queer’ y tradición literaria en *Reróticas* de Liliana Ramos Collado.” *Ciberletras*, vol. 21, [www.lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras](http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras).
- 2006 • “Los recuerdos de ‘perlas y cicatrices’: misivas radiales por la memoria en el Chile de los 90.” *Revista Cupey*, vol. 20, pp. 15-17.

### **Book Chapters**

- 2020 • “La economía emocional de *Tengo miedo torero*.” *Pedro Lemebel, belleza indómita*, editado por Luciano Martínez, Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana (accepted)
- 2011 • “Desde lo ordinario: el ensayo de la experiencia cotidiana en la escritura intelectual de Camila Henríquez Ureña y Nilita Vientós Gastón.” *El mito de la mujer caribeña*, Ediciones de La Discreta, pp. 105-23.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2020 • *Dude Lit: Mexican Men Writing and Performing Competence, 1955-2012. Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World*, vol. 9, no. 5, Fall 2020, <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/13q413tx>.
- *Understanding Francisco Goldman. American Literary History Online Review*, Series XXIII, 2020, [https://static.primary.prod.gcms.the-infra.com/static/site/alh/document/ALH\\_Online\\_Review\\_Series\\_23/25\\_Sierra-Rivera.pdf?node=c9ca281ce2dcbde6b731&version=99521:2c84ccd7df8f4e0fe030](https://static.primary.prod.gcms.the-infra.com/static/site/alh/document/ALH_Online_Review_Series_23/25_Sierra-Rivera.pdf?node=c9ca281ce2dcbde6b731&version=99521:2c84ccd7df8f4e0fe030).
- 2018 • *Crónicas travestis. El periodismo transgresor de Alfonsina Storni, Clarice Lispector y María Moreno. Letras Femeninas*, vol. 43, no. 2, pp. 210-12.
- 2017 • *The Island Called Paradise: Cuba in History, Literature, and the Arts. New West Indian Guide*, vol. 91, no. 1-2, pp. 41-42.
- 2011 • *Prismas de la memoria: narración y trauma en la transición chilena. e-misférica*, vol. 7, no. 2, [www.hemi.nyu.edu](http://www.hemi.nyu.edu).
- *Against War: Views From the Underside of Modernity. El Roommate: Colectivo de lectores*, vol.2, [www.elroommate.com](http://www.elroommate.com).
- *Boringkén. El Roommate: Colectivo de lectores*, vol. 1, [www.elroommate.com](http://www.elroommate.com).

### **Other Publications**

- 2018 • “Capítulo 12: ¿Qué son los fenómenos naturales?” *Ciencias 2*. San Juan: Ediciones SM.
- 2013 • “Puerto Rico.” *Diccionario de Ilustradores Iberoamericanos*. Bogotá, Colombia: Ediciones SM.
- 2006 • Co-author with Carlos J. García and Niévelyn Santos. *Español 7, 8 y 9*. San Juan: Santillana.

**KEYNOTES**

- 2019** • “Boredom as a (Counter-)Neoliberal Mood in Caribbean Literature,” Chicago Graduate Schools Conference, April 19.
- 2017** • “Angry Brotherly Love: Soldier Bodies and Affective Intellectual Debates in Puerto Rico,” NYU-Columbia Graduate Conference, NYU, April 15.

**INVITED LECTURES**

- 2019** • “Afro-Cuban Cyberfeminism: Love/Sexual Revolution in Sandra Álvarez Ramírez’s Blogging,” Marywood University, November 19.
- “The Ill Revolutionary Body and the Quest for Dignity in Puerto Rico,” Humanities Institute, Penn State University, University Park, October 15.
- “Dignidad y catástrofe en Puerto Rico pos 2008,” Fundación de las Humanidades, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, September 12.
- “Central American Displacements to the U.S.A and Discourses of Hope in American Journalism,” Penn State University, Berks Campus, February 22.
- “Intimacies of a ‘We’: Emotions and Intellectual Discourses in the Americas’ Neoliberal Age,” Villanova University, February 21.
- 2018** • “Angry Brotherly Love: Soldier Bodies and Affective Intellectual Debates in Puerto Rico,” University of Oregon, March 8.
- 2017** • “Francisco Goldman and the Political Imagination of Borderlands,” Brown Bag Lecture Series, Center for Global Studies, Penn State, University Park, March 15.
- 2014** • “Telling “Our” Story: War, Colonialism, and the Vulnerable Masculine Body in *The Borinqueneers*,” Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Literature Colloquium, Penn State, March 18.

**EVENTS ORGANIZED**

- 2017-** Organizer of the *Latinx Studies Lecture Series*, Penn State
- “The Puerto Rican Islands” (2019-2020)
  - “U.S. Archipelagoes and Sovereignty” (Spring 2019)
  - “Latinx Studies: Language Departments and the Field of Study” (Fall 2017)
- 2018** Organizer of “Caribbean Space and Bodies at War,” MLA, January.
- 2014-2017** Co-Organizer of the *Hemispheric Americas Lecture Series*, Penn State, 2014-2017
- “Sound, Image, and Media Studies” (2016-2017)
  - “Race in the Americas” (2015-2016)
  - “Intellectual Currents in the Americas” (2014-2015)

## CONFERENCE PAPERS (Selection)

- “Asomos de la heroica vulnerabilidad masculina: la pandemia, el encierro y la fotografía de Carla Cavina,” ¿Del Otro Lao? Perspectivas y Debates sobre lo Cuir, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, March 2022.
- “La emergencia colectiva en la poética de *Subtropical Dry* de Nicole Cecilia Delgado,” Puerto Rican Studies Association, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, October 2018.
- “Affective Politics of Caribbean Feminisms in the Neoliberal Space of Catastrophe,” Latina Feminisms Roundtable, Penn State, University Park, September 2018.
- “It Was One of Our Own: Colonial Militarism, Latinx Masculinities, and the Vulnerability of the Grey Zone,” Latino/a Studies Association, Washington, D.C., July 2018.
- “Afro-Cuban Cyberfeminism: Love/Sexual Revolution in Sandra Álvarez Ramírez’s Blogging,” Toward Decolonial Feminisms, Penn State, University Park, May 2018.
- “Youth, Boredom, and the Neoliberal City in 1990s Caribbean Literature,” Modern Languages Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 2017.
- ““Digital Afro Feminism: Writing through Fear in Sandra Álvarez Ramírez’s Blogging,” Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 2015.
- “*Alaska* o el arte de la masculinidad lumpen en la narrativa de Rafael Franco Steeves,” Puerto Rican Studies Association, Denver, Colorado, November 2014.
- “Carlos Mérida y el “ritmo emocional” del arte integracional en México (1946-1952),” Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, May 2014.
- “War Remains: Affective Masculine Bodies in *The Borinqueneers*,” Caribbean Philosophical Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate Courses

- “Afro-Latinx U.S.A.”
- “Afro-Latinoamericanidades”
- “Caribbean Feminisms”
- “Sex, Violence, and Culture”
- “War, Memory, and Diaspora in the Caribbean”
- “Latinx Studies en Español”
- “Reading the Borderlands”
- “Contemporary Youth Cultures in Latin America”
- “Introduction to Hispanic Literature”
- “Hispanic Texts and Contexts”
- “Advanced Spanish”
- “Intermediate Spanish”
- “Accelerated Intermediate Spanish”
- “Beginning Spanish”

### Graduate Seminars

- “Embodiments of Writing: Reflections on Our Craft Across Traditions”
- “Caribbean Imaginations of Sovereignty, Community, and Vulnerability”
- “Latina/o Studies: Foundations in the Field and Its Teaching”
- “Body and Space Politics in the Americas Intellectual Writing”

### Dissertation Committees

#### Advisor

- Jacqueline García Suárez, *Enrhythmed Caribbean Bodies: The Spatial Politics of Violence in Cuba and Puerto Rico*, in progress
- Ibis Sierra Audivert, *Itinerancias del Posestructuralismo y el Neobarroco en el Caribe y el Cono Sur (1950-1990)*, in progress
- Emily Sterk, *(S)extractivism in the Caribbean: Sex Workers as Reproductive Laborers of National Identities, Sex Tourism, and the Global Marketplace*, in progress
- Joshua R. Deckman, *The Poetics and Politics of Pain: Spiritual and Emotional Resistance to Empire in the Afro-Caribbean and Its Diasporas*, 2018.
  - Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latino Studies at Marywood University, 2018-

#### Reader

- Alexandria Herrera, History, *Contested Intercourses: International Physician and Sex Worker Connectivity, Mandatory STI Testing, and Constructed Medical Knowledge in Guatemala City, 1880-1948*, in progress
- Gustavo Herrera Díaz, Spanish, *Cuando Eshu y Dionisos se encuentran. Mediaciones y encrucijadas afro-griegas en el teatro cubano y brasileño*, in progress
- Justus Peña Berman, English, *Technoracialization: Race, Technology and Media in Contemporary Latinx and Asian American Literature*, in progress
- Michelle McGowan, Spanish, *Fictional Bodies: Complicit and Complacent Subjects in Contemporary Chilean and Spanish Texts*, in progress
- Margarita Rivera Santiago, Curriculum and Instruction, *Intersecting Identities in Puerto Rican Children's Literature*, in progress
- René Rodríguez Acacio, Curriculum and Instruction, *They're Here and They're Queer: Conversations on LGBT-Themed Children's and Young Adult Literature with Pre-Service Teachers*, in progress
- Litzy Galarza, Communications, *American Jane? An Analysis of Citizenship, Gendered Latinidad, and the Transnational in the Telenovela Adaptation Jane The Virgin*, 2020
- Félix Rodríguez, Art Education, *Mapping Contested Identities in Dominican Art Education: A Critical History*, 2019
- Justin Pérez, English, *Cultural Roots, Colorism, and Everything in Between: Traversing Blackness in Post-1960 Latinx Literature*, 2017-2019 (ABD)
- María Izquierdo, Spanish, *Adaptable Debility: Becoming Human under Biocapitalism*, 2017
- Annette Marie Hestres García, Adult Learning, *Learning from Tenure: Lived Experiences of Queer Latina and Puerto Rican Faculty Members in Higher Education Institutions in the United States and Puerto Rico*, 2017
- Laura E. Vrana, English, *Writing Transgressions: Publication Contexts and the Politics of Recognition in Contemporary Black Women's Poetry*, 2016
- Tomás Hidalgo Nava, Spanish, *Matar al padre, matar al hijo: diálogos sobre la violencia política entre la historia, la novela y el cine mexicanos (1959-2013)*, 2015
- Ana Cortejoso de Andrés, Spanish, *Born to be a Star: Representing the Writer as a Global Celebrity in Hispanic Contemporary Narrative (1995-2010)*, 2014

**Honor Thesis (Advisor)**

- Shannon Reinke, *Literary and Cultural Productions of Central American Migrant Youth in Guatemala, El Salvador, and the U.S.*, 2018
  - Penn State Global Studies Award.
- Melinda McDaniel, *The Genesis of Contemporary Youth Political Movements in Chile and Mexico: An Analysis of Experience and Ideology*, 2015

**SERVICE****Committee Work at Penn State**

- The Pennsylvania State University Press Board, 2021-
- Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Graduate Education, 2021-
- Committee on Graduate Research, Graduate Council, 2021-
- Community Engagement Committee, Chair, SIP, 2020-
- Moments of Change Steering Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2019-2021
- Scheduling Committee, SIP, 2019-
- Committee on Programs and Courses, Graduate Council, 2018–2020
- Committee on Committees and Procedures, Graduate Council, 2018–2020 and 2021-
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, SIP, 2018–2019
- Activities Committee, SIP, 2017–2019
- Latina/o Studies Standing Committee, 2013–
- Latin American Studies Standing Committee, 2014–2019
- Graduate Committee, SIP, 2016–2018
- Search Committee, Professor of Latin American Literature, 2017–2018
- Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Portuguese, 2015–2016
- Search Committee, Professor of Spanish Literature, 2014–2015

**External Reviewer**

*Revista Estudios Hispánicos*

*Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*

*Hispanófila*

*Latin American Research Review*

Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico

*Latino Studies*

*Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*

*Hispanic Review*

**Service to the Profession**

- Modern Languages Association
  - Delegate Assembly, 2020-2023 (elected)
  - Executive Committee (elected), Forum of Puerto Rican Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, 2014–2019 (Chair, 2017–2018)
- American Comparative Literature Association
  - Conference Committee, 2019-2020 (invited)

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

2005–2006 Editor of Spanish and Social Studies Textbooks, Ediciones SM

2000–2004 Editor of Spanish Textbooks, Editorial Santillana

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Comparative Literature Association

American Studies Association

Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica

Caribbean Philosophical Association

Latin American Studies Association

Latina/o Studies Association

Modern Language Association

Puerto Rican Studies Association