

Aurora Santiago-Ortiz, J.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-university partnerships; qualitative and critical ethnographic approaches to social inequities; feminist and antiracist pedagogies; participatory action research methods; popular and social movements in the Americas; Caribbean and Latin(x) American Studies; Decolonial, Latina, Black and African diasporic feminisms.

EDUCATION

- 2016– Ph.D. Candidate in Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. Advisor: Ximena Zúñiga. Expected date of completion: 2021.
- 2016– Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2011 Juris Doctor. University of Puerto Rico Law School, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico.
- 2010 Certificate in International and European Legal Studies, University of Antwerp, Belgium. Cum Laude.
- 2004 B.F.A., Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film and Television, New York University, New York.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2020). Mapping Collaboration as Resistance to Neoliberalism: A Case Study of Participatory Action Research in Puerto Rico. *Tracce Urbane: Rivista Italiana Transdisciplinare di Studi Urbani*, 8(2), 270-289. DOI: 10.13133/2532-6562_4.8.17220.

Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2019). From critical to decolonizing service-learning: Limits and possibilities of social justice-based approaches to community service-learning. *Michigan Journal of Community Service-Learning*, 25(1), 43-54.

Under revisions

- “You Can’t Go Home Again: An Autoethnography in Two Keys in Post-Maria Puerto Rico.” In revisions, *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*.
- “*Colectiva Feminista en Construcción: Building a Transnational Intersectional Feminist Pedagogy.*” In revisions, *Meridians Journal*.

Other Academic Publications

Santiago Ortiz, A. & Melendez Badillo, J. (2019). *Primavera de verano: The radical geographies of Puerto Rico’s 2019 Summer Insurrection.* *Society and Space Journal*, <https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/la-calle-fortaleza-in-puerto-ricos-primavera-de-verano> .

Book Chapters

Santiago-Ortiz, A. “Apuntes sobre la charterización de las escuelas públicas en Puerto Rico” Book chapter for untitled book manuscript project. Edited by Fernanda Saforcada, Javier Campos, and Carmen Rodríguez Martínez. Madrid: Ediciones Morata, Forthcoming.

Public Scholarship

- 2020 “La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción are Leading the Puerto Rican Resistance,” *Open Democracy*, (January 14, 2020): <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/la-colectiva-feminista-en-construccion-are-leading-the-puerto-rican-resistance/?fbclid=IwAR24ipb82QD92XSij27F8nsXZjEX11FVRAuGdlhnHxKujszllI4plx4a7fe8>.
- 2019 “What Lorgia García Peña’s Tenure Denial Means for Other Latina Scholars,” *Zora by Medium*, (December 10, 2019): <https://zora.medium.com/what-lorgia-garc%C3%ADa-pe%C3%B1as-tenure-denial-means-for-other-latina-scholars-4e0537abd5e7>.
- 2019 “La perspectiva e ideología de género,” *El Vocero*, (September 24, 2019): https://www.elvocero.com/opinion/la-perspectiva-e-ideolog-a-de-g-nero/article_a8893908-de72-11e9-a0ef-3bd5292d0c5b.html.
- 2019 “Puerto Rico’s Multiple Solidarities: Emergent Landscapes and the Geographies of Protest,” *The Abusable Past by Radical History Review*, co-written with Jorell Meléndez Badillo, (July 22, 2019): <https://www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/?p=3152>.
- 2019 “How Misogyny and #Telegramgate Led to the Protests in Puerto Rico,” *Zora by Medium*, (July 22, 2019): <https://zora.medium.com/how-misogyny-and-telegramgate-led-to-the-protests-in-puerto-rico-72ec58ebf557>.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2020–21 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.

- 2020–21 AAUW Dissertation Fellowship (Declined).
 2020 Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant. Guadalajara, Mexico.
 2019–20 Antonia Pantoja Research Program, Institute of Interdisciplinary
 Research, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.
 2019 Glenn A. Higgins Memorial Scholarship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
 2019 Graduate Fellows Training Grant, REAL Fellowship, University of Massachusetts
 Amherst.
 2019 Joseph L. Boscov Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
 2019 Pre-Dissertation Grant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies,
 University of Massachusetts Amherst.
 2018 Campus Climate Improvement Grant, “Building Community through Study Circles: An
 Intergroup Approach to Learning Across Difference,” University of Massachusetts
 Amherst.
 2018 Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship. Honorable Mention.
 2017 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Graduate School, University of
 Massachusetts Amherst.
 2017 Graduate Assistant of the Month. National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), National
 Association of College and University Residence Halls, Incorporated.
 2016-20 Research Enhancement and Leadership Fellows Program, University of
 Massachusetts Amherst.

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Digital Puerto Rican Studies: Social Scholarship, Mapping, and Archives. Virtual event
 Sponsored by LASA Puerto Rico and organized by the Puerto Rico Syllabus. October 23.
 2019 Social Action and Youth Empowerment: The Implications of the Puerto Rican Summer.
 Youth Impact Project. University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. October 26.
 2019 Approaches to Community-based Work from a Reciprocal Lens Through Participatory
 Action Research. University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico. September 10.
 2019 Reflections about Puerto Rico’s Summer ’19 Protests. University of Puerto Rico, Río
 Piedras, Puerto Rico. September 4.
 2018 Research and the Sociopolitical Context in Post-María Puerto Rico. Rochester Committee
 on Latin America. Rochester, New York. May 2.
 2017 Social Justice Education Pedagogy. Escuela Laboratorio CEDIN, Interamerican
 University, San Juan, Puerto Rico. June 29.
 2015 Introduction to Zines and E-Zines. Rainbow Center. University of Connecticut, Storrs,
 Connecticut. April 7.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Refereed Conference Presentations

- 2020 “Building Solidarity in Community-University Partnerships in Puerto Rico.” Latin American Studies Association. Virtual Conference Due to COVID-19. May 16.
- 2019 “Refusal and Recognition: The Politics of Citizenship in Post-María Puerto Rico.” American Studies Association. Honolulu, Hawaii. November 8.
- 2019 “*La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción*: A Transnational, Intersectional Pedagogy in Action.” Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social Conference. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. July 17.
- 2019 “Adapting intergroup dialogue principles in participatory action research.” 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. June 9.
- 2019 “*La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción*: A transnational, intersectional pedagogy in action.” Caribbean Studies Association. Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.
- 2019 “Perspectivas de charterización de Puerto Rico.” Simposio políticas educativas, justicia social en América Latina: Debates y disputas sobre políticas, trabajo docente, y formación. Latin American Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.
- 2019 “*La Colectiva*: A pedagogy of intersectional feminist solidarity in Puerto Rico.” Latin American Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.
- 2019 “You Can't Go Home Again: An Autoethnography of Educational Research in Post-Maria Puerto Rico.” American Educational Research Association. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. April 5.
- 2018 “You Can't Go Home Again: An Autoethnography in two keys in Post-Maria Puerto Rico.” Puerto Rican Studies Association. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. October 27.
- 2018 “*Libros Libres*: Decolonial Resistance through Community Solidary Wealth.” Caribbean Studies Association. La Habana, Cuba. June 6.
- 2018 “*Libros Libres*: Decolonial Resistance and the Possibilities of Imagining ‘Another Way of Doing.’” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain. May 25.
- 2018 “An Autoethnography of Engaged Educational Research in Post Maria Puerto Rico.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. May 19.
- 2018 “Solidarity as Social Justice Education: Exploring Praxis, Possibilities and Limits.” Social Justice Research Worth Spreading. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. May 2.
- 2018 “Solidarity in Critical Participatory Action Research Contact Zones.” American Educational Research Conference. New York, NY. April 17.

- 2017 “*Libros Libres: An Autoethnography of Decolonial Resistance.*” Empowering Education, 20th Annual Graduate Student Conference. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. November 29.
- 2017 “*Libros Libres: Community Solidary Wealth and the Possibilities of Imagining ‘Another Way of Doing.’*” Colloquia Day: Critical with/for whom? Doing Research on Tricky Ground. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. April 19.
- 2015 “Building Solidarity in Experiential Learning: Limits and Possibilities of Community Service Learning.” Borderlands Symposium. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. April 30.
- 2015 “Preparing for Service Learning.” 2nd Annual Institute for First Year Curricular Innovation Conference. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. May 12.
- 2015 “(Re)Thinking Communication: The Lost(?) Art of Zine Making.” Beyond the Selfie: Linking Identity, Community, and Social Change. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. November 14.

OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Refusal, Recognition, and Resistance: The Transhistorical and Transcolonial in Puerto Rico.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii. November 8.
- 2019 “Re-imagining the Possibilities of IGD: Exploring Theory and Praxis Across Multiple Sites.” 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. June 9.
- 2019 “Pedagogies of liberation and counter-narratives in Puerto Rico.” Caribbean Studies Association, Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.
- 2019 “Estrategias de organización social y movilización frente a la precariedad y los desastres naturales.” Latin American Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.

Chaired Panels

- 2019 “Community and Culture After Hurricane María.” Puerto Rican Studies Association Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, Texas. October 26.
- 2019 “Conflicts, Struggles, and Collective Organizing.” Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico. July 29.
- 2019 “Pedagogies of liberation and counter-narratives in Puerto Rico.” Caribbean Studies Association, Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.

Panel Commentator

2019 “Deep Blue: The Life of Water.” Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico. July 27.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Adjunct Professor

- INTD4116, “Principles and Foundations of Participatory Action Research and Intergroup Dialogue,” Undergraduate, University of Puerto Rico Cayey (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020). Interdisciplinary research course with a focus race, class, gender, sexuality, and colonialism in Puerto Rico, the US, and Latin America.

Instructor of Record

- EDUC210, “Diversity in Education,” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts (Online: Fall 2019, Winter 2020, and Spring 2020). Course focus: on issues of social identity, social and cultural diversity, and societal manifestations of power, privilege, and oppression. Topics addresses racism, heterosexism and trans oppression, youth oppression, colonialism, settler colonialism and their intersections.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- EDUC210, “Diversity in Education, General Education,” Undergraduate, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019). Course focus: on issues of social identity, social and cultural diversity, and societal manifestations of power, privilege, and oppression (racism, heterosexism and trans oppression, youth oppression, colonialism, settler colonialism and their intersections).
- EDUC 2020, “Intergroup Dialogue, Race for all People,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Spring 2018). Cross racial dialogue between white and Black and students of color discussing Race and racism on Campus.

Other teaching experience

- INTD1810, “Introduction to Community Service,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Connecticut Storrs (Spring 2015). Course discussing social justice issues (race, class, gender, sexuality) and their root causes and connections to critical service learning.
- INTD1810, “Community Service-Learning Project course,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Connecticut Storrs (Fall 2014). Course discussing social justice issues (race, class, gender, sexuality) and their root causes and connections to critical service learning.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019- Ethnography of the year-long course “Principios y fundamentos de la investigación y

- acción participativa y diálogo intergrupal.” University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico.
- 2018- Ethnography of La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción, Puerto Rico.
2018–19 Research Assistant for Dr. Laura Valdiviezo. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2017-18 Ethnography of the Social Action and Research Program. University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, Puerto Rico.
- 2017-18 Autoethnography of researching in post-María Puerto Rico.
- 2017-18 Ethnography of the street library project Libros Libres, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

International Service

- 2019- Member, Working Group in Educational Policy, and the Right to Education, CLACSO.

National Service

- 2020 Manuscript Reviewer, *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*.
- 2019- Treasurer, Puerto Rico Section Latin American Studies Association.
- 2018–19 Co-Chair, Graduate Council, Puerto Rico Section, Latin American Studies Association.
- 2019 Volunteer, Latin American Studies Association Conference. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2019 Submission Reviewer, Conferencia Teorizando el Giro Decolonial (Theorizing the Decolonial Turn Conference).
- 2019 Submission Reviewer, 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue.
- 2018 Submission Reviewer, Critical Educators for Social Justice Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association.
- 2018 Submission Reviewer, Community Service-Learning Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association.
- 2018-20 Elected Graduate Council Member at Large, Puerto Rican Studies Association.

University Service

- 2018–19 Executive Member, Graduate Students of Color Association, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Community Engagement

- 2020– Member of Colectivo Casco Urbano de Cayey, a social justice community organization and research collective dedicated to the social, and economic, well-being in the urban hub of Cayey, Puerto Rico. The Collective holds a solidary pantry monthly since July 2020.
- 2019 Fundraiser post-earthquake swarm. Raised over \$14,000 for supplies and food for affected communities in Guánica, Puerto Rico.
- 2017 Fundraiser post-hurricane Maria. Raised over \$1,000 and 25 boxes for affected communities in Puerto Rico.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019–20 Project Assistant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2018–19 Conference Coordinator and Project Assistant. Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2016–18 Learning Communities Graduate Assistant. Residential Learning Communities. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2015–16 Grants Manager. Charter Oak Cultural Center. Hartford, Connecticut.
- 2014–15 Program Coordinator/Instructor. Community Service-Learning Community. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
- 2014 Consultant at the Office for the Special Communities. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2012–13 Economic Development Coordinator. Americorps* Vista. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2019 Caribbean Philosophical Association Summer School. Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 2017 Critical Participatory Action Research Institute. Public Science Project, CUNY Graduate School, New York, New York.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish Native proficiency.
English Native proficiency.

French Intermediate reading proficiency.
Italian Intermediate reading proficiency.

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2019– Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social
2019– Caribbean Philosophical Association
2019– American Studies Association
2018– Puerto Rican Studies Association
2018– Caribbean Studies Association
2016– Latin American Studies Association
2016– American Educational Research Association
2016–18 Society for Community Research and Action