

Keishla Rivera-Lopez

keishlariveralopez.com / Keishla.Rivera-Lopez@Millersville.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Rutgers University, Newark, May 2020

American Studies

Dissertation: “Writing Freedom: Puerto Rican Women’s Literary Conceptualizations of Motherhood and Memory Beyond Archives”

Committee Members:

Dr. Jason Cortes, Chair

Dr. Frances Bartkowski

Dr. Yomaira C. Figueroa

B.A. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, May 2015

Major: Latino and Caribbean Studies

Minor: Comparative & Critical Racial Ethnic Studies in American Studies

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Latinx Studies; Puerto Rican Studies; Race and Ethnicity; Culture, Migration; Women of Color Feminist Literature; Caribbean Diasporic Literature; Identity, Gender, Communal Trauma, Biopolitics and Disposability; The (Maternal) Body; Affect Theory; Afro-Latinidad

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, English Department

Millersville University of Pennsylvania: Fall 2020-present

Instructor, American Studies Program

Rutgers University – Newark: Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Graduate Student Mentor, Mellon-Price Humanities Scholars Program; Honors Learning-Living Community

Rutgers University – Newark: Spring 2020

Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellow, The Center for Puerto Rican Studies
Hunter College – City University of New York, Summer 2019

Graduate Instructor, Honors Living-Learning Community

Rutgers University – Newark: Fall 2017- Spring 2018

Assistant to the Director of American Studies, American Studies Program

Rutgers University – Newark: Summer 2016

Teaching Assistant, American Studies Program
Rutgers University – Newark: Spring 2016-Spring 2017

Graduate Assistant, Women and Gender Studies Department
Rutgers University – Newark: Fall 2015

ACADEMIC GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Rutgers University Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship
The Graduate School-Newark, Rutgers University – Newark, 2019-2020

CENTRO Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship
The Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College – City University of New York, 2019

Rutgers University Doctoral Fellowship
Rutgers University – Newark, 2015-2019

Honorable Mention
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2019

Rutgers Latino Research Initiative Grant
Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 2019

American Studies Seed Grant
American Studies Program, Rutgers University – Newark, 2019

Chancellor’s Office Summer Research Grant
Rutgers University – Newark, 2018

Teaching Fellowship, Honors Living-Learning Community
Rutgers University – Newark, 2017-2018

Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Scholar
Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 2013-2015

National School Boards Scholarship
National School Boards Association, 2011-2012

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Puerto Rican Diasporic Novels: Witnessing State Violence and Contesting Freedom in Nicholasa Mohr’s *Felita* and *Nilda*,” *CENTRO Journal*, under review.

“Memory and Revisionist Work in *Daughters of the Stone*: An Interview with Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa,” *CENTRO Journal*, under review.

"Mothers of the Grand House: Race, Motherhood, & Memory in Puerto Rican Historical Fiction," *Hispanófila Journal*, June 2020.

"Both a Grad Student and Instructor: Advocating for Compassionate Teaching During a Global Health Pandemic," *Progressive Pedagogy: A Guide for Active Learning*, June 20, 2020.

"Dispatch from Fireball in Newark: The Ballroom Scene and Legendary Houses," co-authored with Naomi Extra & Kristyn Scorsone, *NOTCHES*, May 12, 2016.

POETRY

"Feminist Becomings," *The Acentos Review*, November 2017

PLAYS

"Puerto Rican Kitchen," *Official Nuyorican Poets Cafe Theatre Festival Selection*, June 2019
2nd Place, "Best of the Fest" Award

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

Race, Freedom, and Healing: Rewriting Puerto Rican History and Motherhood

National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA: November 2019

Race, Freedom, and Healing: Rewriting Puerto Rican History and Motherhood

Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, Providence, RI: June 2019

Motherhood, Memory, and Freedom: Rosario Ferré's *The House on the Lagoon* and Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's *Daughters of the Stone*

Research Week, Rutgers University – Newark, April 2019

Motherhood, Memory, and Freedom: Rosario Ferré's *The House on the Lagoon* and Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's *Daughters of the Stone*

The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio: March 2019

The Politics of Utopia, Race, and Citizenship in Puerto Rico Post-Hurricane Maria

Latinx Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C.: July 2018

Historical and Contemporary Traumas:

Contesting Jameson's Notion of Utopia in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican Studies Association Symposium, New York City: October 2017

Gender and Diaspora in Michelle Cliff's Poetry

Caribbean Philosophical Association Conference, New York City: June 2017

Tongue-Tied Politics: Spanglish, Race, and Identity in Nuyorican Literature

Northeastern MLA Conference, Baltimore, Maryland: March 2017

Legitimizing Spanglish Through a Reimagining of Nuyorican Poetry
American Studies Program Symposium, Rutgers University, Newark: April 2016

Imagining Afro-Latinidad: Negotiating Race and Identity
McNair Scholars Research Conference, University of Maryland-Baltimore County: Oct 2014

Imagining Afro-Latinidad: Negotiating Race and Identity
Ronald E. McNair Research Symposium, Rutgers University-NB: July 2014

Overseas Archipelagos in the Caribbean and Spanish Colonialism
Aresty Undergraduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University-NB: April 2014

Legalized Sex-Work in the Dominican Republic
Institute of Research on Women Conference, Rutgers University-NB: April 2013

Invited Lectures

"Decolonial Love and The Diasporic Novel" Course
Guest Lecturer, Michigan State University: November 2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Instructor

The Department of English

Fall 2020: "Reading Our World: Latinx Literature,"

"World Literature: Puerto Rican Literature - (Re)Writing Home and the Nation,"

"English Composition: Writing Home and Self"

Rutgers University-Newark

Instructor

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies

Spring 2020: "Introduction to Latinx Studies"

African American and Africana Studies Department

Fall 2019: "Introduction to Caribbean Literature," cross-listed in English Department

Fall 2018: Spring 2019: "Introduction to Caribbean Studies"

American Studies Program

Summer 2018: "Introduction to American Studies"

Co-Instructor

Honors Living-Learning Community

Spring 2018: "Voice, Citizenship, and Community Engagement"

Fall 2017: "Negotiating Spaces, Places, and Identity"

Teaching Assistant

English Department

Spring 2017: "Literature of the American Revolution"

Fall 2016: "Caribbean Literature"

Spring 2016: "Black Lives Matter: HBO Series *The Wire*"**RESEARCH/FIELD WORK****Graduate Assistant**, Transcriptions and Translations

#ProyectoPalabrasPR, Michigan State University: 2019

Research Assistant, Professor Yomaira C. Figueroa

Michigan State University: 2019

Graduate Assistant, Spring Break Study Away Trip in Puerto Rico

#ProyectoPalabrasPR, Michigan State University: March 2019

Research Assistant, Professor Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel

Aresty Undergraduate Research Center, Rutgers University-NB: 2014

Ronald E. McNair Scholar

Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 2013-2015

Institute for Research on Women Learning Community Research Scholar

Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 2012-2013

COMMUNITY EVENTS & LEADERSHIP**Virtual Campus Visit: Book Reading and Discussion: Kali Fajardo-Anstine**Organizer, Public Event, Millersville University: *forthcoming* November 2020**Virtual Campus Visit: Creative Writing Workshop: Kali Fajardo-Anstine**Organizer, Public Event, Millersville University: *forthcoming* November 2020**Hispanic Heritage Month Book Discussion on *Sabrina & Corina: Stories***

Speaker and Organizer, Millersville University: October 2020

Author Campus Visit and Book Talk: Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa

Organizer, Public Event, Rutgers University-Newark: November 2019

"The Truth is Black and Brown: Black and Latino Voices in Words and Music" Event

Invited Poet, Newark Latino Artist Collective: February 2019

"Dedication Day" Poetry Reading: Newark as Sanctuary Social Justice Event

Invited Poet, Rutgers University-Newark: October 2018

Latinx Voices Poetry Reading

Invited Poet, Newark Public Library: October 2018

“Poems in the Park” Poetry Reading, Dodge Poetry Festival
Invited Poet, Military Park in Newark, NJ: July 2018

From Rebellion to Review Board: Newark Fights for Police Accountability
Digitized Exhibition, Rutgers University: March 2017

Horses of Newark
Social Media Director, Public Event, Military Park, Newark, NJ: October 2016

Newark '74: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots- An Unexamined History
Exhibition at John Cotton Dana Library, Rutgers University: January-March 2016

INTERNSHIPS

Editorial Intern
Cosmopolitan for Latinas Magazine: Fall 2014

Editorial Intern/Writer
Latin@ Information Network at Rutgers University: Spring 2013

LANGUAGES

English: Heritage
Spanish: Heritage
French: Beginner
Portuguese: Conversational

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

Caribbean Philosophical Association
Puerto Rican Studies Association
Latinx Studies Association
The National Women’s Studies Association
The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S.

REFERENCES

Dr. Jason Cortes, Director of American Studies Program, Associate Professor, Rutgers University – Newark, jasoncor@newark.rutgers.edu, 973-353-1026

Dr. Yomaira C. Figueroa, Assistant Professor, English Department and African American and African Studies Program, Michigan State University, yomairaf@msu.edu, 517-884-4413

Dr. Frances Bartkowski, Professor, English Department and American Studies Program, Interim Chair of the Arts, Culture and Media Department, Rutgers University – Newark, franb@newark.rutgers.edu, 973-353-5014

Dr. Belinda Edmondson, Professor, English Department and African American and African Studies Department, Rutgers University – Newark, edmondsn@rutgers.edu, 973-353-1586

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