

# Keishla Rivera-Lopez

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## 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, Coloniality (of Being) and Decolonization

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow**, American Studies  
Montclair State University: Spring 2022-Present

**Assistant Professor**, English and World Languages Department  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania: Fall 2020-Fall 2021

**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

**Virginia Sanchez-Korrol Dissertation Award: Special Recognition**  
Puerto Rican Studies Association, 2021

**Presidential Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Grant Award**  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania, 2020

**Noonan Endowment Fund Grant Award**  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania, 2020

**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

**Conference Travel Grant**  
National Women’s Studies Association, 2019

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

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

**Conference Travel Grant**  
Northeastern Modern Language Association, 2017

**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*," under review.

"Memory and Revisionist Work in *Daughters of the Stone*: An Interview with Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa," *CENTRO Journal*, November 2021.

"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

"Mofongo, A Sensory Memory," *Decolonial Passage*, January 2021

"Ode to Mami's Kitchen," *The Newarker Magazine*, April 2021

"Rethinking Language," *The Newarker Magazine*, July 2021

"Ode to Newark," *Decolonial Passage*, forthcoming June 2021

### PLAYS

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

### FICTION

"Wanting More," *The Journal of Latina Feminist Criticism*, April 2021

## PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Presentations

**Gendered Exile: An Examination of Julia de Burgos' Evolving Poetics**

National Women's Studies Association Conference, Virtual: October 2021 (cancelled-tech issues)

**Archival Fictions, Biopolitics and the Diasporic Novel**

Northeastern MLA Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: March 2021

**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 and Talks***Virginia Sanchez-Korrol Dissertation Award Ceremony**

Invited Speaker and Award Recipient, Puerto Rican Studies Association, May 2021

**“Boricua Memory Projects: Book Talk”**

College of Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Millersville University, November 2020

**“Decolonial Love and The Diasporic Novel” Course**

Guest Lecturer, Michigan State University: November 2019

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**Postdoctoral Fellow, American Studies Program  
Montclair State University**

- Introduction to American Studies

**Assistant Professor of Latinx Literatures and Culture, The Department of English  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania**

- Reading Our World: Latinx Literature
- World Literature: Puerto Rican Literature – (Re)Writing Home and the Nation
- English Composition: Writing Home and Self
- Reading Our World: Latinx Diasporas
- Latinx Authors: Writing Resistance, Latinx Experience, & Home
- Reading Our World: Caribbean Diasporic Literature

**Instructor, American Studies Program, The Department of Spanish and Portuguese,  
African American and Africana Studies Department  
Rutgers University-Newark**

- Introduction to Latinx Studies
- Introduction to Caribbean Literature, cross-listed in English Department
- Introduction to Caribbean Studies
- Introduction to American Studies

**Co-Instructor, Honors Living-Learning Community  
Rutgers University-Newark**

- Voice, Citizenship, and Community Engagement
- Negotiating Spaces, Places and Identity

**Teaching Assistant, The Department of English  
Rutgers University-Newark**

- Literature of the American Revolution
- Caribbean Literature
- 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

## SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Millersville University

- The Learning Institute
- English Department Literature Committee
- Latino Studies Steering Committee
- President's Commission on the Status of Women
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summit Planning Committee
- Hispanic Heritage Festival Planning Committee

### Rutgers University-Newark

- Latin@ Studies Working Group

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & LEADERSHIP

**Virtual Cafecito con Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa Interview**  
Interviewer, Center for Puerto Rican Studies: February 2022

**Virtual Journal Launch and Reading**  
Invited Author, The Journal for Latina Criticism: April 2021

**College Pathways Initiative Discussion on Teaching During a Pandemic**  
Invited Speaker, Newark City of Learning Collaborative: March 2021 (cancelled due to covid-19)

**The Learning Institute Book Talk Series and Discussion: Kamala Harris**  
Co-Facilitator, Public Event, Millersville University: February 2021

**Virtual Campus Visit: Book Reading and Discussion: Kali Fajardo-Anstine**  
Organizer, Public Event, Millersville University: November 2020

**Virtual Campus Visit: Creative Writing Workshop: Kali Fajardo-Anstine**  
Organizer, Public Event, Millersville University: 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

Portuguese: Conversational

French: Beginner

**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](mailto:jasoncor@newark.rutgers.edu), 973-353-1026

Dr. Yomaira C. Figueroa, Associate Professor, English Department and African American and African Studies Program, Michigan State University, [yomairaf@msu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:edmondsn@rutgers.edu), 973-353-1586