

Special issue on RACE

- Dissertations working on Race
- Faculty research on Race
- News

New Thematic Special Issues

With this special issue on race, we start a series of thematic releases focusing on the research carried out by our Spanish professors and graduate students. In the next months, we hope to present other relevant topics such as biopolitics, gender studies, law studies, film studies, human rights, and second language acquisition.

Why Race?

A vital and controversial element in many conversations around the globe, race is always –also– a local issue, grounded in the particular circumstances of colonial and post-colonial structures of power. Amid diasporas and migrations, our graduate students delve into narratives of individuals marked as "others" who, despite marginalized conditions, raise powerful voices in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

U.S. Afro Latino's narratives

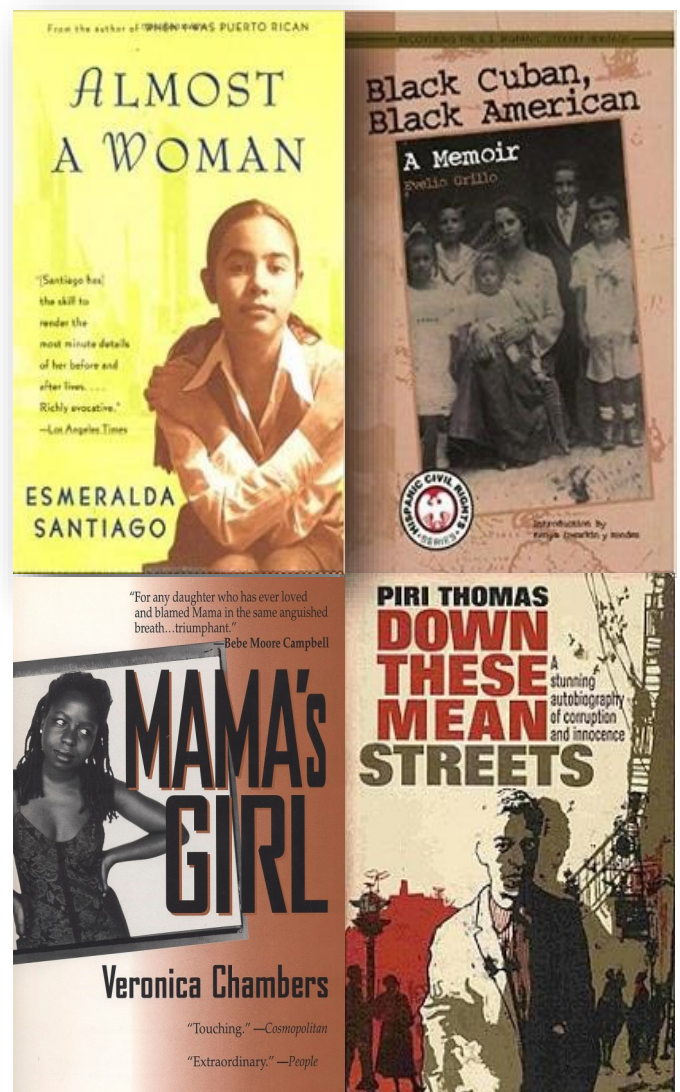
In my dissertation I examine cultural production from the African Diaspora through the optics of **Black Atlantic** and **Hispanic Transatlantic Studies**.

By focusing on the cultural production of U.S. Afro-Latinos, I think through **the limits of these two fields** while, at the same time, encourage dialogue between them, to push their boundaries and achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities of the African Diaspora.

I explore issues of racial and **gendered identities** as they are constructed at the individual and national levels, teasing out their significance in the construction of a national imaginary perpetuated by the dominant social discourse and practices in the United States.



Julian Lujan, CPLT –Spanish Working on her last chapter under the direction of Dr. Andrew Rajca and Dr. Mercedes Lopez – Rodriguez



Yet, in trying to place my study beyond national frames, I examine how these issues play a role in an imaginary and material construction of a world system kept in place by **global hegemonic discourses on race and identity**.

I explore these issues through specific moments and works of literature produced by U.S. Afro-Latinos, and examine the ways that they engage with the themes of racial and gender identity, I study Evelio Grillo's *Black Cuban, Black American: A memoir*. (2000), Piri Thomas's *Down These Mean Streets* (1967), Esmeralda Santiago's *Almost a Woman* (1998), and Veronica Chambers's *Mama's Girl* (1996).

Afro-
Diasporous
Literatures of
the
United
States and
Brazil:

Performance,
Counternarratives,
and
Black Feminism
in the
Americas

My dissertation is chiefly concerned with the ways in which the **African Diaspora** is conceptualized depending on a particular cultural producer's locus of enunciation. My project examines **African American cultural production** from the United States juxtaposed with **Afro-Brazilian cultural production** in order to conduct a comparative analysis.

Diasporic narrative and poetry that foregrounds the body, performance, and affective memory is the primary focus of my research.

Moreover, in developing my theoretical framework, I also explore the “**diasporous**” (a term I borrow from Urayoán Noel) nexus linking two recent poetry EPs: one by the queer Black Mexican American poet, Ariana Brown, the other by Afro-Brazilian slam poet, Mel Duarte.

Throughout my work, I am especially interested in investigating the tensions between notions of the **local** and the **global** and the role of the nation in various imaginings and representations of the Diaspora and its history.

Ultimately, I argue that Afro-Brazilian cultural production offers a vital “counternarrative” to the hegemony of African American thought in the Diaspora.



From Brazil,
I consider

Conceição
Evaristo's
Ponciá Vicêncio

and

Jarid Arraes'
Heróinas Negras
Brasileiras:
em 15 cordéis

David Beek, Ph. D. Comparative Literature—
Spanish

Fulbright US Student Awardee. He will be working on his dissertation at the Federal University of Paraíba in João Pessoa, Brazil from February to November of 2020.

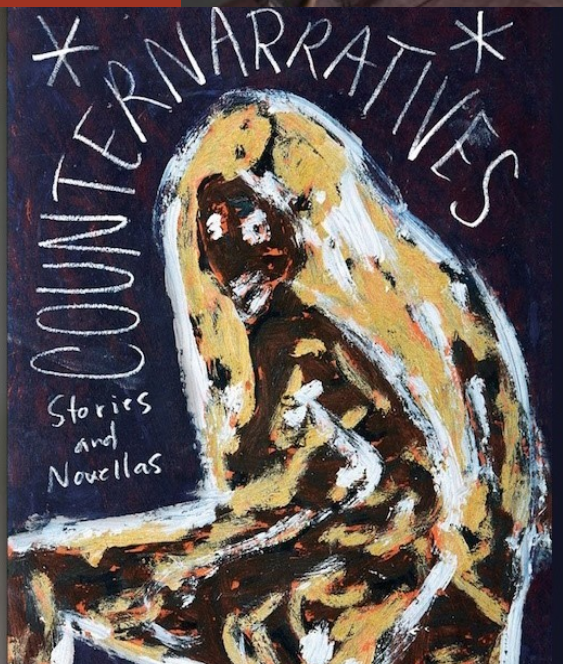


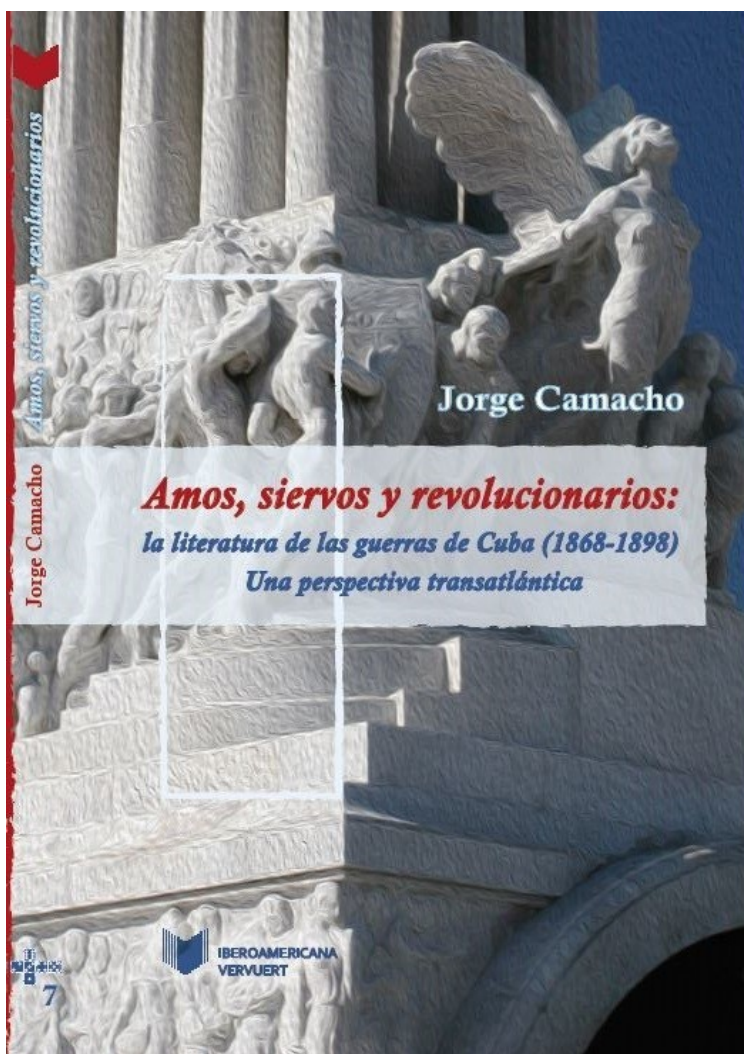
From the
United
States,
I analyze

John Keene's
Counternarratives

as well as

Gayl Jones'
Corregidora
and Song for
Anninho.



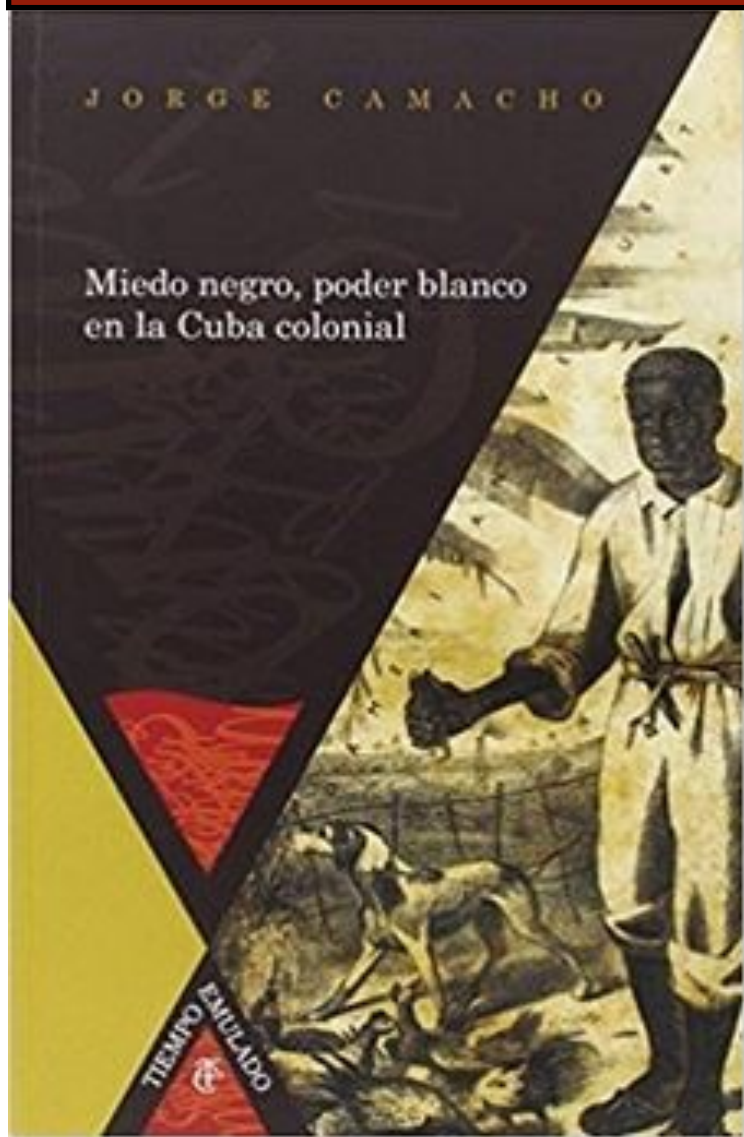
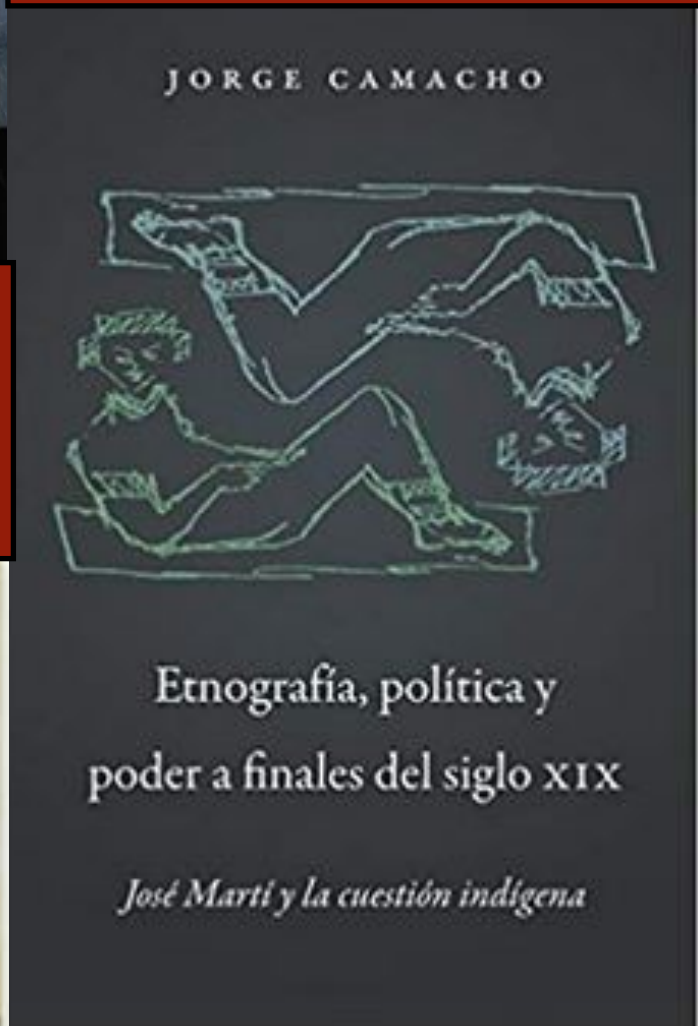


The first comparative essay on literary and visual images produced by both the supporters of Spanish National Integritism, and the Cuban pro-independence movement between 1868 and 1898.

This pioneering essay analyses plays, novels, and poems published in Cuba and Spain during this period, and the discursive formations by the supporters of both sides.

The book concludes with a chapter dedicated to post-war literature during the crisis of the Cuban Republic.

Professor Jorge Camacho's three recent books delving into the role of race in Cuban-Spanish debates on war and independence, the powerful reflections of José Martí on Latin American Indigenous, and the racial fears in colonial Cuba.



Miedo negro, poder blanco en la Cuba colonial (Iberoamericana-Verveut, 2015) studies the fears of black slaves and their descendants in Colonial Cuba: fears of a slave revolt, language corruption, racial miscegenation, music and religion, among others.

It has been described as “encyclopedic” and “a pioneering study in the field” (South Atlantic Review).



Our first Graduate Conversatorio featuring Andres Arroyave's research on Mario Mendoza's *Satanas*.

Next presenters
2020

Olivia Cosentino, Ohio State University (January 1st)

Tamara Morgan, Ph.D. Spanish (March 6)

Guillaume Coly, Ph.D. CPLT French (April 3)

Jingsheng Zhang, CPLT Chinese (May 1)

SPAN 881 Film Theory, Aesthetics, and Latin American Cinema
Dr. Andrew Rajca

SPAN 765 Contemporary Spanish American Poets
Dr. Jorge Camacho

SPAN 557 Contemporary Spanish American Literature
Dr. Rebeca Janzen

Spanish
Graduate Course
Offerings
Spring 2020

Whiteness and Other Racial Fictions in the 19th Century Colombian Andes

- explores the literary and visual narratives that created the singular notion of a racially white Colombian Andean Region, highlighting a contrast with the rest of the South American Andes, where indigenous populations remained at the core of literary representations.
- proposes a reading of *whiteness* as a performance in which bodily traits are combined with non-racial contents such as manners, literacy, and codes of dress to create a desired "National" white body.
- focuses with greater precision on the question of how nineteenth-century Colombian intellectuals understood whiteness, showing that *mestizaje* alone is not an adequate frame for understanding nineteenth-century efforts at nation-building.



Mercedes López Rodríguez

Blancura y otras ficciones raciales en los Andes colombianos del siglo XIX