

Margarita M. Castromán Soto

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EDUCATION:

- 2013-Current **Ph.D. in English Literature**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Dissertation: “Collecting Race: The Archival Impulse in Twentieth-Century Black Literature and Culture.”
Committee: Michelle Stephens (Director); Carter Mathes; Jeffrey Lawrence; Brent Edwards
Defense: May 11, 2020; Degree Conferral: October 2020
- 2013-2015 **M.A. in English Literature**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Qualifying Examination: “Twentieth/Twenty-First Century Comparative US Literatures” (Michelle Stephens and Allan Isaac); “The Archive in Theory” (Meredith McGill); “Narratives of Black Literary Resistance” (Carter Mathes)
- 2012-2013 **M.A. in English and Comparative Literature**, Columbia University
M.A. Essay: “In the Wings of Slavery: Liminal Spaces of Freedom in Harriet Jacobs’ *Incidents in the Life of A Slave Girl*.” Saidiya Hartman (Director)
- 2005-2008 **M.A. in English Literature**, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras
M.A. Thesis: “Noise versus Silence: Reconceptualizations of Subversion and Agency in Twentieth-Century African American and Latino/a Fiction.” Richard Swope (Director)
- 2001-2005 **B.A. in English (Literature) and Spanish**, Florida State University
Honors Thesis (Spanish): “La representación literaria de la mujer y la identidad nacional en Puerto Rico: Julia de Burgos, Esmeralda Santiago y Ana Lydia Vega.”

PUBLICATIONS:

- “Disenchanted Freedom in Sylvia Wynter’s *The Hills of Hebron*,” *Diverse Unfreedoms: The Afterlives and Transformations of Post-Transatlantic Bondages*. Eds. Cati Coe, Sarada Balagopalan and Keith Green. New York: Routledge, 2020. 141-160.
- “Schomburg’s Black Archival Turn: “Racial Integrity” and “The Negro Digs Up His Past,” *African American Review* (Forthcoming Winter 2020/2021).
- “Diachronic Silence: The Queer Diasporic Experience and *The Noise of Infinite Longing*.” Eds. Dorsía Smith, Tatiana Tagirova, and Suzanna Engman. *Critical Perspectives on Caribbean Literature and Culture*. Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010.

REVIEWS:

Review of *The Latino/a and the Emergence of Post-Sixties Literature* by Raphael Dalleo and Elena Machado Sáez. *Sargasso* Vol. I, 2008-09 (179-182).

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS:

2020 Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in the Humanities at the Stanford Humanities Center (declined)
2020 Kassakian Fellowship (English Dept.; Rutgers)
2019-2020 ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2019-2020 FORD Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined)
2019 MLA Career Development Bootcamp Fellow
2018-2019 University and Louis Bevier Fellowship Award (Rutgers)
2018 Departmental Summer Study Merit Award (English Dept.; Rutgers)
2018 Catherine Mussello Cantalupo Essay Prize: Honorable Mention (English; Rutgers)
2017 Research Summer Funding Award: Archival research (English Dept.; Rutgers)
2017, 2018 Conference Funding Award (English Dept.; Rutgers)
2016, 2017, 2018 SAS TA/GA Professional Development Fund Award (Graduate School; Rutgers)
2013-2014 Ralph Bunche Fellowship (Rutgers)
2012 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, Teacher Recognition Award (Department of Education)
2008 The Thomas Sullivan Award: Outstanding MA Essay (UPR, Rio Piedras)
2004 Best Student in Spanish Department (Florida State University)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

2020-current Rice University, Assistant Professor of English
African American Literature from Plessy to Ferguson (ENG 267), Fall 2020
Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing (ENG 200), Fall 2020

2014-2019 Rutgers, New Brunswick, Instructor,
Latinx Literatures and Culture (LCS/AMS), Fall 2017/2018
Principles of Literary Study: Prose (ENG), Summer 2017
Topics in American Studies: Ethnic Literatures of the US (ENG/AMS), Spring 2016
Principles of Literary Study: Prose (ENG), Mentored Teaching Assistant, Spring 2015
Expository Writing (ENG), Fall 2014/2015/2017

Summer 2017 Rutgers English Diversity Institute (REDI), Writing Instructor

Summer 2016 Rutgers Future Scholars (RFS), Lead Instructor: Grade 9

2008-2012 Baldwin School of Puerto Rico, Upper School English Teacher
AP English Literature and Composition
Honors/On-Level American Literature
Honors/On-Level World Literature

RESEARCH AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE:

2018-Current	<u>Research Fellow</u> : Black Bibliography Project
Spring 2016	<u>Proofreader</u> : Wall, Cheryl. <i>The Harlem Renaissance: A Very Short Introduction</i> , Oxford UP, 2016
Summer 2013	<u>Library Assistant/Digital Curator</u> : Rare Books and Manuscript Library; Columbia University
2012-2013	<u>Research Assistant</u> : Prof. Susan Crane; Columbia University
2007-2008	<u>Editorial Assistant</u> : <i>Sargasso: Journal of Caribbean Literature, Language, and Culture</i> ; UPR, RP
2006-2007	<u>Research Assistant</u> : Prof. Nalini Natarajan and Prof. Anthony Slagle; UPR, RP;

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

March 8, 2020	<u>Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA)</u> : “Feeling (Un)American: Race and National Belonging in the African American Literary Tradition” (Roundtable); Chair
October 12, 2019	<u>Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance; Sawyer Series Conference at Penn State</u> : “Unmanning the Archive in Alexis Pauline Gumbs’s <i>M Archive</i> ”
January 3, 2019	<u>Modern Language Association (MLA)</u> : Archival Confluence, or Where the Counter Archive and Minor Archive meet in M. NourbeSe Philip’s <i>Zong!</i> (Roundtable)
April 6, 2018	<u>American Literature in the World: A Graduate Conference at Yale</u> : “Archives That Lie, or ‘New Fields of Study’ from Erna Brodber’s Louisiana”
April 29, 2017	<u>Multiethnic Literatures of the US (MELUS)</u> : “Unincorporated Subjects & (Cyber)space: <i>Down These Mean Streets</i> and <i>El Puerto Rican Embassy</i> ” (Roundtable)
March 31, 2017	<u>Diverse Unfreedoms and Their Ghosts Conference (Rutgers, Camden)</u> : “The Aesthetics of Disenchantment in Sylvia Wynter’s <i>The Hills of Hebron</i> ”
March 24, 2017	<u>Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA)</u> : “(Cyber) Staging Diaspora: “El Ni’e” and Josefina Báez’s <i>Levente no. yolayorkdominicanyork</i> ”
June 20-26, 2016	<u>Futures of American Studies, Dartmouth College</u> : “From Schomburg’s Shovel to Ellison’s Match: The Reclaimed Backgrounds of the Counter and Minor Archive”
March 18, 2016	<u>American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)</u> : “Beyond the Briefcase: Radical Counter Archives and Ralph Ellison’s <i>Invisible Man</i> ”

SERVICE:

2020-current	Undergraduate Committee Member, Rice University
2015-2017	African American and African Diaspora Graduate Student Interest Group, Coordinator
2014-2015	Graduate English Student Association, Secretary

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Modern Language Association (MLA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the US (MELUS)
Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA)

PRIMARY RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS:

African American and Black Diasporic Literature
Twentieth and Twenty-First Century US Literatures
Multiethnic US Literature
Latinx Literature
Caribbean Literature
Archive Theory
Critical Race Theory

LANGUAGES:

Spanish (native speaker)
French (intermediate)

REFERENCES:

Michelle Stephens, Dean of Humanities
Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences
humanitiesdean@sas.rutgers.edu

Carter Mathes, Associate Professor
Rutgers University, Department of English
cmathes@english.rutgers.edu

Jeffrey Lawrence, Assistant Professor
Rutgers University, Department of English
jl1977@english.rutgers.edu

Brent Edwards, Professor
Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature
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