**Gisabel Leonardo**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

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**EDUCATION**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,** Urbana, Illinois

Ph.D. in Latin American Literature and Culture (*expected May, 2023*)

Graduate Minor in Latina/ Latino Studies

Dissertation: “*Melenas Malcriadas:* The Black Aesthetics of Hair and Dominicanidad”

Xiomara Cervantes-Gómez, Spanish and Portuguese (Chair)

Mariselle Meléndez, Spanish and Portuguese

Carolyn Fornoff, Romance Studies (Cornell University)

Lisa Cacho, American Studies (University of Virginia)

**Georgia State University,** Atlanta, Georgia

M.A. in Spanish, Culture and Literature (2018)

**University of North Georgia,** Dahlonega, Georgia

B.A. in Spanish (2015)

Minor in Gender Studies

**RESEARCH AREAS**

Caribbean Studies; Performance Studies; Black Feminist Theory; Queer Theory; Women and Gender Studies; Cultural Studies; Literary Studies

**PUBLICATIONS**

Published in Papers and Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research 2015. “Significance of Hair as a Means of Racial Identity in The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.”

Published review of *Racialized Visions: Haiti and the Hispanic Caribbean*, ed. Vanessa K. Valdés, May 2021, Chasqui: revista de literatura latinoamericana.

**Work in Progress**

“Tokischa, Teteos, and Queer Counterpublics in Dominican Dembow,” *Depictions of Sexuality in Popular/ Public Culture*, edited by Laura Getty and Josef Vice (accepted)

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

Human Rights Institute Fellowship Finalist (Spring 2022)

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students (Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Graduate College Fellow in the Humanities (2019-2023)

“High Pass” MA Thesis Defense, “Actuando género, raza y patria en la tradición sonora dominicana” (May 2018)

Winner of 2014 UNG Annual Research Conference. Paper Presentation.

Finalist at 2014 Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference. Paper Presentation.

**INVITED TALKS**

*“Rolos* and Black Feminist Protest in Dominican Visual Culture*,*” LLAmA Talks, Augsburg University, February 2022.

“Aesthetics of Refusal: Queer Black and Brown Counterpublics in Dominican Dembow,” Augsburg University, November 2022 (accepted)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

ASA 2021 Creativity within Revolt roundtable: “Not Latin American Enough”.

MLA 2022 Multilingual US, Race and the Aesthetics of Refusal in Contemporary Latin America/Hemispheric America (included in Presidential Theme), “Dios, (Doña) Patria, Libertad: Black, Femme Resistance in Evaristo Angurria’s Doña Patria Murals”.

LASA 2022 Polarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias, Corporeal and Sonic Ecologies, “Teteo Amidst Crisis: The Queer Counterpublics of Dembow”.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SPAN 248: Latin American Diaspora through Film (Fall 2021)

LLS 242: Intro to Latina/o Literature (Writing consultant, Fall 2021)

SPAN 232: Spanish in the Community (Spring 2022)

SPAN 326: Latin American Afro-Feminisms (Fall 2022)

Georgia State University

SPAN 1001: Beginner Spanish I (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

SPAN 1002: Beginner Spanish II (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019)

SPAN 2001: Intermediate Spanish I (Fall 2018)

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant (2016-2018)

**Guest Lectures in Courses**

“*Rolos* and the Black Aesthetics of Hair in Dominican Visual Culture” in “Queer Latinx Feminisms,” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, March 2022.

**SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION**

Vice President, Graduate Spanish Club, Georgia State University

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

Graduate Student Representative, Latinx Studies Section, Latin American Studies Association

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Languages Association

American Studies Association

Latin American Studies Association

Latinx Studies, Haiti/ Dominican Republic, Gender and Feminist Studies

**LANGUAGES**

Last Updated: September 2022

English, native fluency

Spanish, near-native fluency

French, reading proficient