

Aurora Santiago-Ortiz
Curriculum Vitae
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social inequities; social justice education theories and practices; participatory action research methods; qualitative and critical ethnographic approaches decolonial feminist and antiracist pedagogies; popular and social movements in the Americas.

EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. in Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. Advisor: Ximena Zúñiga.
- 2021 Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2011 Juris Doctor. University of Puerto Rico Law School, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico.
- 2010 Certificate in International and European Legal Studies, University of Antwerp, Belgium. Cum Laude.
- 2004 B.F.A., Maurice Kanbar Institute of Film and Television, New York University, New York.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

- 2021 Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2021). Testimonio as stitch work: Undoing coloniality through autoethnography in Puerto Rico. *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*, 20(2), 122-148. (In print).
- 2020 Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2020). Mapping Collaboration as Resistance to Neoliberalism: A Case Study of Participatory Action Research in Puerto Rico. *Tracce Urbane: Rivista Italiana Transdisciplinare di Studi Urbani*, 8(2), 270-289. DOI: 10.13133/2532-6562_4.8.17220.
- 2019 Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2019). From critical to decolonizing service-learning: Limits and possibilities of social justice-based approaches to community service-learning. *Michigan Journal of Community Service-Learning*, 25(1), 43-54.

Other Academic Publications

- 2019 Santiago Ortiz, A. & Melendez Badillo, J. (2019). *Primavera de verano*: The radical geographies

of Puerto Rico's 2019 Summer Insurrection." *Society and Space Journal*, <https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/la-calle-fortaleza-in-puerto-ricos-primavera-de-verano>.

- 2019 Santiago Ortiz, A. & Melendez Badillo, J. (2019). "Puerto Rico's Multiple Solidarities: Emergent Landscapes and the Geographies of Protest," *The Abusable Past by Radical History Review*, (July 22, 2019): <https://www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/?p=3152>.

Book Chapters

- 2020 Santiago-Ortiz, A. (2020). Apuntes sobre la charterización de las escuelas públicas en Puerto Rico. In C. Rodríguez Martínez, F. Saforcada & J Campos-Martínez (Eds.), *Políticas educativas y justicia social: Entre lo global y lo local* (pp. 67-79). Madrid: Ediciones Morata S.L.

Public Scholarship

- 2021 "Where is the state of emergency?," *NACLA Report* (June 1, 2021). <https://nacla.org/puerto-rico-state-emergency-femicides>.
- 2020 "La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción are Leading the Puerto Rican Resistance," *Open Democracy*, (January 14, 2020): <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/la-colectiva-feminista-en-construccion-are-leading-the-puerto-rican-resistance/?fbclid=IwAR24ipb82QD92XSij27F8nsXZjEX11FVRAuGdlhnHxKuJszlI4plx4a7fe8>.
- 2019 "What Lorgia García Peña's Tenure Denial Means for Other Latina Scholars," *Zora by Medium*, (December 10, 2019): <https://zora.medium.com/what-lorgia-garc%C3%ADa-pe%C3%B1as-tenure-denial-means-for-other-latina-scholars-4e0537abd5e7>.
- 2019 "La perspectiva e ideología de género," *El Vocero*, (September 24, 2019): https://www.elvocero.com/opinion/la-perspectiva-e-ideolog-a-de-g-nero/article_a8893908-de72-11e9-a0ef-3bd5292d0c5b.html.
- 2019 "How Misogyny and #Telegramgate Led to the Protests in Puerto Rico," *Zora by Medium*, (July 22, 2019): <https://zora.medium.com/how-misogyny-and-telegramgate-led-to-the-protests-in-puerto-rico-72ec58ebf557>.

Research in Progress

- "Colectiva Feminista en Construcción: Building a Transnational Intersectional Feminist Pedagogy." In revisions, *Meridians Journal*.
- "La solidaridad no perece": Community organizing, political agency, and mutual aid in Puerto Rico. Peer-reviewed journal article for *Curriculum Inquiry*.

- La urgencia de una pedagogía feminista decolonial en Puerto Rico. Peer-reviewed journal article for *Centro: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*.
- *Circuits of Self-Determination: Decolonial Solidarities and Radical Political Pedagogies in Puerto Rico*. Book manuscript requested by Duke University Press. To be submitted in 2022.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020–21 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2020–21 AAUW Dissertation Fellowship (Declined).
- 2019 Joseph L. Boscov Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2018 Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship. Honorable Mention.
- 2016–20 Research Enhancement and Leadership Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

GRANTS

- 2021 “A ‘Puerto Rico Reading Collective’ In-Person Writing Workshop in Puerto Rico.” Right to Discipline Grant, Antipode Foundation.
- 2020 Latin American Studies Association Travel Grant. Guadalajara, Mexico.
- 2019 Graduate Fellows Training Grant, REAL Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2019 Pre-Dissertation Grant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2018 Campus Climate Improvement Grant, “Building Community through Study Circles: An Intergroup Approach to Learning Across Difference,” University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2017 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

AWARDS

- 2020 Finalist for article of the year, From critical to decolonizing service-learning: Limits and possibilities of social justice-based approaches to community service-learning, International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement.
- 2019 Glenn A. Higgins Memorial Scholarship, University of Massachusetts Amherst.
- 2019–20 Antonia Pantoja Research Program, Institute of Interdisciplinary Research, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.
- 2017 Graduate Assistant of the Month. National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH), National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Incorporated.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 The Decolonial Geographies of Puerto Rico’s Summer 2019 Protests. Central Washington University. April 30.
- 2021 Can We Decolonize Critical Service-Learning? The Limits and Possibilities to Social

- Justice-Based Service-Learning. Duke University. April 14.
- 2021 Towards an Anticolonial Stance in Critical Service Learning: Challenges and Possibilities. Elevate Conference, Connecticut College. January 26.
- 2020 Digital Puerto Rican Studies: Social Scholarship, Mapping, and Archives. Virtual event Sponsored by LASA Puerto Rico and organized by the Puerto Rico Syllabus. October 23.
- 2019 Social Action and Youth Empowerment: The Implications of the Puerto Rican Summer. Youth Impact Project. University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. October 26.
- 2019 Approaches to Community-based Work from a Reciprocal Lens Through Participatory Action Research. University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico. September 10.
- 2019 Reflections about Puerto Rico's Summer '19 Protests. University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. September 4.
- 2018 Research and the Sociopolitical Context in Post-María Puerto Rico. Rochester Committee on Latin America. Rochester, New York. May 2.
- 2017 Social Justice Education Pedagogy. Escuela Laboratorio CEDIN, Interamerican University, San Juan, Puerto Rico. June 29.
- 2015 Introduction to Zines and E-Zines. Rainbow Center. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. April 7.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Refereed Conference Presentations

- 2021 "Agency, Solidarity, and Resistance: Testimonios as Decolonial Feminist Praxis in Puerto Rico." Latin American Studies Association. Virtual Conference Due to COVID-19. May 29.
- 2021 "Collaboration as Resistance: Building Solidarity Through Participatory Action Research." American Educational Research Association. Virtual Conference Due to COVID-19. April 12.
- 2020 "Building Solidarity in Community-University Partnerships in Puerto Rico." Latin American Studies Association. Virtual Conference Due to COVID-19. May 16.
- 2019 "Refusal and Recognition: The Politics of Citizenship in Post-María Puerto Rico." American Studies Association. Honolulu, Hawaii. November 8.
- 2019 "*La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción: A Transnational, Intersectional Pedagogy in Action.*" Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social Conference. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. July 17.

- 2019 “Adapting intergroup dialogue principles in participatory action research.” 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. June 9.
- 2019 “*La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción*: A transnational, intersectional pedagogy in action.” Caribbean Studies Association. Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.
- 2019 “Perspectivas de charterización de Puerto Rico.” Simposio políticas educativas, justicia social en América Latina: Debates y disputas sobre políticas, trabajo docente, y formación. Latin American Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.
- 2019 “*La Colectiva*: A pedagogy of intersectional feminist solidarity in Puerto Rico.” Latin American Studies Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.
- 2019 “You Can't Go Home Again: An Autoethnography of Educational Research in Post-Maria Puerto Rico.” American Educational Research Association. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. April 5.
- 2018 “You Can't Go Home Again: An Autoethnography in two keys in Post-Maria Puerto Rico.” Puerto Rican Studies Association. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. October 27.
- 2018 “*Libros Libres*: Decolonial Resistance through Community Solidary Wealth.” Caribbean Studies Association. La Habana, Cuba. June 6.
- 2018 “*Libros Libres*: Decolonial Resistance and the Possibilities of Imagining ‘Another Way of Doing.’” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain. May 25.
- 2018 “An Autoethnography of Engaged Educational Research in Post Maria Puerto Rico.” International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. May 19.
- 2018 “Solidarity as Social Justice Education: Exploring Praxis, Possibilities and Limits.” Social Justice Research Worth Spreading. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. May 2.
- 2018 “Solidarity in Critical Participatory Action Research Contact Zones.” American Educational Research Conference. New York, NY. April 17.
- 2017 “*Libros Libres*: An Autoethnography of Decolonial Resistance.” Empowering Education, 20th Annual Graduate Student Conference. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. November 29.
- 2017 “*Libros Libres*: Community Solidary Wealth and the Possibilities of Imagining ‘Another Way of Doing.’” Colloquia Day: Critical with/for whom? Doing Research on Tricky Ground. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts. April 19.
- 2015 “Building Solidarity in Experiential Learning: Limits and Possibilities of Community Service Learning.” Borderlands Symposium. University of Connecticut, Storrs,

Connecticut. April 30.

- 2015 “Preparing for Service Learning.” 2nd Annual Institute for First Year Curricular Innovation Conference. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. May 12.
- 2015 “(Re)Thinking Communication: The Lost(?) Art of Zine Making.” Beyond the Selfie: Linking Identity, Community, and Social Change. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut. November 14.

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Refusal, Recognition, and Resistance: The Transhistorical and Transcolonial in Puerto Rico.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii. November 8.
- 2019 “Re-imagining the Possibilities of IGD: Exploring Theory and Praxis Across Multiple Sites.” 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. June 9.
- 2019 “Pedagogies of liberation and counter-narratives in Puerto Rico.” Caribbean Studies Association, Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.
- 2019 “Estrategias de organización social y movilización frente a la precariedad y los desastres naturales.” Latin American Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts. May 26.

Chaired Panels

- 2019 “Community and Culture After Hurricane María.” Puerto Rican Studies Association Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, Texas. October 26.
- 2019 “Conflicts, Struggles, and Collective Organizing.” Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico. July 29.
- 2019 “Pedagogies of liberation and counter-narratives in Puerto Rico.” Caribbean Studies Association, Santa Marta, Colombia. June 4.

Panel Commentator

- 2019 “Deep Blue: The Life of Water.” Tepoztlán Institute for Transnational History of the Americas, Tepoztlán, Mexico. July 27.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Adjunct Professor

- “Principles and Foundations of Participatory Action Research and Intergroup Dialogue,” Undergraduate, University of Puerto Rico Cayey (Fall 2019 and Spring 2020).

Interdisciplinary research course with a focus race, class, gender, sexuality, and colonialism in Puerto Rico, the US, and Latin America.

Instructor of Record

- “Diversity in Education,” University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts (Online: Fall 2019, Winter 2020, and Spring 2020). Course focus: issues of social identity, social and cultural diversity, and societal manifestations of power, privilege, and oppression. Topics included: racism, heterosexism and trans oppression, youth oppression, colonialism, settler colonialism and their intersections.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- “Diversity in Education, General Education,” Undergraduate, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019). Course focus: on issues of social identity, social and cultural diversity, and societal manifestations of power, privilege, and oppression (racism, heterosexism and trans oppression, youth oppression, colonialism, settler colonialism and their intersections).
- “Intergroup Dialogue, Race for all People,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Spring 2018). Cross racial dialogue between white and Black and students of color discussing race and racism on campus.

Other teaching experience

- “Introduction to Community Service,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Connecticut Storrs (Spring 2015). Course discussing social justice issues (race, class, gender, sexuality) and their root causes and connections to critical service learning.
- “Community Service-Learning Project course,” General Education, Undergraduate, University of Connecticut Storrs (Fall 2014). Course discussing social justice issues (race, class, gender, sexuality) and their root causes and connections to critical service learning.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-20 Ethnography of the year-long course “Principios y fundamentos de la investigación y acción participativa y diálogo intergrupal.” University of Puerto Rico, Cayey, Puerto Rico.
- 2018- Ethnography of La Colectiva Feminista en Construcción, Puerto Rico.
- 2018–19 Research Assistant for Dr. Laura Valdiviezo. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2017-18 Ethnography of the Social Action and Research Program. University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, Puerto Rico.

2017-18 Autoethnography of researching in post-María Puerto Rico.

2017-18 Ethnography of the street library project Libros Libres, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

International Service

2019- Member, Working Group in Educational Policy, and the Right to Education, CLACSO.

National Service

2021 Manuscript Reviewer, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*.

2020 Manuscript Reviewer, *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*.

2019- Treasurer, Puerto Rico Section Latin American Studies Association.

2018–19 Co-Chair, Graduate Council, Puerto Rico Section, Latin American Studies Association.

2019 Volunteer, Latin American Studies Association Conference. Boston, Massachusetts.

2019 Submission Reviewer, Conferencia Teorizando el Giro Decolonial (Theorizing the Decolonial Turn Conference).

2019 Submission Reviewer, 3rd Biennial Conference on Intergroup Dialogue.

2018 Submission Reviewer, Critical Educators for Social Justice Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association.

2018 Submission Reviewer, Community Service-Learning Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association.

2018-20 Elected Graduate Council Member at Large, Puerto Rican Studies Association.

University Service

2018–19 Executive Member, Graduate Students of Color Association, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Community Engagement

2020– Member of Colectivo Casco Urbano de Cayey, a social justice community organization and research collective dedicated to the social, and economic, well-being in the urban hub of Cayey, Puerto Rico. The Collective holds a solitary pantry monthly since July 2020.

- 2019 Fundraiser post-earthquake swarm. Raised over \$14,000 for supplies and food for affected communities in Guánica, Puerto Rico.
- 2017 Fundraiser post-hurricane Maria. Raised over \$1,000 and 25 boxes for affected communities in Puerto Rico.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019–20 Project Assistant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2018–19 Conference Coordinator and Project Assistant. Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino/a Studies. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2016–18 Learning Communities Graduate Assistant. Residential Learning Communities. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.
- 2015–16 Grants Manager. Charter Oak Cultural Center. Hartford, Connecticut.
- 2014–15 Program Coordinator/Instructor. Community Service-Learning Community. University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.
- 2014 Consultant at the Office for the Special Communities. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 Faculty of Color Working Group Virtual Symposium New England Humanities Consortium.
- 2019 Caribbean Philosophical Association Summer School. Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts.
- 2017 Critical Participatory Action Research Institute. Public Science Project, CUNY Graduate School, New York, New York.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish Native proficiency.
- English Native proficiency.
- French Intermediate reading proficiency.
- Italian Intermediate reading proficiency.

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association
 Latin American Studies Association
 Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social
 Caribbean Philosophical Association

Puerto Rican Studies Association
Caribbean Studies Association
American Educational Research Association

REFERENCES

Ximena U. Zúñiga, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Student Development
University of Massachusetts Amherst
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Laura Alicia Valdiviezo, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, College of Education
Director, Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies
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