

Adrián Emmanuel Hernández Acosta

Sterling Divinity Quad S-218
409 Prospect St. New Haven, CT 06511
adrianemmanuel.hernandezacosta@yale.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

YALE UNIVERSITY

Yale Divinity School and Institute of Sacred Music

Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature

2023-

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Cogut Institute for the Humanities

Hispanic Studies Department and Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Postdoctoral Research Associate in International Humanities

2021-2023

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Ph.D., Committee on the Study of Religion

2021

Dissertation: "On Death, Mourning, and African Diaspora Religions
in Contemporary Hispanophone Caribbean Literature and Culture"

M.A., Romance Languages & Literatures

2019

Subfield: Spanish & Latin America

M.Div., Harvard Divinity School

2015

Master's Thesis: "On Racialization in Queer Theology"

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

B.A., Religion and Music (double major)

2012

Senior Honors Thesis, defended with highest honors

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Caribbean literatures and cultures

Africana religions in the Caribbean Americas

Literary and cultural theory, translation, and reception studies

Black, queer, and trans studies

Psychoanalysis and deconstruction

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Monographs and Articles:

Of Receptivity: How Two Cubans Dueled with the Classical Mediterranean. Oxford University Press. Classics in Theory Series. Under Review.

"On Metalepsis in Ayón's *Nlloro*: A Study of Art, Gender, and the Abakuá." *Journal of Africana Religions*. Accepted for publication.

“On Racializing Interdictions in Queer Temporalities: A Literary Rereading of Fanon’s ‘The Lived Experience of the Black [Man].’” Special Issue: “Time After Time: Cruising the Past.” *GLQ: Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 32, no. 4 (2026): 627-649 Forthcoming in October 2026 issue.

“On Method and Mourning in Judith Butler’s Theory of Performativity.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 92, no. 3 (2024): 412-419. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfaf007>

Works in progress:

“On Rust in Discourse: Religion, Race, and Politics in the Dominican Republic.”

“Translation Across the Black Atlantic: *Lose Your Mother*, A Case Study Beyond Untranslatability”

“‘So Beautiful.’ On the Complex Aesthetic of Billy Preston’s Simple Song”

“Suspending Religious Authority: Queering Formal Experimentation in M. Nourbese Philip’s *Zong!*” for *Black Queer Religious Studies: Queering the Sacred in the US and the Caribbean*. Edited by Ahmad Greene-Hayes. Routledge

Metalepsis in Mourning: Religion, Art, and the Dead in the Hispanophone Caribbean (in-preparation)

Book Reviews:

The Sacred Act of Reading: Spirituality, Performance, and Power in Afro-Diasporic Literature (2020) by Anne Margaret Castro. *Revista Perspectivas Afro* no. 3/1(2023): 187-189.
<https://revistas.unicartagena.edu.co/index.php/PersAfro/article/view/4430/3459>

Queer God de Amor (Disruptive Cartographies: Doing Theology Latinamente) (2022) by Miguel H. Díaz. *The Christian Century* 141, no. 2 (2024). Special issue on Theological Education.
<https://www.christiancentury.org/review/books/ambitious-queer-reading-john-cross>

Public-Facing:

“On the Work of Mourning in Muñoz.” *Political Theology Network*. Short Meditations Series. September 25, 2021. <https://politicaltheology.com/on-the-work-of-mourning-in-munoz/>

“A Residual Note on Weeping: Ayón’s *Nlloro*.” *ReVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America* 20, no. 2 (2021). <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/a-residual-note-on-weeping/>

“Our Distributed Selves: An Interview with Professor J. Lorand Matory.” Interview conducted with Khytie Brown. *Transforming Anthropology* 25, no. 2 (2017): 163-170. <https://doi.org/10.1111/traa.12103>

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University, Fall 2024

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Student Associate, Harvard University, 2019-2020

Afro-Latin American Research Institute Short-Term Field Grant, Harvard University, Spring 2019

Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching Award, Harvard University, Spring 2018

Dean's Merit Fellowship, Harvard Divinity School, 2012-2015

The Ivan Galantic Special Achievement in the Humanities Prize, Tufts University, Spring 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- 2026 "Metalepsis: Double Translations in the Caribbean Arts of Africana Religions." Columbia University Department of Religion Colloquium. New York, NY.
- 2026 "‘So Beautiful’: On the Complex Aesthetic of Billy Preston’s Simple Song." Hard Gospel: Blackness, Belief, Aesthetics Symposium. New Haven, CT.
- 2025 "On the Sacralization of Politics in the Study of Africana Religions." American Academy of Religion National Meeting. Boston, MA.
- 2025 "Notes on Gothic Muck." *Haiti, History, and the Gods: A Symposium*. Middletown, CT.
- 2024 "On World-Making and World-Sundering in Queer Studies Approaches to Africana Religions." Author-Meets-Critic Roundtable. American Academy of Religion National Meeting. San Diego, CA.
- 2024 Roundtable on Belkis Ayón Exhibit. David Castillo Art Gallery. Miami, FL.
- 2022 "History and Fiction in Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá’s *La renuncia del héroe Baltasar*." Latina/o Studies Association National Meeting. South Bend, IN.
- 2022 "Notes on Metamorphosis in the Mortuary Poetics of Caribbean Literature." Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America. Brown University. Providence, RI.
- 2022 "Translation across the Black Atlantic: *Lose Your Mother*, a case study." Modern Languages Conference. Brown University. Providence, RI.
- 2021 "Melancholy After Melancholy? Critique, Performativity, Queer Theory." American Academy of Religion National Meeting. Virtual.
- 2021 "Introducing a Mortuary Poetics: Mourning, Caribbean Literature, and African Diaspora Religions." Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Brown University. Providence, RI.
- 2021 "Reflections on the Magical Realist Discourse of Latinidad." Roundtable Session. American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- 2019 "Reading Ifá in and out of M. Nourbese Philip’s *Zong!’*" Caribbean Studies Association Conference. Santa Marta, Colombia.

- 2019 “Amalgamated Schemes: Transmigration in Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro’s ‘*changó*.’” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Boston, MA.
- 2019 “The Things You Would Mourn if Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera Appeared at Your Séance.” University of Toronto Graduate Student Symposium: Negativity, Pessimism, and Sad Affects in the Study of Religion. Toronto, Canada.
- 2018 “In the (Masked) Face of Olókun: On the Question of History in Rita Indiana Hernández’s *La mucama de Omicunlé*.” Tepoztlán Institute. Tepoztlán, Mexico.
- 2018 “Between Nothing and Infinity: Death in Rey Andújar’s “*Doña Ana, los gallos y el Monstruo de Samaná*.”” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Barcelona, Spain.
- 2016 “On Tongues of the Black Woman: From Erzulie to Spillers.” American Academy of Religion Conference. San Antonio, TX.
- 2016 “To My as Of Yet Nameless Kin.” Black Religions, Spirituality, and Culture Conference. Harvard Divinity School. Cambridge, MA.
- 2016 “*La Patografía*: Queer Studies and Racialized Ontology.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Cambridge, MA.

Panels Organized

- 2022 “Revisiting Pairs of Key Terms in Queer and Trans Studies.” Thinking Trans // Trans Thinking Conference. Trans Philosophy Project.
- 2021 “*Gender Trouble*’s Thirties.” Co-organized with Siobhan Kelly. American Academy of Religion Conference.
- 2019 “Afro-Caribbean Lived Poetics: Revisiting Caribbean Sociality and Spirituality Sensibly.” Co-organized with Khytie Brown and Jameelah Morris. Caribbean Studies Association Conference.
- 2016 “Comparative Queer Studies in Hemispheric Latin(o) America and the Caribbean.” Co-organized with Xiomara V. Cervantes-Gómez. American Comparative Literature Association Conference.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Creator and producer of podcast series “Escudriñando las escrituras”

Spanish-language podcast series discussing historical-critical readings of the Bible geared toward Latinx evangelical audiences

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Yale University

Confession, Care, Conversion: Reading Foucault Reading Religion, Spring 2027
 Figuring Power: Rarity and Rumor in Latin American Literary Narrative, Fall 2026
 Mysticisms in Black Studies, Fall 2026
 Queer Aesthetics of Africana Religions, Spring 2026
 Directed Readings: Latine Theory and Theology, Spring 2026

Text, Theory, Theology? Fall 2025

Epic Laments: Sorrow in Ancient and Contemporary Caribbean Literatures, Spring 2024

An Introduction to African Diaspora Religions, Spring 2024

Theory in Mourning: Readings in Race, Religion, Gender, and Sexuality, Fall 2023

Dissertation committee member

Jathan Martin, Department of Religious Studies and Black Studies Department

Jalen Parks, Department of Religious Studies

Qualifying exams committee member

Sebastián Andrés Grandas, Comparative Literature Department (Fall 2026)

Niara Foster, Black Studies Department and American Studies Program (Fall 2026)

Second reader for MAR theses, Yale Divinity School:

Phoebe Rendon Nissenbaum, “Apocalyptic (Breakdown of) Language: The Futility of Words and the Limits of Comprehension in Jeff VanderMeer’s *Southern Reach* Series and the Book of Revelation (Spring 2026)

Sebastián Andrés Grandas, “Self-Translation in Latine Poetics: Roque Raquel Rivera, Ariel Dorman, and Edith Grossman” (2023-2024)

Allyson Stapleton, “Poetics of the Tomb: Holy Saturday, Broken Bodies, and Experimental Grammars” (Spring 2024)

Judson Bergman, “Naming Nonsense/Naming, Nonsense: Nonsense, Naming, and the Interreal in Percival Everett’s Fiction” (Spring 2024)

Nailah Garard, “Stewarding Black Church Ecologies: Black Church Commons as a Model for Repairing Black Ecological Life” (Spring 2024)

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Brown University

Caribe Queer, Spring 2023

Blackness and Puerto Rican Literature, Fall 2022

Mourning and Experimental Form, Spring 2022

Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Hispanophone Caribbean Literature, Fall 2021

Junior Paper Advisor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, Brown University

Ángel Morataya, “Playboy Masculinity: The Figure of Porfirio Rubirosa in Dominican Literature and Music” (2022-2023)

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

Religion, Gender, and Culture Colloquium: Varieties of Pessimism (Hollywood), Spring 2019

The Empire Strikes Back: Science Fiction, Religion, and Society (Ragab), Fall 2018

Feminist and Queer Theories of Difference (Mittra), Spring 2018

Teaching with Courage and Passion (Click), Spring 2018

Sex, Gender, and Sexuality II (Hollywood), Fall 2017

The Caribbean: Globalization, Economic Development, Cultural Adaptation (Patterson), Fall 2017

Graduate Tutor, Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Harvard University

Junior Tutorial: Trans Theory, Spring 2019

Created syllabus
Directed junior research paper

Program Coordinator, Science, Religion, and Culture Program, Harvard Divinity School
Science, Religion, and Culture Master's Fellowship Coordinator, 2018-2019

Created year-long syllabus
Led class discussion
Directed individual research projects

GED Prep Instructor, *AdCare* Criminal Justice Services
Provided GED instruction for adult learners on parole and probation, 2014-2015

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Managing Editor, *Transforming Anthropology*, 2019-2021
Facilitated communication between members of editorial team
Prepared manuscripts for blind review
Helped associate editors solicit reviewers
Copy edited manuscripts for publication
Collected data on publication downloads and citations

Editorial Assistant, *Transforming Anthropology*, 2015-2019

Hospital Chaplain Intern, Massachusetts General Hospital, 2014
Provided religious care for patients and medical staff
Offered on-call care in hospital during select overnights and weekends
Led weekly religious services in hospital chapel

LANGUAGES

Spanish (heritage)
Italian (advanced)
French (comprehensive reading)
Portuguese (comprehensive reading)
Greek (proficient reading)