

Adrián Emmanuel Hernández Acosta
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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., Double major in Religion and Music 2012
Senior Honors Thesis, defended with highest honors

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Caribbean literature and culture (emphasis on twentieth-century Hispanophone Caribbean)
African diaspora religions
African diaspora studies in the Caribbean and Latin America
Black literary and cultural studies
Queer and trans studies
Psychoanalysis and deconstruction
Literary translation and reception studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed:

“On Method and Mourning in Judith Butler’s Theory of Performativity.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Forthcoming.

Furies: Poetic Mediations in the Wake of Death. Critical Antiquities Series. Series Editors: Mark Payne and Brooke Holmes. University of Chicago Press. In-progress.

Metalepsis in Mourning: The Dead Between Religion and Art in the Hispanophone Caribbean. In-progress.

Book Reviews:

Queer God de Amour (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>

The Sacred Act of Reading: Spirituality, Performance, and Power in Afro-Diasporic Literature (2020) by Anne Margaret Castro. *Revista Perspectivas Afro* no. 3, issue 1(2023): 187-189.

<https://revistas.unicartagena.edu.co/index.php/PersAfro/article/view/4430/3459>

Cultural Journalism:

“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 (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

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. 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

Courses Taught:

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, Department of Religious Studies, Yale University

Jathan Martin, “Debris: Belief, Suffering, and the Black Child in America” (Prospectus Spring 2024)

Second reader for MAR theses, Yale Divinity School:

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

Courses Taught:

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 (Mitra), 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)
Portuguese (comprehensive reading)
French (comprehensive reading)
Greek (proficient reading)