

# JOSHUA R. DECKMAN

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2018-Present Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latinx Studies, Marywood University  
2014-2018 Graduate Instructor of Spanish, the Pennsylvania State University

## EDUCATION

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2018 Ph.D. Latin American Literature, Penn State University  
2016 Doctoral Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Penn State University  
2015 M.A. Hispanic Literature, Penn State University  
2014 Teaching with Technology Certificate, Penn State University  
2013 B.A. Spanish and Education, Washington & Jefferson College  
*Magna Cum Laude, Departmental Honors in Spanish*  
2013 K-12 Teaching Certificate, Washington & Jefferson College  
2011 Visiting Researcher, Casa Xalteva, Granada, Nicaragua  
2010-2011 Year Abroad, Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Literatures and Cultures; African Diaspora and Afro-Latinx Studies; Women of Color Feminisms; Affect Theory; Decolonial Thought

## DISSERTATION

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*The Poetics and Politics of Pain: Decolonial Spirituality in the Afro-Caribbean and Its Diasporas*  
Defense Date: March 2, 2018

Committee: Judith Sierra-Rivera (Advisor), Julia Cuervo-Hewitt, Maha Marouan, and John Ochoa

This dissertation traces forms of spiritual resistance by women of the African Diaspora to demonstrate possibilities for decolonial knowledge and emotion in the contemporary Caribbean and the US. Through the reading of works by the Puerto Ricans Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro and Mayra Santos Febres, the Haitian Edwidge Danticat, the Dominican Ana-Mauríne Lara, the Cuban Hip-Hop group las Krudas CUBENSI, and diasporic slam poets María Teresa Fernández, Denice Frohman, and Elizabeth Acevedo, I identify a line of thought that deploys Haitian/Dominican Vodou, Santería, and Espiritismo to enact painful personal, cultural and historical stories that link continuities between contemporary experiences of displacement and colonial systems of enslavement. Furthermore, I argue that such intimate tellings push against the limits of the ongoing European and US American imperial/colonial projects.

## FELLOWSHIPS, ASSISTANTSHIPS, HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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2018	Edwin Erle Sparks Graduate Fellowship, Penn State
2017	The Africana Research Center Fellowship, Penn State
2017	CUNY Dominican Studies Archives and Library Research Award
2015-2016	Excellence in Teaching Award, Dept. of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, Penn State
2015	Lyday/Peavler Graduate Student Enhancement Award, Penn State
2015	Latin American Studies Research Travel Grant, Penn State
2014-2015	Research Assistantship to Dr. Judith Sierra-Rivera, Penn State
2013	Graduate Assistantship, Dept. of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, Penn State
2012	The William M. and Sandra Stout Endowed Prize Fund in Education, Washington & Jefferson College
2011	Walker Grant for Independent Research, Washington & Jefferson College
2010	Research Assistantship to Dr. Amparo Alpañés, Washington & Jefferson College

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Killing Joy: The Politics of Happiness and Love in *The Farming of Bones*," *Hispanic Review* (Under Review).

"Sueños utópicos: Espacios, geografías y comunidades al margen de la sociedad española en *El mapa de la espera*," *Romance Notes* 57.3 (2017).

### Interviews

"El Ni'e: Inhabiting Love, Bliss, and Joy, a conversation with Josefina Báez," *Small Axe* (Under Review).

### Book Reviews

"Lorgia García-Peña. *The Borders of Dominicanidad: Race, Nation, and Archives of Contradiction*. Duke UP, Durham, 2016 (274 Pp.)." *Voces del Caribe* 9.1 (2017): 456-459.

"Raúl Rosales Herrera. *Fictional First-Person Discourses in Cuban Diaspora Novels: The Author Within and Beyond Textual Boundaries*. Edwin Mellen Press, New York, 2012 (284 Pp.)." *Voces del Caribe* 5.1 (2013): 336-39.

### Work in Progress

"Cities of the Dead: Historical Hauntings and Decolonial Futurites in *Los documentados* and *Boat People*." Under revision for submission to *Callaloo*.

## INVITED TALKS

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"Happiness and Love in *The Farming of Bones* (Edwidge Danticat, 1998)." Dept. of Spanish, Italian, & Portuguese Literature Colloquium, Penn State, November 8, 2016.

## EVENTS AND PANELS ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED

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Co-Chair of the Race in the Americas Graduate Student Conference, Penn State, April 2016 and November 2017.

Co-Organizer (with Dr. Yomaira Figueroa, Michigan State University) of "Liberation Otherwise: Land, Beauty, and Religiosity," Panel, Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain, November 2017.

Co-Organizer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual CLGBTQE Conference, Penn State, April 2016.

Organizer of "Race in Cuba: Past and Present," lecture delivered by Dr. Tomás Fernández Robaina (Universidad de la Habana), Penn State, February 2016.

Organizer of "Becoming Hybrid: Fluid Bodies, Generating Spaces, and Emerging Voices in Latin(o) American Arts and Literature," Panel, Conference of the Canadian Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), University of Calgary, May 2016.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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"Pedagogies of the Oppressed: Historical Recovery and Revolutionary Love in Afro-Latinx Hip Hop," American Studies Association Annual Conference (ASA), Atlanta, Georgia, November 2018.

"Resistance Otherwise: Radical Literary (Re)Imaginations of Puerto Rican Futurities Through Decolonial Spiritual Practices," 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on Caribbean Studies, Calibanías y Caribeñidades: Spaces and Topographies, Marquette University, April 2018.

"The Raw Ones: Black Lesbian Feminist Activism and Afro-Descendent Challenges to Coloniality in Cuba," 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD), Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain, November 2017.

"Strange Encounters: Ghosts, Hauntings, and Cities of the Dead in Mayra Santos-Febres' *Boat People*," Presented with the Haiti/Dominican Republic Section Panel, The 2017 Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Lima, Peru, April-May 2017.

"Painful Pleasures: Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro, Decolonial Reparations, and the Afterlives of Slavery in Puerto Rico," 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Dialogues and Challenges in the Study of the African Diaspora in Latin America Conference, Harvard University, April 2017.

- “Affective Migrations and the Politics of Happiness: (Re)Thinking Haitian-Dominican Island Space and Citizenship in Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*,” The 2016 Conference of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS), University of Calgary, June 2016.
- “Las Krudas Cubensi through a Utopian Lens: Belonging and Citizenship in Afro-Cuban Hip-Hop Feminism,” Race in the Americas Conference, Penn State, April 2016.
- “Feminist Geographies: The Spatial Politics of Ana Mendieta’s *Siluetas* Series,” Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Graduate Student Conference, Penn State, February 2016.
- “La Habana digital: Espacios transitorios y los afectos de la experiencia cotidiana en ‘Negra cubana tenía que ser’ de Sandra Ramírez,” Congress of the Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femeninas Hispánicas (AILCFH), Marquette University, October 2015.
- “Displacing Desire and Nation in Cherrie Moraga’s *Loving in the War Years*,” Northeast Modern Language Association 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (NeMLA), Toronto Ontario, May 2015.
- “Hijas de la chingada: Queering of Chicano Identity and Language in Gloria Anzaldúa’s *Borderlands/La Frontera*,” Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature (MACHL), University of Wisconsin (Madison), October 2014.
- “Erotismo y cuerpo femeninos como discursos de liberación nacional en la poesía de Gioconda Belli,” Fifth Biennial Modern Languages Conference, Shippensburg University, May 2014.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **The Pennsylvania State University in Puebla, Mexico (Universidad Iberoamericana, Puebla)**

*SPAN 499: Contemporary Mexican Literature and Culture* (Summer 2017/Summer 2018)

Advanced literature course focused on Mexican literary and cultural production from 1960 to the present day; study of short stories, newspaper articles, poems, songs, cartoons, video clips, and a novel; students reinforce research skills through production of a final essay

*SPAN 479: Central Mexican Culture and Civilization* (Summer 2017/Summer 2018)

Intensive summer course aimed at developing students’ knowledge of Central Mexico’s historical, geographical, and cultural landscape; students refine language skills through reading, oral presentations, and writing assignments; students visit several sites in Puebla, Mexico City, Querétaro, and Guanajuato to reinforce information reviewed in classroom

*SPAN 199/399: Spanish Language in Context* (Summer 2017/Summer 2018)

This course is a dual-level intensive summer language class taught in Puebla, Mexico; conversation based and incorporates a student blog, student-created Mexican Spanish dictionaries, and various written responses to gauge language acquisition

**The Pennsylvania State University, University Park***SPAN 497: Latina/o Studies en Español* (Spring 2016)

Latina/o Studies course taught in Spanish; study of historical, political and cultural events that led to the creation of Latina/o communities in the US; students analyze literary and cultural production across genres (literature, film, performance, new media) to understand how distinct Latina/o groups respond creatively to the issues discussed throughout the class

*LTNST 100: Introduction to Latina/o Studies* (Fall 2015/Fall 2016/Spring 2017)

Introduction to the historical, literary, and cultural creation of Latina/o communities in the US; students develop the capacity to analyze and structure arguments concerning Latina/os in the US through a variety of oral and written exercises; course has a heavy gender and sexuality studies component, focusing on topics such as Latina feminisms and queer Latinx cultural movements

*SPAN 002: Intermediate Spanish* (Fall 2014/Spring 2015)*SPAN 003: Advanced Spanish* (Spring 2014/Fall 2014)**The Language Institute at Penn State***SPAN 002: Intensive Intermediate Spanish* (Summer 2016)*SPAN 003: Intensive Advanced Spanish* (Summer 2015)*SPAN 001/051: Intensive Elementary Spanish* (Summer 2015)*SPAN 002: Intensive Intermediate Spanish* (Summer 2014)**Washington and Jefferson College (student instructor)***SPN 105: Elementary Spanish I* (Spring 2013)**Casa Xalteva, Granada, Nicaragua***Basic English for Spanish Speakers* (Summer 2011)**La Universidad de Guanajuato, Guanajuato, Mexico***Intermediate English as a Second Language* (2011)*English Tutor* (2010)**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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2015-2017	Appointed Member of the President's Commission on LGBTQ Equity (CLGBTQE), Penn State
2015-2017	Graduate Student Mentor, Dept. of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, Penn State
2014-2017	Treasurer of the Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Graduate Student Organization, Penn State

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Latin American Studies Association (LASA)  
Latino Studies Association (LSA)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)  
The Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS)  
Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femeninas Hispánicas (AILCFH)  
North-East Modern Language Association (NeMLA)

**LANGUAGES**

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English (Native Speaker)	Spanish (Native Proficiency)
French (Intermediate Proficiency)	Portuguese (Reading Proficiency)

**PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

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Available upon request.