

AMARILYS ESTRELLA  
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## ACADEMIC POSITION

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- 2021 Assistant Professor, Rice University  
Department of Anthropology  
Faculty Affiliate Center for African and African American Studies  
Faculty Affiliate Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
- 2020 ACLS Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Fellow, Johns Hopkins University  
Department of History & The Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality
- 2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, Afro-Latinx Studies, New York University  
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis

## EDUCATION

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- 2019 **Ph.D.** Anthropology, New York University, New York, NY
- 2017 **M.Phil** Anthropology, New York University, New York, NY.
- 2010 **M.A.** Latin America and Caribbean Studies, New York University, New York, NY .
- 2006 **B.A.** Political Science, Latin America and Caribbean Studies, Hunter College, City University of New York, NY

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Emerging Voices Postdoctoral Fellowship: 2020 - 2021
- Mark Claster Mamolen Dissertation Workshop, Class of 2019, Afro-Latin American Research Institute at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University.
- Public Humanities Fellowship, Humanities New York: 2018- 2019
- Ford Foundation 2019 Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention.
- Inter-American Foundation Grassroots Development Dissertation Research Fellowship: 2017 - 2018
- MacCracken Doctoral Research Fellowship: 2013 - 2018

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

*Recognizing Blackness: Grassroots Human Rights Activism against Racism in the Dominican Republic.*  
In Progress.

*Resistance and Liberation in the Voices of Mujerismos.* Edited by Amarilys Estrella and Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo. Lexington Books: Lanham, Maryland. Spring 2023. Under Contract.

### Articles

- 2022 Racializing the (Un)Patriotic. *Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.* *Revise and Resubmit.*
- 2022 (Non)Human Rights: Re-imagining the Human in an Anti-Racist Movement Against Statelessness *American Anthropologist.* *Revise and Resubmit*
- 2021 Confident Futures: Community-based Organizations as First Responders and Agents of Change in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Social Science and Medicine.* *Accepted*
- 2020 "Muertos Civiles: Mourning the Casualties of Racism in the Dominican Republic. *Transforming Anthropology* Vol. 28 No. 1 pp 41-57.
- 2018 Estrella, Amarilys and Saudi Garcia (We Are All Dominican Collective). *Ni de aquí ni de allá:*

*Denationalization and Mass Deportation between the United States and the Dominican Republic.* Emisferica. Vol 14. Issue 1. 2018.

- 2018 Cruz, Kleaver, Amarilys Estrella and Yanilda Gonzalez. 2018. *Aqui y Alla: The Diaspora Needs to Stand with Dominicans Challenging Anti-Blackness in the D.R.*  
<https://cassiuslife.com/57477/dominicans-challenging-anti-blackness/>

#### Blogs

- 2020 “Black Latinx Encuentros: Embodied Knowledge and Reciprocal Forms of Knowledge Sharing” co-author Meryleen Mena. Footnotes. July 1, 2020. <https://footnotesblog.com/2020/07/01/guest-post-black-latinx-encuentros-embodied-knowledge-and-reciprocal-forms-of-knowledge-sharing/>
- 2019 “El Cruce de la Muerte: Fieldwork and Carework at the Crossroad of Death.” Trauma and Resilience Series. <https://anthrodendum.org/2019/11/07/el-cruce-de-la-muerte-fieldwork-and-carework-at-the-crossroad-of-death/>. November 7, 2019.

#### Book Reviews

- 2015 Book Review. Abreu, Diogenes. 2015. “Sin haitianidad no hay dominicanidad: Cartografia de una identidad que se bifurca. [Without Haitianness there is no Dominicaness: Cartography of a Bifurcated Identity]” *Black Scholar Journal*. Special Issue Volume 45. May 2015. Pp. 69-70.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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#### **Department of Anthropology, Rice University**

Black Decolonial Feminisms in the Americas Fall 2021  
Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology Spring 2022

#### **History Dept/Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program, Johns Hopkins University, Postdoctoral Fellow**

Black & Decolonial Feminisms in the Americas Spring 2021  
Zora Neale Hurston: Ethnography as Method Spring 2021

#### **Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University, Visiting Assistant Professor**

Afro-Latinxs in the City: Ethnographic Approaches Fall 2019  
Afro-Latinx Culture and History Fall 2019  
Afro-Latinx Feminisms Spring 2020  
Theory & Practice: Internship Program; Spring 2020  
Graduate Independent Study: *Human Rights: Addressing Racial Divides* Spring 2020  
Undergraduate Honors Thesis: *Affective Labor of Family Day Care Providers* Spring 2020

#### **Department of Latin American and Latino/a Studies, City College, CUNY, Instructor**

Race, Gender, and Latinidad Spring 2019

#### **Department of Anthropology, New York University, Instructor**

Program for Residency Education, Community Engagement, and Peer support Training (PRECEPT) Winter 2019

#### **History Department, New York University, Instructor**

The African Diaspora Fall 2018

#### **Department of Anthropology, New York University, Instructor**

Introduction to Anthropology: Human Society and Culture Spring 2016

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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April 2019 – June 2021 New York City. Participant observation. Provide ethnographic training and supervision of community researchers at four community organizations under the

Confident Futures project supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

2015 – 2018 Dominican Republic, dissertation research. Participant observation, interviews and archival research with human rights organizations and anti-racism activists.

### INVITED GUEST LECTURES

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- 2022 Cornell University, Program for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.
- 2022 University of Kentucky, African Diaspora Course.
- 2022 University of Pennsylvania, Center for Africana Studies. Afro-Latinx Studies Series.
- 2021 Bates College AfroLatinx Diasporas in the United States October 21, 2021.
- 2021 Distinguished Lecture, Statistical Training and Research Techniques Program, School of Social Sciences, Rice University. October 8, 2021.
- 2021 Princeton University, Program in Latin American Studies. Battling Borders in the Americas Course Invitation, October 5, 2021.
- 2021 Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University. “Ghosts, Zombies and The Possibility of Life: Human Rights Activism against Racism in the Dominican Republic.” April 2021.
- 2021 Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality. Johns Hopkins University. “Interrogating Intimacies: Black Feminist *Desahogos* in Anti-Racist Activism.” March 2021.
- 2021 Stanford University, Department of Anthropology. Guest lecture for “Black Political Struggles in the Americas.” February 2021.
- 2020 Rutgers University, Center for Latin American Studies. Public Lecture “Muertos Civiles” Oct 2020.
- 2020 Johns Hopkins University. Guest Lecture for Health and Society in Latin America & the Caribbean November 2020.
- 2020 Brooklyn College, City University of New York. “Transnational Solidarity” Guest Lecture for Latinx Diasporas in the US. November 2020
- 2020 Black World and Latin America in a Globalizing World Seminars, Johns Hopkins University. Guest Lecture. “(Non)Human Rights: Re-imagining the Human in an Anti-Racist Movement Against Statelessness.” November 2020.
- 2020 Graduate Student Working Group, Latinx Project at NYU. Guest Speaker for three-part series “In Times of Crisis.” October 2020.
- 2020 New York University, Department of Anthropology. Guest Lecture Cultures of Biomedicine. “Muertos Civiles: Slow Death.” September 2020.
- 2020 City College, City University of New York. Guest lecture. Black Latina Feminisms in the Americas: “Dominican Feminisms.” April 2020.
- 2018 University of Chicago School of Social Work Administration. Social Intervention: Programs and Policies. Guest lecture on human rights activism. April 2018.
- 2015 New York University Guest lecture. Cultures and Contexts: The Caribbean. “Dominican Racial Identity through Space and Time. November 2015.
- 2015 New York University, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Teach-In on Contemporary Legal Issues in the Dominican Republic: “Why are Dominicans of Haitian Descent being Expulsed?” September 2015.

### PANELS ORGANIZED

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- 2022 Caribbean Studies Association. Bittersweet Sea: Placemaking through Anticolonial Black Futures
- 2021 Latin American Studies Association. “Beyond Academia: Engaged Scholarship and Activism in Latin America.” Guadalajara, Mexico. May 2020 (rescheduled for 2021 due to COVID-19 global pandemic)
- 2019 American Anthropological Association “When Human Rights Fail: Human Rights on the Ground (Part 1)” Co-organized with Nathan Madson. Vancouver, Canada. November 2019.

- 2019 American Anthropological Association “When Human Rights Fail: Gendered Perspectives (Part 2)” Co-organized with Nathan Madson. Vancouver, Canada. November 2019.
- 2018 American Anthropological Association “Above, Below and In-Between: Challenges to Scaling and Translating Universalist Projects within Local Contexts.” Co-Organized with Schuyler Marquez. San Jose, CA. November 2018

## PAPERS / PRESENTATIONS

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- 2022 Black Cultural Activism, Gender and Space in Contemporary Latin America. Latin American Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, May 2022.
- 2021 Embodying Reciprocity: Relationality and Redistribution in the Practice of Anthropology. American Anthropological Association. November 2021.
- 2021 Solidarities: A Conversation on the concept of practice of Solidarity, Abolition, and Relations Across Difference. – Electric Marronage. Michigan State University. May 2021
- 2021 Public Facing Research. Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures Department. Graduate Center, City University of New York. April 2021
- 2021 The Crown Family School of Social Work, University of Chicago. “Global Struggles for Democracy and Citizenship.” Symposium March 2021.
- 2021 Black Women Radicals “In Honor of Andaiye: A Conversation on Caribbean Feminist Organizing and Advocacy” February 2021.
- 2019 Latin American Studies Association. Methodological Inclusion: On conducting fieldwork in Latin America with NGOs and Grassroots Organizations. May 2019
- 2019 Latin American Studies Association. “Between the Dead and the Living: The Significance of Zombies, Ghosts and 'Muertos Civiles' for Black Haitian-Dominican Activists in the Dominican Republic” Boston. May 2019
- 2019 Global Dominicanidades: New Approaches to Dominican Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. “Interrogating Intimacies.” Harvard University. May 2019
- 2018 American Anthropological Association. “Es Mi Derecho / It’s My Right: The Role of Human Rights in Anti-Racist Movements.” San Jose, CA. November 2018
- 2018 Manhattan Neighborhood Network El Barrio Firehouse Community Media Center. Who’s Streets?! Organizing in NYC. Panelist representing the activist work of We Are All Dominican. Youth Media Center Summer Program. August 2018.
- 2018 Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas “Between the Dead and the Living: The significance of zombies, ghosts and *muertos civiles* in an anti-racist human rights movement in the Dominican Republic.” Tepoztlan, Mexico. July 2018
- 2018 Caribbean Studies Association “Between the Dead and Living: Human Rights in an Anti-Racist Movement,” Havana, Cuba. June 2018
- 2018 American Anthropological Association. “Muertos Civiles”: Mapping Resistance against the Figurative and Literal Casualties of Racism in the Dominican Republic; Washington D.C., November 2017
- 2016 Caribbean Studies Association, “Transnational Blackness: Constructing a Social Movement against Anti-Black Racism within and across Dominican Boundaries.” Port au Prince, Haiti. June 2016
- 2016 Transnational Hispaniola III, Training Module on Transnational Digital Activism; Port au Prince, Haiti. June 2016.
- 2015 American Anthropological Association, Racializing the (Un)Patriotic: Reconfiguring the Boundaries of the Dominican Racial Imaginary; Denver, CO. November 2015
- 2014 Dominican Studies Association Conference, Paper Presentation: Policing Dominican-ness: Demarcating the Social Imaginary; Naugatuk Valley, CT. May 2014

## MODERATED PANELS

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- 2021 Global Approaches to Migration and Latinx Communities: Intra-Community Voices. American Anthropological Association. November 2021.

- 2020 “Feminism, Intersectionality, and Latinx Womxnhood.” The Future of Afro-Latinx Studies Symposium. Latinx Project at NYU. December 2020.
- 2020 “Collective Action and Building Power from the Bottom Up.” Latinx Politics: Resistance, Disruption and Power Conference. Latinx Project at NYU. September 2020.

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

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### **We Are All Dominican**

October 2013 – Present

New York, NY

Founding Member

Diaspora Dialogues Online Panel Series

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## SERVICE

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- Adhoc Reviewer for The Journal of Latin America and Caribbean Anthropology
- Adhoc Reviewer for Transforming Anthropology Journal
- Adhoc Reviewer for Meridians: Feminisms, Race, Transnationalism
- The Latinx Project at NYU Inaugural Afro-Latinx Fellowship, Selection Committee, July 2020
- NYU’s Faculty of Arts and Science “Faculty First Look” for PhD students, Selection Committee, Spring 2020
- NYU’s Department of Social and Cultural Analysis Senior Thesis Awards, Selection Committee, Spring 2020

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## SKILLS

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- Microsoft Office Suite; Evernote; Zotero; CANVAS Learning Management System; CUNY Blackboard Learning Management System; NYU Classes Learning Management System
- Microedge GIFTS for Windows; Sage MIP;
- Languages: Spanish: Native Fluency; Haitian Kreyol: Beginner.

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## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Country Representative**

October 2016 – May 2017

American Jewish World Service (AJWS)

New York, NY

**Program Officer, Caribbean**

March 2010 – July 2013

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## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Anthropological Association (AAA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

Association of Feminist Anthropologists (AFA)

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA)

Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)

Caribbean Studies Association (CSA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA)

Society for Urban, National, and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA)

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