

## Yesmar Oyarzun Curriculum Vitae

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### **Contact Information:**

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[Away on fieldwork May 2021- June 2022]

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### **Research Interests**

Dermatology; Race & Racism; Medical Perception; Cultural Anthropology; Science and Technology Studies (STS); US

### **Education**

**In Progress** PhD Candidate in Anthropology at Rice University

\*Certificate Program, Center for Critical and Cultural Theory (3CT)

\*Certificate Program, Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CSWGS)

**2021** MA in Anthropology at Rice University

**2018** MPH in Global Health at The George Washington University

**2015** BA in Anthropology at University of Louisiana at Lafayette

### **Academic and Professional Honors**

#### ***Funding Awarded***

2021. Charlton Oral History Grant, Institute of Oral History, Baylor University, \$3000

2021. National Science Foundation Cultural Anthropology Program - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, \$25,200

2020. 3CT Travel Support Grant, Center for Critical & Cultural Theory, Rice University, \$500

2019. AES Diversity Travel Grant, American Ethnological Society, \$500

2019. 3CT Travel Support Grant, Center for Critical & Cultural Theory, Rice University, \$500

2018. The Carrie Hunter-Tate Award, National Association of Student Anthropologists, \$500

2017. Capital Connections Fund Scholarship, The George Washington University, \$1000

2011. TOPS Honors Award, Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance,  
Full Tuition + \$6400

2011. Dr. Ben and Clare Roy Thibodeaux Scholarship, The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$8000

2011. Kappa Alpha Psi Scholarship, Theta Nu chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., \$500

### ***Honors Awarded***

2020. Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Ford Foundation
2018. Outstanding Culminating Experience in Global Health, George Washington University Department of Global Health  
\*Awarded for ***International Medical Volunteerism in Northern Tanzania*** project
2015. Black Student Achievement Award, UL Lafayette Black Faculty and Staff Caucus
2014. Black Student Achievement Award, UL Lafayette Black Faculty and Staff Caucus

### **Publications**

2020. Plantation Politics, Paranoia, and Public Health on the Frontlines of America's COVID-19 Response. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 34(4), 578–590.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/maq.12623>  
\*Steven Polgar Prize Winner for best paper in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* in 2020

### **Conference Panels Organized**

2020. *Towards a Critical Medical STS*. Joint Conference of the Society for the Social Studies of Science and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology. August 21, 2020.

### **Formal Presentations**

2022. “What’s Color Got to Do With It?: Perception of Skin Color in Dermatology” University of Wisconsin- Madison Department of Dermatology, Madison, WI. (Online Presentation). January 24, 2022.
2021. “COMMUNICABILITY: Blackness, Hospitals, and Medical Education in Washington, DC” on panel on Reimagined Identities: The Social and Political Location of Race. American Anthropological Association 2021 Annual Meeting entitled “Truth and Responsibility.” November 20, 2021.
2021. “Systemic Racism in Health and Medicine: An Emerging Scholars Public Roundtable,” Boston University Department of Anthropology, Boston, MA. (Online Presentation). November 19, 2021.
2021. “undertones: A Critical Digital Exhibit on Dermatology,” Making and Doing Presentation with co-presenters Juliann Bi, Eddie Jackson, and Lan Li, Society for the Social Studies of Science. (Online Presentation). October 9, 2021.
2021. “Impressions: Medical Perception, Normality, and Race.” Minorities in Social Sciences, Rice University. (Online Presentation) May 11, 2021.
2020. “Deep Inside, We're All Just Pink': Skin of Color, Dermatology, and Antiracism,” Joint Conference of the Society for the Social Studies of Science and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology. (Online presentation). August 21, 2020.

### **Formal Presentations (continued)**

2020. "Access Denied: Re-Imagining Access Post-COVID-19," on panel with co-presenters Andrea Ballesterio, Katie Ulrich, and Mel Ford. "Research, Interrupted" Course, Ethos Lab, IT University of Copenhagen (Online presentation), June 10, 2020.
2020. (Accepted, conference cancelled, due to COVID-19). Participant in Sensory Ethnography (Roundtable). Organizer/Chair: Marina Peterson (U Texas-Austin). American Ethnological Society and APLA Joint Meeting, Austin, Texas.
2020. "'Turf Wars': Black Physicians and Medical Students Negotiating Patient Care from Within the Medical Profession," ANTHROPOS: Society for Medical Anthropology Conference, March 9-12, Havana de Cuba.
2019. "Race, Modernity, and Hospital-ity: Questioning the Intervention Space of Clinical Volunteerism," Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, September 4-7, New Orleans, Louisiana.
2019. "A Qualitative Analysis of International Clinical Volunteerism in Northern Tanzania Using a Global Health Perspective," Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, March 19-23, Portland, Oregon.
2019. "Black Matter: A Douglasian Analysis of Black Lives in America," *Ethnographic Futures* Meeting, jointly hosted by the American Ethnological Society(AES), Association of Latina/o Anthropologists (ALLA), and Association of Black Anthropologist (ABA), March 14-16, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri.
2017. *Applying Anthropology to Community Oriented Primary Care Practice*. Society for Applied Anthropology 77th Annual Meeting, Student Poster Session - Analysis of notions of "community" in community-oriented primary care texts.

### **Teaching Experience**

- 2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, PUBH 3133: Global Health & Development, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University

### **Guest Lectures**

2021. Introduction to Medical Humanities (MDHM 201), Rice University. Instructor: Dr. Lan Li. November 9, 2021.
2021. Medical Anthropology (ANTH 107), Pomona College. Instructor: Dr. Megan Neal. November 8, 2021.
2021. Medical Anthropology (AN 210), Boston University. Instructor: Dr. Merav Shohet. October 20, 2021.
2021. Race and Anthropology (ANTH 427), The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Instructor: Ampson Hagan. March 9, 2021.

### **Guest Lectures (cont'd)**

- 2021. Introduction to Medical Humanities (MDHM 201), Rice University. Instructor: Dr. Travis Alexander. March 2, 2021.
- 2020. Introduction to Medical Humanities (MDHM 201), Rice University. Instructor: Dr. Lan Li. September 29, 2020.

### **Service to the Discipline**

- 2021- (ongoing) Editorial Assistant, Book Reviews. *Transforming Anthropology*.
- 2021. Ad-hoc reviewer. *Economic Anthropology*.
- 2019. Social Media Team, Society For Social Studies Of Science (4S) Annual Meeting 2019
- 2017. Volunteer Blog Contributor, Washington Association for Professional Anthropologists

### **Service to the University**

- 2020-21 Graduate Student Coordinator, The Ethnography Studio, Rice University
- 2018-20 Graduate Student Association Rep., Department of Anthropology, Rice University
- 2018-20 Minorities in Social Sciences, Founding Board Member, Rice University
- 2019 Mutant Anthropologies Workshop Organizer: *Wrong Objects*, presented by Michelle Murphy, Mutant Anthropologies (Student Group), Rice University
- 2017-19 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for the Milken Institute School of Public Health, Founding Student Member, George Washington University

### **Relevant Work Experience**

- 2021-22. Research Assistant, Medicine Race Democracy (MRD) Lab, Rice University
- 2020-21. Writing Consultant, Center for Academic and Professional Communication, Rice University
- 2020-21. Senior Producer, *Meta-stasis Podcast*, Digital Oncology Initiative, Rice University

### **Relevant Fieldwork and Research Experience**

***Making Dark Skin Visible***, multiple sites, United States, Summer 2021-ongoing | independent  
This oral history project documents the development, history, and proliferation of professional practices and traditions in dermatology oriented toward the medical management of the skin, hair, and nails of people with dark skin, “ethnic skin,” or “skin of color,” primarily in the United States in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Role: recruitment, oral history interviews, supervising research assistants, (oral history) archive development; exhibition development

**Social Skin: Understanding the Cultural Value of Skin Through Scientific Practices of Dermatology**, multiple sites, Summer 2020; Summer 2021-ongoing | PI: Andrea Ballestero  
Anthropological research project on the influence of skin color and race on dermatological practices. Investigates the value dermatologists place on dermatology and how trainees learn how to do dermatology in a diverse city. Role: recruitment, participant observation, interviews

## **Relevant Fieldwork and Research Experience (continued)**

### **Experiences of Professionalization and Identity Formation among Black Medical Students in the United States**, Washington, DC, Summer 2019 | PI: Andrea Balletero

Anthropological research investigating how medical students navigate "antiracist" work and "diversity" in medical school in Washington, DC. Role: participant observation, interviews, recruitment, archival research at Georgetown and George Washington University Archives

### **International Medical Volunteerism in Northern Tanzania** (MPH Practicum), Arusha, Tanzania, Summer 2017 | Site Preceptor: Dr. Noelle Sullivan

Anthropological research project on the meanings and consequences of international medical volunteerism in the Northern Tanzanian context, with a focus on race, training, & care. Role: Participant observation, conduct and transcribe qualitative interviews of international medical volunteers, literature review, web research on volunteer partner organizations.

### **Seed to Table**, Truman, Lafayette, LA, Summer 2014 | Advisor: Dr. C. Ray Brassieur

Applied cultural anthropology project on nutrition and food access among Black teenagers to 1) teach them about food and gardening and 2) learn about barriers to food access besides physical limitations. Role: Participant observation, gardening, survey administration

### **The Freetown Project**, Freetown, Lafayette, LA, Spring 2013 | Advisor: Dr. C. Ray Brassieur

Historical, applied anthropology project to demonstrate the historical significance of the diverse, mixed-race Freetown district of Lafayette, LA. Role: documentation and development of a database to store oral histories, (historical and contemporary demographic, and architectural data.

## **Artistic Works**

2021. *undertones*. Creative director and writer for a medical humanities digital exhibit on dermatological research at the intersection of race and technology.

<https://www.metastasispodcast.com/undertones>

## **Service to the Community**

2020. Volunteer at Harris County Public Health Mobile COVID-19 Testing Sites. Medical Reserve Corps, Harris County, Texas.

## **Languages**

English (Native); French (intermediate); Spanish (intermediate, mostly reading)

## **Professional Memberships**

**American Anthropological Association**, Student Member

Society for Medical Anthropology, Student Member

Association of Black Anthropologists, Student Member

**Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)**, Student Member (6S)