May 2015

CURRICULUM VITAE

María Acosta Cruz

Language, Literature and Culture Department

Clark University

950 Main Street

Worcester, MA 01610-1477

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (1984), Comparative Literature, State University of New York at Binghamton.

Dissertation Title: *The Discourse of Excess: The Latin American Neobaroque and James Joyce.*

M.A. (1980), Comparative Literature, State University of New York at Binghamton.

B.A. (1978), Comparative Literature, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Professor, Clark University (September, 2014)

Associate Professor, Clark University (1994-2014)

Assistant Professor, Clark University (1986-1994)

Assistant Professor, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (1984-1986)

Instructor, State University of New York at Binghamton (1982-1983)

COURSES TAUGHT:

Clark University:

*Spanish Language and Culture*:

Introductory Spanish

Intermediate Spanish

Advanced Spanish Grammar

Hispanic Caribbean Litera­ture

Readings in Hispanic Literature

Latin American Essay and Thought

Advanced Topics: From Magical Realism to Globalization in Latin America

*Comparative Literature*:

Island Tales: Science, Literature and the Seas

The National Imagination

Islands in the Stream: Puerto Rico and the French Caribbean

Latin American Literature in Translation

Latino Literature and Media Arts

University of Puerto Rico:

Basic Humanities (one year course)

Introduction to Compara­tive Literature

Comparative Drama

State University of New York at Binghamton:

Introductory Spanish

Spanish Conversation

PUBLICATIONS

2014 - Book: *Dream Nation: Puerto Rican Culture & the Fictions of Independence*.

Rutgers University Press. It is part of Rutgers’ *Latinidad* series as well as the *American Literatures Initiative*, a joint venture by five university presses: NYU Press, Temple, Virginia, Fordham and Rutgers. That series has funding from the Mellon Foundation.

(206 pp.).

2006 - “Esmeralda Santiago in the Marketplace of Identity Politics.” *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*; Hunter College, CUNY. XVII.1 (Fall 2006): 170-187. (Peer-reviewed)

2004 - “Estereotipos transnacionales: Esmeralda Santiago y John Leguizamo” in: *Literatura y otras artes en América Latina*. Actas of the XXXIV Congress of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana. University of Iowa. (2004): 111-117.

1995 - “El regreso al Caribe de Severo Sarduy.” *Hispanófila*. 113, no. 2 (Enero 1995): 69-80. (Peer-reviewed)

1993 - “Historia y escritura femenina en Olga Nolla, Magali García Ramis, Rosario Ferré y Ana Lydia Vega.” *Revista Iberoameri­cana*, LIX.162-63 (Enero-Junio 1993): 265-77. (Peer-reviewed)

1991 - “Para que no sean adversarios. Una lectura feminista de Edgardo Rodríguez Juliá.” *Confluencia. Revista de Literatura Hispánica*, 7.1 (Fall Issue 1991): 43-53. (Peer-reviewed)

1990-91 - “Severo Sarduy y el juego contrarreferencial de aporías.” *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, Puerto Rico (1990-91): 291-300. (Peer-reviewed)

1990 - “Historia, ser e identidad femenina en ‘Maldito amor’ y ‘El collar de camándulas’ de Rosario Ferré." *Chasqui. Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana*, 19.2 (Nov. 1990): 23-31. (Peer-reviewed)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Feb. 2015 - Union College, Schenectady, NY. “Dream Nation: Cultural Fictions, History and Politics in Puerto Rico.”

Sept. 2014 - Mark Twain Museum, co-sponsored by the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, CT Presentation of *Dream* *Nation*.

October 2014 - WPI, Worcester, MA. Brown Bag Lunch Seminar series sponsored by the Interdisciplinary & Global Studies Division. Lecture about life in contemporary Puerto Rico.

ABOUT *DREAM* *NATION*

May 10, 2015 - Hernández, Carmen Dolores. “Una nación soñada.” (Review) *El Nuevo Día*, (The top newspaper in Puerto Rico)

Spring 2015 - Stanchich, Maritza. “Three Books Interrogate the Status Quo of Nation Building in Puerto Rico: A Review Essay” *Latino Studies* (2015) 13, 131–136. doi:10.1057/lst.2014.68

Sept. 2014 - Centro Journal (Hunter College), my column on *Dream Nation* autumn issue of their new online journal, *Voices*.

July 4, 2014 - Juan Otero Garabís, “Bregando con el sueño.” Review. *80grados*, a Puerto Rican website that received 180,000 visitors in Jan.

May 16, 2014 - Mario Ramos Méndez. “Soñar la nación.” Review. *El Vocero*. (The second most popular newspaper in Puerto Rico)

May 17, 2014 - A popular academic Caribbean blog, *Repeating* *Islands* featured a news item about the book’s publication.

PAPERS READ AT SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES

Oct. 2014 - Book presentation. The Puerto Rican Studies Association convention, Denver, CO.

Oct. 2009 - “Are We What We Speak? Language and Nationhood in the Latino Context” presented at the *Rethinking the Mangrove. Second Symposium of Critical Practices in Caribbean Cultural Studies* conference in the Universidad de Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

Oct. 2008 - “Road Trip to Nowhere: El mapa existencial de Puerto Rico” at the *Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference in San Juan*, Puerto Rico;

Feb. 2006 - “Nostalgia and the New Docile Puerto Rican” at the *National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies*; Baton Rouge.

May 2004 - “Teaching Latino literature and Media Arts” *A Gathering of Voices: Latino Studies and Pedagogies for Building Community* at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the Greater Boston Latino Studies Consortium.

July 2002 - “Estereotipos transnacionales” at the *XXXIV Congreso of the Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana*. University of Iowa.

May 1991 - “Historia y escritura femenina: algunos ejemplos puertorri­queños” at the University of California, Los Angeles symposium *Female Discourses: Present, Past and Future.*

April 1990 - “Transculturation, Narration and Cultural Intervention in Mario Vargas Llosa’s El hablador” at *Translating Latin America: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Culture as Text* at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

March 1990 “History, Being, and Feminine Identity in Rosario Ferré” at the *Interdisciplinary Conference on Scholarship on Women* at Clark University.

NEWS AND INTERVIEWS

April 27, 2015 - interview with *Latin Pulse*, an online radio program that goes out to more than 130,000 subscribers weekly

Oct 24, 2014 - 7 minute interview with Jorge Mercado with WMDD 1430am online

Sept. 2014 - Half hour radio interview about *Dream Nation*. The show is “El Azote de Noticias” with Luis Dávila Colón, a Puerto Rican radio personality. It is the highest rated show in the 5:00-7:00 p.m. time slot, which is primetime radio on the island. On average 200,000 people tune in for each hour.

May 17, 2014 - A popular academic Caribbean blog, *Repeating Islands*, (which receives thousands of hits per week) featured a news item about the book

March 27, 2014 - Interview for the *Worcester Magazine* about *Dream Nation*

Spring 2014 - Interview for Worcester newspaper *El Vocero*

WORK IN PROGRESS

Expected July 2015 - Chapter on “Hispanic Caribbean authors,” for a volume titled *Teaching Latino Literature* for Routledge.

“Nightmares in Dream Nation” I envision a solid journal article on the culture that arises when a nation is in crisis (such as Puerto Rico’s economy since 2008). It will be a sort of follow-up to *Dream* *Nation.*

SERVICE

*Department*:

LL&C Chair (summer 2010-summer 2013; Calendar year 2015; note that in the beginning of spring I was both Chair and Coordinator of the Spanish Program)

Spanish Program Coordinator (fall 2007-spring 2010; fall 2013-spring 2014). Spanish program course planning, all aspects

Dept. Self-Study Committee (2014-committee chair spring 2015)

Member Dept. Personnel Committee (multiple times)

Member Dept. Search committees (multiple times)

Undergraduate Honors, Internships and Directed Study (multiple times)

Spanish Major and Minor Adviser (multiple times)

Spanish Program Learning Outcomes committee (2012)

*University*:

Chair, Campus Climate Committee (Fall 2014)

Member core founding group of Center for Gender Race and Area Studies (2014-present)

Faculty Adviser to Salsa Encendida student club (Fall 2014)

Majors Fair and University Open Houses, Spanish Program representative (multiple times)

International Strategies Committee (2012-2013, 1 ½ yr)

Information Technology Committee (2010-2013, including one yr as chair)

Higgins School Steering Committee (2010-2013)

Higgins School Director Search Committee (2012)

Co-founder Latin American & Latino Studies Concentration (2011)

University Judicial Board (2007-2010)

Participant Difficult Dialogues Faculty Training (2009, 1 yr)

Faculty Advisor for Clark’s Amnesty International Chapter (2008)

Committee on Personnel (COP) (2 terms, 2005-2008; 1997-2000)

Environment Committee of the Board of Trustees (2003-2006)

Faculty Advisor for the Latin American Students Organization (2005)

Faculty Compensation Committee (FCC) (2000-2003; 1999-2000 - replacement)

Affirmative Action Committee (1999-2002)

Executive Steering (1992-1996)

Women and Gender Studies committee work + committee member on 4 Ph.D. committees

Faculty Research Board (1987-1990)

*Community*

Clark University faculty liaison to the Latino Film Festival (Spring 2015)

*Profession*:

April 2015 - peer review of “Reading Hispaniola: Service Learning Collaboration between Borders and Disciplines” for Currents in Teaching and Learning, a peer-reviewed electronic journal from Worcester State University.

March 2015 - peer review of “Gender, Political Motivation, and Acculturation: Puerto Rican Writers and their Representation of the Puerto Rican Experience in the U.S.” for *CENTRO: Journal*

Jan. 2015 – ms review for University of Pittsburgh Press of book Junot Díaz by Christopher González

December 2014 - Book review of Orlando and Sandra Cypess’ *Reimagining the Caribbean: Conversations among the Creole, French, and Spanish Caribbean*. *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal* (University of Miami), Vol. 11, Iss. 2 [Dec. 2014], Art. 11.

July 2014 - External review for tenure case for Radost Rangelova at the Spanish Department of Gettysburg College

July 2014 - Book endorsement for Lexington Books (imprint of Rowman & Littlefield) of Orlando and Sandra Cypess’ *Re-imagining the Caribbean: Conversations among the Creole, French, and Spanish Caribbean*.

Summer 2014 - Review of Valérie Orlando and Sandra Cypess, eds. *Re-imagining the Caribbean: Conversations among the Creole, French, and Spanish.* *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*. University of Miami.

Autumn issue 2014 - Review of “The Technological Embodiment of Colonialism in Puerto Rico” for *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*.

Spring 2014 ms review *Colonial Olympism, Colonial Sovereignty: Sport, National Identity, and International Politics in Puerto Rico*” by Antonio Sotomayor for the University of Nebraska Press.

March 12, 2014 - “Dream Nation: The Fiction Versus Reality of Puerto Rican Independence” Column for *National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP*, online information service.

Fall 2013 - ms review for University of Wisconsin Press: *All about Skin: An Anthology of Short Fiction by Award-Winning Women Writers of Color* (428 pages).

June 2012 - Review of “Arrogant Perceptors, World-Travellers, andWorld-Backpackers: Rethinking María Lugones? Theoretical Framework through Lukas Moodysson’s Mammoth” for a volume edited by the Center for Gender Research at Uppsala University, Sweden. The volume is an interdisciplinary collection of essays on the very broad theme of vulnerable bodies and embodied boundaries.

*Professional Memberships*:

Caribbean Philosophical Association

Latin American Studies Association

Modern Languages Association

Puerto Rican Studies Association