

Contributor Biographies

Thomas Wayne Edison is an Assistant Professor of Spanish in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages at the University of Louisville. He is also an affiliated instructor with Quality Leadership University in Panama City, Panama. His area of research includes African-Caribbean spirituality in contemporary Latin American narrative and cinema. This former Fulbright Scholar has published numerous articles in prestigious journals such as *Afro-Hispanic Review*, *The Griot*, *Hispania*, *The Journal of the College Language Association*, *PALARA (Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association)*, and *WANI: Revista del Caribe Nicaragüense*. He is currently working on a translation of the 1948 Puerto Rican Drama *Vejigantes* by Francisco Arriví. He has served as an active member including First Vice-President for the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA), the College Language Association (CLA) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

Darrelstan Ferguson is a graduate student at The University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, where he also serves as Special Instructor of Spanish. He recently submitted his MPhil thesis titled “Transgression in Selected Plays of Gerardo Fullea León.” His research interests include Afro-Hispanic Caribbean literature and culture, Afro-Cuban theatre, and Hispanic masculinities.

John Maddox is Assistant Professor of Spanish and African American Studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He specializes in narrative of the African Diaspora in the Hispanic Caribbean and Brazil. He has translated Puerto Rican abolitionist Alejandro Tapia y Rivera’s play *La cuarterona* as *Juliet of the Tropics* (Cambria, 2016). His essays have appeared in *Latin American Literary Review*, *Hispania*, *Visitas al Patio*, and on Afro-Colombian Manuel Zapata Olivella in *Atlantis Otherwise* (2016).

Luisa Ossa is Associate Professor of Spanish and Area Chair of the Undergraduate Spanish Program at La Salle University. Her research interests include Afro-Hispanic Literatures and Cultures and the Chinese presence in Latin America. She has published articles on the work of Manuel Zapata Olivella in the *Afro-Hispanic Review* and the *Monographic Review*. Her other publications include, “Conciencia social y la herencia africana en la salsa de Joe Arroyo y Grupo Niche” in the *Afro-Hispanic Review* and “Muerte caliente: El erotismo y la muerte en *La última noche que pasé contigo*” in the anthology, *La narrativa de Mayra Montero: Hacia una literatura transnacional caribeña*, edited by Madeline Cámara and Kevin Raúl Sedeño and “Babalawos chinos: Religion, Ethnicity and Identity in Mayra Montero’s *Como un mensajero tuyo*” in the *Delaware Review of Latin American Studies*. Dr. Ossa also served for six years as the President of the Afro Latin/American Research Association (ALARA), an international scholarly organization devoted to the study of the African Diaspora in the Americas, and continues to serve on its executive committee.

Jerry Scruggs received a Master degree in Teaching Foreign Languages (with a concentration in Spanish) at Middle Tennessee State University in 2007. He obtained a Master in Spanish/Latin American Literature at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 2014. As an advanced PhD student at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Jerry focuses his general research on issues of race, gender, sexuality, nation-building, and masculinity/femininity in Caribbean and Latin American Literature. His specific area of research involves the characterization of the black male protagonist in contemporary 20th and 21st century in Latin American Literature with focuses on Haiti, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Cuba. He has been an adjunct professor of Spanish for ten years at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, the University of Tennessee and Mississippi State Community College.

Sonja Stephenson Watson is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts and Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Texas at Arlington. Her areas of specialty are Afro-Panamanian and Hispanic Caribbean Literature and Culture, Hip Hop, and Critical Race Theory. Dr. Watson has published articles in the *College Language Association Journal*, the *Afro-Hispanic Review*, the *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies Journal*, the *Cincinnati Romance Review*, *El Istmo*, *Callaloo*, *PALARA*, *Hispania*, *alternativas*, and *LiminaR* about black identity in the Hispanic Caribbean. She is the author of *The Politics of Race in Panama: Afro-Hispanic and West Indian Literary Discourses of Contention* (University Press of Florida, 2014). She is also co-editor along with Dr. Dorothy Mosby of the journal *PALARA: Publication of the Afro-Latin American Research Association*.

Haakayoo Nobui Zoggyie is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. His research focuses on the expressions of racial and gender identity through such constructs as language, history, and general culture. Dr. Zoggyie is the author of *In Search of the Fathers: The Poetics of Disalienation in the Narrative of Two Contemporary Afro-Hispanic Writers* (University Press of the South, 2003). He has also published articles in such peer-reviewed journals as the *Afro-Hispanic Review*, the *CLA Journal*, *Caribe: Revista de cultura y literatura*, *Estudios de Literatura Colombiana*, *Revista Universidad de Medellín*, the *Journal of African American Studies*, and *Tropos*.