



PALARA

Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association
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Publication of the Afro–Latin/American Research Association (*PALARA*)

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The Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (*PALARA*), a multi-lingual journal devoted to African diaspora studies, is published annually by the University of Texas at Arlington Libraries and Mount Holyoke College. *PALARA* is multidisciplinary and publishes research and creativity relevant to diaspora studies in the Americas. Manuscripts should conform to the latest style manual of the *Modern Language Association* (MLA) or *Chicago Manual of Style* and may not exceed twenty-five pages in length. Effective November 1, 2017, all articles for review must be submitted through the open access system at <https://journals.tdl.org/palara/index.php/palara/index>. In order for your manuscript or book review to be considered for publication with *PALARA* in the fall, then that manuscript or book review must be submitted by July 1 of that same year. Book reviews should be 1500 words and follow MLA or *Chicago Manual of Style*. All correspondence regarding subscriptions as well as manuscripts for submission should be addressed to: Managing Editor Tyra Lewis (palara.journal@gmail.com) and Sonja Watson (sonja.watson@tcu.edu) with the subject line *PALARA*.

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Special Issue: Afro-Diasporic Protest: Black Women's Resistance in Cali and in the Black Pacific Guest

Editors: Sarah Soanirina Ohmer, Aurora Vergara Figueroa, Melissa Gómez Hernández [Deadlines](#)

*** Abstracts of 250 words due August 15, 2021**

* Invitations for full-length essays will be sent by October 1, 2021

* Essays of 18-25 pages, as per Author Guidelines, due March 1, 2022

*** Revisions due June 1, 2022**

Please send all abstracts to the guest editors at palara2022@gmail.com

PALARA (Publication of Afro-Latin American Research Association) is a multi-disciplinary journal that publishes research and creativity relevant to diaspora studies in the Americas. The editors of the journal, Dr. Sonja Watson and Dr. Dorothy Mosby, invite you to send your abstracts to this special issue on *Afro-Diasporic and Decolonial Feminisms/Queer Thought*, edited by Drs Sarah Ohmer, Melissa Gómez Hernández, and Aurora Vergara Figueroa.

The seventh year since the United Nations' International Decade for People of African descent, 10 years since the Afro-Diasporic Conspiracy Manifesto (2011), and 44 years since the Combahee Collective Manifesto (1977), 2021 marks one of the most violent years of violence against Afro-Colombians, especially in Cali, against black women and LGBTQ+ people. In Latin America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, a community of scholars has been steadily publishing on State repression, though seldom on the resistance of Black women outside of Brazil and the Caribbean. The militancy of Black women and LGBTQ+ groups deserve further scholarly attention. This call invites submissions from underrepresented artists, activists, and scholars, on protest, grassroots organizations, and community projects. We welcome work on black women's activism, political actions, political theory, activist scholarship, produced outside of Cuba and Brazil, particularly on the Pacific Coast. Since the 1970s, Afro-Latin American Studies and Black Resistance has grown into a transnational scholarly community of queer, trans, womyn, and women focused on Black feminist/ Black decolonial thought and activism for the liberation and rights of black LGBTQ+ girls, trans or cisgendered women, and non-binary individuals. We encourage submissions on their activist theory in relation to Afro-Diasporic Feminisms, Decolonial Anti-Racist Feminist work by people of African descent, Black Queer Thought, and militancy.

From the militancy of Nanny, Akotirene, and Sojourner Truth to the scholarship and activism of Carla Akotirene, Ochy Curiel, Tanya Saunders, Marielle Franco, Francia Márquez, and the Mujeres del Oriente, the references of black women and black queer work are infinite, yet understudied.



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This issue will complement the *Journal of International Women's Studies* and *Meridians* Special Issues on Latin American and Afro-Latin American Feminisms, the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* *Journal* KuirLombo Epistemologies issue, and *Women's Studies Quarterly* "Solidão" Issue, to contribute a more diverse representation of Afro-Diasporic activist resistance by women and LGBTQ+ people.

We encourage submissions focusing on queer of color and/or Afro-Indigenous activists, critical scholars, and artists, including co-authored essays. We will accept essays in Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English, focused on Black women or Black LGBTQ+ **and** one or more of the topics below.

- Resistance to state-mandated violence
- Afrodiasporic Conspiracies
- Territorialidad
- Afrodiasporic and indigenous movements
- AIDS / SIDA
- Black women's marches
- Street, urban, rural protest or organizing
- Protest film, art, performance
- Social media and digital resistance
- Policy-making, political campaigns by Black women/LGBTQ+
- Struggle for Rights and Access
- Disability Studies
- 21st Century Girlhood Studies

We welcome work on Cali/Southwest Colombia in comparison with other oppressed territories:

- The Black Pacific in Latin America, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, U.S., Canada
- The Black Pacific, in comparison with the Circum-Caribbean, the Black Atlantic
- Afro-Latinx Feminisms in the U.S./Canada

Authors that may be subjects of/referenced in essays: Lélia González, Ochy Curiel, Yuderkis Espinoza, Marta Moreno Vega, Oyèronké Oyewú mí, Mara Viveros, Flávia Rios, Sylvia Wynter, Tanya L. Saunders, Gloria Anzaldúa, *Women Warriors of the Afro-Latina Diaspora*, "Afrodiasporic Feminist Conspiracy: Motivations and Paths forward from the First International Seminar." *Meridians* 14-2 (2016) by Aurora Vergara and Katherine Arboleda Hurtado.

References to recent journals may include: *Journal of International Women's Studies* and *Meridians* Special Issues on Latin American and Afro-Latin American Feminisms, the *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies* *Journal* KuirLombo Epistemologies issue, and *Women's Studies Quarterly* "Solidão" Issue.

Editors' Note

Welcome to the 25th issue of the Publication of the Afro/Latin American Review Association. The works that populate this issue center on literary critiques of Cuba of the past and the present and bring to us creative writing from the small, but mighty nation of Panama.

Damaris Puñales-Alpizar's "Socialismo mulato: Soviet Fascination with Race in Cuba" argues that in "the Soviet imaginary, the Cuban mulato represented not only an exotic other but also the realization of another kind of socialism, possible in other conditions and at other coordinates, (almost) far from Soviet reach."

Amy King's, "Opposing Worldviews: A New Perspective on Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's Failure in the Congo," revisits Che Guevara and provides a new reading of the figure by "reexam[ining] Western portrayals of African and Hispanic history and depict[ing] Che Guevara's failure in the Congo through a more inclusive scope of cultural misunderstanding" by revisiting Che's "revolution to liberate the oppressed Congolese from imperialist intervention." Thus, her work reinserts Africa and the African experience into the decades-long discussion on Che Guevara.

Dawn F. Stinchcomb's review of George Palacios' *Manuel Zapata Olivella (1920-2004) Pensador político, radical y hereje de a diáspora Africana en las Américas* (Editorial Pontificia Bolivariana, 2020) illustrates that the author's reading of the well-studied and celebrated literary giant Manuel Zapata Olivella "makes a deep dive into all of the Zapata Olivella's best works and the criticism about them to bring to the fore his own "cartography"—borrowing from the author himself—of the development of Afro Colombian and Afro Latin American literature. Palacios' investigation is well-researched and clearly shows the process of "racialization," or "darkening," of Colombian letters that decidedly goes beyond the national rhetoric of Latin American mestizaje and settles comfortably among the literature of the African Diaspora with all of its textures and complexities."

In this volume of the journal, we include the creative works by Afro-Panamanian writers Melanie Taylor Herrera and Carlos Wynter Melo. The writings of Melanie Taylor Herrera (1972) reflect that she is an urban writer as she noted in a 2013 interview with PALARA co-editor Sonja S. Watson, "Soy una mujer urbana, hija de los logros del feminismo del siglo XX, afro y consciente de serlo, pero no circunscribo mi escritura a temas afros ni a temas de denuncia social ni siquiera a temas exclusivamente panameños" (Watson, "Entrevista a Melanie" 2013). Much like her literary contemporary Carlos Oriel Wynter Melo (1971), Taylor represents

a new generation of black writers in Panama: race is omnipresent and a part of their identity but does not restrict or limit the topics that they choose to engage in their literary works. Both have distinguished themselves initially as short story writers in Panama and Latin America. Taylor Herrera won the Rafaela Contreras short story prize in 2009, awarded by the Nicaraguan Association of Writers as well as the Sixth Continent International Short Story Award, (2011). In 2014, she won the Metro culture micro-story contest conducted by Radio Panama. She has been invited to literary events such as Centroamérica Cuenta (2014) and the International Congress of the Spanish Language (2016). In 2020, her short story collection *Los Cuarentinos* was included in an anthology by the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Her most recent work is *Mujerona* (2021) (Zeta Centuria Editores), a book of poetry that relates feminine sexuality, poking around the senses through language.

Wynter Melo has also distinguished himself as a novelist. In 2017, his novel *Las impuras* (The Impure) was a finalist for the Association of Caribbean Writers Prize. His work has previously been recognized at the Guadalajara Book Fair, the Hay Festival, the Bogotá Cultural Secretary, the National Cultural Institute of Panama, UNESCO, and other organizations. His books include the works of fiction *Ojos para ver una invasión* (Piedra Santa 2015), *Mujeres que desaparecen* (URUK editores 2016), and *El escapista y otras reparaciones* (Panamericana 2007), and an essay collection entitled *Panamá. El dique, el agua y los papeles*. In the year 2021, the Latino Book Review magazine includes him among the six Panamanian and contemporary writers that must be read. Contemporary issues of the human experience in the current age unite Taylor's and Wynter Melo's narratives. The unnamed central protagonists that populate many of their narratives convey that they represent other figures that experience the same issues in a complex modern society.

We welcome your original essays for inclusion in PALARA 26 (2022), "Afro-Diasporic Protest: Black Women's Resistance in Cali and in the Black Pacific," which will be curated by guest co-editors Sarah Soanirina Ohmer (Lehman College), Aurora Vergara Figueroa (Universidad Icesi), and Melissa Gómez Hernández (Universidad Icesi). The co-editors encourage submissions on queer of color and/or Afro-Indigenous activists, critical scholars, and artists, and Black women or Black LGBTQ+ writers.

The Editors

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