

CONTRIBUTORS

VIOLETA LORENZO FELICIANO is an Assistant Professor of Spanish at the University of Arkansas. Her area of specialization is Latin American literature with a primary research focus in the study of Hispanic Caribbean cultures and diasporas. Her research and teaching interests also include U.S.-Caribbean literature, coming-of-age narratives, discourses of national identities, film studies, cultural essays, race theories, and postcolonial studies. She has published articles in *La Habana Elegante*, *Chasqui*, *La Torre* (forthcoming), and *La Palabra*.

CASARAE L. GIBSON is Assistant Professor of African American Literature in the Department of African American Studies at Syracuse University. Her research examines the history of protest and civil disobedience in Black Arts Movement literature and culture, of which her book manuscript with University Press of Mississippi is under contract. Gibson's essays can be found in *The Midwestern Quarterly: A Journal of Contemporary Thought*, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, and the *National Journal of Urban Education and Practice*.

WILL GUZMÁN is Associate Professor and Director of the Hagan Africana Studies Center at New Jersey City University. He is also an Africana Studies adjunct instructor at Seton Hall University. His book, *Civil Rights in the Texas Borderlands: Dr. Lawrence A. Nixon and Black Activism*, was awarded the 2016 "C. Calvin Smith Book Prize." Currently, Guzmán is co-editing a book on Florida's Black Power Movement (University Press of Florida) and he is writing the biography of civil rights attorney Raymond A. Brown (Fordham University Press).

JESSIE D. DIXON-MONTGOMERY is Associate Professor of Spanish and the Burkhardt Distinguished Chair in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago (1990, 1998) and her B.A. from Knox College (1989). Her research areas are Hispano-Caribbean literature, Afro-Hispanic literature, and Latino/a Identity. She has published articles on Julia de Burgos and Carmen María Colón Pellot, Puerto Rican poets of the *Generación del treinta*, and has given several presentations on the conceptualization of identity, race, and class in literary works and hip hop of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. As part of the faculty rotation in her department, she has been the resident director of Knox's programs abroad in Spain, Argentina, and France. Her current research projects include self-affirmation and cultural identity through Underground Hip Hop of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, and a collection of creative nonfiction based on African-American adages.

YADIRA NIEVES-PIZARRO was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has a PhD in Information and Media from the School of Journalism at Michigan State University and a Master's and Bachelor's Degree from the School of Communication at the University of Puerto Rico. Currently, she works as an Assistant Professor at the *Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico*. Her research focuses on the shift from news to opinion programming in Puerto-Rican local talk radio and its influence on political participation. Other research areas that she pursues are the credibility audiences assign to news and/or blogs, as well as the representation of Latinos/as, Afro-Latinos/as and Puerto Rico in mainstream and Latino media.

SARAH OHMER's research focuses on the intersection of gender, race, and trauma in literature by Black Women from Cuba, Brazil, and African American and Latino women. Her interdisciplinary work includes trauma studies, critical ethnic studies, literary analysis, and cultural studies. Prof. Ohmer received a Fulbright Fellowship to pursue research on Black women writers in São Paulo, Brazil in 2014-15 and taught undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of Indianapolis where she served as Coordinator of the Spanish program in 2011-14. Since then, she has received several grants and fellowships from City University of New York as an Assistant Professor in Latino Studies and Africana Studies.

PAULETTE A. RAMSAY is Professor of Afro-Hispanic Literatures and Cultures at the University of the West Indies, Mona (Jamaica), and conducts research on African Diasporic Communities in Cuba, Costa Rica, Mexico, Columbia, and Ecuador. She is the author of Afro-Mexican constructions of diaspora, gender, identity, and nation and co-editor of *The Afro-Hispanic Reader and Anthology*. She has also published widely in international peer-reviewed journals. She is a creative writer who has published the successful novel *Aunt Jen* and three anthologies of poetry. She has great respect for the extensive research of Professor Marvin Lewis and his contribution to the growth of Afro-Hispanic Literatures and Cultures.

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 the recent recipient of a 2017 NEH-HIS Faculty award. She is also co-editor along with Dr. Dorothy Mosby of the journal *PALARA: Publication of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association*.

SHERIDAN WIGGINTON earned a Ph.D. in Foreign Language Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Missouri – Columbia. She is Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California and just ended a six-year term

as Chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures. Since 2016, she has served as president of the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (ALARA). Since the early 2000s, her research has focused on the connections between education, race, ethnicity, and national identity in Latin America—specifically exploring how these issues impact Afro-descendants in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. Her co-authored book with Richard Middleton titled, “Unmastering the Script: The Struggle to Reconcile the Haitian Other in Dominican Identity,” is forthcoming in spring 2019 from the University of Alabama Press.