

December 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)

## 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.).  
Reviewed in: *El Vocero* (2014); *80grados*, (2014); *Latino Studies* (2015); *El Nuevo Día* (2015); *CENTRO Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies* (2015); *Chasqui; Choice*
- 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 2015 – "Dream Nation: Puerto Rican Culture and the Fictions of Independence." Fares, Gustavo *Chasqui* Vol. 44 Issue 1, (May 2015) p. 202-204. 3 p.
- May 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
- Oct. 2014 - Colecchia, F. "Dream nation: Puerto Rican culture and the fictions of independence." *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*. Vol. 52 Issue 2, p. 261-261. 1/5p.
- 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

- May 2015 – “Dream Nation: The Precariousness of the Dream of Independence.” Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto.
- 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*

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- July 2015 - Book endorsement of *Laughing Matters* by Ilan Stavans and Frederick Luis Aldama. Hyperbole Books an imprint of San Diego State University Press.
- Dec. 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 - 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*.
- March 12, 2014 - "Dream Nation: The Fiction Versus Reality of Puerto Rican Independence" Column for National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP, online information service.
- June 2012 - Review of "Arrogant Perceptors, World-Travellers, and World-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.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

"Nightmares in Dream Nation" monograph on the culture of a nation in crisis (such as Puerto Rico's economy since 2008). It will be a sort of follow-up to *Dream Nation*.

### SERVICE

*Department:*

- Chair Language, Literature & Culture (summer 2010-summer 2013; Calendar year 2015; note that in the beginning of spring 2015 I was both Chair of the Dept. and Coordinator of the Spanish Program)
- Member PBR (fall 2015-spring 2016)
- Coordinator of the Spanish Program (fall 2007-spring 2010; fall 2013-spring 2014)..
- Member Dept. Self-Study Committee (2014-committee chair spring 2015)
- Member Dept. Personnel Committee (multiple times)
- Member Dept. Search committees (multiple times)
- Supervisor, Undergraduate Honors, Internships and Directed Studies (multiple times)
- Adviser Spanish Major and Minor (multiple times)

Member Spanish Program Learning Outcomes committee (2012)

*University:*

Member, Planning and Budget Review Committee (PBR - elected) 2015-2016  
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; 2015)  
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- elected) (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- elected) (2000-2003; 1999-2000 - replacement)  
Affirmative Action Committee (1999-2002)  
Executive Steering (elected 1992-1996)  
Women and Gender Studies committee work + committee member on 4 Ph.D. committees  
Faculty Research Board (elected 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  
July 2014 - External review for tenure case for Radost Rangelova at the Spanish Department of Gettysburg College

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.

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, and World-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

COURSES TAUGHT:

Clark University:

Spanish Language and Culture:

Advanced Spanish Grammar  
Advanced Topics: From Magical Realism to Globalization in Latin America  
Hispanic Caribbean Cultures  
Intermediate Spanish  
Introductory Spanish  
Latin American Essay and Thought  
Readings in Hispanic Literature

Comparative Literature:

Island Tales: Science, Literature and the Seas

Islands in the Stream: Puerto Rico and the French Caribbean  
Latin American Literature in Translation  
Latino Literature and Media Arts  
The National Imagination

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