

Rachel Afi Quinn

Curriculum Vitae

Comparative Cultural Studies | Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

University of Houston

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021- Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston
- 2015-21 Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, University of Houston
- 2014-15 Visiting Faculty Fellow in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston
- 2012-14 Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D., American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies
- 2008 M.A., American Culture, University of Michigan
U-M Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Graduate Teacher Certificate
- 1999 B.A., African American Studies, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Concentration in Cultural Anthropology

PRIMARY RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Women of color feminist theory; transnational feminist theory; cultural studies; mixed race; feminist ethnography; African diaspora film and visual culture; social media and globalization; immigrant identity and experience; digital humanities and public scholarship.

BOOK

- 2021 *Being La Dominicana: Race and Identity in the Visual Culture of Santo Domingo*. Dissident Feminisms Series, University of Illinois Press. August 10.

PUBLICATIONS - PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

- 2022 "La Reina de Fusión: Xiomara Fortuna Coming of Age in the Dominica Republic" *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. Volume 21, Number 1.
- 2022 "Afi is for Us!" in *Sinister Wisdom* a Special Issue on *Conditions: a magazine of writing for women with an emphasis on writing by lesbians*, eds. Cheryl Clarke, Julie Enszer, Shromona Mandal. Issue 123, January 15, 202-208.
- 2019 "Spinning the Zoetrope: Visualizing the Mixed-Race Body of Dominican Actress" *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture*. (Vol. 1. No. 3), 44-59.
- 2018 "Dominican Pride and Shame: Gender, Race and LGBT Activism in Santo Domingo" to *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. 56 (Vol. 22, No. 2), 128-143.

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- 2015 “‘*No tienes que entenderlo, solo respetarlo*’: Xiomara Fortuna, Racism, Feminism and Other Forces in the Dominican Republic” in *The Black Scholar* (Vol. 45, No. 3), 54-66.

PUBLICATIONS - EDITED COLLECTIONS

- 2021 “Say, Who's Online? South Asian Feminist Methodologies in Texas Building Digital Futures” in *Decolonial Feminist Praxis: Centering Knowledge & Resistance at the Margins*, eds. Annie Fukushima and K. Melchor Hall. Forthcoming.
- 2016 “El rostro negro dominicano y la Quisqueya *queer* de Rita Indiana Hernández [Dominican Blackface and the Queer Quisqueya of Rita Indiana Hernández]” in *Nuestro Caribe: Poder, Raza y Postnacionalismos para dinamitar el archipiélago LGBTQ*, ed. Mabel Cuesta. Puerto Rico: Editorial Isla Negra, 254-267.
- 2015 “This Bridge Called the Internet: Black Lesbian Feminist Organizing in Santo Domingo” in *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the African Diaspora*, eds. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Cheryl R. Rodriguez, and Dzodzi Tsikata. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 25-44.
- 2010 “The Combination of the Two” in *Other Tongues: Mixed Race Women Speak Out*, eds. Adebé DeRango-Adem and Andrea Thompson. Toronto, ON: Inanna Publications, 134-137.

PUBLICATIONS – REVIEW ESSAYS

- 2016 “Transgressive Bodies, Caribbean Sexualities, and Queer Feminisms”: Review Essay of Rosamond S. King, *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* (2014, University Press of Florida) and Angelique V. Nixon, *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* (2015, University of Mississippi Press), co-authored with Keith McNeal for special issue of *Social and Economic Studies*, on Caribbean Sexualities. Guest Editor Kamala Kempadoo. December (Vol. 65, No. 4.), 131-141.
- 2015 “Unencumbered”: Review Essay of Trimiko Melacon, *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality and Representation*, for *Women's Review of Books*, June/July, 27-28.

PUBLICATIONS – ONLINE

- 2020 “Africa is everywhere” exhibition review on *Burlington Contemporary*. November 11.
- 2020 “SAYHU Feminist Community-Building in the Time of Covid-19” on *South Asian Youth in Houston Unite Blog*. April 24.
- 2019 “In Praise of the Lorgian Margin” on *Ethnic Studies Rise* eds. Raj Chetty and Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann. December 26.
- 2019 “Anti-Blackness in Our Communities: A Conversation with SAYHU” *Desis for Progress*. April 26.
- 2014 “La Caña...An Interview with Xiomara Fortuna” *Cimarrón Spirit Blog*. June 8.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

- 2015 *Writer/Producer*, Documentary film *Cimarrón Spirit*. Dir. Rubén Durán, with Donna Pinnick, Michael Brims. Perf. Xiomara Fortuna, Dagoberto O. Tejeda and Carlos E. Deive. Santo Domingo, DR & Houston, TX: Cab 95 Films in collaboration with Cosmic Light Productions.

ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

“Magaly Pineda’s Feminist ‘Agenda Digital’: A Movement for Girls Education in Tech in the Dominican Republic”

“Mixed Race Aesthetics and Exceptionalism in MAVIN Magazine” to be submitted to *Lateral Journal*.

“On Building a Transnational Feminist South Asian Collective in the South” to be submitted to *Feminist Formations*.

“My Body the Lesson”: Black Female Subjectivities in Danzy Senna’s *Symptomatic* and Nell Larsen’s *Passing*. Ready for Revision.

GRANTS

- 2017-21 Simmons Foundation Civic & Community Grant for South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU) collective for Annual Summer Institutes, Summit and Programming (\$125,000)
- 2021 Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWGS) for Black Migration Houston digital humanities project (\$4000)
- 2020-21 Digital Research Commons Seed Grant, University of Houston (\$4495)
- 2019 Women of Color Coalition Stimulus Grant, University of Houston (\$4900)
- 2019 CLASS Research Progress Grant, University of Houston (\$3950)
- 2018 Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Travel Grant, University of Houston (\$500)
- 2018 Provost’s Travel Fund, University of Houston (\$1200)
- 2017 Seed Grant from the Resonance Network of the Novo Foundation (\$7000)

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2019 The New York Public Library Short-Term Research Fellowship, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- 2018 Woodrow Wilson Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Year-Long Fellowship
- 2018 Ross M. Lence Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Houston
- 2017 NCFDD Faculty Success Program & Scholarship, University of Houston
- 2017 LGBTQ Scholars of Color National Conference, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014 Thinking Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, Ohio State University
- 2013 Women of Color Leadership Program, National Women’s Studies Association

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “In Conversation: Picturing the Body” Exhibition Talk with Curators, Blaffer Art Museum University of Houston, on Zoom, March 10.
- 2019 “Organizing Transnational Feminist Community: Black Feminism & South Asian Solidarities in Houston, Texas” Sonoma State University Feminist Lecture Series, Sonoma, CA, November 18.
- 2019 “Black To The Future: Reflecting On African American Futures” Closing Roundtable. Reflecting Black Symposium, University of Houston Downtown, October 24.
- 2019 “The Future of Dominican Studies,” Plenary. *Global Dominicanidades: New Approaches to Dominican Studies in the 21st Century*, Afro-Latin American Research Institute at Harvard University, May 23.
- 2018 “Seeing Afro-Dominicanidad in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*,” Symposium on Art and Literature in Contemporary Dominican Republic, Haiti, and their Diasporas, The Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center CUNY, New York City, March 15.
- 2018 “Dominican Republic and Afro-Dominican Culture,” Lecture and discussion of *Cimarrón Spirit* (2015). US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, March 1.
- 2017 “Muñecas Sin Rostros: Writing about Dominican Women’s Transnational Identities in Santo Domingo,” Rice University Department of Anthropology, Houston, TX, March 21.
- 2015 “Sites of Identity: Vernacular Images and Transnational *Dominicanidad*,” Keynote. Coastal Plains Graduate Liberal Arts Conference, University of Houston, April 10-11.
- 2013 “Dominican Women’s Identities and Transnational Blackness in Santo Domingo.” Keynote. First Annual Graduate Certificate Awards Ceremony, Africana Studies Program, University of Texas A&M, September 26.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Transnational Legacies of Chavoneras” (Panels 16 and 37) Dominican Studies Association Virtual Conference, Hostos Community College, CUNY, December 4 and 5.
- 2019 “South to South: Transnational Feminist Collectivity from South Asia to the Southern US,” roundtable with South Asian Youth in Houston Unites (SAYHU), National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA, November 16.
- 2019 *Moderator*, “Mapping Affective Geographies in Black Women’s Writing” National Women’s Studies Association conference, San Francisco, CA. November 16.
- 2018 “Dominicana-Dominicana: Visualizing Contemporary Dominican Women’s Lives in Santo Domingo,” Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Retreat. Tampa, FL, August 14.

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- 2018 “The (S)Kin You’re In: Dominican Women Theorizing Experiences of Hierarchies of Color” MESEA Conference. University of Graz, Austria. June 1.
- 2017 *Organizer & Participant*, “Black Feminisms and South Asian Feminisms: In Solidarity, In Collaboration,” National Women’s Studies Association conference, Baltimore, MD, November 16.
- 2017 *Co-Organize & Participant*, “Dominican Whiteness, Mixed Race and Queer Masculinity in Rita Indiana Hernández’s Music Video ‘El Juidero,’” National Women’s Studies Association, Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 18.
- 2016 “Minerva Mirabel and the Transnationally Queered Body of Michelle Rodriguez in *Trópico de Sangre* (2010),” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Port Au Prince, Haiti, June 5-11.
- 2016 “The Camera Obscura and Dominican Women’s Bodies in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*.” Black Women’s Conference, African American Studies, University of Houston, March 4.
- 2016 “Seeing Dominican Identity in Color: The Photographic Image of Gendered Oppression in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*,” Tropical Exposures: Photography, Film, and Visual Culture in a Caribbean Frame Conference, Tulane University, March 10-12.
- 2015 “Telling Stories: Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Narratives in the Academy.” Imagining America, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, October 2.
- 2015 “Coloring In: The Afro-Dominicana Re-Presentation of *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Liverpool, UK, June 24-28.
- 2015 “Dominican Mixed Race & Anti-Blackness in Vernacular Images Online.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, May 25-29.
- 2014 “Sites of Identity: Facebook, Vernacular Images and Transnational *Dominicanidad*.” Thinking Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, Ohio State University, July 7-11.
- 2013 “Afro-What?: Re-Reading Blackness in Diaspora and Narratives of Mixed Race.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, March 13-16.
- 2012 “Facebook, BBs and *Plátanos*: Dominican Women’s Transnational Present in Santo Domingo.” American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.
- 2012 “Public Scholarship and New Technologies.” With Roxana Galusca, Future of Minority Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, September 14-15.
- 2012 “Aquí Hay Una Mezcla: Dominican Women’s Transnational Identities, Racial Ambiguity, and the Culture of Neoliberalism in Contemporary Santo Domingo.” Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, DuPaul University, Chicago, November 1-4.
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- 2011 “The Uses of Audre Lorde: Dominican Women and Black Feminist Scholarship.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Paris, France, April 6-9.
- 2011 “Brown, Black and Blue?: Zoe Saldaña and the Transnational Remixing of Dominican Women’s Representations.” Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.
- 2008 “Shifting Black Female Subjectivity in Danzy Senna’s *Symptomatic*.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Málaga, Spain, December 17-20.

CAMPUS RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 “Magaly Pineda’s Feminist ‘Agenda Digital’: A Movement for Girls Education in Tech in the Dominican Republic” Comparative Cultural Studies Lecture Series, October 28.
- 2016 “The Camera Obscura and Dominican Women’s Bodies in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*”, African American Studies Black Women’s Conference, March 4.
- 2013 “The Lure of Racial Ambiguity.” Department of Comparative Cultural Studies Lecture University of Houston, March 21.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2021 *Panel Moderator*, “The Politics of Migration and Border Control across the Americas during the Pandemic”, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, on Zoom, February 5.
- 2019 *Fellowship Selection Committee Member*, Center for Art & Social Engagement, UH Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts and Project Row Houses.
- 2019 *Panel Moderator*, Hispanic Caribbean Intersections: Race, Sexuality and Cultural Production Symposium, Panel 2: Dominican Republic, University of Houston, November 4.
- 2019 *Search Committee Member*, Joint Hire in Sociology and Women’s Gender & Sexuality Studies.
- 2018 *Faculty Supervisor*, UH Center for Public History Internship with SAYHU. Spring/Summer.
- 2017 *Search Committee Member*, Dean’s Search for Chair of the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies.
- 2017 *Panel Moderator & Organizer*, “South Asian Feminist Praxis in Houston,” at The National Women’s Conference: Taking 1977 into the Twenty-First Century, November 17.
- 2017 *Faculty Mentor*, Graduate International Immigration Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology.
- 2017 *Panel Moderator*, “Non-Conformist and Rebellious Women Writers” US Latinos Recovery Project 25th Anniversary Conference, UH Hilton, February 10.

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- 2016- *Advisory Council Member*, Center for Art and Social Engagement, University of Houston.
- 2016 *Organizer*, John P. McGovern Endowed Lecture in Family, Health, and Human Values: Mark Anthony Neal, “Negotiating Black Masculinity in America.” UC Theater, October 27.
- 2016 *Organizer & Panelist*, Screening of documentary film *Cimarron Spirit* (2015) and panel discussion with Xiomara Fortuna, Silvio Torres-Saillant, Keith McNeal, February 9.
- 2015 *Panelist*, #BlackWomensLivesMatter Panel, Friends of Women’s Studies Barbara Karkabi Living Archives Series, University of Houston, September 9.
- 2015 *Organizer*, “Decolonizing the Archive: Chicana por mi Raza and the Challenge of Digital Humanities.” María Cotera lecture, and panel discussion with Lisa Cruces, Carolina Villaroel and Patricia Hernandez, Rockwell Pavilion, March 9.
- 2015-17 *Co-Organizer*, Caribbean Studies Interest Group and Film Series.
- 2014 *Organizer*, “#Ferguson: A UH Community Conversation” with African American Studies, Black Student Union, Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, September 17.
- 2014 *Organizer*, “South Asia to Houston: Conversations and Connections Around Gender-Based Violence” colloquium with Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Women’s Resource Center, and India Studies, February 21.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2015- *Assistant Professor*, University of Houston
 Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory & Methodology
 Caribbean Societies and Cultures
 Gender, Society & Feminist Theory
 Intersectionalities: Race, Class, Age, Disability & Gender / Brown Girls, Brown Stories
 Introduction to Globalization & International Studies
- 2012-15 *Postdoctoral Fellow/ Visiting Faculty Fellow*, University of Houston
 Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory & Methodology
 Gender & Transnational Studies
 Gender, Society & Feminist Theory
 Intersectionalities: Race, Class, Age, Disability & Gender / Brown Girls, Brown Stories
 Introduction to Women’s Studies
 Introduction to Globalization & International Studies

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

- 2020 *Blind Reviewer*, American Anthropologist. Wiley Online Library. July 5.

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- 2019- *Faculty Affiliate*, Institute for Research on Women and Gender at University of Houston
- 2019- *Executive Board Member*, Sexuality, Gender & Policy (SGP), Wiley Online Library.
- 2018 *Blind Reviewer*, Feminist Review. Palgrave MacMillan. April-May.
- 2017 *Co-Organizer*, Future of Minority Studies Symposium with Chandra Mohanty and Beverly Guy-Sheftall. Baltimore, MD. November 15.
- 2016 *Mentor*, NWSA Graduate Student Mentoring Project, Montreal, November 12.
- 2015-17 *Co-chair*, Transnational Feminisms Caucus, National Women's Studies Association.
- 2016 *Discussant*, "Hemispheric Mobility: Black Art and Politics in the Americas," Latin American Studies Association Conference, New York, May 27-30.
- 2015 *Moderator*, "Affective Networks, Political Organizing & Embodiment Online," National Women's Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15.
- 2015 *Blind Reviewer*, Mitologías Hoy. Revista de Pensamiento, Crítica y Estudios Literarios Latino-Americanos. Department of Spanish Philology, Autonomous University of Barcelona. January-September.
- 2014 *Moderator*, "Technologizing Transnationalism," National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 13-16.

OTHER COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- 2021 "Power, Sex & Climate Change" Roundtable Discussion Hosted by DiverseWorks and Open Dance Project, on Zoom, January 30.
- 2020 *Co-Presenter*. "Love and Solidarity in the Time of Corona: Desi Feministas Envisioning Change Through Staying Engaged" with Eesha Pandit, on Zoom, organized by Shreerekha Subramanian and Fawzia Afzal-Khan, May 22.
- 2019- *Coordinator & Member*, Black Migration Houston Digital Humanities Project and Working Group.
- 2017- *Founding Member & Co-Facilitator*, South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), with year round programming and annual Summer Institute for college students. Funded by grants from Resonance: Move to End Violence and the Simmons Foundation.
- 2018 *Co-Coordinator*, First Regional Social Justice Summit for South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), Art League Houston, September 21-23.
- 2018 *Member*, 50 Playwrights Project Advisory Council.
- 2016-18 *Education & Outreach Committee Member*, Houston GLBT Political Caucus

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- 2012-16 *Media Outreach & Website Development*, for documentary film *Cimarrón Spirit* (2015), on Afro-Dominican maroon culture, Houston and Dominican Republic.
- 2015 *Discussant*, “Tongue Splint: Scaffolding. Speech and Space” CounterCurrents Festival, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, curator Carrie Schneider, Houston, April 15.
- 2012- *Content Moderator*, UH Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Friends of Women’s Studies Facebook Page.
- 2011 *Co-Coordinator*, Inaugural Black Women’s Life Balance and Wellness Conference, Atlanta University Center, GA, July 15-17.
- 2009 *Panel Chair*, “Trans-Atlantic Migrations,” Reframing the Color Line: Race and the Visual Culture of the Atlantic World symposium, University of Michigan.
- 2009 *Co-Organizer*, Transnational Feminist Theory Reading Group, University of Michigan.
- 2008 *Co-Chair*, “Bodies in Motion: Diaspora, Difference and Discursive Performances” Conference, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, and Black Humanities Collective, University of Michigan.
- 2008 *Organizer*, Filmmaker Charles Burnett lecture and screening of *Killer of Sheep* (1977), Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI, January 27-28.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2020- The Dark Room Collective
- 2015-21 Caribbean Studies Association
- 2012- National Women’s Studies Association
- 2018 The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA)
- 2007-12 American Studies Association