

# NORALIS RODRÍGUEZ COSS

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Women's & Gender Studies  
Gonzaga University

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### EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D. Feminist Studies  
University of Washington  
Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Dissertation: *Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico: Alternative Imaginaries of the Idealized National Body*  
Dissertation Advisors: Angela B. Ginorio and Shirley Yee
- 2010 M. A. Women's Studies  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Thesis: *Challenges of the Third Wave: Mobilizing Young Women to the Feminist Movements in Puerto Rico*  
Thesis Advisor: Ilene Crawford
- 2004 B. A. Office System Administration  
*Magna Cum Laude*  
University of Puerto Rico at Humacao (UPRH)

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2018 Post-doctoral Teaching Fellowship for Underrepresented Minorities (competitive selection)  
Gonzaga University

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### Gonzaga University, 2016-Present

- WGST 380 Transnational Feminism (1 section: Spring 2018; core designations Global Studies, Social Justice)  
A 300-level course that explores key feminist debates from a global perspective focusing on collaborations and activist efforts across geographical and cultural borders. Among the issues examined are: reproductive rights, feminicides, and environmental protection.
- WGST 202 Gender, Difference, and Power (2 sections: Spring 2017, Spring 2018, and Fall 2018; core designation Social Justice)

Introductory course examines the construction and practice of gender in various contexts, with an emphasis on the intersection of gender, race, sexuality, nationality, and (dis)ability. This course specifically explores topics such as cultural performances of feminine and masculine behavior, sexuality, women's rights, militarism, family life, globalization, and social change.

- WGST 205 Gender and Popular Culture, (Fall 2016, 2017 and 2018; core designation Social Justice)  
This course is a critical examination of the ways popular culture generates and shapes images of gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality. The course uses cultural studies methods to examine the production, meanings, and social uses of popular culture by multiple communities in local and global contexts.
- WGST 193 Feminist Activism in Latin America and the Caribbean (Spring 2017; core designation Social Justice)  
First-year seminar examining women's activism in relation to issues of social justice—such as gender-based violence, immigration, poverty, environmental and civil rights, etc. Special attention is placed on social, political, economic, cultural and historical backgrounds of the examined countries.

### **University of Washington, 2013-2015**

- GWSS 300 Gender, Race & Class (Spring & Summer 2014)  
Upper-level course examining the intersection of race, class, and gender in the lives of women of color in the United States from historical and contemporary perspectives.
- GWSS 251 Introduction to Gender and Popular Culture (Fall 2015)  
Introduction to critical examination of gender, race/ethnicity, and sexuality in music, film, television, and the internet. Explores cultural meanings and social uses of popular culture by various communities in local and global contexts.
- GWSS 200 Introduction to Women's Studies (Summer 2013 & Winter 2014)  
Feminist analysis of the construction and enforcement of gender differences and gender inequalities in various contexts. Emphasis on the intersection of race, class, sexuality, and nationality in the lives of women.

### **PEDAGOGICAL TALKS & WORKSHOPS**

- 2016 Participant, "Course Design Institute" – Summer 2016  
Center for Teaching and Advising - Gonzaga University
- 2014 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, "Presenting Your Research Effectively" and "Planning and Facilitating Discussions," Teaching and Research Assistant Conference, University of Washington – Seattle.

- 2012 Workshop Designer and Facilitator, “Motivating Students to Learn: Applying principles of Learning to Teaching” and “Responding to Longer Student Essays and Assigning Grades,” Teaching and Research Assistant Conference, University of Washington – Seattle.
- 2012 Co-organized workshop “How to help a student who has experienced power-based violence” for GWSS Teaching Assistants.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Major interests include: Transnational feminist, queer, and critical race theory; Women of Color feminist theories and epistemologies; Performance, Caribbean, Puerto Rican, Violence, Decolonial, and Island Studies; Popular Culture; Public protests; and feminist activisms.

## PUBLICATIONS

*An Island Feminist Perspective about the Construction of the Female Body in Puerto Rico.* Peer-review journal article in progress to be submitted to *Shima: The International Journal of Research into Island Cultures*. This article explores an island feminist standpoint that consists of how border definitions of colonized islands are gendered, racialized, classed, and sustained by patriarchal codes of morality associated to the history of colonialism in Puerto Rico.

*An Intersectional Analysis of Island Feminist Praxis in Puerto Rico.* Work in progress to be published in the book *Islands: Gendered Formations* proposed to Routledge Publishers for the Gender in Global/Local World book series in 2019. Examines how Puerto Rico’s political status creates an impression of isolation, yet it enables questioning spaces where gender and islandness intersect. I used extended interviews to understand activists’ modes of mobilizing and denouncing gender violence in Puerto Rico. Their experiences using their bodies in street performances reveal challenges and opportunities to reconceptualize their identities and understandings of the self. This reconceptualization emerges from simultaneous self-reflections and collective dialogues, a process that I identify as *island feminist praxis*.

*Conclusion: Island Studies through Love and Affection to Power and Politics.* Collaborative work in progress with Helene Pristed Nielsen, Associate Professor from Aalborg University. This chapter to be published in the book *Islands: Gendered Formations* proposed to Routledge Publishers for the Gender in Global/Local World book series in 2019.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014 GO-MAP Stroum Endowed Minority Fellowship

2012 Herring-Phelps Endowment for the Empowerment of Women (with Women of Color Collective)  
University of Washington, Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

2010 UW Graduate Opportunity & Minority Achievement Program

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2014 National Women's Studies Association Graduate Scholarship

2014 Doman Award for Excellence in Teaching

2014 Women of Color Leadership Project Participant (Competitive selection)  
National Women's Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2010 Departmental Service Award (with the Women of Color Collective)  
Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies  
University of Washington

2008 Women of Color Caucus Essay Award  
National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference

### **PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

2018 "A Feminist Intersectional Analysis of Economic and Resource (In)Equality in Puerto Rico before and after Hurricane Maria  
Gonzaga Law Human Rights Conference, Florence, Italy

2018 Roundtable: "Una mirada histórica de los feminismos latinoamericanos y caribeños: temas, paradigmas y puntos de inflexión"  
Latin American Studies Association, Barcelona, Spain

2017 "'Los vamos a sacar vivos o muertos': An Island Feminist Perspective on Identity, Community Struggle, Police Brutality and Race in Puerto Rico"  
National Women's Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD

2017 Roundtable: "A Transnational Dialogue on Island Feminisms" (organizer and participant)  
National Women's Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD

2017 "Perspectiva feminista-isleña sobre la construcción del cuerpo femenino en Puerto Rico"  
XI Coloquio Nacional sobre las Mujeres, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

2016 "Island Feminist Studies: A theoretical overview of the *ideal national body* and Puerto Rico's feminisms"

- Panel: “Why Island Feminism?” (Invited talk)  
14<sup>th</sup> International Small Islands Studies Association, University of the Aegean, Lesbos Island, Greece
- 2016 Panel: “Island Feminism” (Invited Talk)  
37<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawai’i Sociological Association Conference  
University of Hawai’i at Hilo
- 2015 Panel: “Transformaciones de Vida: Rol de las Universidades desde la Intervención a la Formación Profesional” (Invited Talk)  
XI Conferencia Anual de Agresión Sexual  
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
- 2014 “¡No tengo opciones!: Understanding state and colonial violence through feminist street performance art in Puerto Rico”  
National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, PR
- 2014 “Bodies Speaking from the Ground: Contesting Cultural Construction of the Ideal National Body in Puerto Rico”  
National Women's Studies Association Conference, San Juan, PR
- 2014 “Rehearsing Feminisms: Collaborating with Interactive Theater in Academic Settings Race and Pedagogy National Conference”  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
- 2013 “Decolonizing women’s bodies: Imagining possibilities for anti-violence through radical feminist performance in Puerto Rico”  
Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, University of Illinois, Chicago
- 2012 “Decolonizing women’s bodies: Imagining possibilities for anti-violence through radical feminist performance in Puerto Rico”  
National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Oakland, CA
- 2011 “Playing at Science: Theatrical consciousness-raising about women in science”  
National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO
- 2010 “Challenges of the Third Wave: Young Women & Feminist Movements of Puerto Rico”  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Studies Conference  
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT
- 2008 “Women of Color and Research”  
University of Connecticut, Stamford
- 2008 “Equidad y Transparencia: Lecciones Aprendidas de los Procesos de Reclutamiento y Retención de las Mujeres en las Ciencias en la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Humacao”  
Mundo de Mujeres/ Women’s Worlds Congress

## **CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS**

- 2018 “Masculinities and Island Feminism”  
Course: First-Year Seminar on Masculinities  
Gonzaga University
- 2018 “Feminist Street Performance Denouncing Gender-based Violence”  
Course: Latin American Theater  
Gonzaga University
- 2018 “Estereotipos y Prejuicios en los Medios de Comunicación”  
Course: Introducción a los Medios Masivos  
Universidad del Este, Carolina, Puerto Rico
- 2017 “Learning Gender, Intersectionality and Privilege”  
Graduate Course: Multicultural Counseling  
Gonzaga University
- 2015 “Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico”  
Course: Histories and Movements of Gender and Sexuality  
University of Washington – Bothell
- 2015 “Feminist Street Performance in Puerto Rico”  
Course: Intercultural Communication  
South Puget Sound Community College
- 2014 “Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico”  
Course: Psychology of Women  
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey
- 2014 “Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico”  
Workshop for Prevention of Violence against Women Program  
University of Puerto Rico at Humacao
- 2014 “Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico”  
Course: Meanings and Realities of Inequality  
University of Washington – Bothell
- 2013 “Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico”  
Course: Latina Cultural Production Course  
University of Washington – Seattle
- 2011 “Home and Work”

Course: Introduction to Women Studies  
University of Washington – Seattle

## **INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

- 2018 Sustainable Tourism from a Feminist Perspective  
Spring Faculty Speaker Series  
Gonzaga Law School
  
- 2018 Interactive Theater at Gonzaga University  
Productive Discomfort Meeting  
Gonzaga University
  
- 2017 Island Feminism and Feminist Studies  
Graduate Seminar: Global Women of Color  
University of Florida
  
- 2017 Guest speaker: “Estereotipos y Prejuicios en los Medios de Comunicación”  
Universidad del Este, Carolina, Puerto Rico
  
- 2016 Speaker at Event: “Seven Shades of Sexuality”  
Gonzaga University
  
- 2015 Public Lecture: “Speaking From the Ground: A Critical Analysis of Feminist  
Street Performance, Gender and Nationhood in Puerto Rico”  
South Puget Sound Community College

## **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2013 Women Who Rock Community Project, University of Washington  
Supervisor: Dr. Michelle Habell-Pallán  
Tasks: Organized annual (Un)conference and Graduate Mentorship Program. Organized volunteers and maintained the database of participant’s information.
  
- 2012 Rural Girls in Science Project (NSF Funded), University of Washington  
Principal Investigator: Dr. Angela B. Ginorio  
Tasks: Organized and archived materials for an NSF-funded project on rural girls in science, learning in that process about the uses of academic archives for both historical documentation and dissemination of information.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE**

- 2015 Discussant, “Artivismo: Otra clase de activismo”

XI Conferencia Anual de Agresión Sexual  
University of Puerto Rico in Mayagüez

- 2014 Session Organizer, “Crossing Disciplinary Borders: Innovating to Educate”  
Race and Pedagogy National Conference  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
- 2014 Discussant, “Juntillas de Activismo Performático: Otro Tipo de Activismo”  
National Women’s Studies Association Conference, San Juan, PR
- 2014 Discussant, “Crossing Disciplinary Borders: Innovating to Educate”  
Race and Pedagogy National Conference  
University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
- 2012 Session Organizer, “Deploying Decolonial Imaginaries: Chicana/Latina Feminist  
Practices”  
National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Oakland, CA
- 2011 Session Organizer, “The Women of Color Collective: Creating Spaces for Women of  
Color in Academia”  
Educational Bodies: The Performance of Gender and Sexuality in Academia Conference  
Harvard University, Boston, MA
- 2011 Session Organizer “Testimoniando: Women of Color Share Stories of Resistance and  
Creating Spaces in Academia”  
National Women Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- 2018-present Faculty Senate and the Senate’s Policy Committee
- 2016-present Advisory Committee, Women’s and Gender Studies, Gonzaga University
- 2013-2014 Graduate Committee, Department of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies,  
University of Washington
- 2012-2013 Award Committee, GWSS
- 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative, GWSS

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- 2018-present Social Justice Committee of the Core Assessment Project



- 2018 Co-organizer, Ethnic and Race Studies Symposium, Gonzaga University
- 2016-present Mentor, The Leadership, Education, Academic Development, and Success Skills Mentoring Program (LEADS), Gonzaga University
- 2014 Co-organizer, Panel: “Claiming Competence: Women of Color and the Academy,” Women of Color Collective and Women Investigating Race, Ethnicity, and Difference, University of Washington
- 2011-2013 Senator, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, University of Washington
- 2011-2013 Graduate Student Representative Faculty Council on Multicultural Affairs, University of Washington
- 2011-2012 Student Ambassador for the Graduate School Student Speakers Bureau & Ambassador Program, University of Washington
- 2010-2013 Women of Color Collective Conference Planning Committee, University of Washington

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH**

- 2018 Guest speaker, “What Happened to Puerto Rico? A Talk About Before and After Hurricanes Irma and Maria,” Hispanic Heritage Month Session, Spokane Public Library
- 2013 Facilitator Staff Workshop “Exploring identities, women's cultures and white privilege in the U.S.,” Non-Profit Organization New Beginnings: Ending Domestic Violence, Seattle WA.

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

- 2018 Interview, “Gonzaga community members discuss Puerto Rico recovery efforts after Hurricane Maria” by Matthew Kincanon, *The Gonzaga Bulletin*.
- 2017 Interview, “Puerto Rico after Maria: GU teaching fellow and San Lorenzo native visits island” by Matthew Kincanon, *The Gonzaga Bulletin*.
- 2017 Interview, “Social media hashtag starts conversations about sexual assault” by Matthew Kincanon, *The Gonzaga Bulletin*.
- 2014 Interview about performance for article: “V-Day: One Billion Rising to stop domestic violence” by Sarah Stuteville, *The Seattle Times*.

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

- 2014 Interactive Theater Summer Institute  
Illumination Project  
Portland Community College
- 2012 Member Interactive Theater as Pedagogy Project (until 2016)  
University of Washington

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish: native language  
English: second language  
Italian: beginner level speaking, reading, and writing

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

National Women's Studies Association  
International Small Island Studies Association  
Latin American Studies Association