

ALEJANDRO STEPHANO ESCALANTE

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D. in Religious Studies
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2016 M.Div. in Theology
Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York
- 2010 B.A. in Religious Studies
Trinity College

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2021–present Lecturer in Social Anthropology
King’s College London, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
- 2021 Adjunct Instructor
Elon University, Department of Religious Studies
- 2019–2021 Teaching Fellow
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Religious Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2019 “Trans* Atlantic Religion: Gender Ideology and Spirit Possession in Cuban Santería.” *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 6, no. 3 (August 2019): 386–399. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1215/23289252-7549484>
- 2019 “The Long Arc of Islamophobia: African Slavery, Islam, and the Caribbean World.” *Journal of Africana Religion* 7, no. 1 (February 2019): 179–186. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5325/jafireli.7.1.0179>
- 2018 “From Argentina to Scotland to Mexico: Indecent Theology and Erotic Phenomenology at the Mexico-US Border.” *Feminist Theology* 26, no. 3 (May 2018): 213–228. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0966735018756248>

Book Chapters

- 2018 “Sacramental Sex/uality.” In *Contemporary Theological Approaches to Sexuality*, edited by Lisa Isherwood and Dirk von der Horst, 313–323. New York: Routledge, 2018.
- Forthcoming* “Playful Masculinity: Costuming, Gender, and Religion in Loiza, Puerto Rico” in *Religion in the Americas: Transcultural and Trans-hemispheric Approaches*, edited by Chris Tirres and Jessica Delgado.

Book Reviews

- 2019 *Biblical Porn: Affect, Labor, and Pastor Mark Driscoll’s Evangelical Empire*, by Jessica Johnson (Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2018). *Religion and Gender* 9, no. 1 (2019): 115–118. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1163/18785417-00901004>
- 2018 *Cachita’s Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Race, and Revolution in Cuba*, by Jalane D. Schmidt (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015). *Journal of World Christianity* 8, no. 2 (December 2018): 198–201. <https://dx.doi.org/10.5325/jworlchri.8.2.0198>
- In progress* *Queering Black Atlantic Religions: Transcorporeality in Candomblé, Santería, and Vodou* by Roberto Strongman (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019). To be published in *Religion and Gender*.

Open-Access Review Essays

- 2021 Book review: *Passages and Afterworlds: Anthropological Perspectives on Death in the Caribbean*, edited by Maarit Forde and Yanique Hume. Durham: Duke University Press. At *Anthropology Book Forum*, <https://www.anthropology-news.org/?book-review=practicing-life-and-death-in-the-caribbean>
- 2019 Book review: *Escenas Transcaribeñas: Ensayos Sobre Teatro, Performance y Cultural*, by Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Isla Negra Editores, 2018). At *sx salon: Small Axe Project*, <http://smallaxe.net/sxsalon/reviews/caribbean-literature-visual-art-and-performance-resistance>
- 2019 Book review: *The Fetish Revisited: Marx, Freud, and the Gods Black People Make*, by J. Lorand Matory (Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2018). At *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/fetish-revisited>

- 2019 Book review: *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*, by Helena Hansen (Oakland: The University of California Press, 2018). At *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/addicted-christ>
- 2018 Book review: *Sexual Disorientations: Queer Temporalities, Affects, Theologies*, edited by Kent Brintnall, Joseph A. Marchal, and Stephen S. Moore (New York: Fordham University Press, 2018). At *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/sexual-disorientation>
- 2018 Book review: *Jihad in West African During the Age of Revolutions*, by Paul E. Lovejoy (Athens, OH: Ohio State University Press, 2016). At *Reading Religion*, <http://readingreligion.org/books/jihad-west-africa-during-age-revolutions>
- 2018 Chapter review: “Anatomically Speaking: Ungendered Flesh and the Science of Sex,” in *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity*, by C. Riley Snorton (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2017). At *Black Perspectives: The African American Intellectual History Society’s Blog*, <https://www.aaihs.org/gynecology-and-the-ungendering-of-black-women>
- 2018 Book review: *Erotic Islands: Art and Activism in the Queer Caribbean*, by Lyndon K. Gill (Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2018). At *ASAP/J*, <http://asapjournal.com/erotic-islands-art-and-activism-in-the-queer-caribbean-alejandro-stephano-escalante>
- Forthcoming* Book review: *Aftershocks of Disaster: Puerto Rico Before and After the Storm*, edited by Yarimar Bonilla and Marisol LeBrón (Illinois: Haymarket Books, 2019). For *sx salon: Small Axe Project*.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2020 Mellon Conference Travel Award, Institute for the Study of the Americas
- 2019 Robert Miller Fund for Graduate Student Excellence, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2019 Professor Bernard Boyd Graduate Fellowship in Religious Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2019 Pre-dissertation Field Research Grant, Institute for the Study of the Americas
- 2018 Mellon Conference Travel Award, Institute for the Study of the Americas

- 2016-2021 Mellon Endowment for Graduate Support in the Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2016–2017 Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2016–2017 Initiative for Minority Excellence, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2016 Travel Grant, Union Theological Seminary
- 2013–2016 Union Tuition Scholarship, Union Theological Seminary

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- 2021 RELI 120 “Introduction to Religion and Culture,” William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Summer II.
- 2021 REL 277 “Gender and Race in Black Religions,” Elon University, Elon, NC, Winter 2021.
- 2020 RELI 236 “Religious Things,” William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Summer II.
- 2020 RELI/WGST 424 “Gender Theory and the Study of Religion,” Department of Religious Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring.
- 2019 RELI 345 “Black Atlantic Religions,” Department of Religious Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fall.

Teaching Assistantships

- 2019 RELI 104 “Introduction to the New Testament,” Dr. Hugo Méndez, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring.
- 2018 RELI 121 “Religion and Culture,” taught by Dr. Todd Ramón Ochoa, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fall.
- RELI 246 “Supernatural Encounters,” taught by Dr. Brendan Jamal Thornton, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Spring.
- 2017 RELI 125 “Heaven and Hell,” taught by Dr. Randall Styers, Department of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Fall.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2021 Dr. Sarah Bloesch, Department of Women and Gender Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Graduate research assistant for WGST 695, undergraduate capstone module for Spring 2021.
- 2020–2021 Dr. Maya Berry, Department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Research in Spanish and English on Lucumí gesture in Cuba, Rumba and gender, and data collection on trends in anthropology.

CERTIFICATIONS

- 2018 Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2021 Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2015–present Latin American Studies Association
- 2015–present American Academy of Religion
- 2017–present Caribbean Studies Association
- 2017–present Puerto Rican Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2019–present American Academy of Religion, Steering Committee member of the Men, Masculinities, and Religion Unit
- 2019–present American Academy of Religion, Steering Committee member of the Religion in the Latina/o Americas Unit
- 2018–present American Academy of Religion, Co-chair of the Religion and Media Workshop
- 2018–2020 UNC-Duke's Theories of Religion Reading Group, Steering Committee Member

2017–2019 UNC-King’s College London’s Configurations of Empire Reading Group,
Steering Committee Member

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2022 Paper to be presented: “Loca: Reimagining Puerto Rican Identity” at the XXXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, California.
- 2021 Paper presented: “Celebration and Crisis in a Puerto Rican Town” at the XXXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Virtual Conference.
- 2020 Paper presented: “Madness: Blackness, Women, and Religion” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2020, Boston Massachusetts.
- 2020 Paper presented: “What We Can Learn from Trans* Studies” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2020, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Playful Masculinity: Drag Performance in La Fiesta de Santiago” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2019, San Diego, California.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Cultural and Theological Resources for the Study of Religion” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2019, San Diego, California.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Rehearsing, Re-membering: *La Fiesta de Santiago* and Afro-Puerto Rican Carnivals” at the Tenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora, November 2019, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Inheriting Death: Black Feminism and ‘Life’ in the Caribbean World” at the 43rd Annual Society for Caribbean Studies Conference, July 2019, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, England.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Marian Poetics: Towards a Post-María, Puerto Rican Futurity” at the joint meeting of the Society for the Anthropology of North

- America and Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology, May 2019, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2019 Panel organizer, “Translating Borderlands Across the Américas” at the Gloria Anzaldúa: Translating B/borders Conference, May 2019, University of Paris VIII, Paris, France.
- 2019 Paper presented: “Taming Queer/Cuir Tongues: Translating Anzaldúa Through Queer/Cuir Culture in Puerto Rico” at the Gloria Anzaldúa: Translating B/borders Conference, May 2019, University of Paris III, Paris, France.
- 2018 Panel organizer, “Migration, Return, and Religion,” at the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, May 2018, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Paper presented, “Syncretism, Diasporic Religions, and Authenticity” at the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, May 2018, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Paper presented, “Trans*Atlantic Religion: Intersexuality and Spirit Possession in Cuban Lucumí” at the Latin American Studies Center Graduate Student Conference, University of Maryland, May 2018, College Park, Maryland.
- 2017 Paper presented, “Neither Subject, Nor Object: Drag Performance and the Question of Agency” at University of North Carolina at Charlotte’s Department of Religious Studies Graduate Conference, March 2017, Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 2016 Paper presented, “«*Sinvergüenza*»: Performing Male Latino Bodies,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2016, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2016 Paper presented, “Erotic Phenomenology and Indecent Theology” at the International Marcella Althaus-Reid Conference, July 2016, Winchester, England.
- 2016 Paper presented, “Latin American Liberation Theology Fifty Years After Vatican II” at the XXXIV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, May 2016, New York, New York.
- 2015 Paper presented, “God in Drag: An Indecent Approach to the Sacrament of Protest,” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2015, Atlanta, Georgia.

- 2015 Paper presented, «*Caminando Con Jesús, El Inmigrante: Gloria Anzaldúa y Teología a la Frontera*,» at The New School's Queering Immigration Conference, August 2015, New York, New York.
- 2015 Paper presented, "Neither/Nor: Vernacular Religious Practices and Latin American Catholicism," at the XXXIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, May 2015, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

GUEST LECTURES

- 2019 "History and Trajectory of Latin American Liberation Theology," at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. April 8, 2019
- 2017 "What Kind of Next World?" at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. November 17, 2017.

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish, French