

Ashley Torres Carrasquillo

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON, Boston, MA

M.S. Critical Ethnic and Communities Studies

(*expected graduation* August 2020)

Thesis: Anti-Colonial Processes/*Nosotrxs*: Women and Queer people resistance in Puerto Rico's Public Housing, a participatory ethnographic project

B.A. Women's, Gender and Sexualities Studies (Major) and English (Minor),

June 2018. *Magna Cum Laude*

Thesis: Afro-Colombian Women's Activism and Gender-Based Violence Prevention: A Transnational Black Feminist Ethnography

Dean's List, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Wellesley, MA

A.A. Liberal Arts

December 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Torres, A. (2018). "Being Afro-Puerto Rican in the USA: Exploring Blackness in the Americas: Through My Eyes". *UMass Boston WritLarge Journal*, 5(2), 40-42. Retrieved from The Mauricio Gastón Institute Web.[https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/gaston/Ashley_Torres_Blackness_Americas_Article.p](https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/gaston/Ashley_Torres_Blackness_Americas_Article.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0BJ3Gw19C3E_t-d4YO-H13jI2wd0APK6ELIAaJRU3AmtWAGhJ6ULabxAU)

In progress. "What about us? *Nosotrxs*: Women and Queer people resistance in Puerto Rico's Public Housing, a participatory ethnographic project"

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

The Dr. Robert W. Spayne Research Award, Fall 2020

Beacon Student Success Fellowship Award, Summer 2019

The Founders Award for Excellence in Women's Studies and Social Activism, Spring 2018

Strong Women Strong Girls Senior Award, Spring 2018

Beacon Undergraduate Student Leadership Award, Spring 2018

The Robert Hildreth Latin American Research Internship Award, Summer 2017

The Jean Humez Fund Award, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, Fall 2017

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Research Assistant, The Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston, January 2016- August 2020

Teaching Assistant, Africana Studies/Women's, Gender and Sexualities Studies 376: Women of Color in the US, University of Massachusetts Boston, Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant, Anthropology 477: Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant, English/Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 371: Gender and Film, University of Massachusetts Boston, Spring 2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Co-organizer/investigator. "*Muñecas Negras: Dismantling Anti-Black Racism While Healing Through Youth Leadership and Artivism.*" March 2017-July 2019.

Researched, co-created, and co-facilitated a series of workshops that combined historical analysis and participatory action research approaches to explore the relationship between art and activism ("artivism") in the process of healing from [anti-Black racism](#).

Co-investigator. "*Cultivating Latino student educational success K-16: Pathways for developing educational success and leadership.*" Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, University of Massachusetts Boston, Spring 2017.

Conducted a semester-long research project that combined historical analysis as well as qualitative and quantitative data to explore wellness, educational resources and achievement.

Co-investigator, ethnographer. "*Participatory Action Research, exploring diverse Latina women's experiences of racialization and development of complex identities and coalitional supports.*" Latino Leadership Opportunity Program, University of Massachusetts Boston, Spring 2017.

As a co-researcher and participants, we held one focus group bi-weekly for the span of a semester. Transcribed and analyzed interviews using a participatory approach to a thematic analysis.

Principal Investigator. "*Afro-Colombian Women's Activism and Gender-Based Violence Prevention: A Transnational Black Feminist Ethnography.*" partnered with Corporación Vínculos and Mariposa de Alas Nuevas en Red y Libertad, Buenaventura, Colombia, June 2017-August 2017.

Used participant observations and semi-structured interviews to explore gender-based and youth conflict in Colombia for my undergraduate thesis.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

(*postponed*) Co-presenter. “Educational success and leadership for Latinx students K-16 in Massachusetts.” Latino Leadership Opportunity Program Reunion, UMass, March 2020.

Co-presenter. “Women of Color Organizing, Solidarity, and Wellness.” Not My Normal: Resisting Systemic Oppression Teach-In. November 2019.

Presenter. “*Muñecas Negras*: Dismantling Anti-Black Racism While Healing Through Youth Leadership and Activism.” Beacon Success Summer Fellow Fall Symposium, October 2019.

Presenter. “*Mujeres Unidas*: Gendered Activism Across Landscapes and Spaces.” Biannual Meeting of the Latino Studies Association, Washington, DC, July 2018.

Co-presenter. “Women of Color Organizing, Solidarity, and Wellness.” Not My Normal: Resisting Systemic Oppression Teach-In, University of Massachusetts Boston, November 2018.

Co-presenter. “Intersectionality within the Latinx Community.” BUnited Diversity Conference, Boston University, February 2018.

Presenter. “Afro-Colombian Women’s Activisms.” Mauricio Gastón Institute on Latino Community Development and Public Policy Speaker Series, University of Massachusetts Boston, Spring 2017.

Co-presenter. “Women of Color at UMB: Refusing Racialization and Developing Coalitional Consciousness and Social Justice Organizing.” Not My Normal: Resisting Systemic Oppression Teach-In, University of Massachusetts Boston, April 2017.

Co-Presenter. “Women of Color at UMass Boston, assessing discrimination through dialogues.” Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, April 2017.

Co-presenter. “Educational success and leadership for Latinx students K-16 in Massachusetts.” Undergraduate Research Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, April 2017.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON

Beacon Voyages for Service,
Trip leader/Educator, Community Development: Understanding Gentrification and Displacement,
Participant. Borders and Immigration: Exploring immigration in the border.
Participant, Gender Equities: Latinx Perspectives. August 2016 –August 2019

Boston Strong Women Strong Girl,
Site Leader, Mentor & Fundraiser Coordinator. August 2016 –November 2018

UMass Boston Women’s Center,
Assistant Coordinator. August 2016 – December 2016

Relevant Work Experience

Wayside Youth and Family Support Networks, Framingham, MA

- o *Transition Facilitator/Basic Center Coordinator, Tempo* (March 2016 – Present)
 - o Coordinated an emergency shelter and complete necessary intake procedures which included an agreement and consent forms as well as transition plan.
 - o Collaborate with Department of Children and Family, Lawyers & Social Workers
 - o Maintain monthly meetings with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance
 - o Participated in advocacy meetings.
 - o Ran groups, such as Life skills, Women’s Empowerment and LGBTQI+ support.
- o *Transition Facilitator/Case Manager, Short Stop* (September 2015- March 2016)
 - o Assisted clients in developing budgeting skills, making/attending medical appointments, providing support at court hearings and with social workers
 - o Maintain accurate documentation of client’s daily activities, including observations of behaviors and potential safety concerns
 - o Ran groups, such as Life skills & community integration for immigrant clients
- o *Volunteer/Intern Outreach Worker, Tempo* (June 2014- September 2015)
 - o Build positive relationships with 17-20 youth/young adults, providing information about safe and productive alternatives using a positive youth development approaches .
 - o Outreach in the Metrowest region walking and driving.
 - o Engaging with community programs, schools, hospitals and police stations.
 - o Located runaway and youth experiencing housing insecurities to meet the urgent needs such as food and emergency shelter.

REFERENCES

Marisol Negrón (Advisor)
 Director of Latino Studies
 American Studies Dept. and Latino Studies
 Core Faculty, CECS
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 Email: marisol.negron@umb.edu

Layla Brown
 Africana Studies
 Core Faculty, CECS
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 Email: layla.brown@umb.edu

Ester Shapiro
 Department of Psychology
 Core Faculty, CECS
 University of Massachusetts Boston
 Email: ester.shapiro@umb.edu

Yolanda Ortiz
 Program Director, Tempo,
 Wayside Youth and Family Networks,
 Framingham, MA.
 Tel: 617-417-5166

Lorna Rivera
 Director, Gastón Institute for Latino Community
 Development and Public Policy
 Department of Women, Gender, and University
 of Massachusetts Boston Sexuality Studies
 Email: lorna.rivera@umb.edu