

Melinda González

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Geography & Anthropology, Cultural Anthropology Track
Louisiana State University
Dissertation: Rhyming Through Disaster: Community Organizing and Displacement in Puerto Rico and New York after Hurricane Maria
Baton Rouge, LA
2021

M.A., Anthropology
Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ
2012

B.A., Anthropology
Barnard College of Columbia University
Thesis: “Revolution Within the Revolution”- An Introduction to Women in the New York Chapter of the Young Lords Party
New York, NY
2007

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Mary Fran Myer’s Gender and Disaster Award, The Natural Hazards Center
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, Rutgers University
Multicultural Postdoctoral Fellowship, UNC-Charlotte (Declined)
Emerging Voices Fellowship, ACLS (Nominated)
COLLEGE Fellowship, Stanford University (Declined)
2020-2021 American Dissertation Writing Fellowship, AAUW (\$20,000)
Louisiana State University Fellowship (\$18,000 + tuition remission)
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Louisiana State University (\$1,050)
Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, SSRC-MMUF (\$2,000)
St. Clair Drake Student Travel Grant, Society for the Anthropology of North America (\$500)
MMUF Travel & Research Grant, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation (\$5,000)
MMUF-SSRC Dissertation Development Seminar
PEO Scholars Award (Nominated)
Predoctoral Research Development (PRD) grant, SSRC-MMUF (\$1,400)
MAXQDA #ResearchforChange Grant (\$800)
West Field Research Grant, Louisiana State University (\$1,500)
Del Jones Travel Award, Society for Applied Anthropology (\$500)
Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, SSRC-MMUF (\$1,500)
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Louisiana State University (\$600)
Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, Louisiana State University
Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant, SSRC-MMUF (\$1,500)
Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, San Diego State University (\$2,500)
Special Study Opportunity and Pre-Dissertation Travel Awards, Rutgers University (\$2,000)
Bigel Grant, Rutgers University (\$2,000)
McNair Scholars Research Opportunity Program, University of Chicago
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Barnard College

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

March 2020. “Mitigating Disaster in Digital Space: DiaspoRicans Organizing after Hurricane Maria.”
International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters. Living with Hurricanes Special Issue.

Works in Progress

Rahder, M., and M. Gonzalez. (Article manuscript in preparation). “Ethnography that Hurts: a Dialogue on Embodiment, Disability, and Feminist Collaborative Methods in Environmental Anthropology.” Intended for submission to Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society.
“Maria’s Forgotten: Puerto Rican Evacuees & Refugees in New York.” Intended for Submission to the Centro Journal of Puerto Rican Studies.

Other Academic Publications

August 2019. “Methods of Motherhood: The Borderlands of Scholarship, Motherhood, and Trauma.” Curated blog series on Trauma and Resilience in Ethnographic Fieldwork for Anthrodendum.

(<https://anthrodendum.org/2019/08/13/methods-of-motherhood-the-borderlands-of-scholarship-motherhood-and-trauma/>)

July 2019. “Converting Data to Scholarship with MAXQDA 2018.” #ResearchforChange Blog Series.

(<https://www.maxqda.com/fieldwork-to-conferences>)

May 2019. “Transferring Fieldnotes to MAXQDA: Digital Ethnography Research Example.” #ResearchforChange Blog Series. (<https://www.maxqda.com/digital-ethnography-example>)

January 2019. “Fieldwork Across Diasporas – Early Fieldwork Analysis Phases and MAXQDA.” #ResearchforChange Blog Series. (<https://www.maxqda.com/fieldwork-across-diasporas>)

Selected Poetic Publications & Workshops

Fall 2021. “Agua es Vida.” West Trade Review.

January 2020. “Turn to the Sun (Gira al sol).” Variant Literature, Inc.

Fall 2019. “Wandering.” Urban Magazine.

Spring 2019. “Los Trastes”. The Dollhouse.

Spring 2019. Various Poems. The Lit Exhibit: Rituals.

Spring 2019. “Los Trastes.” Funicular Magazine.

March 2019. Various poems. Resurrection of Badass Femmes Zine. Vol 1.

November 2018. Participated in Capicu Cultural Showcase’s La SoPA (School for Poetic Arts) workshop.

SELECTED CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Organized Symposia & Roundtables

Forthcoming. Learning for Our Futures: Trials and Tactics for Decolonizing Graduate Training. Chair of Executive Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Forthcoming. Disaster and the State: The Politics of Inclusion & Autonomy in Disaster. Roundtable discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

December 2020. Beatriz Reyes-Foster, Rebecca Lester, Eileen Anderson-Fye, Sarah Lyon, and **Melinda González**. Fostering and Addressing Graduate Student Mental Health in Anthropology. Workshop event for the American Anthropological Association’s Raising Our Voices event.

November 2020. **Melinda Gonzalez** and G. Maris Jones. Decolonizing Hurricane Research: Afro-Indigenous Approaches to Ethnographic Fieldwork in Puerto Rico (Hurricane Maria) & New Orleans (Hurricane Katrina). View on Demand event for the American Anthropological Association’s Raising Our Voices event.

November 2020. Creatively Centering Alternative Anthropologies and Sociologies: Scholars of Color Decolonize Ethnography with Transnational Feminism. Chair of roundtable Annual Meeting of the National Women Studies Association. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

November 2019. The Native goes Native? Double Consciousness in doing Ethnography. Roundtable discussant at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

October 2018. Melissa Colon, **Melinda Gonzalez**, Gloria Colom, and Danielle Pilar Cleland. Puerto Rican Scholars and Collective Trauma: Implications for Conducting Fieldwork in the Midsts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Roundtable discussant at the Bi-Annual Meeting of Puerto Rican Studies Association.

September 2017. Decolonizing Academic Spaces: Women of Color Speaking on Student Success, Allyship and Motherhood. *Description*: I organized, fund-raised, and moderated this digital panel, which was attended by 700 academics.

Conference Presentations

June 2021. Methods of Motherhood: Scholarship at the Borderlands of Student and Mother. Paper presented at Patchwork Ethnography webinar.

March 2021. Making Home Betwixt Maria, Earthquakes and COVID-19: Confronting UnEnding Disaster in the Puerto Rican Diaspora. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

November 2020. Life in the Spaces Between Maria, Earthquakes and COVID-19: Puerto Ricanness and UnEnding Disaster. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

July 2020. Maria’s Forgotten: “Climate Refugees” & Evacuee Families in New York. Paper to be presented at the International Sociological Association’s Forum of Sociology. *Cancelled due to COVID-19*.

May 2020. Trans, Brown, & Hyper-Marginalized after Hurricane Maria: Anthropological Interventions & Policy

- Recommendations. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Latin American Studies Association. *Conference was held digitally due to COVID-19.*
- March 2020. Micha Rahder with **Melinda Gonzalez**. Honey, let we tell you: A speculative trans-species storytelling of the Maya Forest borderlands. Paper to be presented at the 69th Annual Conference of the University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies. *Postponed due to COVID-19.*
- March 2020. Trans, Brown, & Hyper-Marginalized after Hurricane Maria: Anthropological Interventions & Policy Recommendations. Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology. *Cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- November 2019. Maria's Forgotten: "Climate Refugees" & Evacuee Families in New York. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.
- November 2019. Micha Rahder and **Melinda Gonzalez**. Maya Forest Futures: Institutional environmental collaborations across contested borderlands. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.
- October 2019. Maria's Forgotten: Hurricane Maria Evacuee Families in New York. Paper presented at the Puerto Rican Studies Association Symposium.
- May 2019. Maria's Forgotten: Hurricane Maria Evacuee Families in New York. Paper presented at the Society of North American Anthropology's Annual Meeting.
- November 2018. Digital Organizing in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.
- August 2018. Micha Rahder and **Melinda Gonzalez**. Ethnography that hurts: a dialogue on embodiment, disability, and feminist collaborative methods in environmental anthropology. Paper presented at Association for Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Metaphysics, and Science Studies 7th Annual Meeting.
- April 2018. Puerto Rican Diasporic Community Organizing in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology.
- March 2018. Rhyming Thru Tragedy: Puerto Rican Poetics after Huracanes Irma y Maria. Paper presented at the Second Annual Language and Literature Conference of the Comparative Literature Graduate Association at Louisiana State University.
- December 2017. **Melinda Gonzalez** (presenter) and Micha Rahder, Environmental Sustainability and Maya Forest Futures. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Part-Time Lecturer, Social Sciences department, Oregon State University, Bend, OR

Supervisors: Dr. Elizabeth Marino Spring 2021
 Courses Taught: ANTH 352: Anthropology, Environment, and Health; PS475: Environmental Politics & Policy

Adjunct Faculty, Community & Social Justice Studies department, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ

Supervisor: Dr. Djanna Hill 2020-2021
 Courses Taught: ANTH 3100-02: Global Transformations and the Human Condition; ANTH 3700: Anthropology of Social Movements

Part-Time Lecturer, Sociology and Anthropology department, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ

Supervisor: Dr. Christopher R. Duncan 2019-2021
 Courses Taught: Soc 409: Classical Sociological Theory; Soc 415: Contemporary Sociological Theory;
 Soc 350: Environmental Sociology, cross-listed with Anth 350: Environmental Anthropology

Adjunct Faculty, Anthropology department, Brooklyn College - CUNY, Brooklyn, NY

Supervisors: Dr. Jillian Cavanaugh 2018-2021
 Courses Taught: ANTH 3135: American Urban Experience; ANTH 1100 Culture & Society
 Note: Piloted an online curriculum and courses for the Anthropology department beginning in Spring 2020.

Adjunct Faculty, Puerto Rican & Latino Studies department, Brooklyn College - CUNY, Brooklyn, NY

Supervisor: Dr. Maria Perez y Gonzalez Fall 2018
 Courses Taught: PRLS 1001: Introduction to Puerto Rican and Latino Studies (2 sections)

Adjunct Faculty, Sociology department, Union County College - Cranford, NJ

Supervisor: Dr. Mandana Ahsani 2015-2016
 Courses taught: Sociology 101: Introduction to Sociology; Sociology 209: Introduction to Social Welfare & Policy

Guest Lectures & Invited Talks

- Forthcoming. Rhyming through Disasters. To be presented at the Bethlehem Area Public Library, Bethlehem, PA.
- February 2021. Rhyming through Disasters: Puerto Rican Poetry Spaces and Disaster Recovery after Hurricane Maria. Presented to the Department of Emergency Management & Disaster Science at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX.
- April 2020. In the Face of Continuous Disaster – Puerto Rican Community Organizing in the Aftershocks of Hurricane Maria. To be presented at the Public Anthropology Lecture Series at William Paterson University of New Jersey, Wayne, NJ. *Cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- December 2019. Maria's Forgotten: Displacement, Diasporas, and Longing for Home after Hurricane Maria. Presented to ENGL 355 Telling Our Stories: Bronx Mexican Oral Histories at Lehman College, New York.
- October 2019. Oral History & Ethnography. Presented to ENGL 355 Telling Our Stories: Bronx Mexican Oral Histories at Lehman College, New York, NY.
- September 2019. Puerto Rican Poetics as Protest. Presented to SPAN 409 Modern Latin American Society at the University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.
- February 2019. "Mujeres y Maria" – Puerto Rican Women's Responses to Hurricane Maria. Presented to LST 310-201 Lessons and Strategies of Latina Resistance at DePaul University, Chicago, IL.
- March 2018. "Si No Bailo Esta Bomba Me Voy a Morir" - Community Organizing in Diasporic Puerto Rican Poetic Spaces." Presented to ANTH 1003 Course at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching Assistant, Louisiana State University 2019-2020

Advisor: Dr. David Chicoine

Department: Geography & Anthropology - Graduate Studies

Responsibilities: Develop materials to assist department in providing better service to graduate students.

Research Assistant, Louisiana State University 2016-2019

Advisor: Dr. Micha Rahder, Maya Forest Futures Project

Sites: Belize, Guatemala and Mexico

Responsibilities: Assisted Dr. Rahder in the field by engaging in collaborative, multi-sited ethnographic research.

Conducted interviews with field participants, transcriptions, conducted literary searches, and contributed to writing of reports and articles on fieldwork.

Research Fellow, Rutgers – The State University of NJ 2009-2011

Advisors: Dr. Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas, Dr. Rocio Magana, Dr. Daniel Goldstein, and Dr. Ulla Berg

Sites: Mexico and Puerto Rico

Responsibilities: Researched and produced academic scholarship on Puerto Rican artists in NYC and Puerto Rico.

Conducted research on poetry circles as sites of resistance and contestation on local politics. Research culminated in a Master's Exam on Puerto Rican Ethnography, Gender & Sexuality, and Anthropological Theory & Practice.

Assisted anthropology department professors in teaching courses as needed.

MENTORSHIP AND SERVICE

Student Member, Board of Directors, Society for Applied Anthropology 2020-Present

Instructor, Grupo Senzala de Capoeira 2009-Present

Graduate Student Mentor, MMUF Program, California State University, Dominguez Hills 2020-2021

Film Reviewer, Society for Visual Anthropology 2019

Mentor, Barnard College MMUF Bootcamp 2019

Mentor, MMUF Gap Year Program, Woodrow Wilson Foundation 2018-2019

President & Founder, Capoeira Baton Rouge – Louisiana State University 2016-2018

LANGUAGES

Native Spanish and English speaker, with functional fluency in Portuguese and French.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association; Society for Applied Anthropology (Board of Directors); Society for Anthropology of North American; Anthropology & Environment; Association for Feminist Anthropologists; Puerto Rican Studies Association; Latin American Studies Association