



## *Descargas otorgadas*

*Primer Semestre 2019-2020*

**Dr. Jeffrey Herlihy**  
**Departamento de Humanidades**

### *"Reinterpreting Hemingway in Cuba"*

This project offers a comprehensive analysis of how Cuban culture and language influenced Ernest Hemingway's literature, biography, and aesthetic sensibility. "Aquí en la casa," he wrote in 1950 from his home outside Havana, "hablamos español siempre." The project aims to nuance the English-centric perspectives on Hemingway, using the letters he wrote in Spanish and reports from Spanish-language literary criticism bases of analysis. The correspondence (over 80 letters) has not been published or translated, and is—like much of the Spanish-language criticism of Hemingway's work—virtually unknown to literary scholars based in the US. Upon discussing the project with Suzanne del Gizzo, editor of *The Hemingway Review*, I was invited to expand the idea into a guest-edited instalment of *The Hemingway Review* and encourage to develop the plan into a monograph. During a course release this fall, I will continue work on a guest-edited instalment of the same journal (including two articles: the introduction to the instalment and a theoretical essay on intercultural literary citizenship) and develop the material into a proposal to submit to presses. The project will disseminate new material about Hemingway in Cuba and the role of the Spanish language in his literature; "Reinterpreting Hemingway in Cuba" will also document the mutually influential and complementary cultural ties between the US and Cuba, examining Hemingway's experience as a precursor to multicultural notions of citizenship.

**Dra. Ricia Chansky**  
**Departamento de Inglés**

### *"Stage Three: Narratives of Hurricane María and Its Aftermath in Puerto Rico"*

I respectfully request release time for the autumn 2019 semester to continue directing a large-scale research project that utilizes oral history as a methodology to study the impacts of Hurricane María and its aftermath on the people of Puerto Rico. The work is being completed under the auspices of the Voice of Witness program and in collaboration with the Humanities Action Lab (HAL), a research group led by Columbia University, Rutgers University, and The New School. This project includes the training of approximately 150

undergraduate students in the best practices of oral histories. Selected collected narratives will be published by Haymarket Books, the leading social justice press in the US, while others will be included in the international, traveling exhibition curated by HAL. The secondary objectives of this project are to facilitate a rehabilitation of agency in students disempowered by a natural disaster and the ongoing fiscal crisis; promote the voices of Puerto Ricans in order to encourage listening and witnessing; record history, traditions, and cultures of Puerto Rico; teach internal and external readers about Puerto Rico; create a ground-up, people's history of Hurricane María in Puerto Rico; collect data that interrogates the relationship between Puerto Rico and the US, as exemplified by the federal government's response to the hurricane and its aftermath; and, articulate questions of national identity in the contemporary US. In this interdisciplinary project, the research product—auto/biographical narratives—fulfills multiple functions: literary narrative, historical record, sociological data, pedagogical tool, etc.

**Dr. Eric Lamore**  
**Departamento de Inglés**

*"Ottobah Cugoano's Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery as Fluid Text"*

I respectfully request a three-credit research release for the Fall 2019 semester to continue work on the intersection of book history, textual scholarship, and early black Atlantic literature. For my work on early black Atlantic literature and book history, I have been named a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago (Summer 2018) and awarded the 2019 Reese Fellowship in American Bibliography and the History of the Book in the Americas. At this point, no scholar has studied the differences between the 1787 and 1791 editions of *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil of Slavery*, written by the Afro-British anti-slavery activist Ottobah Cugoano (or John Stuart). This work on Cugoano is part of my current book project, *"Unstable as [W]ater": early Black Atlantic Literature and Eighteenth-Century Print Culture*, in which I study authorial and nonauthorial revision practices in various editions of early black Atlantic literature. In my work on Cugoano, I will argue that the 1791 edition highlights an important change in his anti-slave-trade and anti-slavery politics, as he did not include in this slim, second edition the most aggressive parts of the 1787 edition and chose to address not white Britons but "Sons of Africa," meaning that he wished to groom the next generation of Afro-British subjects committed to dismantling the slave trade and slavery. Plus, I will hold that the revisions in the 1791 edition must be understood in relation to the best-selling and commercially-successful autobiography written by Cugoano's colleague, Olaudah Equiano.

**Dr. Wolfgang Rolke**  
**Departamento de Ciencias Matemáticas**

*"Exact Interval Estimates for Excess Count"*

\*Excess Counts\* refers to events that happen due to unusual causes, in addition to events of the same type that happen for ordinary reasons. An example is the deaths caused by a hurricane or other natural disaster in addition to the "usual" deaths. Estimating the number of such excess events and their corresponding error rate is a common problem in many fields. For example, the studies done over the last year that attempted to estimate the death toll due to hurricane Maria are of this kind. Here the excess counts are the deaths due to the storm, as compared to the deaths due to any other reason. The standard methods for estimating the number of such excess counts and their respective error rates are based on a number of approximations that require, among other things, a sizable data set. I propose to develop a method that also works in small sample situations. The two journal articles that I wrote previously on this subject (one published in 2018 and one currently under peer review) were a collaboration with Dr. Roberto Rivera from the school of Economics at UPR-Mayagüez, and I anticipate collaborating with him on this project as well.

**Dr. Alejandro Vélez**  
**Departamento de Ciencias Matemáticas**

*"Anisotropic boundary value problems of nonstandard growth over non-smooth and fractal domains"*

The main goal of this research proposal is to investigate the solvability, global regularity theory, and multiplicity results for new generalized classes of nonlinear anisotropic elliptic and parabolic problems with nonstandard growth conditions over non-smooth domains, as well as fractal domains. This area is a recent new line which has not been investigated in detail, and where there are many open problems and complications. In my recent research projects, I have introduced new generalized tools which have enabled me to obtain substantial results related to the investigation of anisotropic differential equations with nonstandard growth conditions.

**Dr. Sergiy Lysenko**  
**Departamento de Física**

*"Ultrafast Insulator-Metal Transitions in Vanadium Oxides"*

Research is focused on spectroscopic studies of nonequilibrium dynamics in recently synthesized in our lab new phase-change vanadium oxides: V<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, V<sub>6</sub>O<sub>13</sub>, V<sub>6</sub>O<sub>11</sub>, and V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. Several samples of V<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films with embedded Au nanoparticles will also be investigated. These novel materials will be studied at the fundamental timescales of atomic and electronic motion. Before the project period, during the summer 2019, electrical properties of samples will be studied in Brookhaven National Laboratory, in the Center for Functional Nanomaterials in the lab of Dr. Fernando Camino

(<https://www.bnl.gov/cfn/people/staff.php?q=115>). After, during September-December 2019, these samples will be studied in our Laser Facility Lab of Advanced Materials Dynamics Group at UPRM (<https://fisica.uprm.edu/light/>). We will perform accurate consecutive time-resolved ultrafast measurements of reflection, transmission and 4D (4-dimensional: 3D+time) scattering in order to find possibilities for creating artificial or transient metastable quantum phases in these materials by light, and to elucidate elusive and metastable phases on ultrashort time scales.

It is expected that the interaction between carriers via vibronic phonon mode and carrier-induced screening of the on-site Coulomb interactions play a significant role in phase stability. These processes are strongly dependent on stoichiometry and morphology of materials. The new information to be acquired about light-induced phase transition and comparison of ultrafast processes in oxide films with different morphologies will shed light on electron and lattice dynamics in the broad range of vanadium oxides. The role of electron-electron scattering, electron-phonon, electron-surface scattering and photoinduced pressure in vanadium oxides can be crucial issues in the phase transition and relaxation processes.

**Dra. Sara Gavrell**  
**Departamento de Humanidades**

*"Birthing Freedom: Towards a Philosophy of Birth"*

I am requesting a three-credit academic release time to work on the second chapter of my book manuscript on the philosophy of birth. My book will be the first scholarly monograph dedicated entirely to a philosophical examination of childbirth.

My work is particularly relevant in Puerto Rico, since it is on the top three countries worldwide for highest cesarean rates, induction of childbirth, premature babies, episiotomy rates are still at 80% or higher, and Pitocin is routinely used. It is already well documented, even by WHO, that the routine use of these procedures is highly detrimental for the health of women and babies. Moreover, the electronic fetal monitor is used routinely in low risk births even though it is documented that such use is detrimental for the health of women and babies. Though some countries have the legal term 'obstetrical violence', the rampant obstetric violence in Puerto Rico is just beginning to be acknowledged by the public.

**Dra. Ana Nieves**  
**Departamento de Psicología**

*"Los juegos y el desarrollo en la era digital"*

Más de tres décadas de investigación científica han establecido una relación positiva entre el juego y el desarrollo de habilidades en la primera infancia. Los beneficios del juego van desde el aprendizaje de la autorregulación hasta el desarrollo de habilidades interpersonales saludables. Datos recientes muestran una reducción del tiempo de juego en las escuelas y

también en los vecindarios. Los juegos de la niñez están cambiando de una actividad tradicional al aire libre a una actividad de juego tecnológico. La caracterización de esta situación de juego es el objetivo de este estudio para desarrollar una base de datos con la intención de tender un puente para estudiar los juegos de la niñez temprana en la era digital y su impacto en el desarrollo.

**Dr. Melvin González**  
**Departamento de Estudios Hispánicos**

*“Lengua, género y norma: un acercamiento al sexismo lingüístico y al debate entorno a la inclusividad en el español puertorriqueño”*

El debate en torno al sexismo lingüístico en español y la inclusividad en el lenguaje vuelve a ser eje central de planteamientos lingüísticos desde que en 2012 la Real Academia Española publicara el informe “Sexismo lingüístico y visibilidad de la mujer”. Las discusiones en torno al sexismo lingüístico y las guías para prohibir su uso en el lenguaje, ya oral o escrito, no se limitan al español: desde los ’80 han surgido varias guías en diferentes idiomas: inglés, alemán, checo, danés, griego e italiano, entre otras lenguas. A pesar de que en esta discusión no siempre se ha establecido la diferencia entre el lenguaje –la ya tradicional dicotomía en la lingüística sausseriana de lengua vs. habla–, como fenómeno propiamente del ser humano, y el uso que hacen de este sus hablantes, que podría llevarlos a prácticas sexistas, no es menos cierto que el sexismo lingüístico es un hecho documentado en español, y en otras lenguas romances. Los estudios se han enfocado mayormente en tres temas, a saber: documentar el sexismo en el lenguaje y la representación del género en las lenguas; examinar el impacto del activismo lingüístico feminista en el lenguaje; y estudiar las causas psicosociales del sexismo lingüístico. Aunque existen algunos estudios en español sobre este tema, estos no suelen abordar el tema desde la perspectiva del hablante que hace uso de la lengua. Esta investigación examina el lenguaje inclusivo en hablantes puertorriqueños y su repercusión para la gramática del español y el cambio lingüístico.

**Dr. Clark Sherman**  
**Departamento de Ciencias Marinas**

*“Characterization and Catalog Lithic Substrate Samples Collected During Three UPRM-CCRI-DMS Research Cruises”*

Mesophotic coral ecosystems (MCEs) occur along insular shelf margins and isolated banks at depths of -50 to 100 m. However, compared to their shallower counterparts, reef systems deeper than -50 m remain largely unexplored. From 2010 to 2012, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (UPRM) Caribbean Coral Reef Institute (CCRI) and Department of Marine Sciences (OMS) conducted three research cruises in order to characterize MCEs along an east-west trending transect extending from Isla Mona eastward along the southern insular margin of Puerto Rico into the Virgin Islands to Lang Bank off the eastern end of St. Croix. Over the course of three cruises, over twenty different sites were surveyed and numerous samples of seafloor lithic substrates were collected at depths of - 50 to 90 m. Our current

understanding of mesophotic framework and accretion is poor compared to shallow reefs and this remains a significant knowledge gap in our understanding of these systems. Collections made as part of the UPRM-CCRI-DMS cruises represent an important, but, as yet, uncharacterized database of the structure and composition of mesophotic reef framework. This project will conduct a thorough description and cataloging of lithic substrate samples collected during the cruises. The project will result in a descriptive summary of mesophotic framework based on the existing collection that, in conjunction with complementary studies, will form the basis for a proposal to the National Science Foundation for more in-depth analyses.