



Descargas otorgadas

Segundo Semestre 2022-2023

Dr. Eric Lamore
Departamento de Inglés

Phillis Wheatley's Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral as Fluid Text

2023 marks the 250th anniversary of the publication of Phillis Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* (1773), the first book written in English by an individual of African descent, yet much remains to be learned about this Black writer. Scholars classify Wheatley as an early American writer—even though US printers used the 1773 London editions to assemble their editions—but they have not yet examined the numerous editions of *Poems* published in the United States. By studying the US editions in comparison to the earlier British editions, I will complete the most comprehensive study to date on the transatlantic/transnational publishing history of *Poems*. I will map the fluidity of Wheatley's book by identifying the ways in which US printers altered the language, visual layout, and order of poems from the London editions. I will explain how these differences alter the meaning of poems and the British and US reception of Wheatley's writings. This work forms part of my monograph, "Unstable as Water": Early Black Atlantic Literature and Textual Fluidity, in which I utilize methodologies from the fields of book history and print cultures to examine books related or written in English by individuals of African descent that were first printed before 1800.

Dra. Celine Casse
Departamento de Química

Molecular Mechanism of the hormetic effect of a Graviola extract on HGF-1 cell Viability

Graviola is a tropical tree that is common in Puerto Rico. Studies conducted in vitro and in vivo have concluded that Graviola-based extracts have been shown to possess anticancer activity due to their ability to target metabolic pathways that are key to cancer progression. While the antiproliferative properties of Graviola have been established in a large variety of cancer cells, its effect on the metabolism of noncancerous cells has seldom been studied. In vitro studies conducted by our team have evidenced a differential survival behavior in squamous cell carcinoma vs. human gingival fibroblastic cell lines treated for 24

hours with an ethanolic Graviola leaf extract. While the extract exerts toxicity to the cancer cells at all the tested concentrations, it induces a dose-dependent biphasic concentration-dependent/hormetic effect in the human gingival fibroblasts: for concentrations inferior to 10 ug/mL, the extract possesses a proliferative effect, whereas it inhibits cell growth at doses superior to 10 ug/mL. The project for which the release time is requested aims at assessing the molecular mechanisms accounting for the observed hormetic effect of the extracts on the human gingival fibroblast-1 cell line. To achieve this goal we will compare the effect of low vs. high doses of the extract on 2 key markers linked to cell survival fate: ROS accumulation and NADP/NADPH ratio. In parallel to this study, we will complete our work on the anticancer properties of Graviola-coated silver nanoparticles that got interrupted due to hurricane Fiona.

Dr. Sergiy Lysenko
Departamento de Física

Transient nematicity of iron-based superconductors

This research proposal focuses on understanding of fundamental processes of superconductivity and nonequilibrium dynamics of iron-based quantum materials, with the specific focus on investigation of transient nematicity. A variety of powerful femtosecond laser spectroscopy techniques, including state-of-the-art pump-probe ultrafast angle-resolved light scattering with light polarization control, will be applied to study matter far from equilibrium with superior sensitivity and resolution in both space and time to create and characterize novel quantum phases, quasiparticle relaxation and the electron-boson interactions. Methods of ultrafast optics will help to visualize multidimensional dynamics of quantum materials on the timescale of lattice vibrations and yield new insights on the role of electronic correlations in nonequilibrium dynamics of highly entangled states of iron-based materials in their SC state versus material morphology, size and statistical distribution of domains on the mesoscale. Project will be conducted in the in the group of Advanced Materials Dynamics, Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy <https://fisica.uprm.edu/light/>

Dr. Jeffrey Herlihy
Departamento de Humanidades

Land Grant Universities and Cultural Dispossession

The Land-Grant University System was founded in the nineteenth century when the US government began allotting land (or selling it at a discounted rate) to states to establish a public system of higher education. In many cases the land was appropriated through military invasion, and my argument begins: What territory was granted? Why did the US government claim rights over the area? What role do land-grant universities have in cultural dispossession of communities resident in those regions? I argue that cultural dispossession was not a consequence but a motive of the land-grant education system. This argument, then, closely links the university system to governmental cultural imperialism

programs. *Land Grant Universities and Cultural Dispossession* examines how the US government has used higher education system as an instrument of cultural engineering to impose the imperial language (English), an industrialized schedule (5-day work week and 9-5 workday), a system of US holidays (festivals that celebrate presence of the US in that space), among other cultural directives in communities that have a variety of other languages and ways of being. The book argues that one of the principal missions of the Land-Grant system is to sponsor and project a monocultural universalism that functions as a legitimating apparatus for state power (to conscript, create borders, collect taxes, enforce law, and so on), all of which occur subsequent to military invasion or annexation of a geographic area.

Dra. Noemí Maldonado
Departamento de Humanidades

La vigencia y relevancia de prácticas culturales ancestrales en beneficio de prácticas artísticas y pedagógicas actuales (segunda parte)

Dentro de la variedad de áreas en las artes escénicas, se encuentran el teatro de títeres, marionetas, sombras y objetos. Usualmente se asocia con teatro infantil. Sin embargo, aunque en muchos países, este tipo de actividad se realiza para público infantil, no necesariamente esta rama del teatro es exclusiva de este tipo de público. Este tipo de manifestación artístico-escénica ha servido de portavoz a situaciones políticas, sociales, de educación, propaganda, de rituales o ceremonias. Esta práctica no es actual, se remonta a tiempos ancestrales. Por medio del estudio, se ha podido comprobar que en muchas culturas, como por ejemplo en la de China, y la de Indonesia, se realizaban y realizan espectáculos, como el teatro de sombras, con propósitos ceremoniales. No era un espectáculo reservado para el entretenimiento, también se utilizaba a manera de ritual en ceremonias que unían a la comunidad y ayudaban a la solución de conflictos. También eran realizadas en ceremonias funerarias, de iniciaciones, y otras festividades o rituales. En India y en el Sur Este de Asia, por ejemplo, es una tradición que fue pasando de generación en generación. Familias completas se dedicaban a crear las marionetas, montar el espectáculo y llevarlo, como una especie de teatro rodante, a las comunidades. Sin embargo, el rol de “dalang” o maestro titiritero era un privilegio masculino que se pasaba de generación en generación. En la década de 1970, en Indonesia, se permite estudiar para ser “dalang”, fuera de la comunidad. Se crean programas de estudio a nivel de escuela superior y universitario. Lo interesante es que se le permite por primera vez, a las mujeres aspirar a convertirse en “dalang”. En muchos de estos lugares, hay un anhelo de preservación de este tipo de tradiciones. Actualmente se estudian muchas de estas tradiciones a nivel universitario y se les ha permitido a extranjeros especializarse en prácticas ancestrales celosamente reservadas en el pasado para miembros escogidos de la comunidad.

Puerto Rico no está ajeno a este estilo de arte y cuenta con generaciones pasadas y presentes de profesionales en esta área. Por medio de esta descarga, me daré a la tarea de estudiar más a fondo estos y otros temas dentro de la disciplina. Estaré estudiando con profesionales reconocidos a nivel internacional, de este tipo de arte. Me propongo seguir creando cursos de tema especial, en los que se trabaje con la historia cultural ancestral de otros lugares en

el mundo y cómo hemos visto repercusiones en el quehacer teatral en Puerto Rico. Además del componente histórico, organizaré charlas o talleres en los que los estudiantes aprenderán a crear, no solo las marionetas, sino a montar el espectáculo completo.