

Latin American Trans Feminism

Prof. Rocío Pichon-Rivière

Mondays 3pm-5:50pm

Room: HH 344

Graduate Seminar

University of California, Irvine

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Office Hours: by appointment

Physical Office: HH 369

Virtual Office:

<https://uci.zoom.us/j/97773164964>



Photo credit: Dagna Faidutti. "Lohana y Niña."

Course Description

This seminar studies recent vernacular theory produced by femme thinkers (trans and non-trans women) in Latin America and the Latinx diaspora. Vernacular theory is a form of thinking that takes place in the margins of academia, in colloquial if not profane language, often resorting to intermedial and live performance to activate the aesthetics of art forms and reimagine the ways in which social and political experience take place.

The course begins with an archive of recent protest songs and viral transnational performances to visualize the massive dimension of the feminist movement in contemporary Latin America and to listen to the rhythm and voices that compose its sonic landscape.

The syllabus examines as well the intellectual labor of trans thinkers in Chile, Argentina, and Brazil and their ambivalent relations with contemporary feminist movements. In conversation with Black, decolonial, and communitarian feminisms in Latin America, this course interrogates how “trans” and “feminism” can ethically come together, in light of Marlene Wayar’s *trans/travesti* call to not reduce trans theory to an intersectional chapter of feminist theory.

Going beyond the necropolitics of police brutality, colonialism, and femicides that often dictate the urgency of both feminism and trans activism in Latin America, this syllabus focuses on the creative theorizing and transformative narrative practices that reimagine the social on the basis of care and collective liberation. Authors include: Lohana Berkins, Moira Millán, Graciela Huinao, Krudas Cubensi, Renee Goust, Claudia Rodriguez, Camila Sosa Villada, Marlene Wayar, Beatriz Nascimento, Yuderkys Espinosa Miñoso, Julieta Paredes, Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, Victoria Santa Cruz, Linn da Quebrada, Erica Malunguinho, and Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez.

Class Requirements

Readings

Students are expected to complete readings before each class. There are *mandatory* readings marked with a black circle. Additionally, there are *optional* readings for those who might be interested in researching more about each topic.

Weekly Forum Observations

Students are expected to write weekly on the course forum about the readings of each week. The due date for submitting these observations is Sunday night before each class, although Friday is the recommended date to avoid working on a weekend. Observations should be about 400-600 words and address both readings of the day, though they can focus mainly on one of them if needed.

Think of these weekly reading assignments as opportunities to explore questions, thoughts and methodological concerns that can be later expanded on a final essay. It is a chance to experiment with your original ideas, so please refrain from merely offering a summary of the readings and take risks! That said, effective commentaries often begin with a succinct summary of the relevant elements in the primary text that the author (you) will eventually read in their own manner, so feel free to paraphrase such elements with your own voice and/or quote relevant passages to close-read.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all or at least 80% of classes and participate in class discussions. If you know you cannot attend a class for any reason, email the professor in advance. If possible, submit the weekly forum writing assignment for that class as well.

Final Essay

Students will develop an essay for the class, of 12-16 double-spaced pages in MLA or Chicago format, written in Spanish, English or Portuguese. Students are expected to prepare and share an early draft and receive feedback if they wish to take advantage of that opportunity. All students are required to meet in office hours at least once to discuss their final essay topic and preliminary ideas, sometime during the term. Final essays are due on March 20th, 2024.

Schedule

Introduction

1/8/2024

Week 1. **21st-Century Latin American Trans Feminism: Protest Performance Art and Music**

In-Class Screening and Collective Close Reading:

- [Song] "Mi cuerpo es mío" de Krudas Cubensi (Cubans based in Austin, TX) (2014)
- [Song] "Ni una menos" de Rebeca Lane (Guatemala) (2018)
- [Song] "Femigangsta" (2018)

- Performance: *Un violador en tu camino* [Viral Performance] (2019)
 Chile: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB7r6hdo3W4&t=7s>
 Global: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2l6SQqdn2Y8>
 México: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqSZROQyHFw>
- [Song] "Nos queremos vivas" Rebeca Lane (Guatemala) (2021)
- [Song] "Canción sin miedo" versión de Barrileras del 8M (Puerto Rico) (2021)

- Linn da Quebrada - Oração ([music video](#)) (2019) [[English translation](#)]
- Susy Shock, "Hada Trava Madrina" ([music video](#)) (2023)

Additional materials

[Song] "La cumbia feminazi" de Renee Goust (Mexican-American based in New York City) (2017)

- [[Song](#)] Bixa Preta de Linn da Quebrada - (Áudio Oficial)
- [[Song](#)] “Ni una menos” de Chocolate Remix (Argentina) (2017)
- [Essay] Virginie Despentes, [King Kong Theory](#) (2006)
- [Essay] María Pía López, “Modes of Appearing: Language and Theatricality” in [Not One Less: Mourning, Disobedience and Desire](#) (2020)
- [[Song](#)] “Himno Carabineros de Chile” (1:35)

Part I
Trans theory / teoría travesti

1/15/2024

Week 2 . [Additional time to read Camila Sosa Villada’s novel]

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

No class

1/22/2023

Week 3. **Cumbia, copeteo y lágrimas: Camila Sosa Villada** (Córdoba, Argentina) & **Lohana Berkins** (Salta, Argentina)

- Lohana Berkins, [[ensayo breve](#)] “Travestis: una identidad política” (2008)
- Camila Sosa Villada, [[novela](#)] *Las malas* (2019)

Optional readings

- Camila Sosa Villada, video interview [Caja Negra](#) (2021)
- Cole Rizki, “[Latin/x American Trans Studies: Toward a Travesti-Trans Analytic](#)” (2019)
- Lohana Berkins, video entrevista “[Historias debidas: 5](#)” (2009)
- Lohana Berkins, *La gesta del nombre propio* (2006)
- David Harvey, “[The Right to the City](#)” (2008)
- Lohana Berkins, *Cumbia, copeteo y lágrimas* (2012)
- Lohana Berkins, “[Una noche en la comisaría](#)”
- Pierre Bayard, [Cómo hablar de los libros que nos se han leído](#) (2006)

1/29/2024

Week 4. **Furia travesti: Marlene Wayar** (Córdoba, Argentina) y **Claudia Rodríguez** (Chile)

- Claudia Rodríguez, *Ciencia ficción travesti* (2023) [[Selección](#)]
- Marlene Wayar, [Travesti: una teoría lo suficientemente buena](#) (2018) [[Leer pp. 17-26](#)]

Optional readings

- Marlene Wayar, *Furia Travesti: Diccionario de la T a la T* (2021)

Claudia Rodríguez & Marlene Wayar, [video] "[Towards a Theory and Poetry Trava Trans Sudaka](#)" (2017)

Claudia Rodriguez, [Manifiesto horrorista y otros escritos](#) (2015)

2/5/2024

Week 5. **Trans Public Figures in Brazilian Film: Linn Da Quebrada & Laerte Coutinho** (Brazil)

- *Laerte-se* ([film](#)) directed by Lygia Barbosa da Silva & Eliane Brum (2017)
- *Bixa Travesti* ([film](#)) directed by Kiko Goifman & Claudia Priscilla (2018)

Linn da Quebrada - Oração ([music video](#)) (2019) [[English translation](#)]

Optional readings

"Judith Butler debate os problemas de gênero com Linn da Quebrada e Jup do Bairro | Transmissão" [[t.v. show](#)]

Laerte Coutinho, *Manual do Minotauro* (2019)

Erica Malunghinho, [interview](#) "Why Brazil's First Trans State Legislator Built a Refuge for Black Queer and Trans People" (2021)

Dora Silva Santana, "Mais Viva! Reassembling Transness, Blackness, and Feminism" ([essay](#)) (2019)

Marquis Bey, *Black Trans Feminism* (Introduction and Chapter 1) (2022)

Gayle Salamon, *Assuming a Body* (2010)

Maria Léo Fontes Borges Araruna, "O direito à cidade em uma perspectiva travesti: uma breve autoetnografia sobre socialização transfeminina em espaços urbanos" (2017)

[Aparelha Luzia IG](#)

Part II

Decolonial Feminisms

2/12/2024

Week 6. **Black Latin American Women Thinkers in the 1970s: Beatriz Nascimento** (Brazil) and **Victoria Santa Cruz** (Perú)

- *Orí* ([film](#) with texts by and narrated by Beatriz Nascimento) directed by Raquel Gerber (1989)
- Beatriz Nascimento, "[For a \(New\) Existential and Physical Territory](#)" (1992)
- Victoria Santa Cruz, "Me gritaron negra" ([poetry performance](#)) (1978)

Optional readings

Victoria Santa Cruz, interview for *Retratos* ([documentary](#)) (2015)

Beatriz Nascimento, "[O Conceito de Quilombo e a Resistência Cultural Negra](#)" / "[The Concept of Quilombo and Black Cultural Resistance](#)" (1985)

Victoria Santa Cruz, [Ritmo: Eterno organizador](#) (2010)

Marquis Bey, *Black Trans Feminism* (Chapter 3) (2022)

Deleuze & Guattari, [Kafka. Por una literatura menor](#)

2/19/2024

Week 7. [Additional time to read Moira Millán fabulous long novel]

President's Day. No class.

2/26/2024

Week 8. **Mujeres, memoria e historicidad mapuches: Moira Millán** (Chubut, Argentina. Fundadora de la organización Mapuche-Tehuelche 11 de octubre, iniciadora de la Marcha de Mujeres Originarias por el Buen Vivir) y **Graciela Huinao** (Osorno, Chile. Poeta y narradora mapuche-williche)

- Moira Millán, [El tren del olvido](#) (2019) [Novela completa]
- Graciela Huinao, poetry reading and interview with Diego Arévalo Viveros and Jesús Parra (2022) (audio: <https://www.escriitoresindigenas.cl/graciela-huinao>)

Optional readings

[Pupila de mujer, mirada de la tierra](#) (idea de Moira Millán) (2018)

[Entrevista](#) con Moira Millán (2023)

Graciela Huinao, poemas en [Hilando en la memoria](#) (2006)

Graciela Huinao, *Desde el fogón de una casa de putas williche* (2010)

Silvia Federici, [Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation](#), ch. 1: "All the World Needs a Jolt: Social Movements and Political Crisis in Medieval Europe."

Movimiento de Mujeres Indígenas por el Buen Vivir:

<https://www.facebook.com/movimientodemujeresindigenasporelbuenvivir/>

Caminata: #BastaDeTerricidio Mientras no tengamos justicia, para ellos no habrá paz ([video](#))

3/4/2024

Week 9. **Feminismo comunitario: Julieta Paredes** (Bolivia) y **Lorena Cabnal** (feminista comunitaria, indígena maya-xinka, Guatemala Amismaxaj)

- Lorena Cabnal, entrevistas "Red de Sanadoras Ancestrales del feminismo comunitario en Guatemala" ([video](#)) (2016) y "Especial: Territorio, cuerpo, tierra" ([video](#)) (2017)

- Julieta Paredes, [Hilando fino desde el feminismo comunitario](#) (2010)

Optional readings

Lorena Cabnal, "[Acercamiento a la construcción de la propuesta de pensamiento epistémico de las mujeres indígenas feministas comunitarias de Abya Yala](#)" (2010)

Julieta Paredes, Hilando fino desde el feminismo comunitario ([performance](#)) (2010)

Verónica Gago, "Cuerpo-territorio: el cuerpo como campo de batalla," [La potencia feminista. O el deseo de cambiarlo todo](#) (2019).

Lorena Cabnal, otras entrevistas: <https://marxfemconference.com/speakers/lorena-cabnal/>

3/11/2024

Week 10. **Feminismo Decolonial Crítico: Yuderkis Espinosa Miñoso** (República Dominicana)

Yuderkis Espinosa Miñoso, *De por qué es necesario un feminismo decolonial* (2022)

[following selection:]

- "[El futuro ya fue: una crítica a la idea de progreso en las narrativas de liberación sexo-genéricas y queer indentitarias de Abya Yala](#)"
- [Epílogo: "Una poética de la resistencia afrocaribeña": Entrevista de Katia Sepúlveda a Yuderkis Espinosa Miñoso](#)

Optional Readings

Maria Lugones, "[Toward a Decolonial Feminism](#)" (2010)

Anibal Quijano, "[Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism, and Latin America](#)"

Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, "[Ch'ixinakax utxiwa. Una reflexión sobre prácticas y discursos descolonizadores](#)" (2010)

Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez, [For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts: A Love Letter to Women of Color](#)

Yuderkis Espinosa Miñoso, [Escritos de una lesbiana oscura](#) (2007)

Yuderkis Espinosa Miñoso, "El club de las feministas" mujeres pobres no entran: FEMINISMO DECOLONIAL [[video entrevista](#)]

Ochy Curiel, "Las Claves de Ochy Curiel. Feminismo decolonial." [[video entrevista](#)]

Final Essay Due on March 20th, 2024.

Additional Recommended Readings

Trans Studies

- [Trans Studies Keywords](#)
- C. Riley Snorton, [Black on Both Sides](#)
- Snorton, C. Riley. 2009. "'A New Hope': The Psychic Life of Passing." *Hypatia* 24, no. 3: 77–92.
- Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes, "[Gay Shame, Latina- and Latino-style: A Critique of White Queer Performativity](#)"
- Malú Machuca Rose, "[Giuseppe Campuzano's Afterlife: Towards a Travesti Methodology for Critique, Care, and Radical Resistance](#)"
- Effy Beth, [Que el mundo tiemble](#)
- Film [Mía](#) (2011) de Javier Van de Couter
- (autores varias) [Tejiendo de otro modo: Feminismo, epistemología y apuestas descoloniales en Abya Yala](#)
- Puar, *The Right to Maim*, chapter 1: "[Bodies with New Organs: Becoming Trans, Becoming Disabled](#)" [full book available online via UCI Library]
- Pichon-Rivière, "[Nudes and Naked Souls: Critical Phenomenology of Skin Disclosure and Hemispheric Trans Theory](#)"

Black Feminism

- Patricia Hill Collins, [Black Feminist Thought](#)
- Jabardo (ed.), [Feminismos negros, una antología](#)
- Barbara Christian, "[The Race for Theory](#)"
- Finch, "[Black Feminism and the Practice of Care](#)"

On Authorship

- Barthes, "[La muerte del autor](#)"
- Foucault, "[What is an author?](#)"
- ————, "[¿Qué es un autor?](#)"
- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "[Can the Subaltern Speak?](#)"
- ————, "[¿Puede hablar el subalterno?](#)"
- [Who comes after the subject?](#)

On Writing

- Fish, [How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One](#)
- Hayot, [The Elements of Academic Style](#)

On Performance Theory

Schechner, [Performance Theory](#)