

# Rachel Afi Quinn

## Curriculum Vitae

Comparative Cultural Studies | Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies

University of Houston

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2015- Assistant Professor, Joint Appointment in Comparative Cultural Studies and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston

2014-15 Visiting Faculty Fellow in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston

2012-14 Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Houston

### EDUCATION

2012 Ph.D., American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI  
Graduate Certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

2008 M.A., American Culture, University of Michigan  
U-M Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Graduate Teacher Certificate

1999 B.A., African American Studies, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT  
Concentration in Cultural Anthropology

### PRIMARY RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Women of color feminist theory; transnational feminist theory; cultural studies; mixed race; feminist ethnography; African diaspora film and visual culture; social media and globalization; immigrant identity and experience; digital humanities and public scholarship.

### BOOK PROJECT

2021 *Being La Dominicana: Race and Identity in the Visual Culture of Santo Domingo*. Dissident Feminisms Series, University of Illinois Press. Forthcoming, May.

### PUBLICATIONS - PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

2022 "Xiomara Fortuna: Afro-Dominican Cultural Producer" in *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. Forthcoming.

2021 "Magaly Pineda's Feminist 'Agenda Digital': A Movement for Girls Education in Tech in the Dominican Republic" *Caribbean Review of Gender Studies*. Special Issue: Gender and the Media. Forthcoming, June.

2019 "Spinning the Zoetrope: Visualizing the Mixed-Race Body of Dominican Actress" *Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture*. (Vol. 1. No. 3), 44-59.

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2018 “Dominican Pride and Shame: Gender, Race and LGBT Activism in Santo Domingo” to *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism*. 56 (Vol. 22, No. 2), 128-143.

2015 ““No tienes que entenderlo, solo respétalo”: Xiomara Fortuna, Racism, Feminism and Other Forces in the Dominican Republic” in *The Black Scholar* (Vol. 45, No. 3), 54-66.

## **PUBLICATIONS - EDITED COLLECTIONS**

2016 “El rostro negro dominicano y la Quisqueya queer de Rita Indiana Hernández [Dominican Blackface and the Queer Quisqueya of Rita Indiana Hernández]” in *Nuestro Caribe: Poder, Raza y Postnacionalismos para dinamitar el archipiélago LGBTQ*, ed. Mabel Cuesta. Puerto Rico: Editorial Isla Negra, 254-267.

2015 “This Bridge Called the Internet: Black Lesbian Feminist Organizing in Santo Domingo” in *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the African Diaspora*, eds. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Cheryl R. Rodriguez, and Dzodzi Tsikata. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 25-44.

2010 “The Combination of the Two” in *Other Tongues: Mixed Race Women Speak Out*, eds. Adebe DeRango-Adem and Andrea Thompson. Toronto, ON: Inanna Publications, 134-137.

## **PUBLICATIONS – REVIEW ESSAYS**

2016 “Transgressive Bodies, Caribbean Sexualities, and Queer Feminisms”: Review Essay of Rosamond S. King, *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* (2014, University Press of Florida) and Angelique V. Nixon, *Resisting Paradise: Tourism, Diaspora, and Sexuality in Caribbean Culture* (2015, University of Mississippi Press), co-authored with Keith McNeal for special issue of *Social and Economic Studies*, on Caribbean Sexualities. Guest Editor Kamala Kempadoo. December (Vol. 65, No. 4.), 131-141.

2015 “Unencumbered”: Review Essay of Trimiko Melacon, *Unbought and Unbossed: Transgressive Black Women, Sexuality and Representation*, for *Women's Review of Books*, June/July, 27-28.

## **PUBLICATIONS – ONLINE**

2020 “SAYHU Feminist Community-Building in the Time of Covid-19” SAYHU Blog. April 24

2019 “In Praise of the Lorgian Margin” on *Ethnic Studies Rise* eds. Raj Chetty and Katerina Gonzalez Seligmann. December 26.

2019 “Anti-Blackness in Our Communities: A Conversation with SAYHU” Desis for Progress. April 26.

2014 “La Caña...An Interview with Xiomara Fortuna” Cimarrón Spirit Blog. June 8.

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## DOCUMENTARY FILM

2015 *Writer/Producer*, Documentary film *Cimarrón Spirit*. Dir. Rubén Durán, with Donna Pinnick, Michael Brims. Perf. Xiomara Fortuna, Dagoberto O. Tejeda and Carlos E. Deive. Santo Domingo, DR & Houston, TX: Cab 95 Films in collaboration with Cosmic Light Productions.

## ARTICLE MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

*Sinister Wisdom* Response to *Conditions: a magazine of writing for women with an emphasis on writing by lesbians*. Eds. Cheryl Clarke, Julie Enszer, Shromona Mandal. Request for submission by August 24. 2021.

“Mixed Race Aesthetics and Exceptionalism in MAVIN Magazine” to be submitted to *Lateral Journal*. September.

“On Building a Transnational Feminist South Asian Collective in the South” to be submitted to *Feminist Formations*.

“My Body the Lesson”: Black Female Subjectivities in Danzy Senna’s *Symptomatic* and Nell Larsen’s *Passing*. Ready for Revision.

## GRANTS

2017-20 Simmons Foundation Civic & Community Grant for South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU) collective for Annual Summer Institutes, Summit and Programming (\$90,000)

2020 Digital Research Commons Seed Grant, University of Houston (\$1600)

2019 Women of Color Coalition Stimulus Grant, University of Houston (\$4900)

2019 CLASS Research Progress Grant, University of Houston (\$3950)

2018 Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Travel Grant, University of Houston (\$500)

2018 Provost’s Travel Fund, University of Houston (\$1200)

2017 Seed Grant from the Resonance Network of the Novo Foundation (\$7000)

## FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

2019 The New York Public Library Short-Term Research Fellowship, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

2018 Woodrow Wilson Junior Faculty Career Enhancement Year-Long Fellowship

2018 Ross M. Lence Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Houston

2017 NCFDD Faculty Success Program & Scholarship, University of Houston

2017 LGBTQ Scholars of Color National Conference, CUNY Graduate Center

2014 Thinking Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, Ohio State University

2013 Women of Color Leadership Program, National Women’s Studies Association

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## INVITED TALKS

2020 *Co-Presenter*. “Love and Solidarity in the Time of Corona: Desi Feministas Envisioning Change Through Staying Engaged” with Eesha Pandit, Zoom Session organized by Dr. Shreerekha Subramanian and Fawzia Afzal-Khan, May 22.

2019 “Organizing Transnational Feminist Community: Black Feminism & South Asian Solidarities in Houston, Texas” Sonoma State University Feminist Lecture Series, Sonoma, CA, November 18.

2019 “Black To The Future: Reflecting On African American Futures” Closing Roundtable. Reflecting Black Symposium, University of Houston Downtown, October 24.

2019 “The Future of Dominican Studies,” Plenary. Global *Dominicanidades*: New Approaches to Dominican Studies in the 21st Century, Afro-Latin American Research Institute at Harvard University, May 23.

2018 “Seeing Afro-Dominicanidad in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*,” Symposium on Art and Literature in Contemporary Dominican Republic, Haiti, and their Diasporas, The Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center CUNY, New York City, March 15.

2018 “Dominican Republic and Afro-Dominican Culture,” Lecture and discussion of *Cimarrón Spirit* (2015). US Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD, March 1.

2017 “Muñecas Sin Rostros: Writing about Dominican Women’s Transnational Identities in Santo Domingo,” Rice University Department of Anthropology, Houston, TX, March 21.

2015 “Sites of Identity: Vernacular Images and Transnational *Dominicanidad*,” Keynote. Coastal Plains Graduate Liberal Arts Conference, University of Houston, April 10-11.

2013 “Dominican Women’s Identities and Transnational Blackness in Santo Domingo.” Keynote. First Annual Graduate Certificate Awards Ceremony, Africana Studies Program, University of Texas A&M, September 26.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019 “South to South: Transnational Feminist Collectivity from South Asia to the Southern US,” roundtable with South Asian Youth in Houston Unites (SAYHU), National Women’s Studies Association annual conference, San Francisco, CA, November 16.

2019 *Moderator*, “Mapping Affective Geographies in Black Women’s Writing” National Women’s Studies Association conference, San Francisco, CA. November 16.

2018 “Dominicana-Dominicana: Visualizing Contemporary Dominican Women’s Lives in Santo Domingo,” Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Retreat. Tampa, FL, August 14.

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2018 “The (S)Kin You’re In: Dominican Women Theorizing Experiences of Hierarchies of Color” MESEA Conference. University of Graz, Austria. June 1.

2017 *Organizer & Participant*, “Black Feminisms and South Asian Feminisms: In Solidarity, In Collaboration,” National Women’s Studies Association conference, Baltimore, MD, November 16.

2017 *Co-Organize & Participant*, “Dominican Whiteness, Mixed Race and Queer Masculinity in Rita Indiana Hernández’s Music Video ‘El Juidero,’” National Women’s Studies Association, Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 18.

2016 “Minerva Mirabel and the Transnationally Queered Body of Michelle Rodriguez in *Trópico de Sangre* (2010),” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, Port Au Prince, Haiti, June 5-11.

2016 “The Camera Obscura and Dominican Women’s Bodies in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*.” Black Women’s Conference, African American Studies, University of Houston, March 4.

2016 “Seeing Dominican Identity in Color: The Photographic Image of Gendered Oppression in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*,” Tropical Exposures: Photography, Film, and Visual Culture in a Caribbean Frame Conference, Tulane University, March 10-12.

2015 “Telling Stories: Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Narratives in the Academy.” Imagining America, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, October 2.

2015 “Coloring In: The Afro-Dominicana Re-Presentation of La Casa De Bernarda Alba.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Liverpool, UK, June 24-28.

2015 “Dominican Mixed Race & Anti-Blackness in Vernacular Images Online.” Caribbean Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, May 25-29.

2014 “Sites of Identity: Facebook, Vernacular Images and Transnational *Dominicanidad*.” Thinking Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute, Ohio State University, July 7-11.

2013 “Afro-What?: Re-Reading Blackness in Diaspora and Narratives of Mixed Race.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, March 13-16.

2012 “Facebook, BBs and *Plátanos*: Dominican Women’s Transnational Present in Santo Domingo.” American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18.

2012 “Public Scholarship and New Technologies.” With Roxana Galusca, Future of Minority Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, September 14-15.

2011 “The Uses of Audre Lorde: Dominican Women and Black Feminist Scholarship.” Collegium for African American Research Conference, Paris, France, April 6-9.

2011 “Brown, Black and Blue?: Zoe Saldaña and the Transnational Remixing of Dominican Women’s Representations.” Critical Ethnic Studies and the Future of Genocide Conference, University of California, Riverside, March 10-12.

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2008 "Shifting Black Female Subjectivity in Danzy Senna's *Sympomatic*." Collegium for African American Research Conference, Málaga, Spain, December 17-20.

## CAMPUS RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

2016 "Magaly Pineda's Feminist 'Agenda Digital': A Movement for Girls Education in Tech in the Dominican Republic" Comparative Cultural Studies Lecture Series, October 28.

2016 "The Camera Obscura and Dominican Women's Bodies in *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*," African American Studies Black Women's Conference, March 4.

2013 "The Lure of Racial Ambiguity." Department of Comparative Cultural Studies Lecture University of Houston, March 21.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2019 *Fellowship Selection Committee Member*, Center for Art & Social Engagement, UH Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts and Project Row Houses.

2019 *Panel Moderator*, Hispanic Caribbean Intersections: Race, Sexuality and Cultural Production Symposium, Panel 2: Dominican Republic, University of Houston, November 4.

2019 *Committee Member*, Joint Hire in Sociology and Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies.

2018 *Faculty Supervisor*, UH Center for Public History Internship with SAYHU. Spring/Summer.

2017 *Committee Member*, Dean's Search for Chair of the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies.

2017 *Panel Moderator & Organizer*, "South Asian Feminist Praxis in Houston," at The National Women's Conference: Taking 1977 into the Twenty-First Century, November 17.

2017 *Faculty Mentor*, Graduate International Immigration Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology.

2017 *Panel Moderator*, "Non-Conformist and Rebellious Women Writers" US Latinos Recovery Project 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, UH Hilton, February 10.

2016- *Advisory Council Member*, Center for Art and Social Engagement, University of Houston.

2016 *Organizer*, John P. McGovern Endowed Lecture in Family, Health, and Human Values: Mark Anthony Neal, "Negotiating Black Masculinity in America." UC Theater, October 27.

2016 *Organizer & Panelist*, Screening of documentary film *Cimarron Spirit* (2015) and panel discussion with Xiomara Fortuna, Silvio Torres-Saillant, Keith McNeal, February 9.

2015 *Panelist*, #BlackWomensLivesMatter Panel, Friends of Women's Studies Barbara Karkabi Living Archives Series, University of Houston, September 9.

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2015 *Organizer*, “Decolonizing the Archive: Chicana por mi Raza and the Challenge of Digital Humanities.” María Cotera lecture, and panel discussion with Lisa Cruces, Carolina Villaroel and Patricia Hernandez, Rockwell Pavilion, March 9.

2015-17 *Co-Organizer*, Caribbean Studies Interest Group and Film Series.

2014 *Organizer*, “#Ferguson: A UH Community Conversation” with African American Studies, Black Student Union, Ankh Maat Wedjau Honor Society and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, September 17.

2014 *Organizer*, “South Asia to Houston: Conversations and Connections Around Gender-Based Violence” colloquium with Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Women’s Resource Center, and India Studies, February 21.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP**

2020 *Blind Reviewer*, American Anthropologist. Wiley Online Library. July 5.

2019- *Faculty Affiliate*, Institute for Research on Women and Gender at University of Houston

2019- *Executive Board Member*, Sexuality, Gender & Policy (SGP), Wiley Online Library.

2018 *Blind Reviewer*, Feminist Review. Palgrave MacMillan. April-May.

2017 *Co-Organizer*, Future of Minority Studies Symposium with Chandra Mohanty and Beverly Guy-Sheftall. Baltimore, MD. November 15.

2016 *Mentor*, NWSA Graduate Student Mentoring Project, Montreal, November 12.

2015-17 *Co-chair*, Transnational Feminisms Caucus, National Women’s Studies Association.

2016 *Discussant*, “Hemispheric Mobility: Black Art and Politics in the Americas,” Latin American Studies Association Conference, New York, May 27-30.

2015 *Moderator*, “Affective Networks, Political Organizing & Embodiment Online,” National Women’s Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15.

2015 *Blind Reviewer*, Mitologías Hoy. Revista de Pensamiento, Crítica y Estudios Literarios Latino-Americanos. Department of Spanish Philology, Autonomous University of Barcelona. January-September.

2014 *Moderator*, “Technologizing Transnationalism,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 13-16.

## **OTHER COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

2019- *Coordinator & Member*, Black LGBTQI+ Migrant Project-Houston (BLMP-HOU)

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2016- *Founding Member & Co-Facilitator*, South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), Summer Institute for College Students. Funded by grants from Resonance: Move to End Violence and the Simmons Foundation.

2018 *Member*, 50 Playwrights Project Advisory Council

2012- *Content Moderator*, UH Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and Friends of Women's Studies Facebook Page

2018 *Co-Coordinator*, First Regional Social Justice Summit for South Asian Youth in Houston Unite (SAYHU), Art League Houston, September 21-23.

2016-18 *Education & Outreach Committee Member*, Houston GLBT Political Caucus

2012-16 *Media Outreach & Website Development*, for documentary film *Cimarrón Spirit* (2015), on Afro-Dominican maroon culture, Houston and Dominican Republic.

2015 *Discussant*, “Tongue Splint: Scaffolding. Speech and Space” CounterCurrents Festival, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, curator Carrie Schneider, Houston, April 15.

2011 *Co-Coordinator*, Inaugural Black Women's Life Balance and Wellness Conference, Atlanta University Center, GA, July 15-17.

2009 *Panel Chair*, “Trans-Atlantic Migrations,” Reframing the Color Line: Race and the Visual Culture of the Atlantic World symposium, University of Michigan.

2009 *Co-Organizer*, Transnational Feminist Theory Reading Group, University of Michigan.

2008 *Co-Chair*, “Bodies in Motion: Diaspora, Difference and Discursive Performances” Conference, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, and Black Humanities Collective, University of Michigan.

2008 *Organizer*, Filmmaker Charles Burnett lecture and screening of *Killer of Sheep* (1977), Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI, January 27-28.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

2020- The Dark Room Collective

2012- National Women's Studies Association

2018 The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA)

2015-17 Caribbean Studies Association

2007-12 American Studies Association