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## Public Lectures

### 1) *Terripelagoes: Literature and Activism in Puerto Rico and Guam*

Using as a point of departure Craig Santos Perez's notion of terripelago (2015), I analyze Culebra's contemporary military imaginary in the visual work of Jorge Acevedo Rivera and Craig Santos-Pérez notion of territoriality in his poetry book series *From Unincorporated Territory*. Both Acevedo Rivera and Santos Pérez are activists who inform their work through the intersection of their own intracolonial migrations within different possessions of the United States located in the Caribbean, the continental U.S. and the Pacific. The presentation concludes with a discussion of the ways in which activism is crucial in contemporary insular overseas colonies.

### 2. *Archipelagic Poetics in Caribbean Literatures*

In this lecture I present the concept of archipelagic studies and then use two short stories: "The Founders" by Lourdes Casal (Cuba) and Tiphonie Yanique's "The Bridge Stories" (U.S. Virgin Islands) as literary examples of archipelagic poetics. The two short stories are easy to read in undergraduate classes and allow for a very lively presentation that includes undergraduate students and faculty.

### 3. *Trans Colonial Desires: Race, Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Caribbean and Latin American Literature*

How are gender, sexuality, and the notion of the non-binary important in the work of several Caribbean and Latin American writers, performers and artists? Using María Lugones foundational essay "Coloniality of Gender" and Trans Studies as a point of departure, in this presentation I discuss works by Luis Negrón (Puerto Rico), Lukas Avedaño (Mexico) and Michelle Cliff (Jamaica) to analyze how race, gender and sexuality are included in Latin American and Caribbean arts and literature.

## Class Visits / Student Interactions /Workshops

1. *People and Their Stories*: Storytelling and Close Reading: Students bring their favorite poems and short stories and share them in class and we discuss how close reading is a vital skill that we use in everyday life.
2. *Humanistic Methods*: What is the object of study of literature and what are its methods? What is close-reading and how can we use discursive analysis in research projects or courses beyond the Humanities?
3. “*We were never meant to survive*”: How to survive college as a first generation or minority student.
4. *Humanities and Ethnic Studies*: How to study race and ethnicity in literature and art. What are the advantages of engaging in interdisciplinary studies in the Humanities?
5. *Transcendental Gender*: What is Trans Studies and how does it enrich Gender and Sexuality Studies? What is gender neutral and inclusive language and how can it transform the world?
6. *World Poetics*: Comparative literature in poems. We read poems in different languages and from different cultural backgrounds and explore how to propose a comparative project together.