

Ruben Luciano Jr.

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Research Statement: Drawing from Queer Theory and archival discourse, my research explores Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. I am particularly interested in Trujillo's interactions with his male-dominated inner circle and how distinctions between (normative) masculinity and (libidinous) hypermasculinity were made. In other words, I want to investigate how masculinity as a conventional construct of a man as a father, husband, and provider were juxtaposed to the notion of the hypermasculinized *tiguere*, the overly sexualized Dominican male who was frequently seen as a sly and covetous character. My aim is to use Queer Theory not only to uncover, if possible, homosexual interactions within Trujillo's Dominican Republic, but to also examine how queer bodies (i.e. women who became heads of households, men who never married, cuckolded men, etc.) feature in the archive and how their daily lives were intersected by laws and societal dictates, cultural or otherwise.

Education

Ph.D. candidate, History, Tulane University, 2017-present

Concentrations: History, Gender, Sexuality

Selected Courses: LAST-6950: Gender & Violence in Latin America; HISC-6910: Women & Gender in India; GESS-6940: Gender & Sexuality Theory I

Dissertation: *Queering the Trujillato: Archiving Homosociality and Homosexual Desire*

Dissertation Advisors: Elizabeth Manley, Ph.D., Justin Wolfe, Ph.D.

Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies, in progress

M.S., Health Communication, Northwestern University, 2017

M.A., Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2016

Concentrations: History, Sociology

Selected Courses: SOCI 30107: Sociology of Human Sexuality

Thesis: *The Immaculate Deception of Beauty and Fear: The Specter of Race, Power, and General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's Contrasting Public Image of Populism and Repression in the Dominican Republic From 1930 to 1961*

Thesis Advisor: Dain Borges, Ph.D.

B.A., Liberal Studies, Azusa Pacific University, 2014

Teaching and Research Experience

University of Chicago (November 2015-April 2016): Research Assistant for Professor Jonathan Levy

Tulane University (January-May 2018): Teacher's Assistant for Professor Yigit Akin's "Modern Middle East" course

Tulane University (August-December 2018): Teacher's Assistant for Professor Felipe Cruz's "The History of Modern Brazil"

Description: Graded students' book reviews and midterm examinations; maintained attendance sheets for each class; met with students on a one-on-one basis to discuss upcoming assignments and academic performance

Tulane University (January-May 2019): Co-Grader for Professors Red Tremmel's and Krystal Cleary's "Sex, Power, and Culture" course

Description: Graded journals, quizzes, midterms, and Title IX assignments. Facilitated in-class discussion among students. Answered students' queries concerning assignments and met with students after class or during office hours. Closely worked with Professors Tremmel and Cleary and my co-grader, Dena Lagomarsino, to update syllabus, as required, and to make certain that all course guidelines were being followed.

Conference Presentations

- Presented my University of Chicago master's thesis entitled "The Immaculate Deception of Beauty and Fear: The Specter of Race, Power, and General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo's Contrasting Public Image of Populism and Repression in the Dominican Republic From 1930 to 1961"—EATHR Conference, June 2016.
- Presented my future dissertation research on examining the *Trujillato* through queer theory at the LAGO Conference at Tulane University on February 24, 2018.
- Presenter at the Stone Center Symposium, Tulane University, on October 20, 2018. My presentation was entitled "*Queering* the Trujillato: A Reexamination of Masculinities, Femininities, and Racial Categories in the Dominican Republic from 1930-1961."
- Presenter at the Dominican Studies Association (DSA) Conference at Hostos Community College, Bronx, New York, on November 16, 2018. My presentation was entitled: "(Hyper) Masculinities and Queerness in Trujillo's Dominican Republic (1930-1961)."
- Presenter at the Ida B. Wells Conference at the University of Memphis, on April 6, 2019. My presentation was entitled: "Queered Descendants of the African Diaspora in Jamaica and Haiti."

Languages

- Spanish (Professional Proficiency)
- Portuguese (Elementary)

References

Aleschia Hyde, JD Candidate, Northwestern Law School

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Christine Ohenewah, Quantitative Hedge Fund Analyst

Contact: (507) 779-2140; ohenewah.ce@gmail.com

Kathy Orona, Child Development Counselor

Contact: (909) 680-6010; kathyorona2005@yahoo.com