

GABRIEL ALEJANDRO TORRES COLÓN

Department of Anthropology and American Studies Program
Vanderbilt University
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1. EDUCATION

2000-2008 M.A. and Ph.D. in Anthropology

Concentration in Ethnology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
Dissertation: *Of Muslim Persuasion: The Politics of Convivencia in Ceuta, Spain*

1996-2000 B.A. in Political Anthropology

University of Maryland, College Park, MD
Senior Thesis: *Caribbean Transnational Migration: A Political Anthropological Perspective*

2. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor (2019-present)

Department of Anthropology

Assistant Director (2016-present)

American Studies Program

Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN

Senior Lecturer and Assistant Director (2016-2019)

American Studies Program

Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN

Special Professional Faculty and Director of Undergraduate Studies (2012-2016)

Department of Anthropology, Assistant Professional Faculty

University of Notre Dame, IN

Visiting Assistant Professor (2011-2012)

Interim Director (2009-2010)

Anthropology Program, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

Postdoctoral Fellow (2008-2009, 2010-2011)

Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and Anthropology Program

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

3. COMMUNITY/APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY WORK

Board Member and Program Officer (2010-present)

St. James Athletic Center, Elkhart IN

4. RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Anthropology. Anthropology of Race. Anthropological Theory. History of Anthropology. Natural Disasters and Neoliberalism. Philosophical Pragmatism/Phenomenology. Anthropology of Sports (Boxing/Injury/Political Economy). Latinidad. Blackness in the Americas. Anglophone Caribbean. Puerto Rico. United States. Spain/Northern Africa.

5. RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

5a. Extramural Research Grants

Awarded

“The Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem: Reconceptualizing STEM Innovation, Teaching, and Learning” (2016, Co-PI) *National Science Foundation, Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Education and Human Resources*. \$273,520 * I withdrew from the project after moving to Vanderbilt from Notre Dame.

“Convivencia, Politics, and Borders in Ceuta, Spain” (2005)
(PI) *National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant*. \$9,466

5b. Intramural Research Grants

“The Political Economy of Hope: B Side Boxers in the United States” (2018)
(PI) *Sports and Society Micro-Grant Program, Vanderbilt University* (\$4,936)

“Race, Genetic Ancestry, and Discourses of Belonging in Puerto Rico” (2017)
(Co-PI) *Education, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Grant, Vanderbilt University* (\$6,000)

“Visual Anthropology: *Django Unchained* (2012) in the North American Racial Imaginary” (2012)
(PI) *Teaching Beyond the Classroom, College of Arts & Letters, University of Notre Dame* (\$300)

5c. Applied Anthropology, NGO Grants

“Program and Facility Improvement Grant Request for the St. James Athletic Center”
5/3 Bank Charitable Donations Grants (\$25,000)

“Youth Development in the St. James Athletic Center” (2015)
Good Neighbor Grant, Elkhart County Community Foundation (\$5,000)

5d. Awards

“Gabriel W. Lasker Award” (2015) for the most significant yearly contribution to the journal *Human Biology*. Awarded for “Racial Experience as an Alternative Operationalization of Race,” co-authored with Jada Benn Torres.

6. PUBLICATIONS

6a. Books (published or accepted for publication)

Genetic Ancestry: Our Stories, Our Pasts

G.A. Torres Colón and Jada Benn Torres. Routledge Press. Expected publication: March, 2020.

6b. Refereed Articles

“Racial Experience as Bioculturally Embodied Difference and Political Possibilities for Resisting Racism”
G.A. Torres Colón (2018) *The Pluralist*, Vol. 13(1).

“¿Afrocaribeños y originarios? Genética, memoria y presencia en los pueblos originarios caribeños”
Torres Colón, G.A. and Jada Benn-Torres. (2017) *Anales del Caribe*. Centros de Estudios del Caribe, Casa de las Américas, Habana, Cuba. September issue. (Effort: 50%, content and manuscript preparation.)

“Concussions and Risk within Cultural Contexts of Play”

Torres Colón, G.A., S. Smith, and J. Fucillo. (2016) *Qualitative Health Research*, Vol.27 (7): 1077-1089.
(Effort: 90%, data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.)

“Towards a Pragmatist Anthropology: Lessons from the Boas/Dewey Intellectual Milieu”

Hobbs, C. and **G.A. Torres Colón**. (2016) *The Pluralist*, Vol 11 (1): 126-135.
(Effort: 60%, archival research, content and manuscript preparation.)

"Genetic Diversity in the Lesser Antilles and Its Implications for the Settlement of the Caribbean Basin"

Torres, J.B., M.G. Vilar, **G.A. Torres Colón**, J. B. Gaieski, R.B. Hernandez, Z.E. Browne, M. Stevenson, W. Walters, T.G. Schurr, and Genographic Consortium. *PloS one* 10, no. 10 (2015): e0139192.
(Effort: 5-10%, field research, data collection)

“Operationalizing Race, Resisting Racism: Bridging Biological, Political, and Lived Experiences”

Torres Colón, G.A. and Jada Benn-Torres. (2015) *Human Biology*, Vol. 87(4): 306-312.
(Effort: 50%, content and manuscript preparation.)

“The Intertwining of Culture and Nature: Franz Boas, John Dewey, and Deweyan Strands of American Anthropology”

Hobbs, C. and **G.A. Torres Colón**. (2015) *Journal of the History of Ideas*. Vol. 76 (1): 139-162.
(Effort: 60%, archival research, content and manuscript preparation.)

6c. Refereed Book Chapters

“Meaningful Play, Meaningful Pain: Traumatic Brain Injuries in Youth Sports”

G.A. Torres Colón and Sharia Smith (*forthcoming*, 2019) In *Purposeful Pain: The Embodiment of Intentional Suffering*. Susan Sheridan and Lesley Gregoricka, eds. New York: Springer Publishing.
(Effort: 90%, data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation.)

“Hope, Exploitation, and the Meaning of Fight: Boxing as a Form of Social Resistance”

G.A. Torres Colón (*forthcoming*, 2018) In *The “Liberating Sport: Latinx and Latin American Perspectives*. Roberto Sirvent and Rebecca Chabot, eds.

“Parties of Muslim Persuasion and the Left in Ceuta, Spain.”

G.A. Torres Colón (2008). In *Migration and Activism in Europe since 1945*, Wendy Pojmann, ed. Pp. 111-128. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

6c. Submitted and Under Review

“Boxing Styles, Racial Experience, and Theories of Embodied Difference in Cultural Anthropology”

Torres Colón, G.A. Resubmitted for second round of review, *American Ethnologist*.

“Racial Experience and Knowing the Political in Liberal Democracies”

Torres Colón, G.A. Under review. Accepted pending revision, *Ethnos*.

“Race, Democracy, and the Limits Anti-Racist Public Policy”

G.A. Torres Colón and Hobbs. Submitted to *Social Theory and Practice*, October 2020.

6d. Other Publications

“Olympic Trials and Cultural Configurations: Notes from a Midwest Boxing Gym”

G.A. Torres Colón (2012) *Anthropology News Online*, Summer Online Edition

7. INVITED LECTURES

“Sports as Meaningful Play: Bodies and Minds at Risk for the Love of the Game.”

Torres Colón, G.A. (February 8, 2016) Berkley City College.

“Portrayals of Black Female Sexuality, from Saartjie Baartman to Beyonce.”

Torres Colón, G.A. (February 5, 2015) *NAACP-Notre Dame Invited Lecture Series*. Notre Dame, IN.

8. CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Understanding Race, Resisting Racism: Racial Experience as Bioculturally Embodied Difference and Political Possibilities”

G.A. Torres. (March 2017); Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy; Birmingham, AL.

“This Anthropology Thing Has Always Been about Race: An Intellectual Historical Critique of Anthropology’s Subject Matter”

Torres Colón, G.A. (November 2016) American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

“Meaningful Play, Meaningful Pain: Traumatic Brain Injuries in Youth Sports”

Torres Colón, G.A. and S. Smith (November 2015) *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*; Denver, CO.

“Genética, memoria, y presencia africana en pueblos originarios caribeños”

Torres Colón, G.A. and Jada Benn Torres (May 2015) *Centro de Estudios del Caribe*, Casa de las Américas, La Habana, Cuba.

“Operationalizing Race, Resisting Racism: bridging biological, political, and lived experiences”

Torres Colón, G.A. and Jada Benn Torres (April 2015) *American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting*, St. Louis, Missouri.

“The Social Life of Concussions: Sports Head Injuries in Cultural Context”

Torres Colón, G.A., S. Smith, and J. Fucillo. (March 2014); *Society for Applied Anthropology*, Albuquerque, NM.

“The Intertwining of Culture and Nature: Boas, Dewey, and the Deweyan Strands of American Anthropology”

Hobbs, Charles A. and **G.A. Torres.** (March 2012); 38th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy; New York City, NY.

“Ethnographic Hooks: Articulations of Race, Gender, and Nationality in Boxing Gyms”

Torres Colón, G.A. (November 2011); *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*; Montreal, Québec, Canada

“Knowing the Political” in a European/African Borderland”

Torres Colón, G.A. (October 2010) *Muslims and Political Participation in Europe*; Centre for European Islamic Thought/University of Copenhagen; Copenhagen, Denmark.

“Race, Sexuality, and the Aesthetics of Diversity”

Torres Colón, G.A. (May 2010) *The Human Condition Series 3rd International, Interdisciplinary Conference: EROS*; Nipissing University, Muskoka Campus, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada.

“Ethnic, Racial, and Sexual Transgressions and the Aesthetics of Diversity”

Torres Colón, G.A. (December 2009) *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*; Philadelphia, PA.

9. ORGANIZED AND CHAIRED PANELS

“Latinx Neoliberalism” (November 2018) Chair, Association of American Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta

“Embodied Difference and Aesthetic Experience: Race, Culture, and the Expressive Grammar of Everyday Life” (November 2017) Co-organizer, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*, Minneapolis

“The End/s of Beauty: Aesthetics, Ontology, and Embodiment in Ethnographic Inquiry”

(December 2009) Co-organizer, *American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting*; Philadelphia, PA

10. CLASSES TAUGHT

10a. Saint Mary’s College

- ANTH 141: Peoples of the World (5 times)
- ANTH 253: Survey I: Culture and Language (3 times)
- ANTH 254: Survey II: Human Prehistory (1 time)
- ANTH 320: Anthropology of Race and Racism (2 times)
- ANTH 364: Ethnographic Methods and Theory (3 times)
- ANTH 392: Film, Culture, and Society (1 time)
- ANTH 435: Politics of Multiculturalisms (2 times) [cross-listed with Political Science]
- ANTH 300: Peoples and Cultures of Latin America and the Caribbean (2 times)

10b. University of Notre Dame

- ANTH 10109: Introduction to Anthropology (2 times)
- ANTH 35160: Anthropology of Race and Racism (1 time) [cross-listed with Africana Studies and Latino Studies]
- ANTH 20301: Blood, Guts, and Glory: The Anthropology of Sport (4 times) [cross-listed with Gender Studies, Africana Studies, and Latino Studies]
- ANTH 40400: Perspectives in Anthropological Analysis (1 time)
- ANTH 40700: Learning How to Ask: Preparing for Fieldwork (4 times)
- ANTH 43304/63304: Race, Experience, and Politics (1 times) [with Africana Studies and Latino Studies]

10c. Vanderbilt University

- AMER 1002: Introduction to American Studies (2 times)
- AMER 1111W: Rivalries: Cultural Conflict in America
- AMER 2100/ANTH 2120: Sports, Culture, and Society
- AMER 3200: Global Perspectives on the U.S.
- AMER 4100: Adv. Seminar: Sports and Race
- AMER 4000: Research Methods Workshop

11. SERVICE: DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Participant, *Seeking Education Equity and Diversity*, Notre Dame (2014-15)
- Faculty Advisor, *Latino Diversity Leadership Conference*, Chicago (Fall 2008)
- Appointed Faculty Member, *President’s Council on Multicultural Affairs*, Saint Mary’s College (2009-2011)
- Faculty Advisor, *Student Diversity Initiative*, Saint Mary’s College (Fall 2009)
- Faculty Member, *Assessment Team*: Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education Self-Assessment for Saint Mary’s Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services, Saint Mary’s College (2009-2010)
- Workshop Facilitator, *Diversity Student Leadership Conference*, Saint Mary’s College (Spring 2009-2011)

12. ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Institutional Review Board (IRB), Notre Dame (2014-2016)
- Notre Dame Student Club Advisor: Anthropology, Caribbean Student Association, Women's Lacrosse (2012-2016)
- Journal for Women's Intercultural Leadership, Assistant Editor (2009-2011).
- Committees for Interdisciplinary Studies at Saint Mary's College: *Intercultural Studies* (2008-2012), *Film Studies* (2008-2012), *Environmental Studies Minor* (2010-2012)
- Global Education Advisory Committee, Saint Mary's College (2008 - 2009)
- *Asociación Benéfica Al Ihsan*; Research Consultant; Ceuta, Spain (2005).

13. PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- *American Anthropological Association* (2000-present)
 - o Sections: American Ethnological Society, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Association for Latino and Latina Anthropologists, and Society for the Anthropology of Europe
- *Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy* (2011-present)
- *American Studies Association* (2017-present)