

EDUCATION

National Endowment for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow

Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Program (CHPP)

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University (2022-2025)

PhD, in Spanish and Latin American Studies, *summa cum laude*

Minor in Portuguese

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University (2022)

Dissertation: “El arte femenino: Interpretando los códigos de la Sociedad Abakuá.”

Director: William Luis

Committee: Edward Friedman, Jane Landers, Ivor Miller

MA, Spanish Literature

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University (2018)

Thesis: “El criollo y la esclavitud en *Cecilia Valdés o la Loma del Ángel*: Potencia, resistencia y empoderamiento.”

BA, Hispanic Philology, *summa cum laude*

Facultad de Artes y Letras, Universidad de La Habana (2014)

Thesis: “Nicolás Guillén: Más motivos para son.” Director: Guillermo Rodríguez Rivera

Flute and Musical Theory

Conservatorio de Música Amadeo Roldán, Havana (2007)

Conservatorio de Música Guillermo Tomás, Havana (2003)

Certificate in Inclusive Education, Center for Inclusive Education, Queensland University of Technology (2020)

Certificate in Latin American Studies, Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies (CLACX), Vanderbilt University (2017-2020)

Certificate in College Teaching Program, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University (2018-2019)

Elvira Aballí Morell

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Email: elvira.aballi.morell@vanderbilt.edu | Telephone: 956-744-9206 (Cell)

220 25th Ave N Apt 302, Nashville, TN, 37203

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Specialty: Afro-Hispanic and LatinX Studies with emphasis in Black Diaspora

Areas of Interest: Inter-American Culture; LatinX Studies; Religion, Music, Ideology, Race, Gender, and Visual Arts; Approaches to Pedagogy and Public and Digital Humanities.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University: SPAN 1101, 1102, 1111, 2203, 3301, 3330, 3303, 3304, and 3893

Johns Hopkins, Center for Talented Youth: APSP, PSL2, SPL1, SPL2, SPL5, SPL12, SPL13, SPL14, SPL21, and SPL22

Escuela Provincial de Arte Benny Moré and Conservatorio Manuel Saumell: Musical Appreciation and Flute

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

1. “*Motivos de son: Leyendo a Nicolás Guillén en clave cubana.*” (Accepted for publication in *Hispanic Review*, University of Pennsylvania)
2. “De cimarrones: Raza y disidencia en *Autobiografía* de Juan Francisco Manzano.” *Cuban Studies*, no. 51, 2022, pp. 144-62 (University of Pittsburgh)
3. “[La aporía de los Naufragios.](#)” *The Latin Americanist*, vol. 62, no. 3, 2018, pp. 1-15, Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS).
4. “[El clave bien temperado de Felisberto Hernández.](#)” *Valenciana: Estudios de Filosofía y Letras*, no. 24, 2019, pp. 7-32 (University of Guanajuato)
5. “[Wao o de la manipulación quijotesca en la literatura diaspórica dominicana de Junot Díaz: Análisis de la apropiación del paradigma cervantino en *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.*](#)” *Voces del Caribe: Revista de Estudios Caribeños*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2021, pp. 1195-1223 (Washington and Jefferson College)
6. “[El criollo y la esclavitud en Cecilia Valdés o la Loma del Ángel: Potencia, resistencia y empoderamiento.](#)” *Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture*, vol. 3, 2018, pp. 1-27 (University of Tennessee)
7. “Si hablamos de ‘valores’: Hablemos del ‘negro’ en el arte cubano.” (under consideration)

Editorial Reviews

1. “[Skłodowska, Elzbieta. *Invento, luego resisto: El Período Especial en Cuba como experiencia y metáfora \(1990-2015\).*](#)” *Afro-Hispanic Review*, no. 36, vol. 2, 2017, pp. 270-73.

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Peer-Reviewed Testimonies and Interviews

1. (with Juanamaría Cordones-Cook) [“Santiago Rodríguez Olazábal: Mis obras son sangre de mis venas.”](#) *Afro-Hispanic Review*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2017, pp. 227-43.
2. (with Juanamaría Cordones-Cook) [“Manuel Mendive: Embellecer la vida es mi gran objetivo.”](#) *Afro-Hispanic Review*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2017, pp. 244-56.
3. (with Juanamaría Cordones-Cook) [“Choco: Con los pies en La Habana.”](#) *Afro-Hispanic Review*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2017, pp. 257-69.
4. [“La música es editar: Entrevista a Guillermo Galindo.”](#) *La Campana News: Nashville’s Hispanic News Paper* (Aug. 16, 2018)
5. “Entrevista a Eldys Baratute.” Asociación Hermanos Saíz (AHS) (2012)
6. “Agustín Drake: Una escultura perdida y un archivo vivo.” *Afro-Hispanic Review* (forthcoming).
7. “Los sueños suelen convertirse en muebles: La religiosidad que llevo dentro. (Entrevista a Jorge Junior Salomón).” *Afro-Hispanic Review* (forthcoming).

Transcriptions

1. [Diligencias para establecer una cofradía de San José del Gremio de Carpinteros.](#) Archicofradías, Leg. 4, Exp. 21, Archivo del Arzobispado de La Habana, 1800-1802. *Afro-Hispanic Review*, vol. 38, no. 1, 2019. pp. 189-213.
2. *Correspondencias sobre cimarrones de la provincia de Matanzas. Libro APM Gobierno Provincial.* Archivo Histórico Provincial de Matanzas, 1785-1843. [SSDA](#)
3. *Libro Religiones Africanas.* Archivo Histórico Provincial de Matanzas, 1897-1904. [SSDA](#)
4. *Libro Baptismos de la gente de color.* Archivo de la Diócesis de St. Augustine, 1793-1807. [SSDA](#)

Creative Writing

1. [Heart Unifying Communities: Bilingual Anthology, vol. 1](#), Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy at Vanderbilt University and A. W. Mellon Foundation, 2022.
2. [Soledades: La isla de Prometeo.](#) Editorial Voces de Hoy, 2020 (short stories, poetry, illustrations).
3. “#quarantine” and “Sea and Urticaria,” *Pandemic Creative Writing* vol. 1, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy at Vanderbilt University, 2020, pp. 23-26 (short stories).
4. “Canción sin palabras.” [Furman 217, no. 3](#), 2018, pp. 148-49 (poetry).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. [“Anarquistas y Cuatrerros: The Deportation of Abakuá Society Members to Fernando Po”.](#) *Other African Diasporas.* The Circum-Atlantic Studies Seminar. Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University (Oct. 1, 2021)

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2. [“La ‘vacuidad germinadora’ abakuá en *Tres Tristes Tigres* de Guillermo Cabrera Infante.”](#) The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference (KFLC), Virtual Session (April 24, 2021)
3. [“Wao o de la manipulación quijotesca en la literatura diaspórica dominicana de Junot Díaz: Análisis de la apropiación del paradigma cervantino en *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.”](#) Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Virtual Session (May 16, 2020)
4. [“De cimarrones: Raza y disidencia en la obra de Juan Francisco Manzano.”](#) *Ríos intermitentes*. Biental de La Habana in Matanzas (May 3, 2019)
5. [“The Mythological Consciousness of Belkis Ayón: A Path for Resistance.”](#) The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference (KFLC), Kentucky (April 12, 2019)
6. Panel organizer. “Los discursos institucionales y la agencia personal de los sujetos en la colonia.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Barcelona (May 23-26, 2018)
7. [“La aporía de los *Naufragios*.”](#) Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Barcelona, May 23-26, 2018
8. “A lira canta: A polifonia do voto no Brasil.” The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference (KFLC), Kentucky (April 19, 2018)
9. “El clave bien temperado de Felisberto Hernández.” Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS), Nashville (March 8-10, 2018)
10. “*Motivos de Son y Sónoro cosongo*: Lectura del poema-son en clave cubana.” III Conferencia Internacional de la Asociación Colombiana de Estudios del Caribe (ACOLEC). Valledupar (April 2017)
11. “La insularidad: Una condición geofísica y geohistórica en Nicolás Guillén.” Coloquio y Festival Internacional Nicolás Guillén. Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC), La Habana (2014)

INVITED TALKS AND READINGS

1. “De cimarrones: Raza y disidencia en *Autobiografía* de Juan Francisco Manzano.” Dickinson College, Carlisle (May 4, 2023)
2. “Bongó Itá.” Global Humanities Symposium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville (March 30, 2023)
3. “Femenine Art: Interpreting the Code of the Abakua Society.” University of Florida, Gainesville (Feb. 2, 2023)
4. “A Male Society in the Works by the Female Artists Belkis Ayón, Sara Gómez, and Ana Mendieta,” Stetson University, DeLand (Jan. 16, 2023)
5. “Memoria y representación: Mariana Grajales, ‘la madre de todos los cubanos.’” Dickinson College, Carlisle (Nov. 14, 2022)
6. Diálogo con escritoras cubanas. Casa Azafrán, Nashville (Oct. 8, 2022)
7. CLACX Conversations: New Faculty Series. Vanderbilt University, Nashville (Oct. 3, 2022)

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8. [Heart: Unifying Communities' Bilingual Anthology Launching and Textile Art Exhibit Inauguration, \(Opening Speech\)](#), Casa Azafran (June 23, 2022)
9. “‘Estupor de cubanito en territorio ajeno’: Políticas culturales, ostracismo y emigración en la Cuba postrevolucionaria,” Frist Art Museum, Nashville (April 16, 2022)
10. [“‘Mayeya no juegue’ con lo’ santo’; Artistas afrocubanos reunidos en la muestra ‘En el Horizonte: Arte cubano contemporáneo del Pérez Art Museum.’”](#) Frist Art Museum, Nashville (March 19, 2022)
11. “Twentieth-Century Mexican Muralists: José C. Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Diego Rivera, Aurora Reyes, and Leonora Carrington.” Vanderbilt University, Nashville (March 2022)
12. “Marginal Perspectives: The Abakua Society Through the Femenine Lens,” Vanderbilt University (April 2022)
13. [“Conexiones.”](#) ContArte Latinoamérica (CAL) and Digital Humanities Center at Vanderbilt University, Virtual Session (Feb. 5, 2021)
14. “Magritte’s *Marvelous Hat* by D. B. Johnson.” Frist Art Museum, Nashville (Sept. 2019)
15. [“‘Las dos Fridas’: Un recorrido por los autorretratos de Frida Kahlo contenidos en la Colección de Natasha y Jacques Gelman.”](#) Frist Art Museum, Nashville (Aug. 15, 2019)
16. “*Frida* by Jonah Winter.” Frist Art Museum, Nashville (Aug. 12, 2019)
17. [“Frida Kahlo y Diego Rivera: ‘Ismos’ que convergen y se bifurcan.”](#) Frist Art Museum, Nashville (July 18, 2019)
18. “The Black Renaissance in Cuban Contemporary Art: Belkis Ayón a ‘Sikán Kien.’” *Cuba con Amor: Creative Bridges through Literature and the Arts*. Western Kentucky University and Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), Western Kentucky University, Kentucky (Feb. 2, 2019)
19. (with Guillermo Galindo) “Sonic Re-Activation: Unearthing Public Square’s Forgotten Pasts.” Public Square, Nashville (Oct. 25, 2018)
20. “‘Todas las manos’: Working with Underprivileged Communities from La Timba Neighborhood in Havana.” Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS), Vanderbilt University, Nashville (Jan. 26, 2017)
21. “De fábulas y apólogos. Aproximación al estudio comparado de las fábulas de Francisco J. Balmaseda y Tomás de Iriarte.” Universidad de la Habana (March 2014)
22. “La intertextualidad como diálogo e infracción de la metáfora paterna.” Universidad de la Habana, Facultad de Artes y Letras (Jan. 2013)

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

1. Postdoctoral Service Award. Granted by the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, Vanderbilt University (2023)
2. Recognition for High Promise in Intellectual Endeavors and Commitment to Excellence. Granted by Vanderbilt University (2023)

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3. Rapid-Advance Micro Grant Program (RAMP). Granted by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research & Innovation, Vanderbilt University (2023)
4. Collaborative Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship. Granted by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) (2022-2025)
5. Mark Cluster Mamolen Dissertation Workshop. Granted by the Afro-Latin American Research Institute, Harvard University (2022)
6. Mellon Partners for the Humanities Education Program Grant. Granted by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2021-2022)
7. Mellon Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities. Granted by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2021-2022)
8. Curb Public Scholar Fellowship. Granted by The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy, Vanderbilt University (2021-2023)
9. Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory Fellowship. Granted by HASTAC, Dartmouth College (2021-2023)
10. Russell G. Hamilton Graduate Leadership Institute Dissertation Enhancement Grant. Granted by the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University (2021)
11. Buchanan Fellowship: “Giving Voice to Afro-Hispanic Life and Culture through the Collections of Manuel and Delia Zapata Olivella.” Granted by the Jane and Alexander Heard Libraries, Vanderbilt University and the Buchanan Family (2021)
12. Award for Excellence in Teaching in a World Language. Granted by the College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University (2021)
13. E. Inman Fox Award for Excellence in Teaching. Granted by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University (2020)
14. Summer Fellowship in Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS), Vanderbilt University, Tulane University, and Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (2017)
15. Travel Grant for the XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Barcelona (2018)
16. Vanderbilt Graduate Student Travel Grant to Present Research. Granted by the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University (2017, 2019)
17. University Graduate Fellowship. Granted by the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University (2016-2021)
18. Outstanding Student in Hispanic Philology. Granted by the Universidad de la Habana (2014)
19. Academic Excellence in Music Award. Granted by the Conservatorio Amadeo Roldán (2007)
20. First Prize at the “Concurso Provincial de Español”, and direct admission at the IPVC Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Granted by the Ministerio de Educación (MINED) (2003)

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SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / OUTREACH

Faculty Advisory Committee

1. Vanderbilt Center for Languages, Vanderbilt University (2022-2024)

Project Director

1. [ContArte Latinoamérica: Art Bridges](#). (Digital Repository of Latin-American and Latinx Art). Vanderbilt University (2020 to present)
2. [Heart: Unifying Communities](#), Vanderbilt University and Tennessee State University (2021 to 2022)

Art Director

1. [Slaves Societies Digital Archives \(SSDA\)](#). Department of History, Vanderbilt University (Director Dr. Jane Landers) (2018 to 2022)

Public Scholar

1. [The Curb Center for Art, Enterprise & Public Policy](#), Vanderbilt University (2021-2023)

Digital Humanities Scholar

1. Humanities, Arts, Sciences, Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC), the City University of New York (CUNY) and Dartmouth College (2021-2023)
2. Digital Humanities Center, Vanderbilt University (2021-2022)

Research Assistant

1. [“Giving Voice to Afro-Hispanic Life and Culture through the Collections of Manuel and Delia Zapata Olivella”](#). Jane and Alexander Heard Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives, Vanderbilt University (Director Paula Covington) (2021)
2. Children of Hispanic Immigrants Collaborating to Overcome Stress (CHICOS) Department of Anthropology, UC San Diego, and Vanderbilt University (Director Dr. Amy Non) (2018)
3. “Todas las manos.” Fundación Nicolás Guillén, Unión Nacional de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC) (2014)
4. “Grupo de estudios guillenianos.” Facultad de Artes y Letras, U de la Habana, and Fundación Nicolás Guillén (director Dr. Yanelis Velazco) (2013-2014)

Interpreter

1. Vanderbilt Immigration Clinic, Vanderbilt Law School (2021 to present)

Editorial Work

1. *Afro-Hispanic Review*. Vanderbilt University, Assistant Editor (Fall 2017–Spring 2018)
2. *Furman 217 Journal*. Vanderbilt University, Editor (Fall 2016–Spring 2019)

Service to Academic Journals

1. *Afro-Hispanic Review*, Vanderbilt University (2018 to present)
2. *La Colmena*, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (2020 to present)

Editorial Board

1. [Editora Navegando](#)

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Digital Humanities Projects:

1. [ContArte Latinoamérica](#)
2. [Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose: The First Free Black Town in Spanish Colonial Florida.](#)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native); English (near native), Portuguese (fluent); Italian (reading knowledge and research ability); Modern and Ancient Greek (reading knowledge and research ability); Latin (reading knowledge and research ability)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)

Spanish and Portuguese Association of Critics (SPAC)

Asociación Colombiana de Estudios del Caribe (ACOLEC)

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)