
YARA GONZÁLEZ-JUSTINIANO

Assistant Professor of Religion, Psychology, and Culture
with emphasis on Latinx Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Center for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies

Vanderbilt Divinity School
411 21st Street Avenue South | Nashville, TN 37240
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EDUCATION

- PhD. **Theological Studies area of Practical Theology (2019)**
Concentration track- Church and Society
Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA
- M.Div. **Master in Divinity (2014)**
Concentration track- Global and Community Engagement
Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA
- B.A. **Audiovisual Communication, Modern Languages, and Theater Concentrations (2010)**
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

Under Care, Ordination Process Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), New
England Region

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Fall 2021-Present | Assistant Professor in Religion, Culture, and Psychology with emphasis on Latinx Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN |
| Fall 2020-Spring 2021 | Visiting Assistant Professor in Practical Theology and Community, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL |

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>Books</i> | <i>Centering Hope as a Sustainable Decolonial Practice: Esperanza en Práctica</i> , Lexington Books, 2022. |
| <i>Book Reviews</i> | (Forthcoming 2023) Barba, Lloyd Daniel. <i>Sowing the Sacred: Mexican Pentecostal Farmworkers in California</i> . Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture. |

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Hak Joon Lee. *God and Community Organizing: A Covenantal Approach*. *Theology Today Journal*, March 2022.

Teresa Delgado. *A Puerto Rican Decolonial Theology: Prophecy Freedom*. *Perpectivas Online*, July 2018.

Chapters

(Forthcoming 2023) ““Mi abuela decía...”: Inheriting life and faith through popular refrains as containers of tradition and knowledge,” *In Color: Embodied Approaches to Theopoetics*, Eerdmans Publishing

“Protestant Ecclesiology,” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Latino/a/x Theology*, Second Edition, 2023

Co-authored, “Contextual Theology,” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Theology and Qualitative Research*, 2022

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

Blog Articles

“This I believe” June 30, 2022.

<https://feminismandreligion.com/2022/06/30/this-i-believe-by-yara-gonzalez-justiniano/>

“Ariel, just fighting to get above water...” March 12, 2019.

<https://feminismandreligion.com/2019/03/12/ariel-just-fighting-to-get-above-waterby-yara-gonzalez-justiniano/>

Videos, Online Interviews

“Religion and the Latinx Community,” *Issues of Faith*, News Channel 5, October 13, 2022. <https://www.newschannel5.com/plus/issues-of-faith/religion-and-the-latinx-community>

Teologia sin Verguenza Interview, SoulForce, 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=em0q1skFw78>

“On Wisdom” Playlist, Yale University Youth Ministry Interviews, 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd8AZSL0LG2NASgKdqnlYL9ppeafDUGsY>

ADJUNCT/VISITING FACULTY

Summer 2023

Faculty, 2023 Hispanic Summer Program, Candler School of Theology, Atlanta GA.

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Fall 2022	Adjunct Faculty , Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
Fall 2019-Present	Contingent Faculty , Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY
Fall 2019	Adjunct Faculty , Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA
Winter 2019, Fall 2021	Instructor , Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont, CA
Fall 2015-Spring 2019	Teaching Fellow , Boston University School of Theology, MA

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

Strategic Planning ❁ Budget Management ❁ Communications and Reports ❁ Digital Media and Web Development ❁ Academic Advising ❁ Manage Student Records ❁ Stakeholder Relationship Building ❁ Student Orientation and Supervision ❁ Event Planning ❁ Stewardship and Donor Relations ❁ Curriculum Revision ❁ Document Translations

August 2019-July 2020	Senior Program Coordinator , Contextual Education Office, Boston University, Boston, MA
August 2019-August 2020	National Director and Grant Manager , Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute
Fall 2018-Spring 2019	Networking Assistant Internship , AETH (Association of Hispanic Theological Education), Supervisor Elizabeth Conde-Frazier
Fall 2017-Spring 2018	Interim Assistant Director of Contextual Education and Community Partnerships, Boston University School of Theology, MA
Summer 2017	Administrative Assistant , Alumni Relations and Development Office, Boston University School of Theology, MA
Summer 2016	Program Assistant Coordinator , Raíces Latinas Leadership Institute, Boston University School of Theology, MA
Summer 2016	Program Assistant Coordinator , Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy, Boston, MA
2013-2016	Program Coordinator , Leadership Bible Institute, United Methodist Church Latino Ministries, Chelsea, MA
2008-2010	Assistant , Office of Admission, Law School, University of Puerto Rico, PRs
2005-2008	Assistant , Students Affairs, School of Communications, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, PR

COURSES TAUGHT

Advanced and Doctoral Courses in Religion, Psychology, and Culture

- ❖ Two P's of Seminary: Prayer and Praxis (core class)
 - ❖ Postcolonialism
 - ❖ Catastrophe, Trauma and Hope
 - ❖ Theopoetics
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- ❖ Esperanza, Play and Practice
 - ❖ Models of Hope for Peoples and Communities

Practical and Pastoral Theology

- ❖ Pastoral Theology and Care
- ❖ Latinx Pastoral Theology and Thought
- ❖ Prácticas pastorales en medio de crisis sociales (Pastoral practices amid social crisis)
- ❖ Sustaining the call of Ecclesia: Administration in times of crisis
- ❖ Building Congregational/Ministerial Frameworks for Contemporary Contexts

Traver Seminars-Team Taught

- ❖ Our Lady of Guadalupe as Resource for el Pueblo, Mexico Travel Seminar, Professor Cristian De La Rosa
- ❖ Dual Narratives Israel/Palestine travel seminar, Professor Barbod Salimi
- ❖ Urban Ministries, Professor Wanda Stahl
- ❖ Cuba Travel Seminar, Professors Cristian De La Rosa and Bryan Stone
- ❖ Arizona/Mexico Travel Seminar, Theology of the Desert, Professor Bryan Stone

Certificate Courses

- ❖ Historia y Política Iglesia Cristiana Discípulos de Cristo (Church Polity and History of the DOC)
 - ❖ Introduction to Christian Education (Spanish and English)
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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|------------------------|--|
| Spring 2020 | Co-researcher with Lis Valle-Ruiz, Divine Wisdom Festival: A Showcase of Proclamation Practices, Teacher-Scholar Vital Worship Grants, Calvin Institute of Christian Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with IRB proposal and project design• Conduct interviews• Interview Transcription |
| Summer 2017 | Research Fellow to Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore, Boston University School of Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked on Yale Youth Ministry Institute's Youth and Joy project for Yale Divinity School |
| Summer 2015, Fall 2016 | Research Fellow to Rady Roldán-Figueroa, Boston University School of Theology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transcription and editing of a 17th century manuscript of Tomás Carrascón which is pending for publication |

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Summer 2013

Research Fellow, Finding Faith Today Project, Center for Practical Theology, Boston University

- Translation of documents to Spanish
- Recruitment of subjects for surveys
- Data collection

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- 2023 “Epistemology and Testimony: Producing the Knowledge of Our Lives.” Panelist, The James Lawson Institute for the Research and Study of Nonviolent Movements Vanderbilt University, January 19, 2023.
- 2022 “Sustainable and Community-engaged Hope.” Keynote, *Hope, Integrity, and Imagination: Pathways to Moral Leadership*, Cal Turner Center for Moral Leadership Vanderbilt University, October 21st, 2022.
- 2022 “Talkback for *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*.” Vanderbilt University Theater, February 27, 2022
- 2022 “Puerto Rico case study on theology of hope”, New Testament Class Guest Lecturer, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- 2021 “Latinx Theologies”, Theology and Intersectionality Class Guest Lecturer, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- 2021 Ecclesial Practices Unit’s virtual session, Prayers in Defiance of Empire: Engaging Claudio Carvalhaes' Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the Ends of the World (Abingdon, 2020), American Academy of Religion 2021 Meeting
- 2021 “Educación Teológica En Un Mundo Globalizado,” Panelist, Tercer Encuentro Latino De Educación Teológica (3ELET), Junio 2-4,2021
- 2021 Graduation address InterMetro, Universidad Interamericana, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2020 “Racism in Puerto Rico,” Co-presenter with Yolanda Santiago, Podcast, Episode 5, Mesa de Diálogo Martin Luther King Jr., San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2020 “Popular culture and theological praxis,” Podcast, *Teología Sin Vergüenza*,
- 2018 “Should it end?: Hope in the Apocalypse,” Liberation Theologies Unit, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 17-20.

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- 2018 “Latinx YA Ministerial Practices/Initiatives and the Institutional Church,” Panelist, *ENCUENTRO: Latinx youth/Young Adult Identities and Ministry*, Hispanic Youth Leadership Academy (HYLA), Boston, MA
- 2018 “The Aftermath: Puerto Rico post Hurricane Maria,” *Women in the World Conference, Am I the Earth’s Keeper?: Climate Change and Faith Community*, Boston University School of Theology
- 2018 “Youth Speaking to Joy: Fiesta, Resilience and the Wisdom of Youth,” Co-presenter with Dean Mary Elizabeth Moore, Yale Youth Ministry Institute, Yale Divinity School
- 2017 “Me duele Puerto Rico,” Panelist, *Puerto Rico and Maria: Histories and Vulnerabilities in the Eye of the Storm* Panel, American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature, Boston 2017
- 2017 “*Wild Child Practical theology*,” Center for Practical theology 10th Annual Lecture, Respondent to Elizabeth Conde Frazier, Boston University School of Theology
- 2017 *Resistencia En Conjunto: A practice in radical solidarity and the embodiment of the Eucharist*, Beyond the Margins Conference: Indecent theologies in times of Trump and New England Maritime American Academy of Religion Meeting, Boston University School of Theology
- 2016 *Dynamics of Race and Gender in Voluntary Work*, Guest Lecturer Community Engagement Course, Hellenic College
- 2016 *Theology and Anarchism in the music of Calle 13*, Respondent to Rady Roldán-Figueroa, Boston University School of Theology
- 2015 *Postcolonial Theology/theory and Film*, Lecture, Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico, San Juan
- 2014 *Leadership: Women and Power Dynamics*, Woman in the World Conference, Anna Howard Shaw Center, Boston University
- 2013 *Institutionalized Racism Panel*, conference speaker, Boston University School of Theology

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Peer Mentoring Cluster Grant, “Comadres: Teaching and Vocation for Caribeñas in Tenure Track”, Wabash Center Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
- 2022 Hispanic Theological Initiative 2022 Book Price

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2020-22	Louisville Postdoctoral Fellowship, Louisville, Kentucky
2018-2019	William Gilbert and Florence Leonard Jones Scholarship, Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Summer 2018	Doctoral Students of Color Leadership Award, Boston University School of Theology
2018-2019	Dissertation Scholarship, Hispanic Theological Initiative
2018-2019	Dissertation Scholar, Forum for Theological Exploration
2016-2017/2017-2018/2018-2019	Doctoral Student Association Conference Travel Scholarship, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA
2016-2017	Frank & Bertha Howard Fellowship Stipend
2016-2017	Edgar Sheffield Brightman Theology Stipend
2013-2014	Rev. Dr. Allen J. Moore School of the Prophets Scholarship, Boston University, School of Theology
2013-2014	Rowley Scholarship, Disciples Home Missions
2012-2013/2013-2014	M.Div. Dean's Fellowship, Boston University, School of Theology
2012-2013/2013-2014	Beth Hume Ethnic Scholarship, Boston University
2012-2013	Charles Kenosian Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund, Boston University
2012-2013	Thomas J. and Nellie M. Scholarship Fund, Boston University
2008	Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges
2006	Puerto Rican Youth Medal, Puerto Rico.
2000	Roberto Clemente Award, Carolina, Puerto Rico
2000	Citizenship Medal, Carolina, Puerto Rico

SERVICE TO THE ACADEMY AND THE COMMUNITY

2023-2026	Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, American Academy of Religion
2022	Moderator, "Surviving as an 'only' on my faculty," Association of Practical Theology Biennial Meeting, Virtual
2021-Present	Board of Advisors, Journal of Religion Film and Media
2021-Present	Steering Committee, Ecclesial Unit Practice, American Academy of Religion

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2021-Present	Chair, Latina/o Religion, Culture, and Society Unit, American Academy of Religion
2021	Panel moderation and organization, “ <i>Conversatorio Inter Religioso: Esperanza y Solidaridad en Tiempos Post COVID</i> ,” Mesa de Diálogo Martin Luther King Jr., San Juan, Puerto Rico
2019-2022	Vice-President, Art Religion and Culture Collaborative Board of Directors
2019	Moderator, “Apprenticing Practical Theology,” Association of Practical Theology, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
2019-Present	Secretary Treasurer, Association of Practical Theology
2017-2019	Executive Board Member At-Large Association of Practical Theology
2016-2019	Director At-large, Art Religion and Culture Collaborative
2017-2018	School of Theology representative, Provost for Graduate Affairs Graduate Student Advisory Board Boston University
2017	Organizer, <i>Beyond the Margins Conference: Indecent theologies in times of Trump</i> , First Annual Graduate Student Conference, Boston University School of Theology
2016-2017	DACA and Immigration Rights Committee, Boston University School of Theology
2016-2017	Steering Committee Member, Association for Theopoetics Research and Exploration
2016	Organizer, <i>Protest, Public Religion, and Social Change</i> , Second Annual Boston University Graduate Conference in Religious Studies
2015-2017	Member Committee on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Boston University School of Theology
January 2016	Workshop facilitator, <i>Listening for a Change</i> , Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA
2012-2013	Organizer, Raíces Latinas Week, Boston University School of Theology
August 2013	Intern, MARCHA, Methodist Association Representing the Cause of Hispanic-Americans
Summer 2013	Intern, ACLAMEN (Asociación de Clérigos Latinas Metodistas Nacional)

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DISSERTATION, QUALIFYING EXAMS, AND THESIS COMMITTEES

Vanderbilt University

Carter Check, D.Min, in Chaplaincy, Second Reader, 2023

Arelis Benítez, Ph.D. in Religion, Psychology and Culture, Dissertation Committee Reader, 2023

Amina McIntyre, Ph.D. in Religion, Psychology and Culture, Qualifying Examination Committee, 2022

Christopher Hoskins, PhD, in Religion, Psychology and Culture, Qualifying Examination Committee, 2023

Lexington Theological Seminary

Imro Anys, D.Min., Thesis Committee Second Reader, 2022

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

Enid Medina Torres, D.Min. in Preaching, Advisor, 2021

Edwin Cotto Pérez, D.Min. in Preaching, Advisor, 2021

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2020	Inclusive Teaching: Supporting All Students in the Classroom, edX course, Columbia University, New York
Summer 2019	Early Career Orientation, Hispanic Theological Initiative
October 2018	HTI Doctoral Fellows Gathering, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
April 2018	Preparing Future Faculty Workshops: Backward design, online teaching, and philosophy of teaching, Boston University School of Theology
March 2016	Theopoetics A Transdisciplinary Conference with Workshops and Dialogue, Boston MA
Spring 2016	IRB Certification for Researchers
Summers 2014-2018	Professional Development Conference, Hispanic Theological Initiative
Summer 2014-2015	Christian Leadership Forum, Doctoral Cohort, Forum for Theological Exploration
March 2014	Student Christian Movement National Leadership Training Conference, Washington DC

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October 2013	Proposal Writing and Research Workshop, Essex County Community Foundation
Jun-Jul 2013	Hispanic Summer Program
June 2012	Health and Pastoral Counseling workshop with Daniel S. Schipani, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

2020-present	Online Learning Consortium, Professional membership
2019-present	Member, Latin American Studies Association
2018-present	Associate Member, International Academy of Practical Theology
2017-2018	President, School of Theology Doctoral Student Association, Boston University
2016-present	Member, Hope Central Church, Jamaica Plain, MA
2016-2017	Vice President, School of Theology Doctoral Student Association, Boston University
2014-present	La Comunidad of Hispanic Scholars of Theology and Religion
2014-2019	Hispanic Theological Initiative Scholar
2014-present	Member, American Academy of Religion
2014-2016	Facilitator and Internship Committee Member, Pub Church, Boston, MA
2013-2015	President, BU STH Hispanic/Latin@ Association
2012-2013	Vice President, BU STH Hispanic/Latin@ Association
2008-2009	Representative Council Member, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico.
2004-2016	Member, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fajardo

SOFTWARE/TECHNICAL SKILLS

Online learning/teaching platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canvas Software• Moodle• Edvance360• Sakai• Blackboard
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- BrightSpace

Research Software

- Nvivo
- Zotero
- Qualtrics
- Endnote

LANGUAGES

Spanish, English (Full proficiency)

French, Italian (Professional working proficiency)

Portuguese (Elementary proficiency)