

# MELVA PERSICO

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Romance Studies (Spanish)** 2011  
University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

Dissertation Title: *Counterpublics and Aesthetics: Afro-Hispanic and Belizean Women Writers.*

**M.A. Foreign Language (Spanish)**  
Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

**B.A. Spanish**  
University of Guyana, Turkeyen, Guyana.

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- **Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.** Senior Lecturer of Spanish (2017 - Present)
- **Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.** Lecturer of Spanish (2012 - 2017)
- **University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.** Lecturer of Spanish (2011-2012)
- **University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.** Graduate Teaching Assistant of Spanish (2005-2011)
- **University of Guyana, Turkeyen, Guyana.** Lecturer of Spanish (1994 – 2005). First appointed as Lecturer 1, then promoted to Lecturer 2 in 1999
- **Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.** Graduate Teaching Assistant of Spanish (1992-1993)

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORK SUBMITTED

### Scholarly Essays (refereed)

- “History, Autobiography, and Con Men: V.S. Naipaul’s *A Way in the World.*” (Submitted and under review)
- “Specters of Home in Two Caribbean Memoirs.” *College Language Association Journal.* vol. 61, no. 3, (March 2018). 207-222.

- “Voices and Hybridity: The Case of María Nsue Angüe’s *Ekomo*.” *Afro-Hispanic Review* vol. 31, no.1, (Spring 2012). 133-148.
- “Intertextuality and the Joker. A Comparative Study of Tirso de Molina’s *The Trickster of Seville* and Derek Walcott’s *The Joker of Seville*.” *Anthurium. A Caribbean Studies Journal* vol. 6, iss. 2, art. 4, (Fall 2008). <https://scholarlyrepository.miami.edu/anthurium/vol6/iss2/4>
- “Terrell’s Proposals on Second Language Acquisition and Learning: Some Reflections.” *The Polyglot. Journal of the Caribbean Association of Professionals and Scholars* vol.1, no.1, (Spring 1998). 60-72.

### **Book Chapter**

- “Afro-Uruguayan Culture and Legitimation: *Candombe* and Poetry.” Ed. Jerome Branche. *Black Writing, Culture, and the State in Latin America*. Nashville, Vanderbilt UP, 2015. 213-36.

### **Conference Proceedings (refereed)**

- “Como agua para chocolate: A Caribbean Novel.” *Hispanic and Francophone Caribbean Studies: Contemporary Perspectives*. Eds. Kahiudi Mabana and Victor Simpson. Bridgetown, Barbados: University of the West Indies, 2007. 59-75.

### **Textbook**

- *Mastering CAPE Spanish -- Paper 3 Literary Extracts and Themes*. London: Macmillan Education, 2008.

### **Interview**

- “Reflexiones desde Uruguay: Una entrevista con Graciela Leguizamón.” *Afro-Hispanic Review* 32.1 (Spring 2013): 191-204.

### **Creative Writing**

- *Ink on Paper - Poems*. Charleston: Melva Archer-Persico, 2014.
- *Ma Mae’s Legacy - Short Stories*. Charleston: Melva Archer-Persico, 2019.
- *Sand Baby - Poems* (In progress)

## CONFERENCES

### **Papers Delivered**

- “History, Autobiography, and Con Men: V.S. Naipaul’s *A Way in the World*.” 38<sup>th</sup> Annual West Indian Literature Conference. Georgetown, Guyana, 10/2019.

- “Negotiating Power in Colonial Peru: *Malambo* as Neo-slave Narrative.” 76th Annual Convention of the College Language Association. Houston, TX, 04/2016.
- “Afro-Hispanic Literature and the Blogosphere.” 7th Biennial Conference of the Association of the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo. Santo Domingo. D.R, 11/2013.
- “Afro-Uruguayan Culture and Legitimation.” 6th Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora. University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, PA. 11/2011
- “Afro-Latin American Poets and the Aesthetics of Modernity: In Search of Liberation?” 69th Annual College Language Association Convention. Cambridge, MD. 03/2009
- “Tradition versus Modernity the Double-Voiced Discourse of *Ekomo*.” 61st Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY. 04/2008

### **Panels Chaired**

- “Trans-(Post)-Colonial Spaces.” Graduate Students’ Conference. University of Miami (02/2011)
- “Intersecting Cultural Discourses,” Graduate Students’ Conference. University of Miami (02/2008)

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- The Role of Social Media in Minority Literature
- The Legitimizing of Afro-Latin American and Caribbean Literatures
- The Re-writing of History in Literary Expressions of the African Diaspora

### PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

#### **OPI Training Workshop**

Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. 05/2016

#### **Introduction to Foreign Language Teaching**

University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

#### **Trained Teachers’ Certificate** (English and Spanish)

Lilian Dewar College of Education, Georgetown, Guyana.

(Now Cyril Potter College of Education)

#### **Diploma en el mejoramiento de la enseñanza del español como lengua moderna**

Centro Interamericano de Idiomas, Caracas, Venezuela.

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### **Clemson University**

- Elementary Spanish 2
- Intermediate Spanish 1

- Intermediate Spanish 2
- Intermediate Spanish Conversation and Composition
- Intermediate Spanish Grammar and Composition

**University of Miami:**

- Elementary Spanish 1
- Elementary Spanish 2
- Intermediate Spanish 1
- Accelerated Elementary Spanish
- Culture and Civilization of Spain
- “Sketell Bombs, Fluffy Divas and Bandoleras: Women in the Music and Literature of Spanish America and the Caribbean” – (Cultural Studies course taught in English for the Bachelors in General Studies program)

**University of Guyana:**

- Latin American Literature I & II
- Translation I & II
- Special Topics in Hispanic Literature (An In-depth study of Don Quixote de la Mancha)
- Special Topics in Hispanic Literature (Afro-Hispanic Poetry)
- Spanish American Dialectology
- Literature of the Spanish Golden Age I & II
- History of the Spanish Language
- Introduction to Spanish Literature
- Morphology and Syntax
- History and Civilization of Spain
- History and Civilization of Spanish America
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Reading Course in Spanish
- Intermediate Spanish
- Elementary Spanish

**Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois:**

- Elementary Spanish

**RELATED PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Attended ACTFL Virtual Convention (11/2021)
- Attended “Incorporating Culture and Grammar Effectively with the New Edition of *Imagina*.” Vista Higher Learning Professional Development Workshop. (12/2021)
- Attended “‘Revisiting Diaspora, Refining a Discourse’ Key Texts in the Study of the African Diaspora. Virtual panel discussion organized by the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD.) (04/2021)
- Attended “Blackness and Disability: The Remix.” Virtual Research and Scholarship Series organized by the College Language Association (CLA). (04/2021)
- Attended “Energize Spring 2021: Day One and Beyond.” Webinar organized by Clemson University’s Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation (OTEI) (01/2021)

- Attended CONCERT 5-week course on online teaching. Conducted by Clemson Online (07-08/2021)
- Attended “Effective Online Teaching for Student Engagement.” Course organized by Clemson University’s OTEI (07/2021)
- “Dynamic Online Language Learning in the 21st Century: General Course Design.” Webinar organized by Vista Higher Learning. (03/2020).
- “Dynamic Online Language Learning in the 21st Century: Introduction to Online Language Learning.” Webinar organized by Vista Higher Learning. (03/2020).
- "From Baby-Boomers to Gen Z: Closing the Generational Gap." Webinar organized by Vista Higher Learning. (01/ 2020).
- "From Baby-Boomers to Gen Z: Reinvent Your Teaching Style to Inspire Today’s Learners.” Webinar organized by Vista Higher Learning. (01/ 2020).
- Workshop, "“Using Adobe for Classroom and Research Projects.”," Department of Languages, Clemson University. (September 2019).
- Reader, Advanced Placement Examinations in Spanish Language and Culture (2017 – 2019)
- Attended “Sparking Creativity Workshop” on ways of using Adobe Spark to enhance teaching and learning. Clemson University, Clemson, SC (01/2018)
- Attended Workshop for Spanish Lecturers on Integrated Performance Assessments conducted by Professor Cris Sparks-Early. Clemson University, Clemson, SC (09/2017)
- Attended Southern Conference on language Teaching (SCOLT) 2018 Conference. Atlanta, GA (March 2018)
- Level Coordinator, SPAN 202 (Intermediate Spanish 2). Clemson University, Clemson, SC. (2013-2014)
- Spanish Tutor and Laboratory Assistant, Modern Language Laboratory. University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Summer 1 2007 & 2008)
- Part-time Instructor, Intermediate Conversational Spanish. Language Services Center, Georgetown, Guyana. (Summer 2004)
- Coordinator of Spanish Immersion Weekend for Secondary School Teachers and University students. Georgetown, Guyana. (2002 & 2003)
- Team-member - Writing of Curriculum Guides for Spanish and French (Grades 7 to 9) Ministry of Education, Guyana. (2000 – 2001)
- Moderator – Ministry of Education “Broadcast to Schools”, Spanish, Distance Learning Radio Program. Georgetown, Guyana. (1999 – 2000)

- Laboratory Assistant. Foreign Language Computer and Audio Laboratories. Illinois State University, Normal, IL. (Fall 1992, Spring & Fall 1993)
- Part-time Instructor, Intermediate and Advanced Conversational Spanish. Venezuelan Institute for Culture and Co-operation. Georgetown, Guyana. (1990 –1991)

#### INVITED PEDAGOGICAL WORKSHOPS

- “Strategies for Improving Student Performance in the CAPE Spanish Examination.” Presented on behalf of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) for Spanish Teachers in Belize, Central America. 01/2009
- “Ways of Improving Writing in the Foreign Language Classroom.” Presented for Secondary School teachers of Spanish and French organized by the National Center for Education Resource Development (NCERD) in collaboration with the Guyana Association of Modern Language Teachers (GAMLAT). 06/1998
- “Writing in Registers”. Presented for members of the Guyana Association of Modern Language Teachers (GAMLAT). 06/1997
- “Improving Oral Skills in the Foreign Language Classroom”. Presented for members of the Guyana Association of Modern Language Teachers (GAMLAT). 06/1996

#### SERVICE

- Creator and interviewer, “Our Culture to the World.” An educational, public-service video interview series aired weekly on YouTube, promoting cultural appreciation, cross-cultural awareness and interculturality.
- Member, Director of Pan-African Studies Search Committee. College of Architecture, Arts & Humanities, Clemson University (Spring 2021)
- Peer reviewer for an article published in the scholarly journal, *UWI Quality Education Forum* (Spring 2021)
- Spanish Section Secretary, Department of Languages, Clemson University (2017- Present)
- Department of Languages Representative, Pan-African Studies Steering Committee. Clemson University (2017 - Present)
- Organizer, Visit of Professor Paulette Ramsay to deliver the lecture: “The Untold Story of Afro-Mexico” as part of the Hispanic Series of Clemson’s Humanities Hub. 02/2018
- Senior Fellow, Dixon Fellows Program. Honors College, Clemson University (2015-2016)
- Member, Spanish Lecturer Search Committee. Department of Languages, Clemson University (Spring 2015 & Spring 2016)
- Judges’ Coordinator, Declamation Contest Committee. Department of Languages, Clemson University (2013- Present)

- Member, Textbook Review Committee. Basic Language Program, Department of Languages, Clemson University (2013, 2015)
- Interpreter, (via telephone) for Clarke and Associates Immigration Law Firm, Freeport, New York (2013 & 2014)
- Member, Hispanic Heritage Week Activities. Department of Languages, Clemson University (2012)
- Moderator, (Spanish) Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) (2012 - Present)
- Chief Examiner, (Spanish) Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations – CXC (2009 – 2011)
- Assistant Chief Examiner, (Spanish) Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations – (CXC) (2003 - 2008)
- Member, Modern Language Panel (Syllabus Design and Implementation). Caribbean Examinations Council (2001-2005)
- Assistant Examiner, (Spanish) Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (06/2002)
- President, Guyana Association of Modern Language Teachers (GAMLAT) (2002 – 2004)
- Member, Host Committee. 12<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Intercollegiate Debating Competition. University of Guyana (03/2000)
- Member, Conference Planning Committee. XII Caribbean Association of Professionals and Scholars' Conference. University of Guyana. (07/1998)
- Faculty Coordinator, University of Guyana Debating Competition (1995-1996)

#### HONORS & AWARDS

- Summer Research Travel Grant. Center for Latin American Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. (05/2009)
- Max and Peggy Kriloff Graduate Student Travel Scholarship, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. (04/2008)
- University of Miami Graduate Activity Fund Allocation Committee Travel Award. (04/2008 & 03/2009)
- University of Miami Provost Travel Grant. (04/2008)
- Graduate Assistantship (Tuition waiver). Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL. (08/2005 – 05/2011)
- OAS/Government of Spain Fellowship for Spanish teachers from the Caribbean and Brazil. University of Salamanca, Spain. (07/1995)

- Graduate Teaching Assistantship (Tuition waiver) Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Illinois State University, Normal, IL. (08/1992 – 12/1993)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Guyana) & Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (Venezuela) Fellowship to pursue course on the Improvement of the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language. Centro Inter-Americano de Idiomas, Caracas, Venezuela. (07-09/1988)

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
- College Language Association (CLA)

#### LANGUAGES

- English (Native fluency)
- Spanish (Near-native fluency)
- French (Reading knowledge)
- Portuguese (Reading knowledge)