

Reinaldo L. Román

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Employment

Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia 2008-
Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia 2000-07

Education

University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D. in Latin American History 2000
M.A. in History 1994

Brown University 1991
B.A. in Anthropology and Religious Studies, Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude

Book

Governing Spirits: Religion, Miracles, and Spectacles in Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898-1956. University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Cuban Genesis: Espiritismo and Utopianism from the Insurgency to the Early Republic
(in progress).

Book Chapters (refereed)

“Espiritismo.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Caribbean Religions*, edited by Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, 193–214. Oxford University Press, 2024.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190916961.013.15>.

“Puerto Rico.” In *The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers, Volume XI: The Caribbean Diaspora, 1910–1920*, edited by Anthony Yuen, Mariela Haro Rodriguez, John Dixon, and Robert A. Hill, ccxlix – cclii and documents. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011.

<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/4/monograph/book/68954>. Introductory essay, annotation, and translation of twenty-two documents related to the UNIA in Puerto Rico.

“Religion in Latin American Historiography,” co-authored with Pamela Voekel. In *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American History*, edited by Jose C. Moya, 454-487. Oxford University Press, 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780195166217.013.0017>.

“Christian Themes: Mainstream Traditions and Millenarian Violence,” in Michael Barkun, ed., *Millennialism and Violence*. (London and Portland: Frank Cass & Co., 1996), 51-82. Published previously in *Terrorism and Political Violence* 7 (3) (1995): 51-82.

Refereed Articles

“Espiritismo and Urban Planning in Cuba: Envisioning Regeneration in Havana and Oriente after 1898.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, 2016. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.013.364>.

“Governing Man-Gods: Spiritism and the Struggle for Progress in Republican Cuba.” *Journal of Religion in Africa* 37, no. 2 (January 1, 2007): 212–41. <https://doi.org/10.1163/157006607X184834>. Re-printed in Stephan Palmié, ed. *Africas of the Americas* (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2008).

“Scandalous Race: Garveyism, the Bomba, and the Discourse of Blackness in 1920s Puerto Rico.” *Caribbean Studies* 31, no. 1 (2003): 213–59. Special journal issue “Garveyism in the Hispanic Caribbean” co-edited with Jorge L. Giovannetti.

“Spiritists versus Spirit-mongers: Julia Vázquez and the Struggle for Progress in 1920s Puerto Rico.” *Centro Journal* 14 (2) (2002): 26-47.

Other (refereed)

“Afro-Caribbean Religions in Puerto Rico.” *Enciclopedia de Puerto Rico en Línea*, a peer-reviewed digital encyclopedia funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades. See <https://enciclopediapr.org/encyclopedia/religiones-afrocaribenas-en-puerto-rico/> (September 26, 2013).

Book Reviews

Todd Ramón Ochoa, *A Party for Lazarus: Six Generations of Ancestral Devotion in a Cuban Town* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2020). *New West Indian Guide* 95 (2021): 320–321.

Emily S. Clark, *A Luminous Brotherhood: Afro-Creole Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016). *Religion & Society: Advances in Research* 10 (1) (2019): 174-175.

Elizabeth Pérez, *Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions* (New York: New York University Press, 2016). *New West Indian Guide* 92 (3&4) (2018): 175 -176.

Antonio Sotomayor, *The Sovereign Colony: Olympic Sport, National Identity, and International Politics in Puerto Rico* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 2016). *American Historical Review* 122 (3): 897-898.

Jalane D. Schmidt, *Cachita's Streets: The Virgin of Charity, Race, and Revolution in Cuba*. (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2015). *New West Indian Guide* 91 (1&2) (2017): 117-118.

- Solsiree del Moral, *Negotiating Empire: The Cultural Politics of Schools in Puerto Rico, 1898-1952*. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2013). *Journal of American History* 100 (4) (2014): 1248 -1249.
- Marial Iglesias Utset, *A Cultural History of Cuba during the U.S. Occupation, 1898-1902*. Translated by Russ Davidson. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011). *The Americas* 69 (1) (2012): 140-141.
- Raquel Romberg, *Healing Dramas: Divination and Magic in Modern Puerto Rico* (University of Texas Press, 2010). *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* 6 (2) (2011): 232 -234.
- Kristina Wirtz, *Ritual, Discourse, and Community: Speaking a Sacred World* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2007). *Caribbean Studies* 38 (2) (2010): 223-225.
- Eduardo Sáenz Rovner, *The Cuban Connection: Drug Trafficking, Smuggling, and Gambling in Cuba from the 1920s to the Revolution*, translated by Russ Davidson (University of North Carolina Press, 2008). *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe* 21(1) (2010)
- Gerald E. Poyo, *Cuban Catholics in the United States, 1960-1980: Exile and Integration* (Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007). *Journal of American Ethnic History* 28 (4) (2009): 152-153.
- Frederick H. Smith, *Caribbean Rum: A Social and Economic History* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005). *Caribbean Studies* 35 (2007): 257-259.
- Raquel Romberg, *Witchcraft and Welfare: Spiritual Capital and the Business of Magic in Modern Puerto Rico* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2003). *Caribbean Studies* 32 (2004): 230-234.
- Stephan Palmié, *Wizards and Scientists: Explorations in Afro-Cuban Modernity and Tradition* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2002). *The Historian* 66 (2004): 155-157.
- Miguel Barnet, *Afro-Cuban Religions* (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2001). *New West Indian Guide* 77 (2003): 171-73.
- Louis A. Pérez, Jr., *Winds of Change: Hurricanes and the Formation of Nineteenth-Century Cuba* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2001). *The Historian* 65 (2003): 1010-1011.
- María Teresa Vélez, *Drumming for the Gods: The Life and Times of Felipe García Villamil, Santero, Palero and Abakuá* (Philadelphia PA: Temple University Press, 2000). *New West Indian Guide* 76 (2002): 154-156.

Clive Foss, *Fidel Castro* (Phoenix Mill and Gloucestershire, UK: Sutton Publishing Ltd., 2000). *The Historian* 64 (2002): 746-747.

K. Lynn Stoner and Luis Hipólito Serrano Pérez, *Cuban and Cuban-American Women: An Annotated Bibliography* (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 2000). *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe* 12 (2001): 194-195.

"Memories Mended and Imagined." Review of Juan Flores, *From Bomba to Hip-Hop* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000). Published by H-Latam@h-net.msu.edu (September 2000).

Nélida Agosto Cintrón, *Religión y cambio social en Puerto Rico, 1898 -1940* (Río Piedras: Ediciones Huracán, 1996). *Journal of Social History* 32 (1999): 710-714. Also published by H-LatAm@h-net.msu.edu (March 1998).

"Accounting for the middleman." Review of José A. Cobas and Jorge Duany, *Cubans in Puerto Rico: Ethnic Economy and Cultural Identity* (Gainesville: University of Florida, 1997). Published by H-LatAm@h-net.msu.edu (January 1998).

"Savage History, Dialogue and Their Possibilities: Nandy's *The Savage Freud and Other Essays*." *Emergences*, 7 & 8: 226-234.

Conferences

◆ *Invited presentations*

"A Pedagogy of Empire." Panel chaired at the annual meeting of the Southeastern American Studies Association, Atlanta, September 30, 2023.

◆ "Between María and the Saints: Religion and Moral Hazard in Puerto Rico from Hurricane San Ciriaco (1899) to Hurricane María (2017). Paper delivered in the Workshop Series of the Social Sciences and Caribbean Archive of the Institute of Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico, December 7, 2022.

"The Return of the Chupacabras: Puerto Rico's Vampires and the Recurring Crisis, 1994-2018." Delivered at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 8, 2018.

"The African Diaspora: How does African history inform Latin American history and what can Latin American history teach us about Africans in the Atlantic World?" Roundtable participant at the meeting of SECOLAS, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, March 23-26, 2017.

◆ "El espiritismo y la planificación urbana en Cuba: La regeneración después del 1898." Delivered at the Institute of Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico – Río Piedras (UPR-RP), February 16, 2017.

“Research and Evidence: Cities in the Global South.” Co-organizer of a multi-sited graduate student conference co-sponsored by the Program in World History and Cultures at Georgia State University, the Center for Faculty Development and Excellence at Emory University, and the President's Office and Department of History at the University of Georgia, November 10-11, 2016.

“Migration and Ethnogenesis.” Panel chaired and organized at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Atlanta, January 7, 2016.

“Migrations, Databases, and Big Data.” Panel organized at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Atlanta, January 7, 2016.

“Neoliberal Politics in Latin America.” Commented on panel at the Global Capitalism Graduate Conference, Athens, Georgia, May 16, 2015.

“Cuba’s Futures Past: Religion, Neocolonialism, and the Remaking of Havana and Oriente.” Delivered at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, January 4, 2015.

“Futures Past in Santiago: Religion, American Neocolonialism, and the Remaking of Eastern Cuba.” Delivered at the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians, Athens, GA, February 28, 2014.

♦ “Spirits, Citizens, and the Political Map in Republican Cuba.” Delivered at the conference entitled “Religion, Social Movements, and Zones of Crisis in Latin America,” Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, Boston University, April 13, 2012.

♦ “Prisons and espiritismo: Social Regeneration in Puerto Rico during the Early 1900s.” Delivered at the plenary session of the Biennial Conference of the Puerto Rican Studies Association, Hartford, Connecticut, October 23, 2010.

♦ Roundtable on *Governing Spirits*; with professors Fernando Picó and Juan José Baldrich. Institute of Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 8, 2010.

“Spirits of the Antilles: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Political Imaginary of Spiritism.” Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January 5, 2008.

“Más allá de la Habana: On Spiritism and Corporate Aggregation from the Late Colony to the Early Cuban Republic.” Delivered at the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 15-18, 2006.

“Identities and the Cityscape: On Religion and the Mapping of Spaces in the Late Colony and Early Cuban Republic.” Delivered at the 6th CRI Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, Miami, February 6-8, 2006.

“Of Dread, Laughter, and the Record.” Delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Seattle, WA, January 9, 2005.

“Reading, Writing and Religion: Spiritism and Cuba’s Lettered City.” Delivered at the Allen Morris Conference on the History of Florida and the Atlantic World, Florida State University, February 13, 2004.

◆ “The New Gods of the New Cuban Republic.” Delivered at the Institute of African Studies, Emory University, November 6, 2003.

“Of Dread and Laughter: Chupacabras and Vampires as Parodies.” Delivered at the 35th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians in San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 27, 2003. Organized panel titled “The Monstrous Caribbean.”

◆ “Our Cuba, Our Selves: An Account of the Fascination.” Delivered at the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Georgia, October 15, 2002.

“The Routes of Cuban Spiritism: Disciplining Man-Gods in Town and Country.” Delivered at the 4th CRI Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, Miami, March 6-9, 2002.

“*Espiritistas* and *Espiriteros* in 1920s Puerto Rico: Julia Vázquez and the Struggle between Superstition and Progress. Delivered at the 23rd congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Washington DC, September 6-8, 2001. Organized panel titled “Physicians and Spiritists: On Therapeutic Pluralism in Brazil, Puerto Rico and the United States.”

“An Indignant Public Opinion: The Cuban Press and the Negros Brujos.” Delivered at the 2nd CRI Conference on Cuban and Cuban American Studies, March 18-20, 1999.

“On How Garvey Defeated the Bomba: Race, Color and the State of Civilization in Puerto Rico, (ca. 1922).” Delivered at the 31st Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians in Havana, April 14, 1999.

“‘All souls are white:’ La Samaritana de San Lorenzo and Puerto Rico's Spiritists.” Delivered at “Prophets, Visionaries and their Publics in the Afro-Atlantic World,” an international conference at the University of Maryland, October 9-10, 1998.

Fellowships and Grants

Grants and Fellowships Mentorship and Support Program, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts	2022-23
President’s Venture Fund (conference planning award)	2016
Provost’s Summer Research Grant	2013
Senior Faculty Research Fellowship, Willson Center for Humanities and Arts	2009-10
Visiting Scholar, Institute for Latin American Studies, UNC	2005
CHA Junior Faculty Summer Fellowship	2004

CHA Faculty Seminar Grant	2004
President's Venture Fund (travel award)	2003
Visiting Scholar, Institute for Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico	2002
Sarah H. Moss Fellowship for Young Faculty	2001
Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	1999
University of California Chancellor's Fellowship	1998
International Field Research Dissertation Fellowship (SSRC)	1997
Ford Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship	1993-96

Teaching Awards

Sandy Beaver Excellence in Teaching Award Awarded by the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to honor faculty "who show a sustained commitment to high-quality instruction."	2022
Parks-Heggoy Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching Awarded by graduate students in UGA's Department of History.	2022, 2013
Student Government Teaching Award Highest recognition given by UGA's undergraduate student council.	2003
Lilly Teaching Fellowship Competitive award for excellence in undergraduate teaching.	2002-03

Thesis and Dissertation Advising

Served on twenty thesis and dissertation committees in the Departments of History, Romance Languages and Anthropology. Directed three master's theses and one dissertation. Served as an outside member of a dissertation committee in the History Department at Columbia University. Supervised eight undergraduate honors theses and served as reader for nine others.

Service

Director of Graduate Studies, UGA Department of History Graduate course scheduling Summer instructional program Data collection and analysis for program development Ex officio member of Graduate Studies Committee (admissions, petitions, instruction evaluations, annual awards) Ex officio member of Policy Committee Assessment team for 7- year program review (PRAC)	2014-18
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Professional Service

Referee: <i>New West Indian Guide and History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences</i>	2023
Manuscript review: Princeton University Press	2022
Manuscript review: Princeton University Press	2021
Referee: <i>Anthropologica, Cuban Studies, and HAU</i>	2020
Referee: <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History, and American Religion</i>	2019

Referee: <i>Centro Journal</i> and <i>Caribbean Studies</i>	2017
Research Associate, Radio Preservation Task Force, Library of Congress	2016
Prize committee member, Lydia Cabrera Award Committee	2016-18
Review Committee, NEH Division of Public Programs	2015
AHA Annual Program Committee (2016)	2014-15
Manuscript review: Duke University Press and <i>History and Anthropology</i>	2014
Tenure and promotion reviewer: University of Virginia	2014
Manuscript review: University Press of Florida	2013
Referee: National Historical Publications & Records Commission	2012
Prize committee: McLeod Book Prize, Southern Historical Association	2012
Referee: <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>	2012
Referee: <i>Anthropology and Medicine</i> , and <i>Journal of Social History</i>	2010
Manuscript review: University of Illinois Press	2009
Tenure and promotion reviewer: University of Miami	2009
Manuscript review: Oxford University Press, Routledge, <i>Journal of American History</i> , <i>Caribbean Studies</i> , and <i>Centro Journal</i>	2008
Prize committee, Lydia Cabrera Awards for Cuban Historical Studies	2007
Referee: <i>Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies</i> , and <i>Centro Journal</i>	2005
Grant reviewer: Social Science Research Council IDRF Fellowship	2003
Grant reviewer: National Endowment for the Humanities	2001
Referee: <i>Studies in Latin American Popular Culture</i>	1998
Member of the editorial collective of <i>Suitcase</i>	1995-97

University Service

Advisory Board, member, Willson Center for Arts and Humanities	2020, 2023
U.S. Student Fulbright Campus Committee Interviews	2013, 2023
Advisory Board, chair, Willson Center for Arts and Humanities	2022
Personnel Committee, History Department	2022-
Policy Committee, History Department	2008-10, 2020-22
Search committee, History Department	2017
Curriculum Committee, LACSI	2015-16
Graduate Studies Committee, History Department	2012-13, 2008
Civil War Era and Global South Studies Committee, History Department	2010-13
Advisory Board (chair), LACSI	2010-13
Georgia Latin America in the Global South Project	2010-11
Awards Committee, History Department	2011
Faculty Mentor, Minority Recruitment and Retention	2005-08
Co-Organizer of the Faculty Seminar for Latin American Studies	2003-08
Undergraduate Studies Committee, History Department	2002-04
Faculty Senate	2001-03
Curriculum Advising Committee	2003
Search committee, History Department	2002

Selected Public Service Lectures and Interviews

Interview on *Mala Onda* (2022), a documentary by Danilo Parra, March 18, 2022.

Interview on NHK's *Dark Mystery*, aired in Japan on August 8, 2019.

"Puerto Rico, the United States, and the Headlines: A Historian Reads the News." Talk for Hispanic Heritage Month at Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP, Atlanta, Georgia, October 23, 2018.

"The Legacy of Fidel Castro." Roundtable organized by UGA's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute and the Dean Rusk International Law Center, December 5, 2016.

Interview with James Thompson on "Talk of the Town," WUOG – 90.5 FM, April 23, 2015.

"The Cemetery and the Altar: A Brief History of the Dead in Caribbean Espiritismo, Santería, and Vodou." Brumby Hall Housing R.A. Program, University of Georgia, October 24, 2013.

"Immigration in the Classroom," Teachers' Panel, DREAMFest, Clarke Middle School, Athens, Georgia, April 20, 2013.

"Cuba on the Verge." Community forum on Cuban current affairs, Athens Regional Library, June 2, 2009.

"No hablo español - I don't speak Spanish." Panel presentation for the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority and Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, November 5, 2007.

"Ché Guevara's Life and Afterlife." Lecture for the Peer Advising Program of the UGA Honors College, September 8, 2005.

"Vampire Scares: An Interpretation of Puerto Rico's Supernatural Scares." Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society, April 22, 2004.

"An Introduction to Mexican History." Lectures for the College of Education, February 27, 2001, and April 9, 2002.

Professional Organizations

American Historical Association and Association of Caribbean Historians.