

# Alexa Rodríguez, Ph.D.

University of Virginia

<https://www.alexarodriguezphd.com/>  
[ar5km@virginia.edu](mailto:ar5km@virginia.edu)

(434) 982-2887

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Latin America and US; Latinx identity; Migration and diasporas; African diaspora; Nationalism and civic education; Cultural imperialism; Historical methodologies

## EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Teachers College, Columbia University, History and Education  
Dissertation: “For the Prosperity of the Nation”: Education and the US Occupation of the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924
- 2015 M.S. Ed., Johns Hopkins University, Educational Studies
- 2013 B.A., Fordham University, History; American Studies

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

### University of Virginia

- 2023- Assistant Professor, Social Foundations
- 2023- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Race and Public Education in the South
- 2022-23 Lecturer, Social Foundations
- 2021-23 Mellon Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Race and Public Education in the South

### Teachers College, Columbia University

- 2022- Faculty Affiliate, Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2021-22 Research Fellow, Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2020 Instructor, Arts and Humanities, Teachers College, Columbia University

### Dominican Studies Institute, The City University of New York

- 2021 Summer Postdoctoral Fellow, Dominican Studies Institute, The City University of New York

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Book Manuscript in Preparation***

*Crafting Dominicanidad: Education and Citizenship during the US Occupation of the Dominican Republic (1916-1924)* (Forthcoming with University of North Carolina Press)

### ***Peer Reviewed Journals***

(In preparation) “Transnational exchanges in the US imperial project: *Revista de Educación* and the US military occupation of the Dominican Republic (1916-1924),” *Paedagogica Historica*

- “A Narrative from the Margins: Community and Agency during the US Occupation of the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924,” *History of Education Quarterly* 63, no. 2 (2023): 179–97. [doi:10.1017/heq.2022.38](https://doi.org/10.1017/heq.2022.38).
- “Reflections on 1521 Rebellion: Teaching the History of Early Afro-Descendants in Latin America,” *Latino Studies* 20, no. 4. (2022): 555–561. <https://rdcu.be/cSjHM>.

### **Book Reviews**

- Review of Edgardo Meléndez (2022). *The “Puerto Rican Problem” in Postwar New York City*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 240 pp., notes, bibliography, index, \$120 cloth, \$32.95 paper, \$32.95 ebook, \$32.95 pdf and Mirelsie Velazquez (2022) *Puerto Rican Chicago: Schooling the City*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 218 pp., illustrations, tables, notes, index, \$110 cloth, \$26 paper, \$19.95 ebook. *Journal of Urban History*, forthcoming.
- Review of *American Crusade: Christianity, Warfare, and National Identity* by Benjamin James Wetzel, H-War, H-Net Reviews. July, 2023. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=58658>
- Review of *Teaching Empire: Native Americans, Filipinos, and US Imperial Education, 1879-1918* by Elisabeth M Eittreim and *Educating the Empire: American Teachers & the Contested Colonization in the Philippines* by Sarah Steinbock-Pratt, *History of Education*, doi:[10.1080/0046760X.2021.1937712](https://doi.org/10.1080/0046760X.2021.1937712)
- Review of *Racial Migrations: New York City and the Revolutionary Politics of the Spanish Caribbean* by Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, *Caribbean Studies* 49, no. 1 (2021): 176-180. doi:[10.1353/crb.2021.0009](https://doi.org/10.1353/crb.2021.0009)

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Blogs and Op-eds**

- “Should I Write an Op-Ed?” *Clio and the Contemporary*, March 15, 2023, <https://clioandthecontemporary.com/2023/03/15/should-i-write-an-op-ed/>
- “Education during a Global Health Crisis,” *The Blog of the History of Education Society* (UK), February 11, 2022, <https://historyofeducation.org.uk/education-during-a-global-health-crisis/>
- “Are Schools the Safest Place for our Children?” *City & State New York*, February 2, 2022, <https://www.cityandstateny.com/opinion/2022/02/are-schools-safest-place-our-children/361476/>

### **Interviews and Podcasts**

- “Mattie Jones,” *Teachers in the Movement Podcast*, (forthcoming).
- “Episode 8: Mrs. Judith Anderson Was Destined for International Experiences,” *Teachers in the Movement Podcast*, <https://teachersinthemovement.com/resource-library/episode-8-mrs-judith-anderson-was-destined-international-experiences>
- “Pub Talk with Dr. Alexa Rodríguez,” History of Education Society Graduate Student Council, February 28, 2022.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

### **External**

- |      |  |         |
|------|--|---------|
| 2023 | American Educational Research Association (AERA) Division F Critical Aspects of the History of Education Research Seed Grant | \$1,000 |
|------|--|---------|

2022	Honorable Mention in the Richmond Brown Dissertation Prize, Latin American and Caribbean Studies section of the Southern Historical Association	
2020	National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship	\$27,500
2019	Jurgen Herbst Travel Award, History of Education Society	
2018	CUNY Dominican Studies Archive and Library Research Award	\$3,000

### ***Internal***

#### **Columbia University**

2018-21	Minority Scholarship, Arts and Humanities, Teachers College	~\$20,300
2020	W.E.B. DuBois Scholarship, Institute for Urban and Minority Education	
2020	Eileen Cutler Scholarship, Teachers College	
2020	Sharon Gay Pierson Endowed Scholarship, Teachers College	~\$4,750
2019	Research Dissertation Fellowship, Teachers College	\$6,000
2019	Summer Field Research Grant, Institute of Latin American Studies	\$1,250
2019	International Travel Grant, Teachers College	
2019	Dean's Grant for Student Research, Teachers College	\$1,000
2018-19	Provost's Grant for Conference Presentation & Professional Development, Teachers College	\$1,000
2018	General Robert Anderson Scholarship, Teachers College	\$3,000
2017-19	Arts and Humanities Doctoral Fellowship, Teachers College	~\$19,250
2017	John Chester Scholarship, Teachers College	\$2,500
2016-19	Doctoral Fellowship, Teachers College	~\$98,600
2016	Lawrence Cremin History Fellowship, Teachers College	\$2,400
2016	Teachers College Scholarship	~\$9,100

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### ***Invited Presentations***

2023	Sista Circle Mentorship Program (SCMP), "Doctoral Fellowships 101: A Comprehensive Guide to Funding Your Research," November 13
2023	Graduate Student Council Division F (History & Historiography) Fireside Chat: "Doing Educational History in the Face of Archival Silences," American Educational Research Association, April 13-16
2023	Division F (History & Historiography) Seminar Panel: "Reckoning, Reconciliation, and Reciprocity in Historical Research," American Educational Research Association, April 13-16
2023	Plenary Session: "Social Media and the Role of the Public Intellectual," at "The Voices of Student Activists Who Moved a Nation: Documenting the Lessons of the Past Through Innovative Educational Research," Conference sponsored by Spencer Foundation, March 23
2023	Book Launch for Juan Alfonseca, <i>La formación del Estado docente en República Dominicana</i> , Editorial Universitaria Bonó, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, February 22
2022	Fireside Chat, Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Urban and Minority Education Teachers College, Columbia University, May 3
2022	Research Colloquium, Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Urban and Minority Education Teachers College, Columbia University, May 2

- 2022 Race and Education Lecture, Center for Race and Public Education, University of Virginia, April 6
- 2021 Postdoctoral Research Symposium, University of Virginia, November 18
- 2020 Reports from the Field: Graduate Presentations on Research in Latin America, Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University, February 4
- 2019 Student Research Panel, Diversity in Research and Practice Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University, April 27
- 2019 Words of Hope, Association for Educational Anthropology, Teachers College, Columbia University, April 14
- 2018 History of Education Colloquium, Teachers College, Columbia University, December 6

***Panels Chaired or Organized***

- 2023 Co-organizer. “Recovering and Recentring Educational Histories,” Organization of American Historians, March 30–April 2
- 2023 Organizer. “Schools As Sites for Agency in Twentieth Century Latin America,” American Historical Association, January 5–8
- 2022 Chair and co-organizer. “Perspectivas históricas de la educación dominicana,” Dominican Studies Association, December 1-3
- 2022 Organizer. “Conducting Oral Histories: Communities, Race and Education,” (Workshop) History of Education Conference, November 2-6
- 2021 Chair. “Latinx Educational Activism During the Civil Rights Era,” American Educational Research Association, April 8-12
- 2021 Organizer. “Images in the Archive: Merits and Challenges of using Photographs in Historical Research,” American Historical Association (panel accepted-meeting cancelled)
- 2019 Organizer. “Education and Imperialism in the Early Twentieth Century,” History of Education Conference, October 31-November 3
- 2019 Chair and Organizer. “I Did It All and Now There’s More?”: Navigating Post-Graduate Life,” History of Education Conference, October 31-November 3
- 2018 Organizer. “Education, Acculturation and U.S. Imperialism,” History of Education Conference, November 1-4

***Papers Presented***

- 2024 Presenter. “Embodying Civilization: Children and Photographs during the 1916 US Occupation of the Dominican Republic,” Organization of American Historians, April 11–14.
- 2023 Presenter. “The Forgotten Collapse of the Dominican Public School System,” Organization of American Historians, March 30–April 2
- 2023 Presenter. “Negotiating Dominican Citizenship: Guardians and the 1916 US Occupation,” American Historical Association, January 5–8
- 2022 Presenter. “A Duty to Educate,” Dominican Studies Association, December 1-3
- 2021 Presenter. “Schools, Parents, and Agency during the 1916 US Occupation of the Dominican Republic,” History of Education Conference, November 4-7
- 2021 Presenter. “Reimagining Afro-Latinidad in the U.S. and Dominican Republic,” International Standing Conference of the History of Education, June 16-19
- 2021 Presenter. “Visualizing the Children of U.S. Colonialism,” International Standing Conference of the History of Education, June 16-19

- 2021 Presenter. "Julio Ortega Frier: Architect Behind Schooling during the 1916 U.S. Occupation of the Dominican Republic," American Educational Research Association, April 8-12
- 2021 Presenter. "Locating Agency Through Dominican Schools," NAEd/Spencer Spring Fellows Retreat, March 11-12
- 2021 Presenter. "Photographs during Twentieth-Century Occupations of the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico," American Historical Association, (paper accepted-meeting cancelled)
- 2020 Presenter. "Navigating, 'Being,' and Researching in the Archives," History of Education Pre-Conference, October 12
- 2019 Presenter. "Implementing U.S. Reforms in the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924," History of Education Conference, October 31-November 3
- 2019 Presenter. "Education Reforms during the U.S. Occupation of the Dominican Republic," International Standing Conference of the History of Education, July 16-20
- 2019 Presenter. "Moving Forward, Looking Back: Promising New Directions in Hispaniola Studies," Latin American Studies Association, May 24-27
- 2018 Presenter. "Modernizing Dominican Schools," Dominican Studies Association, November 15-17
- 2018 Presenter. "Educational Reforms during U.S. Occupation in the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924," Social Studies and History Association, November 8-11
- 2018 Presenter. "Education as Foreign Policy," History of Education Conference, November 1-4

#### ***Poster Sessions***

- 2021 Presenter. "The Paradox of Education and Empire: United States Occupation of the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924," American Educational Research Association, April 8-12
- 2018 Presenter. "Educational Reforms during U.S. Occupation in the Dominican Republic, 1916-1924," Academic Festival X, Teachers College, Columbia University, April 7

#### ***Workshops/Roundtable Sessions***

- 2023 Presenter. Social Science Research Council/Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, Preparing for the Professoriate Seminar, September 14-15
- 2022 Presenter. "Book Session: Mirelsie Velázquez, *Puerto Rican Chicago: Schooling the City, 1940-1977*," History of Education Conference, November 2-6
- 2022 Presenter. "Conducting Oral Histories: Communities, Race and Education," (Workshop) History of Education Conference, November 2-6
- 2022 Presenter. Social Science Research Council/Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, Preparing for the Professoriate Seminar, September 22-23
- 2021 Presenter. "Recovering Pasts, Reimagining Futures: Centering Our Communities in Latinx History," History of Education Conference, November 4-7
- 2021 Presenter. Social Science Research Council/Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, Preparing for the Professoriate Seminar, September 23-24

#### ***Class Presentations***

- 2023 Black and Latinx Educational Histories and Voices, Professor Gonzalo Guzmán, Macalester College, April 11

- 2022 History of the Dominican Republic, Professor Anyeline Mejia-McDonald, Skidmore College, March 1
- 2022 Peoples of New York City, Professor Jean Park, Macaulay Honors College, City University of New York (CUNY), March 25
- 2021 History of Education in New York City, Professor Jennifer Boyle, Teachers College, Columbia University, February 8
- 2019 History of Education in New York City, Professor Jennifer Boyle, Teachers College, Columbia University, September, 30
- 2018 History of Education in New York City, Professor Fevronia Soumakis, Teachers College, Columbia University, November 21

## RESEARCH PROJECT COLLABORATIONS

### *Current Projects*

- 2023 Hidden Voices AfroLatine Curriculum Project, [afrolatin@ forum](mailto:afrolatin@forum)
- 2021- [Teachers in the Movement](#), Center for Race and Public Education in the South, University of Virginia
- 2021- [Carter G. Woodson Home Historic Site Study](#), Center for Race and Public Education in the South, University of Virginia

### *Previous Projects*

- 2021 Curriculum for “[First Blacks in the Americas](#),” CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, City University of New York (CUNY)
- 2021 [Sugar Hill: A Community of Excellence](#), Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

### *Additional Research Experience*

- 2018-19 Dr. Elsie Rockwell, Continued research assistance in locating and organizing archival database, Departamento de Investigaciones Educativas-Cinvestav
- 2017-18 Dr. Ansley Erickson, Archival research on desegregation in New York City
- 2017 Dr. Elsie Rockwell, Visiting Professor, Institute of Latin American Studies, Columbia University
- 2016-19 Dr. Cally Waite, History and Education, Columbia University

## MEDIA COVERAGE

- Laura Hoxworth, “More Than Words: Oral Storytelling Project Brings Black History to Life,” *UVA Today*, February 24, 2022, <https://news.virginia.edu/content/more-words-oral-storytelling-project-brings-black-history-life>
- Anne E. Bromley, “Postdoctoral Fellowships Support a New Generation of Professors,” *UVA Today*, September 23, 2021, <https://news.virginia.edu/content/postdoctoral-fellowships-support-new-generation-professors>
- “Mentors, Scholars, Editors and Authors,” Teachers College Newsroom, May 18, 2020, <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/articles/2020/may/mentors-scholars-editors-and-authors/>

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *Undergraduate*

#### University of Virginia

EDLF 3490: Education, Power and US Democracy, Instructor (Fall 2022)

EDLF 3240: Education in Multicultural Societies (Fall 2023)

Columbia University

UN 2660: Latin American Civilizations I, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2018)

URBS V1515: Introduction to Urban Studies, Teaching Assistant (Fall 2017)

***Graduate Courses***

University of Virginia

EDLF 8651: History of Higher Education, Instructor (Spring 2022)

Columbia University

AHH 4070: History of Education in the United States, Teaching Assistant (Summer 2020)

AHH 5076: History of African American Education, Teaching Assistant (Summer 2020)

AHH 4199: History of Education in Latin America, Instructor (Spring 2020)

***Courses Developed***

University of Virginia

“Education, Power and US Democracy,” Instructor (Fall 2021)

Columbia University

AHH 4070: History of Education in the United States (online), Graduate Assistant (Fall 2019-Spring 2020)

EDP 4025: Understanding Race and Education: From a Racial Hierarchy to Racial Literacy (online), Reimagining Education Institute, Graduate Assistant (Spring 2018)

AHH: 4199: History of Education in Latin America, Instructor (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)

***Additional Teaching Experience***

Fall 2013-Spring 2016: Elementary School Educator in Baltimore City Public Schools

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

***Peer Review***

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Conference Proposal Reviewer, History of Education Society              |
| 2022 | Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association |
| 2022 | Manuscript Reviewer, <i>Revista Arbor</i>                               |
| 2021 | Manuscript Reviewer, <i>History of Education Quarterly</i>              |
| 2020 | Conference Proposal Reviewer, History of Education Society              |
| 2020 | Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association |
| 2017 | Peer Reviewer, Harlem Education History Project                         |

***Committee Membership***

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2022    | Member, Local Program Sub-committee, History of Education Society                   |
| 2021-22 | Member, Annual Program Committee, History of Education Society                      |
| 2019    | Chair, Graduate Student Committee, History of Education Society                     |
| 2018    | Member, Graduate Student Committee, History of Education Society                    |
| 2018    | Graduate Student Representative, Nominating Committee, History of Education Society |

## **SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENT**

### Columbia University

- 2019 History and Education Program Representative, Arts and Humanities Council
- 2018 Doctoral Student Representative, Admitted Student's Day Panel
- 2017-18 Graduate Assistant, History and Education Colloquium

## **SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

- 2016-20 College and Career Day Volunteer, PS 145, Brooklyn, NY
- 2017-18 Volunteer Researcher, AP Seminar, Medgar Evers College Prep School, Brooklyn, NY

## **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Fluent)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
American Historical Association (AHA)  
Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)  
Dominican Studies Association (DSA)  
History of Education Society (HES)  
International Standing Conference on the History of Education (ISCHE)  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)  
Organization of American Historians (OAH)  
Southern Historical Association (SHA)