

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

ANCESTRAL WRITING, A POLITICAL PEDAGOGY

Recuperating Memory and the Afrocentric Concept of Time as a Means to Decolonize Creative Writing.

**LED BY AUTHOR MAYRA SANTOS-FEBRES
(PUERTO RICO)**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5TH. 2:30 – 3:30 PM (ET)

WORKSHOP HELD IN ENGLISH

ON ZOOM. REGISTER HERE:

<https://fordham.zoom.us/join/register/tZEkd-6oqDgoHtQxQHjU0HInv1b1H6nJMFsE>

Part of the Teaching Race Across the Curriculum (TRAC) Project:

“Este es mi momento / This Is My Moment:

A Bilingual Creative Writing Project”



See workshop description on the next page.

Ancestral Writing, a Political Pedagogy: Recuperating Memory and the Afrocentric Concept of Time as a Means to Decolonize Creative Writing.

Workshop led by Mayra Santos-Febres

This lecture-workshop is about the identification of ancestral archetypes as a motor for literary production.

This workshop starts from a decolonial examination of the process of "identification" and construction of "identity" according to the Euro-centered literary tradition in current literary practices. What we propose is to revisit this construction of the "I" as the origin of literary production. Who is this "I" and how is it built from the Euro-American traditions that direct the circuits of literary evaluation in the Americas? How do we decolonize literary production from within?

For this, I propose a practice that explores, through literary exercises, the emission of voice from other coordinates:

- 1- Ubuntu- I am because we are- the fractal in literature.
- 2- Ancestral knowledge- recover the memory of ancestral life technologies
- 3- Afro-diasporic and Afro-indigenous archetypes.
- 4- time, linearity vs voice and fractal form.

Three exercises will be presented in each of these topics to decolonize the practices in the classroom.

BIO

Mayra Santos-Febres was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico 1966. She studied literature at the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph. D. at Cornell University. She has been a visiting scholar at Rutgers (1992), Cornell (1994) and Harvard University (2004) as well as Complutense University in Spain (2013), Autonomous University of México, at Yucatán campus (2008) and Leipzig University in Holland (2005). She co-created the Creative Writing Program for the University of Puerto Rico and founded and directed The Word/ Festival de la Palabra, the most internationally recognized Literary Festival in Puerto Rico (2010-2009). Content Coordinator of Interdisciplinary and Multicultural Institute at the UPR, Mayra Santos –Febres is currently the Principal Investigator for the development of University of Puerto Rico's Afro Diasporic and Race Studies Program, which has been recently awarded with a Mellon Foundation grant for academic diversification. As a writer, Mayra Santos-Febres has won many international prizes and recognitions, such as the Letras de Oro Award (Spain, 1994) the Radio France Juan Rulfo Award (1998), the Premio Primavera Award, Spain (2001) for her novel Nuestra Señora de la Noche and the John S. Simmon Guggenheim Fellowship (2015) as well as the Rockefeller Bellagio Center Residency (2018).