**Gisabel Leonardo**

**PhD Candidate**

**gisabel2@illinois.edu**

**Professional Overview**

Experience in pedagogy and research concentrating in language, literature, and culture. Research focused on the performative representation of identity and heritage in Dominican-American culture through the interstices of race, gender, nation, and sexuality.

Current dissertation project looks the performance of race, nation, and sexuality through hair in diasporic Dominican literary and cultural production.

**Education**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** 2019-Present

**Doctor of Philosophy: Spanish**, Literature

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Concentration in Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Minor in Latina/ Latino Studies

Graduate College Fellow

Teaching Assistant for Latinx film and literature courses

ABD May 2021

Coursework:

LLS 596: Immigration, Race, and Identity

SPAN 535: Seminar in Spanish-American Literature: Politics of Pleasure

SPAN 571: Proseminar for Language Teaching

ENGL 564: Minoritarian Aesthetics

LLS 465: Race, Sex, and Deviance

SPAN 467: Romance and Race

SPAN 595: Special Topics in Spanish (Research)

LLS 577: Perspectives in LLS

SPAN 468: 20th-21st Century Spanish American Studies

SPAN 572: Theory and Literary Criticism

SPAN 535: Seminar in Spanish-American Literature: Cabinet of Curiosities

SPAN 595: Special Topics in Spanish: Africa in Colonial Spanish America

SPAN 599: Thesis Research

Prelim Doctoral Exam: Passed (5/13/2021)

**Georgia State University** 2018

**Master of Arts: Spanish,** Culture and Literature

Atlanta, Georgia

Vice President of the Spanish Club

Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant

4.00 GPA—“High Pass” thesis defense

**University of North Georgia** 2015

**Bachelor of Arts**: **Spanish**  
Dahlonega, Georgia, United States

Minor in Gender Studies  
Dean's List, President’s list

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Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society) Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society)

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**Presentations and Publications**

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Winner of 2014 UNG Annual Research Conference. Paper Presentation.

Finalist at 2014 Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference. Paper Presentation.

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Published in *Papers and Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research* 2015. “Significance of Hair as a Means of Racial Identity in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.”

Graduate College Fellow- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2019.

Published review of *Racialized Visions: Haiti and the Hispanic Caribbean*, ed. Vanessa K. Valdés, May 2021, Chasqui: revista de literatura latinoamericana.

ASA 2021 *Creativity within Revolt* roundtable:“Not Latin American Enough”.

MLA 2022 *Multilingual US*, Race and the Aesthetics of Refusal in Contemporary Latin America/Hemispheric America (included in Presidential Theme), “Dios, (Doña) Patria, Libertad: Black, Femme Resistance in Evaristo Angurria’s Doña Patria Murals”.

LASA 2022 P*olarización socioambiental y rivalidad entre grandes potencias,* Corporeal and Sonic Ecologies,“Teteo Amidst Crisis: The Queer Counterpublics of Dembow”.

**Work Experience**

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign August 2021-Present

**Teaching Assistant**

Champaign-Urbana, IL

SPAN 248: Latin American Diaspora through Film

LLS 242: Intro to Latina/o Literature (writing consultant)

Georgia State University June 2018 to August 2019

**Limited Term Faculty**

Atlanta, GA

Instructor of elementary and intermediate level Spanish (1000 and 2000 level)

Coordinate with faculty on instruction and departmental exams

Georgia State University August 2016 to May 2018

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Atlanta, GA

Spanish tutor

Research/ Teaching Assistant for graduate faculty

Instructor on record for several elementary level Spanish courses (1000 level)