

# RENÉ ESPARZA

Washington University in St. Louis  
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63130

r.esparza@wustl.edu

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Washington University in St. Louis  
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Assistant Professor

July 2019-Present

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Department of American Studies  
Post-Doctoral Research Associate

2017-2019

## EDUCATION

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University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Department of American Studies, PhD

2017

Dissertation: *From Vice to Nice: Race, Sex, and the Gentrification of AIDS*

Committee: Roderick A. Ferguson (Co-Advisor), Kevin P. Murphy (Co-Advisor), Martin F. Manalansan, IV, Sandra K. Soto, Edén Torres, and Lorena Muñoz.

Department of American Studies, MA

2014

Thesis: "Strange Bedfellows: Anti-Pornography Rhetoric, Moral Conservatism, and Urban Renewal."

Advisors: David J. Karjanen, Kevin P. Murphy, and Edén E. Torres.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Department of Anthropology, BA

2009

Department of Latina/o Studies, BA

2009

Honors: Highest Distinction; Chancellor's Scholar

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Comparative race and ethnic studies; queer of color critique; women of color feminism; urban politics, history, and discourses; LGBT studies; neoliberalism; War on Drugs; HIV/AIDS

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Esparza, R.** "Black Bodies on Lockdown: AIDS Moral Panic and the Criminalization of HIV in Times of White Injury." *The Journal of African American History* 104, no. 2 (2019): 250-80.

**Esparza, R.** "Heteronormativity and Homonormativity in Queer Chicana/o Cultural Discourse and Politics." In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latina/o Literature*, ed. Louis Mendoza, 1-38. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Esparza, R.** "Coming Out: On the Down-Low in Communities of Color." In volume 3 of *LGBT Americans at Risk: Problems and Solutions*, ed. Chuck Stewart, 237-58. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger, 2018.

**Esparza, R.** “Queering the Homeland: Chicanidad, Racialized Homophobia, and the Political Economy of Homopatriarchy.” *Feminist Formations* 29, no. 2 (2017): 147-76.

**Esparza, R.** Book Review of *Visions and Revisions: Coming of Age in the Age of AIDS* by Dale Peck. *Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History Newsletter*, (Fall 2017).

**Esparza, R.** Book Review of *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhood History and the Politics of Violence* by Christina B. Hanhardt. *Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender History Newsletter*, (Spring 2014).

#### WORKS IN PROGRES

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“‘Qué Bonita Mi Tierra’: Latinx AIDS Activism and Decolonial Queer Praxis in 1980 New York and Puerto Rico” (Forthcoming at *Radical History Review*)

*From Vice to Nice: Race, Sex, and the Gentrification of AIDS* (Book Manuscript in Progress)

“‘We Lived as Do Spouses’: AIDS, Neoliberalism, and Family-Based Apartment Succession Rights in 1980s New York City” (Accepted at *Journal of History of Sexuality*)

#### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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Washington University in St. Louis The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (Declined) Faculty Fellowship	Spring 2022
The Center for the Humanities First Book Faculty Fellowship	Spring 2022
The Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship (Amount: \$1,000)	Fall 2020
Washington University in St. Louis The Center for the Humanities Summer Faculty Research Grant (Amount: \$6,500)	Fall 2019
University of Maryland, Baltimore County Drescher Center for the Humanities Scholarly Development Fund (Amount: \$1,000)	Fall 2018
ONE Archives Foundation, Inc. ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives LGBTQ Research Fellowship (Amount: \$1,200)	Summer 2018
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Graduate School Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (Amount: \$23,000)	2015-2016

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Department of American Studies Stanley Andersen Summer Research Fellowship (Amount: \$5,000)	Summer 2014
Graduate School Diversity Office Dove Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship (Amount: \$4,000)	Summer 2013
College of Liberal Arts Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship (Amount: \$4,000)	Summer 2012
Department of American Studies The Mulford Q. Sibley Graduate Fellowship (Amount: \$2,000)	Summer 2011
Graduate School Diversity Office Dove Summer Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship (Amount: \$4,000)	Summer 2010
Graduate School of Diversity Office Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship (Amount: \$22,000)	2009-2010

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Esparza, R.** “The Great Gay Migration: AIDS ‘Homecoming’ Narratives and Middle America’s Fantasies of Racial Reconciliation.” American Historical Association Conference, Seattle, WA, January 2021.

**Esparza, R.** “AIDS ‘Homecoming’ Narratives: Domestic Activism and Fantasies of Racial Reconciliation in 1980s Middle America.” American Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 2020.

**Esparza, R.** “Towards a Decolonial Queer Praxis: AIDS, Puerto Rico, and Transnational Circuits of Latina/o Activism.” American Studies Association Conference, Honolulu, HI, November 2019.

**Esparza, R.** “‘Qué Bonita Mi Tierra:’ US Latinx AIDS Activism in Mexico and Puerto Rico.” Queer History Conference, San Francisco, CA, June 2019.

**Esparza, R.** “‘We Lived as Do Spouses:’ AIDS, Neoliberalism, and Family-Based Apartment Succession Rights in 1980s New York City.” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2019.

**Esparza, R.** “Black Sexuality in Times of White Injury: The Media-Orchestrated HIV-Criminalization of Black Sex Workers.” American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

**Esparza, R.** “Play It Safe! The Racial Politics of HIV-Prevention and Anti-Violence Gay Activism in 1980s Minneapolis.” Urban History Association Conference, Columbia, SC, October 2018.

**Esparza, R.** “Latinx ACT UP: Transnational AIDS Activism.” Latina/o Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., July 2018.

**Esparza, R.** “Propertied Belongings: AIDS Evictions, Neoliberal Subjection, and the Spatialized Politics of Homonormativity.” American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

**Esparza, R.** “Black Bodies on Lockdown: The Criminalization of HIV Times of White Injury.” American Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, November 2016.

**Esparza, R.** “Flying Into Marriage, Minnesota: Racialized Homelessness and the Circuits of Queer Mobility in the Neoliberal Heartland.” American Studies Association Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 2015.

**Esparza, R.** “And the Bathhouse Played On: Race, Sex, and the Politics of Public Health in the Twin Cities.” American Studies Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.

**Esparza, R.** “The Violence of Property: Race, Space, and the Neoliberal Restructuring of Public Housing in Minneapolis.” American Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 2013.

**Esparza, R.** “From the Bathhouse to the Townhouse: The Gentrification of Gay Male Sexuality in the Twin Cities.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL, September 2013.

**Esparza, R.** “Queering the Homeland: Return Narratives of the Gay Mexican-American Diaspora.” American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

**Esparza, R.** “There’s More to Being Gay than ‘Will & Grace’: Alternate Sexualities of Latino Men on the Down Low.” Ronald E. McNair Scholars’ Conference, Champaign, IL, August 2007.

#### GUEST LECTURER

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University of Iowa, Iowa City

Department of American Studies (Invited Speaker)

Winter 2019

“‘Qué Bonita Mi Tierra’: US Latinx AIDS Activism in Mexico and Puerto Rico.”

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Department of Latina/o Studies (Invited Speaker)

Winter 2019

“‘Qué Bonita Mi Tierra’: US Latinx AIDS Activism in Mexico and Puerto Rico.”

Washington University at St. Louis

Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (Invited Speaker)

Winter 2018

“Play It Safe: Anti-Violence Gay Activism, Racialized Criminality, and the Spatial Politics of Homonormativity.”

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Department of American Studies (Invited Speaker)

Winter 2017

“Play It Safe: Anti-Violence Gay Activism, Racialized Criminality, and the Spatial Politics of

Homonormativity.”

Ithaca College

Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (Invited Speaker) Winter 2016  
“Play It Safe: Anti-Violence Gay Activism, Racialized Criminality, and the Spatial Politics of Homonormativity.”

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

Department of Women’s Studies (Invited Speaker) Spring 2015  
“Mapping U.S. Homonormativity: AIDS and the Politics of Public Health in the Heartland.”

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Department of History (Lecturer) Fall 2014  
HIST 3212: Dissident Sexualities in U.S. History  
“Gay Sex in the 80s: HIV-Prevention, Moral Conservatism, and Fiscal Austerity.”

Department of Chicano and Latino Studies (Lecturer) Spring 2014

CHIC 1102: Latinas/os in the United States: Culture and Citizenship  
“This is your Brain on Drugs: Race, Gender, and Mass Incarceration in the Age of Neoliberalism.”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Washington University in St. Louis

Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor of Record Spring 2021  
WGSS 383: Sex and the City: Gender, Sexuality, and the Urban Landscape  
WGSS 100: Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor of Record Fall 2020  
WGSS 314: The Racial and Sexual Politics of Public Health  
WGSS 100: Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor of Record Spring 2020  
WGSS 383: Sex and the City: Gender, Sexuality, and the Urban Landscape  
WGSS 100: Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor of Record Fall 2019  
WGSS 100: Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Department of American Studies

Instructor of Record Fall 2018  
AMST 200: What is an American?

Instructor of Record Spring 2018  
AMST 380: Community in America

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
 Department of Chicano and Latino Studies  
 Instructor of Record  
 CHIC 1112: Introduction to Chicano Studies: Critical Paradigms Spring 2017

Instructor of Record  
 CHIC 4232: Chicana/o and Latina/o Gender and Sexuality Fall 2016

Department of American Studies  
 Grader Fall 2015  
 AMST 4101: Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America

Instructor of Record Spring 2015  
 AMST 4101: Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America

Instructor of Record Fall 2014  
 AMST 4101: Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America

Department of Chicano and Latino Studies  
 Grader Spring 2014  
 CHIC 1102: Latinos in the U.S.: Culture and Citizenship

Department of American Studies  
 Grader Fall 2013  
 AMST 2011: The U.S. since September 11

Instructor of Record Spring 2013  
 AMST 1012: Migrants Refugees, Citizens, and Exiles

Instructor of Record Fall 2012  
 AMST 1401: Comparative Genders and Sexualities

Teaching Assistant Spring 2012  
 AMST 3252W: American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present

Teaching Assistant Fall 2011  
 AMST 3252W: American Popular Culture and Politics: 1900-1940

Teaching Assistant Spring 2011  
 AMST 3253W: American Popular Culture and Politics: 1940 to the Present

Grader Fall 2010  
 AMST 4101: Gender, Sexuality, and Politics in America

#### OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
 Department of American Studies  
 Directed Study Summer 2016  
 Race, Class, and Inequality in American Society

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Instructor of Record  
U.S. Immigration History Winter 2014

Instructor of Record  
American LGBT Politics Winter 2013

McNamara Academic Center for Student-Athletes  
Subject Tutor 2012-2013

## SERVICE

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### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Washington University in St. Louis  
Dept. of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Decentering the West Lecture Series/Colloquium Present

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Co-Chair Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Group 2014-2015

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Peer-Reviewer, *Modern American History* 2020  
Journal Peer-Reviewer, *First Monday*

Proposal Reviewer, Queer History Conference 2019

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

America Reads/America Counts  
Tutor 2005-2009

*Mujeres Latinas En Acción*  
Tutor 2005-2009

## MEMBERSHIPS

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American Studies Association  
Critical Ethnic Studies Association  
Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History  
Latina/o Studies Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Urban History Association

## LANGUAGES

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Spanish (fluent)

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## REFERENCES

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Roderick A. Ferguson (Professor)  
Yale University  
Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality  
roderick.ferguson@yale.edu  
(203) 432-0845

Kevin P. Murphy (Professor)  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Department of American Studies/Department of History  
kpmurphy@umn.edu  
(612) 624-9021

Martin F. Manalansan, IV (Associate Professor)  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities  
Department of American Studies  
manal016@umn.edu  
(612) 624-4190