

Gendered Materialities in Contemporary Post-Colonial Performance Art

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"I'm allowing life to weave story in me. I am not the artist. I am a witness of the animacy of a living world, within, without. All is kin. Land is creator. The way is water". Lindsay Dobbin

New Materialist, post-humanist approaches to the study of aesthetics are beginning to alter the way in which performance and performativity are conceptualized. Offering a redefinition of liveness and human-nonhuman relations, new materialists shift the focus from the subject and/or the object to their performative entanglement, the action between human and non-human matter and materialities. However, from post-colonial and de-colonial perspectives, the presumed novelty of "new" materialist epistemologies has been rightly challenged on the grounds that relational ontologies have long been at the core of certain post-colonial, de-colonial and Indigenous epistemologies. Mohawk-Acadian performer Lindsay Dobbin's quote above beautifully captures the idea of all matter, human, non-human, and more-than-human, as intimately connected in the living world. In this seminar, and drawing from my most recent research project, I suggest to depart from Karen Barad's notion of "intra-action" so as to put it in conversation with other specific conceptualizations around relational materialities that emerge in contemporary post-colonial performance art, as for example in the works of Lindsay Dobbin (Canada), Va-bene Elikem Fiatsi (Ghana) y Janini Cooray (Sri Lanka).

Speaker's bio-note:

Emilia María Durán-Almarza is Associate Professor of English at the University of Oviedo, Spain. She specializes in postcolonial and gender studies, with a special interest in 21st-century performative art and textualities. She completed her PhD with a thesis entitled "Performing Dominicanness: Representaciones de la dominicanidad en la producción artística de la diáspora".

She is co-editor of the book *Diasporic Women's Writing of the Black Atlantic* (Routledge, 2014) and the author of *Performeras del Dominicanyork: Josefina Báez y Chiqui Vicioso* (PUV, 2010), among many other contributions in journals and books. She was co-editor of the special issue on Afropolitanism of the *European Journal of English Studies* (2017). She is currently treasurer of EACLALS (European Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies).

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VENUE: Aula de Graus, Edifici Ramon Llull, Campus UIB