

# Yesenia Escobar

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## Professional Profile:

Professor with more than 20 years of experience in the education field. Distinguished poet. Proactive researcher. Experience in the implementation of Policies in education. Areas: African diaspora in Brazil, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Latin American Literature. Afrocentric Studies. Gender Studies. African Epistemologies and Spiritualities.

## Educación

### PH.D. CANDIDATE IN SPANISH (ABD). TEMPLE UNIVERSITY. EXPECTED 2025

Dissertation: *Ancestral-affect in Afro-Latin American Women Writers from Colombia, Brazil, and the Hispanic Caribbean*.

Committee: Dr. Adam Shellhorse (Ph.D. California, Berkeley), Dr. Molefi K. Asante (Ph.D. California, Los Angeles), Dr. Sergio Franco (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh).

### ABOGADA (JURIS DOCTOR) | 2018 | UNIVERSIDAD GRAN COLOMBIA

- Major: Human rights
- Dissertation: *Analysis of the migration policies of Colombia and Chile (2007-2017) for protecting the human rights of Afro-Colombian migrant women*. (Spanish language)

### MAGISTER EN ESTUDIOS LITERARIOS (MASTER IN LITERARY STUDIES) | 2013 | UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA

- Major: Latin American and Colombian Literature
- Dissertation: *The genesis of Afro-Colombian literature in the poetry of Candelario Obeso and Jorge Artel*. (Spanish language)

### LICENCIADA EN CIENCIAS DE LA EDUCACIÓN. ESPECIALIDAD: LENGUAS MODERNAS, ESPAÑOL-INGLÉS (B.A. IN EDUCATION| 2003 | UNIVERSIDAD DEL ATLÁNTICO.

- Major: Modern Languages Spanish-English

## Other certifications:

- Certificate of Scholarly Advancement for participating in the International Symposium on African Epistemologies. Molefi Kete Asante Institute, Philadelphia, 2023.

Certificado en Estudios Afrolatinoamericanos. (Certificate in Afro-Latin American Studies). Afro-Latin American Research Institute (ALARI) at Harvard University, 2021.

## Experience

### ADJUNCT PROFESSOR | TEMPLE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2024-SPRING 2025

- SPANISH BASIC I and II Lecture and Lab Instructor. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

### **TEACHING ASSISTANT | TEMPLE UNIVERSITY | FALL 2019-SPRING 2024**

- SPANISH BASIC I, II and III. Lecture and Lab Instructor. Department of Spanish and Portuguese. I also worked as a TA for Program Assessment and Curriculum Development for our Spanish tutoring program at the Student Success Center (SSC) for six weeks (about one and a half months).

### **PROFESSOR| UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL ABIERTA Y A DISTANCIA UNAD | FALL 2016-SPRING 2019**

- Courses taught: English as a Foreign Language, Writing Composition in Spanish, Critical Reading in Spanish.

### **RESEARCH CHAIR AND PROFESSOR| UNIVERSIDAD MINUTO DE DIOS | FALL 2012-SPRING 2014**

- Courses taught: English as a Foreign Language, Writing Composition in Spanish, Critical Reading in Spanish.

### **CHAIR AND PROFESSOR. BA IN ENGLISH PROGRAM| UNIVERSIDAD LA GRAN COLOMBIA | FALL 2008-SPRING 2012**

- Courses taught: English as a Foreign Language, English Phonetics and Phonology, English Literature, Research Seminar, Epistemology.

## **Additional experience**

### **EXTERNAL CONSULTANT | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF BOGOTA | 2018**

- Consultant for implementing the Afro-Colombian Studies Education Plan (Cátedra de Estudios Afrocolombianos) in Bogota's public schools. Department of Education, Bogota, Colombia.

## **Research publications**

- **Book chapter:** "African's Endowments: Leadership, Activism, and Legacies in Colombia." In: Asante, Molefi (Ed.). *Africology and the African Diaspora: Agency, Change, and Culture*. Lexington/Bloomsbury Publishers (In press).
- **Book chapter:** "De Malungajes y Afectos: una propuesta para aproximarse a la literatura afro-latinoamericana desde un enfoque afro-centrado" (About Malungages and Affections: a proposal to approach Afro-Latin American literature from an Afro-centered approach). Proceedings of the Literary International Colloquium: "Shifting the center". (Coloquio Internacional de Literaturas: "Desplazando el centro"). Universidad Surcolombiana (USCO), 2024.
- **Book chapter Co-author:** "Writing and Activism: A Political Perspective of Afro-Latina's Struggle in Colombia, Brazil, and the Caribbean," Published in *AfroLatinas and LatiNegras: Culture, Identity, and Struggle from an Intersectional Perspective* (Critical Africana Studies). Concetta Bondi and Rosita Scerbo (Editors), Lexington Books, 2022.

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- **Book chapter:** “Las escritoras afrocolombianas en el marco de los estudios literarios en Colombia: una propuesta para su visibilización” (Afro-Colombian women writers in the framework of literary studies in Colombia: a proposal for their visibilization). Chapter book. In *Palabra de negro*. Richard Leonardo (Editor). Universidad Nacional Federico Villarreal, Peru, 2015.

## Creative writing publications

- *Anoche soñé con cocodrilos (Last night I dream about crocodiles)*. (poetry book) published by the International Poetry Festival in Puerto Rico, 2025.
- “Triste poema de año nuevo”. Included in: *Morir Es Un País Que Amabas*. Antología en solidaridad con los Líderes y Lideresas Sociales asesinados en Colombia (To Die Is A Country You Loved. Anthology in solidarity with the Social Leaders assassinated in Colombia). Stefhany Rojas Wagner, Eduardo Bechara Navratilova (Editors). Abisinia and Escarabajo Publisher, 2024
- *¿En dónde estás Masmelo? ¡Ven pronto a jugar!*. (Masmelo: Where are you? Come to play with me!) Illustrated children book. Bogota, Tagigo, 2019.
- *Olga y el árbol de cañandonga (Olga and the cañandonga tree)*. Children story selected by Progetto 7Lune to be included in *LUNA ROSSA* Plaquette Monografica Fiabe ispanoamericane, 2018.
- *Ensueño negro del África mía*. (poetry book) Nostromo Ediciones, Fundación Carlos Arturo Truque. Bogotá, 2016
- Poems included in *Antología de Landais* (Landais' Anthology). Progetto 7Lune Editors. Venecia, Italia, 2014.
- *Mamá Avó*. Illustrated Children primer. Secretaría de Educación de Bogotá (Bogota's Department of Education), 2014.

## Performances

- *Say Good morning if it's night. Keila Cordova (Project Director and Choreographer) | 3 Pony Show*, Esperanza Arts Center, Philadelphia 2025. Performer. Lauded as a “thoroughly distinctive voice who sculpts multi-tiered tableaux teeming with vivid imagery”.
- Invited Poet to the International Poetry Festival in Puerto Rico and Cumbre Afro. 2025.
- Invited Poet to the XL Encuentro de Poetas Colombianas (40th Annual Meeting of Colombian Women Poets). Museo Rayo, Cali, Colombia. June 2024.

- Invited Poet to lead Finding Our Voice: Creative Poetry Workshop in the company of Norma-Corrales-Martin. The Free Library of Philadelphia organized the event. 2024 and 2025.
- Invited Poet to A Voice for Peace, Concord, and Harmony, the International Poetry Festival in Philadelphia organized by Acción Colombia, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese of Temple University, Philadelphia. 2022 to 2025

### Invited talks:

- Keynote Speaker at Molefi Kete Asante Institute. Philadelphia. March 2024  
Presentation: Afro-Colombian Literature: How Africans see the world in Colombia.
- Discussant at "Poetry's Essential Place in Anti-Colonial Philosophy." A Discussion with Dr. Jason Allen-Paisant and Company. Wolf Humanities Center · School of Arts & Sciences · University of Pennsylvania. March 2024
- Guest Speaker. Gumbo: The Podcast Season 2 Episode 5. "Identity in the Afro-Latinx Community". October 2023.
- Author invited to Lit in the Fifth. Celebrating African American women in literature. Afrikanah Book Club, Houston, Texas. October 2022.
- Keynote Speaker. Molefi Kete Asante Institute, Philadelphia. Sept. 2022  
Presentation: "Francia Elena Marquez and the Condition of African People in Colombia."
- Guest Speaker. Gumbo: The Podcast Season 1 Episode 7. "African Culture in the Americas Part II". October 2021.
- Guest speaker. III Encuentro Internacional de Historiografía, Sociología y Cultura Jurídica Latinoamericana: Mujer, género y derecho. (III International Meeting of Historiography, Sociology and Latin American Legal Culture: Women, Gender and Law). Doctorado en Derecho, el Observatorio Mujer Género y Violencia de la Universidad Libre. (Doctorate in Law, the Women, Gender and Violence Observatory of the Universidad Libre). Nov. 2021.  
Presentation: "La narrativa como constructora de memoria y reparación para las comunidades afrodescendientes en Colombia" (Narrative as foundation for the memory and reparation of Afro-descendant communities in Colombia)
- Invited author. Conversatorio y Recital (Lecture and Poetry reading). Escribir desde la diáspora (Writing from the Diaspora). Centro de Escritura TELAR. Universidad Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca. September 2020.
- Invited Panelist. Virtual Symposium at the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study Ecology-Human Futures & Democracy without State. August 2020.

Presentation: "Ancestry, ecology, and community leadership of black women in Colombia."

### Conference presentations:

- *The Poetics of Ancestral-Affect or How Words Can Heal the World: A Proposal for Approaching Afro-Latinx Literature* from an African Philosophy presented at the 2025 Graduate Conference, **Imagined Futures: Ruins of the Present and Horizons of the Past**, hosted by the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Pennsylvania.
- *Griots and Griottes of the Hispanic Insular and Continental Caribbean: An Approach to the Afro-Caribbean Oral Literature of Colombia and Cuba*. Panel: Bibliodiversity in Latin America: Production, Circulation and Visibilization. NeMLA, Philadelphia 2025.
- Presentation: "Y el Muntu se hizo carne: La rebelión de los genes en escritoras afrocolombianas contemporáneas" (And the Muntu became flesh: The rebellion of genes in contemporary Afro-Colombian women writers). XIV Simposio Internacional Jorge Isaacs: Manuel Zapata Olivella Vuelve a África. (XIV Jorge Isaacs International Symposium: Manuel Zapata Olivella Returns to Africa). Universidad del Valle (Cali, Colombia), University of Missouri (Columbia, EE. UU.), Université Cheikh Anta Diop (Dakar, Senegal). Dakar, Senegal, 2024.
- Presentation: "Cimarronaje poético y afecto-ancestralidad en Mirian Díaz y María de los Ángeles Popov" (Poetic marronage and ancestral-affect in Mirian Díaz and María de los Ángeles Popov). Latin American Studies Association LASA Congress 2024. Bogotá, Colombia.
- Presentation: "De Pássaras Pretas e Águas de Cabaça: uma leitura da condição de mulher negra no Brasil a través de Cristiane Sobral y Elizandra Souza" (From Black Birds and Gourd Waters: a reading of the condition of black women in Brazil through Cristiane Sobral and Elizandra Souza). Brazilian Studies Association BRASA, XVII Congress. San Diego, California.
- "Black Affect, Malungaje and Political Activism in Afro-Latin American and Afro-Latinx Literature." Modern Language Association MLA 2024 Annual Convention, Panel presider and organizer. Philadelphia, PA.
- Presentation: "De Malungajes y Afectos: una propuesta para aproximarse a la literatura afro-latinoamericana desde un enfoque afro-centrado" (About Malungajes and Affections: a proposal to approach Afro-Latin American literature from an Afro-centric approach). International Colloquium: "Shifting the center". (Coloquio Internacional de Literaturas: "Desplazando el centro"). Universidad Surcolombiana. 2023.
- Presentation: "Writing and Activism: A Political Perspective of Afro-Latina's Struggle in Colombia, Brazil, and the Caribbean,." Northeast Modern Language Association, NeMLA,

54th Annual Convention. Panel: "Intersectional Perspectives on AfroLatina/LatiNegra Cultures". Niagara Falls, NY.

- Presentation: "Transgressing EFL Education in Colombia. A decolonial anti-racist approach". Third National Workshop on Teaching and Learning of Foreign Languages: Meaningful Experiences in Current Times. Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia, 2021.

## Grants and Awards:

### **CLA RESEARCH AWARD FOR ADVANCED DOCTORAL STUDENTS (RAADS). | TEMPLE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2024**

This funding support enabled me to dedicate an extended period this summer to focus on my research, including travel to Brazil, Colombia, and Cuba to interview the writers featured in my dissertation.

## Languages:

- Spanish: Native or Bilingual Proficiency.
- English: Full professional Proficiency.
- Brazilian Portuguese: Full professional Proficiency.

## Honorary Memberships:

- INABRA: Instituto Nacional Afro-Brasileiro (Afro-Brazilian National Institute) International Branch Director.
- Red Elegguá: Colombian ONG for researching and fostering antiracist education. Honorary Member.

## References:

**Molefi Kete Asante, Ph.D. [he/him/él]**  
Professor, Africology and African American Studies  
Temple University.  
[molefi.asante@temple.edu](mailto:molefi.asante@temple.edu)

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Associate Professor and Graduate Chair  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Temple University  
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