



## *Descargas otorgadas*

*Primer Semestre 2024-2025*

**Dr. Eric Lamore**  
**Departamento de Inglés**

*Who Purchased the Authorized Second Edition of Ottobah Cugoano's Jeremiad?*

I respectfully request a research release for the Fall 2024 semester to work on Ottobah Cugoano, the most radical Black writer in late-eighteenth-century Britain. After being ignored by British abolitionists following the publication of his first book in 1787, Cugoano wrote a shorter version in 1791 in which he addressed Sons of Africa, a Black political organization he cofounded, instead of white Britons, the audience for the first edition. However, the list of subscribers from the 1791 edition, which contains the names of over two hundred Britons and has been overlooked by scholars, does not contain any of the Sons' members. By examining London directories, encyclopedias on British artists, membership lists of the Royal Academy of Arts, and peer reviewed scholarship on eighteenth-century British artists, I will determine the identities and professions of these subscribers, the extent to which Cugoano relied on the artistic and print networks of Richard and Maria Cosway, famous British artists who enslaved and eventually freed the Black writer, and if he was successful in mobilizing working-class Britons for anti-slave-trade and anti-slavery resistance. This work forms part of my monograph, *"Unstable as Water": Early Black Atlantic Literature and Textual Fluidity*, in which I utilize methodologies from the fields of book history and print cultures to examine books related to or written by individuals of African descent first printed before 1800. For this scholarship, I have been awarded numerous fellowships, including one funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and appointed Remote Scholar at New York University.

**Dr. Gregory Stephens**  
**Departamento de Inglés**

*Revisiting Santiago: ethnographic approaches to a Puerto Rican classic*

I will begin gathering in book form material developed for Advanced English students in Spring 2023-Spring 2024. Learning outcomes centered on teaching transferable skills to first year STEM students, using Esmeralda Santiago's *When I Was Puerto Rican* as the class text.

This book was dynamic for Puerto Rican students: it reconstructs a “culture of origin” while detailing a complex movement into engagement with English, and North American cultural and socio-political traditions. The 120 students I taught undertook close readings with this book over the course of the semester, including Santiago’s writings in Spanish about translating the text from English back into her first language. Key themes included translanguaging, the coming of age genre, and ethnographic approaches as methods for research, writing, and cultural analysis.

This project is drive by two core ideas:

- 1) Our close reading of Santiago was modelled on the notion of a “focused revisit”: “when an ethnographer returns to the site of a previous study,” as sociologist Michael Burawoy puts in. In a revisit, one critically re-examines prior impressions or preconceptions, in order to “see with new eyes,” in the “connect the dots” manner DiYanni advocates (22);
- 2) Students acted as “apprentice ethnographers,” undertaking “mini-ethnographies” through methods including interviews of family members. Topics include generational similarities and differences about what having “a shot at it” means, and changing attitudes and things including gender roles, and cultural and linguistic “vaivén” as normative.

**Dr. Jerry Torres**  
**Departamento de Humanidades**

*Obra de gigantes: estudio de la planificación, diseño y construcción del Proyecto del Suroeste de la Autoridad de las Fuentes Fluviales de Puerto Rico (1941-1956)*

Esta propuesta pretende rescatar del olvido una de las obras de construcción más importantes de Puerto Rico y una de las menos conocidas y valoradas. El Proyecto del Suroeste o Proyecto del Valle de Lajas es considerado por los expertos como «la obra pública hidroeléctrica más grande y costosa» (Baralt: 258) de la historia de Puerto Rico. Para esta investigación consideraré el marco temporal específico entre 1941 y 1956. Abordaré el tema de la construcción no solo desde el punto de vista de diseño, infraestructura e ingeniería sino también del impacto físico de las obras en los municipios afectados. Se usarán como fuentes principales el Archivo Histórico de la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica de Puerto Rico y el Periódico El Mundo. Las preguntas clave que guiarán la investigación son: ¿Cuáles fueron las circunstancias materiales para la planificación, el diseño y la construcción de este proyecto? ¿Cuál es su trasfondo histórico, cuál es su relación con la segunda guerra mundial, con la modernización del país y con la ideología del progreso? ¿Qué relación tuvo el proyecto con el desarrollo de la Autoridad de Fuentes Fluviales? ¿Qué es la Autoridad del Valle del Tennessee (TVA por sus siglas en inglés)? ¿Como afectó el desarrollo de la TVA a la historia de la Autoridad de Fuentes Fluviales? ¿Cómo se impactó la naturaleza y la agricultura con las obras de construcción? ¿Qué retos estructurales, de construcción, de logística, de

capacitación y de cumplimiento fueron enfrentados? ¿Cuáles inconvenientes e imprevistos surgieron y cómo se solucionaron?

**Dr. Sergiy Lysenko**  
**Departamento de Física**

*Photoinduced Melting of V4O7 Correlated State*

In this proposal we intend to study insulator-to-metal phase transition dynamics in V4O7, one of the less explored vanadium oxides with unusual exotic properties of a quantum material. Here we will use our original femtosecond spectroscopy technique with very precise computer-controlled laser pump fluence and sample temperature to observe nonlinear optical (NLO) dynamics of V4O7. We will perform series of measurements to monitor NLO originated from light-induced insulator-to-metal phase transition. Our goals are to (i) present the experimental discovery/proof of light-induced insulator-to-metal phase transition of highly-correlated oxide V4O7 on an ultrafast time scale; (ii) reveal the nature of the light-induced phase transition in V4O7; (iii) reconstruct quantitatively a free energy landscape from experimental data with the additional help of quantum calculations of Molecular Dynamics and to perform quantitative modeling of the realistic ultrafast structural dynamics in terms of robust Ginzburg-Landau formalism; (iv) publish a paper. Project will be conducted in the in the group of Advanced Materials Dynamics, Laboratory of Ultrafast Spectroscopy <https://fisica.uprm.edu/light/>.