
XAVIER NAVARRO AQUINO

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College of Arts & Letters
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-present Assistant Professor of English, University of Notre Dame
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Latino Studies
Faculty Fellow, Initiative on Race and Resilience

2020-2021 American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Postdoctoral
Fellow, Dartmouth College

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, Literature and Creative Writing
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 2020

M.A. English, Caribbean Studies
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2015

B.A. English, Literary Studies
Iowa State University, Ames, IA, 2011

AREAS OF TEACHING/RESEARCH

Postcolonial Studies; Caribbean Literature; Hispanic/Latinx Literature; Diaspora Studies; Puerto Rican Literature; Contemporary Fiction; Contemporary Poetry; African and African American Literature; Antiracist/Critical Race Pedagogy; Creative Writing Pedagogies

BOOK

Velorio, a novel. January 4, 2022. HarperVia/HarperCollins
Audio Version:
Audible

Foreign Rights/Translations:
HarperCollins Español (Spanish) January 4, 2022

Reviews:

Library Journal, starred review, February 1, 2022
The New York Times Book Review, January 4, 2022
Shelf Awareness, January 4, 2022
Chicago Review of Books, January 3, 2022
BookPage, January 2022
Kirkus Reviews, December 15, 2021
Booklist, starred review, November 1, 2021
Publishers Weekly, October 5, 2021

Featured In:

Audible, "The Best of 2022: Debuts," November 16, 2022

The Observer, "Notre Dame professor publishes debut novel on Hurricane Maria,"
February 16, 2022

NPR's Book of the Day, "Anger and grief after Hurricane Maria in 'Velorio,'"
January 13, 2022

The Millions, "Most Anticipated: The Great First-Half 2022 Book Preview," January
13, 2022

Miami El Nuevo Herald, "El escritor puertorriqueño Xavier Navarro Aquino presenta
la novela 'Velorio,'" January 9, 2022

Harper's BAZAAR, "The Best, Buzziest New Books of 2022," January 6, 2022

Chicago Review of Books, "12 Must-Read Books of January," January 3, 2022

Entertainment Weekly, "Alexis Daria, Naima Coster, and Gabriela Garcia recommend
their favorite books by other Latinx authors," October 5, 2021

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Two Young Kings, a novel. Represented by The Wylie Agency

HONORS/AWARDS

Velorio Spanish Language Finalist for Audie Award 2023

Finalist for the International Latino Book Award--The Rudolfo Anaya Best Latino Focused Fiction
2022

Named a "Writer to Watch" for fall 2021 by *Publishers Weekly*

American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellowship at Dartmouth College, 2020-
2021

Joy Currie Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Spring 2020

MacDowell Fellowship, Peterborough, New Hampshire, Fall 2019

Tennessee Williams Scholarship, Sewanee Writers' Conference, 2019

Van Sickle/Averill Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2019

Stuff Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall/Spring 2018

Vreeland Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2018

Chancellor's Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015-2017

Thomas Sullivan Award in English, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, May 2015

Longlisted for the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize in Poetry administered by the NGC Bocas
Lit Fest, Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 15, 2015

Work-Study Scholarship, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, August 13-23, 2014

Travel Scholarship to Ghana. Paper/Investigation Title: "Relationship blues in the creole language poetry of Una Marson, Louise Bennett, Opal Palmer Adisa, and Jean Binta Breeze." June 6-22, 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Fiction:

- "A Death Foretold." (anthologized) *A Flame Called Indiana: New Writing from the Crossroads*, Indiana University Press (forthcoming summer 2023)
- "Two Young Kings." *The Sewanee Review* (winter 2023). 96-116
- "Blood Brothers." *Prairie Schooner* (Spring 2022). 126-140
- "Cheo" novel excerpt, *The Common* (January 3, 2022)
- "Velorio" novel excerpt, *LitHub* (January 3, 2022)
- "A Death Foretold." *The Massachusetts Review* 62.4 (winter 2021). 812-821
- "Raw Season." *Tin House*.79 (Spring 2019). 121-140
- "Canibal the Real Deal." *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* 51 (December 2017). 357-392
- "Salient Men." *The Literary Review* 59.2 (spring 2016): 53-66
- "A Bridged Country." *Guernica*. (April 2016)
- "Sato." *Day One*. (December 2015)
- "Paquito Benitez," and "Dead Dog Beach." *Newport Review* (summer 2011)

Poetry:

- "Returning from Exile," and "Construction of Structure." *Thicker Than Water: New writing from the Caribbean*, edited by Funso Aiyejina, Peekash Press (April 2018). 171-174
- "Track Changes." *The Caribbean Writer* 30 (fall 2016). 62-63
- "Semblance over the ocean," *sx salon* 12 (May 2013)

Essay/Nonfiction:

- "Radical Change for America and Puerto Rico" in *USA Today* (December 31, 2021)
- "Fiction as Revelation: Chigozie Obioma," *BOMB Magazine*. (December 2019)

MEDIA/INTERVIEWS

Notre Dame Day 2022, Interview. April 25, 2022

"'Velorio', un libro para los sobrevivientes del huracán María" *Diario las Américas*, entrevista con Camila Mendoza. 13 de febrero de 2022

"'Velorio' Sounds the Collective Cry of Anger and Frustration from the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria" for Audible, Interview by Edwin de la Cruz. January 20, 2022

"Casos y Cosas de Collins" entrevista con María Antonieta Collins. 20 de enero de 2022

- “Ten Questions for Xavier Navarro Aquino” by *Poets & Writers Magazine*. January 4, 2022
- “Breaking Language Open: Xavier Navarro Aquino on Writing Hurricane Maria in His Debut Novel” for *Words Without Borders*, Interview by Jacqui Cornetta. January 2022
- “Breaking In” Interview by *Writers Digest*. January/February 2022. 26-27
- “The novel 'Velorio' tells one story of rebuilding after Hurricane Maria's destruction” for NPR’s Weekend Edition Author Interviews by Eyder Peralta. December 26, 2021

INVITED TALKS/READINGS

- Navarro Aquino, Xavier. “Invited Author/Reading” Calabash Literary Festival, Treasure Beach, Jamaica. May 26-28, 2023.
- Irving, Dionne, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Natasha Trethewey, Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi. “A Critical Discussion of Race and the Arts” Initiative on Race and Resilience, University of Notre Dame. February 28, 2023
- Navarro Aquino, Xavier. ““Of Abandonment and a Storm’s Wake: Puerto Rico, Collective Memory, and Speculating Futures” Ahead of the Game Lecture Series, University of Notre Dame. November 4, 2022
- Jiménez, Mónica, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Roger Reeves. “The Art of Refusal: A Literary Salon” Puerto Rican Studies Association Conference at Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College. Holyoke, MA October 14-16, 2022
- Gonzalez, Elvira, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Cleyvis Natero, Vincent Tirado. “Latinx Authors *are* Breaking into the Publishing Industry” Brooklyn Book Festival. Brooklyn, NY, September 29, 2022
- Navarro Aquino, Xavier. “Reading/talk at the Latina/o Studies Association Conference 2022 ‘Centering Blackness, Challenging Latinidad.’” University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies. July 11-14, 2022
- Figuerola, Jamie, Xavier Navarro Aquino, and Marytza K. Rubio. “Debut Authors Spotlight Panel” UC Riverside Tomás Rivera Conference, May 11, 2022
- Navarro Aquino, Xavier. “A Reading and Conversation” UC Riverside Tomás Rivera Conference, May 11, 2022
- Navarro Aquino, Xavier, Breanne Mc Ivor. “Bios & Bookmarks Season 7: ‘A Change is Gonna Come’ Xavier Navarro Aquino.” NGC Bocas Lit Fest, April 7, 2022
- Navarro Aquino, Xavier, Marisel Moreno, and Maritza Stanchich. “Afternoon Tertulía-*Velorio*: Narratives of Disaster” Hunter College, Center for Puerto Rican Studies, March 29, 2022

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Reading and Conversation with Marisel Moreno" at the University of Notre Dame. February 2, 2022

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Reading and Conversation with Victor LaValle" at Politics and Prose Bookstore. Virtual Event. January 9, 2022

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Reading and Conversation with Claire Jiménez" at Brookline Booksmith Bookstore. Virtual Event. January 6, 2022

Irving Bremyer, Dionne, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Azareen Van Der Vliet Oloomi, Roy Scranton. "The Power of Fiction: Creative Writing at Notre Dame." Advisory Council Meeting Faculty Panel, College of Arts & Letters, University of Notre Dame. November 5, 2021 (resulted in substantial gift to the Creative Writing Department at Notre Dame)

Bartels, Erin, Vanessa Miller, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Jodi Picoult, Weike Wang. "Fiction: Aiming to Heal." *Library Journal* Day of Dialog. Virtual Event. September 23, 2021

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Antiracism and Challenging Liberal Monohumanism." Dartmouth College. February 23, 2021

Noelle Connor, Allison, Emily Mercer, and Xavier Navarro Aquino. "Lit's Be Real Episode #3: Pitching and Submitting." NGC Bocas Lit Fest. December 9, 2020

Han, Simon, Meng Jin, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Antonio Ruiz-Camacho, and Novuyo Tshuma Rosa. "Not So Foreign: Writing in More Than One Language." *AWP 2020 Conference in San Antonio*. San Antonio, Texas. March 4-7, 2020

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Scholars Reading" at the Sewanee Writes' Conference in Sewanee, TN. July 16-28, 2019

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Driptorch Reading Series" Sponsored by Kansas State University CREWE at Arrow Coffee Co., Manhattan, KS. February 16, 2018

Bertram, Erin M., Linda Garcia Merchant, Nicole Green, and Xavier Navarro Aquino. "Pedagogy and Difference." University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Department of English. 17 August 2016

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "No Name Reading Series" at The Happy Raven, Lincoln, NE. March 10, 2016

Navarro Aquino, Xavier "Creative Writing Workshop" at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, November 20, 2014

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Waiter Reading at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference" in Middlebury, VT. August 18, 2014

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "Primal Scream? Rebel Yell! Correlations Between Death and Nostalgia and the Preservation of history in the Haitian Storytelling Tradition:

Krik? Krak!? Fifth Graduate Student Conference, *Caribbean Without Borders: Beyond the Ca[n]on's Range*. University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. March 24, 2014

Navarro Aquino, Xavier. "The Desire for Land: A Look at the Value of Land in Edgcombe's *Kirnon's Kingdom*" *15th Annual Islands In Between Conference*. University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas. November 8 2012

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSION

Indiana State Poet Laureate 2024-2026 Selection Committee Member, 2023

Global Anglophone Junior Faculty Job Search, Search Committee Member. Barry McCrea (chair), Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal, Xavier Navarro Aquino, Alison Rice. English Department, University of Notre Dame, 2022-2023

Latino Studies Association Site Committee Member, University of Notre Dame, 2021-2022

Fiction Editor. *Prairie Schooner*, 2017-2020

Editorial Assistant. *Prairie Schooner*, 2015-2017

Fiction Reader for the *Prairie Schooner* Book Prize, 2017-2020

Assistant Editor. *Tongvas Journal*, 2014-2015

Organizing Assistant. *16th Annual Islands In Between Conference*, Aruba, November 6-10, 2013

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advising:
Alexandra Ford (2022), Jack Heatherman (2023), Felicity Wong (2024), José Gonzalez (2024)

Graduate Thesis Advising:
Jacob Moniz (2023), Angela Lorang (2023), Rose Darline Darbouze (2024)

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Notre Dame:

ENGL 30853: Fiction Writing (fall 2023)

ENGL 90xxx: MFA Lit. Seminar: "Don't Believe the Hype: The Debut" (fall 2023)

ENGL 20005: Fiction Writing and the Short Story

ENGL 90013: Graduate Fiction Workshop

ENGL 30859: Fiction Writing: "Trauma, Disaster, Memory, and Resilience (For our Times)"

ENGL 20001: Introduction to Fiction Writing

ENGL 40850: Advanced Fiction Writing

University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

ENGL 150: Writing and Inquiry ONLINE (2 sessions).
ENGL 151: Writing and Argument, 2 sessions for Willy H. Thompson Scholars (5 sessions total).
ENGL 170: Beginning Creative Writing, Willy H. Thompson Scholars. (2 sessions).
ENGL 205: 20th Century Fiction ONLINE (1 session).
ENGL 252: Intro to Fiction/and ONLINE (4 sessions).
ENGL 254: Writing and Communities/and ONLINE (4 sessions).

University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras:

ENGL 3037: The Role of the Literary Magazine in Contemporary Literature (2 sessions).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Puerto Rican Studies Association
PEN/America