

## **Cristina Cortez**

Author, Independent Researcher, Advocate & Speaker  
ccortez07@gmail.com

### **EDUCATION**

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MFA in Creative Writing & Poetics, University of Washington Bothell, June 2018

B.A. in English, Creative Writing and Literature, & History with Minor in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Summa Cum Laude, Highest Honors with Distinction, Department: Hofstra University's Honors College, Hofstra University, May 2015

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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#### **Chapbooks**

Cristina Cortez *YO SOY, YO VIVO* (Spanish edition: Editorial Ojo de Cuervo, November 2022)  
Cortez, Cristina. *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca* (English/Spanish edition:  
Books&Smith Editors, June 2020) <https://bit.ly/36kbPce>

#### **Creative Work in Anthologies**

Cortez, Cristina. "Dreams Lost", "El Salvador, Voices of War Resurrected: A Beginning",  
"Poems from the Road" La Guagua Poetry Anthology: CELEBRATION &  
CONFRONTATION, Loom Press, 2019.

Cortez, Cristina. "Quetzal" *Clamor*, University of Washington Bothell's Literary and Arts  
Journal, Spring 2017.

Cortez, Cristina. "Rise", National Amateur Poetry Competition, published in *Where the Mind  
Dwells: Salvation*, Eber & Wein Publishing, 2016.

Cortez, Cristina. "Crack", Hofstra University's first English Society Showcase, October 2013.

### **ONLINE PORTFOLIO**

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Cortez, Cristina. "Writing with Dragon NaturallySpeaking, TextExpander, and CoWriter," July  
31, 2019.

<https://newmobility.com/dragon-naturallyspeaking-textexpander-and-cowriter/>

Cortez, Cristina. "A Skeptic's Journey with Alexa," February 23, 2019.

<https://newmobility.com/alexa-amazon-echo-show/>

Cortez, Cristina. "Disabled" Summer 2017.

<https://icomefromtheworld.org/disabled/?fbclid=IwAR143s3FGFZpzf36AxwQuESLCfydpFqzga15NI1eQX2Hqq-1RRimHyke8Wo>

Cortez, Cristina. "Tearing Down Walls, Building Bridges" TEDxEverett

Cortez, Cristina. Unpublished academic papers <https://uwbothell.academia.edu/CristinaCortez>

Cortez, Cristina. Travel Blog to Ireland Honors college Hofstra University, 2014

<https://cristinacortezauthor.wordpress.com>

## UNPUBLISHED WORK

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Cortez, Cristina. *Un-bound: A Memoir on Living Life with a Disability*, MFA Thesis under the advisement of Professors Rebecca Brown (1<sup>st</sup> Reader) and Ted Hiebert (2<sup>nd</sup> Reader)

Cortez, Cristina. *Jaguar: A Long Poem*. Directed Research under the advisement of Professor Amaranth Borsuk

## FELLOWSHIPS

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|-----------|---|
| 2021      | Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador Series, University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) Institute for Human Development, affiliated to Mass Families for change            |
| 2019-2020 | The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program at the Institute for Community Inclusion at Boston Children's Hospital, \$5,000) |
| 2021      | Awarded Albertina Tholakele Dube Scholarship for Young Writers to the 2021 Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference, August 5-7, 2021, via Zoom                              |

## CONFERENCES

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- 2021 Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference, August 5-7, 2021, via Zoom

## RESIDENCIES

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- 2018 Residency at Mineral School. Mineral, WA.

## HONORS

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- 2015 Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society
- 2015 Phi Beta Kappa Liberal Arts Honors Society
- 2014 Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society
- 2012 Alpha Delta Pi Honors Society for Students with Disabilities

## AFFILIATIONS

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- 2021 Mass Families for Change
- 2021 LifeCourse NEXUS
- 2020 Boston Center for Independent Living, Self-advocate
- 2020 Durable Medical Equipment Wheelchair Repair Work Group MassHealth
- 2020 Easter SEALS Massachusetts Thrive Women's Group
- 2020 Partners for Youth with Disabilities
- 2020 Massachusetts Youth Leadership Forum
- 2019 LEND Boston Children Hospital
- 2019 Newburyport Powwow River Poets
- 2019 Rhina P. Espaillat's Multilingual Roundtable Translation Workshop
- 2019 Bunker Hill Community College
- 2018 Mineral School Writers' Residency
- 2017 Here and Now Project Washington Paralysis Network

## SELECTED READINGS & PRESENTATIONS

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### Guest Lectures

2022 “Sabiduria indigena y memorias culturales” at Centro de Bellas Artes de Caguas, Puerto Rico organized by Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, Centro de Bellas Artes Caguas, Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia

2019 Guest speaker at Breed Middle School's Spanish National Junior Honor Society Chapter ‘Rigoberta Menchú’ Nobel Peace Prize

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPex94o-6\\_M&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=29](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPex94o-6_M&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=29)

## Selected Readings & Presentations

V Feria del Libro International, New Jersey (June 4-6, 2021). Panel: "Versenal" with Luisa Navarro, Juan Matos, Edgard Smith, Cristina Cortez, Alejandra Morales, Belkis Marte 3:00 p.m. (via Zoom/Facebook Live Stream @ FILNJUS) reading: "Coricancha," and "Saksawaman."  
Sunday, June 6, 2021

"Puente virtual de artes y letras: presentación de libros: *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca* by Cristina Cortez and *Nostanza* by Rafael Toni Badia. Moderators: Lourdes Batista y Ross Benjamin (via Zoom) 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, June 4, 2021

Lecture with Q&A, "Disabilities, self-representation, and Healing: Beyond Frida Khalo's *The Broken Column*: A Conversation with Disability Rights Activist and Poet Cristina Cortez." (via Zoom) Sponsor by the Department of Language, Literature, and Culture at Clark University.  
Friday, May 14, 2021

Celebrating Our Own" featuring Cristina Cortez '15 and Professor of English Phillis Levin Hofstra's Great Writers, Great Readings literary series presents. Sponsored by the Department of English in collaboration with the Hofstra Cultural Center. 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom).  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hq4A8sbtOTk&t=20s>

"The Family Mansion": Defining the "I" in Identity. Hosted by BHCC's 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist and Scholar in Residence Rhina P. Espaillat 6:30 p.m. (via WebEx). Using Rhina P. Espaillat's essay "The Family Mansion" as the foundation for discussion, this lecture explored modes of self-discovery and personal narrative through literary art. Featuring Rhina P. Espaillat, BHCC's 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist-Scholar in Residence and Emmanuela Maurice, Professor, English Department. With Remarks by Aurora Bautista, Professor, Behavioral Science Department. During the open mic I gave a reading of "Coricancha" from *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca*.  
Tuesday, December 1, 2020

"Salons in September: Black Girl Magic" Salon 1 "Wonder: Curiosity Lore, Divine, Sublime, and Grand." I presented a lecture titled: "Jaguar: A New Indigenous Epic for the Americas." Event organized by Meshell Sturgis, PhD Candidate. UW Bothell via Zoom, 11-12:30 PST.  
Saturday, September 26, 2020

The Power of Our Latinx Voices: Listen! Our History, Our Voices. Hosted by BHCC's 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist and Scholar in Residence Rhina P. Espaillat (via WebEx) Experience the courageous poetry of first-generation Latina-American poet and activist Cristina Cortez as she explores themes of "curiosity, anger, regret and invincible pride in her heritage"--from her new collection *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca* (2020). Joining in the discussion of the power of indigenous voices, immigration and belonging will be visual

artist Maddu Huacuja and documentary filmmaker Luz Valdez. Sponsored by The Mary L. Fifield Art Gallery, Charlestown Campus at Bunker Hill Community College, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Reading “Coricancha” at 2020 AMPLIFY LATINX CONFERENCE: NUESTRO IMPACTO: BE COUNTED BE HEARD” (Zoom/Facebook Livestream) 1:30 p.m.

Friday, July 17, 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QoTqlwUfbA&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=2>

Discussion panel of *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca* (Facebook Live via Zoom) 9:30 PM ET. Hosted by Evelyn Cortez with Sandra Gavidia (artist and art dealer) and Leonardo Nin (writer).

Sunday, June 21, 2020

Launch and discussion panel of *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca* (Facebook Live via Zoom) 9:30 p.m. ET. Hosted by Evelyn Cortez with Edgard Smith (Books & Smith editors) and Rhina P. Espaillat (foreword).

Monday, June 8, 2020

TERTULIA CIBERNETICA, (on Zoom) 08:00PM Eastern Time (US and Canada): 8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020

OUR BODIES IN LANGUAGE: A SERIES. Curated and Hosted by Edwin Torres for Counterpath Press (on Zoom) 7-8 p.m. EST. Romona Mukherjee-psychotherapy flow / Monica DeLaTorre-poetry / Jennifer Bartlett-poetry / CAConrad- somatic ritual /// Alexandra Tatarsky - continual realm-making.

Thursday, May 14, 2020

OUR BODIES IN LANGUAGE: A SERIES. Curated and hosted by Edwin Torres for Counterpath Press (on Zoom) 7-8pm EST. Susan Osberg-dance into words / Brandon Downing-collage poetics / Urayoan Noel-wokitoki poetri / Judd Morrissey-media hybrid (with Abraham Avnisan & Mark Jeffery)/// Michael Merck - continual fermentation.

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Craft Talk & Conversation on Ritual, Writing & Performance with Timothy White Eagle (on Zoom) 6-7 PDT.

Thursday, April 23, 2020

TERTULIA CIBERNETICA, (on Zoom) 7:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada),  
Friday, April 22, 2020

Lecture, seminar, and discussion “DISABILITY & SOCIAL EQUITY/LA JUSTICIA SOCIAL” by Cristina Cortez for Prof. B. Atienza’s Spanish class, Clark University. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2jaUt1vrd0&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=5>

“Mi vida: en equipo si se puede” in the panel “Section B: Life Expect Experiences” at the ARC Transition Conference, 2019: Charting the Life Course During the Transition Years: Edades y Etapas de transición. College of the Holy Cross. 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Saturday, November 16, 2019

“Entre Marias: perfil de Cristina Cortez, autora y activista,” 7:00 p.m. aired on COMCAST Channels 3 & 22 and VERIZON channels 37 & 38  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019

XIV Feria Internacional del Libro en Lawrence, MA. PERÚ cuna de culturas y literatura.  
Reading “Coricancha” 11:20-12:00 p.m. at Northern Essex Community College.  
October 18-20, 2019

Reading “In Capacity” at “Inspirational Woman 2019,” Latina Center MARIA Award Ceremony,  
7 p.m.

Friday, May 10, 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34EfUsq53KU&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=11>

La Guagua Poetry Festival 2019: Translation, “Voices and Translation”: War, Political Poetry, & Language OF OPPRESSION. Middlesex Community College.  
Friday and Saturday, March 29-30, 2019

## **PRESS RELEASES, INTERVIEWS & ARTICLES**

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2021 “Finding Her Power in Poetry” Hofstra University News Blog  
<https://news.hofstra.edu/2020/12/11/finding-her-power-in-poetry/?fbclid=IwAR3Y8mQYXK8fbL4PhKhJMVO-zmupJBsGFypIE8SW8ENbw81T2UbGwIuyijU>

Jun 2020 “Cristina Cortez publishes *Tawantinsuyu: Poems of the Time of the Inca*”  
University of Washington Alumni News Blog  
<https://www.uwb.edu/ias-news/june-2020/tawantinsuyu>

Jun 2019 Featured on Fortaleciendo la Familia with Rafael Disla radio show  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75-4ZP5pGtQ&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=8>

Jun 2019      Interviewed on Conceptos TV Univision, Boston with Efrain Abreu  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO9SGTiEJ14&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=8>

Apr 2019      Interviewed on Cambiando el mundo de personas con discapacidades Radio Show  
with Raquel Quezada radio show  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QysgptxNOBA&list=UUTLHiE-YCa-9NMQwX3PKp-Q&index=28>

Jun 2018      “Cristina Cortez awarded Mineral School artist residency”  
<https://www.uwb.edu/ias-news/june-2018/cristina-cortez-mineral-school-artist-residency>

## **WRITING & RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Folklore, Legend, Magical Realism, Mythology, Indigenous literature, history, and culture, Narrative poetry, Epic poetry, Oral traditions, Romanticism, Irish history, literature, & culture, art history, disability rights & history, the human relationship to technology, etc.

## **LANGUAGES**

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English, Spanish & Italian