

April Mayes Bio

Dr. April J. Mayes is an Associate Professor of History and currently serves as chair of the History Department at Pomona College in Claremont, California. For six years, from 2010 until 2016, Dr. Mayes served as co-chair of the Haiti-Dominican Republic Section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), along with Dr. Kiran Jayaram. During her time as Section Co-Chair, she and Dr. Jayaram doubled the number of regular section members, created a book prize and an article prize, mentored emerging scholars and highlighted their work on section panels organized around new scholarship in the fields, and collaborated with other sections resulting in making made Haitian and Dominican Studies more visible within the organizational structure of LASA and across multiple disciplines and fields of study.

Dr. Mayes is a historian of the Spanish-speaking Caribbean with an emphasis on the nineteenth-century social and political history of the Dominican Republic. Her first book, *The Mulatto Republic: Class, Race, and Nation in the Dominican Republic*, won the Isis Duarte Prize from the Haiti-Dominican Republic Section of LASA. With Ginetta Candelario and Elizabeth Manley, she co-edited the two-volume collection of primary sources about Dominican feminist history, *Cien años de feminismo dominicanos*, published in the Dominican Republic with the National Archives (Archivo General de la Nación). She is the co-editor, along with Dr. Kiran Jayaram, of the book, *Transnational Hispaniola: New Directions in Haitian and Dominican Studies*. Dr. Mayes is currently working on two projects. One is a transnational history of Dominican Black Studies. Another is a monograph-length book titled, *The Future is Haiti*. She is also the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and editorials focused on Dominican feminism, contemporary migration, gender and governance, and Hispaniola Studies.

At Pomona College, Dr. Mayes teaches courses in Latin American Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Africana Studies, and History such as Colonial Latin American History, Afro-Latin America, Women and Politics in Latin America, Slavery and Freedom in the New World, and Race, Sex, and Environment in the Modern Caribbean. She works actively to build Dominican and Haitian Studies through manuscript review work for journals such as *The Americas*, *Latin American Research Review*, and more recently, *Atlantic Studies*, and *Sociologias* (Brazil). She is also a member of the Black Latinas Know Collective and volunteers for Haitian Bridge Alliance, a social justice organization that advocates for the rights of Black immigrants and provides humanitarian and legal assistance.