The African Heritage of Latinx and Caribbean Literature unearths a buried African archive within the most prominent writers of Latin American descent in the last fifty years. It challenges dominant narratives in World Literature and transatlantic studies that ignore Africa’s impact on broader Latin American culture. Sarah M. Quesada argues that these canonical works evoke textual memorials of African memory. She shows how the African Atlantic haunts modern Latinx and Caribbean writing and examines the disavowal or distortion of the African subject in the constructions of national, racial, sexual, and spiritual Latin American identity. Quesada shows how themes such as the nineteenth-century “scramble for Africa,” the Cold War-era decolonizing wars, Black internationalism, and the neoliberal turn are embedded in key narratives. Drawing on multilingual archives about West and Central Africa, she examines how the legacies of colonial French, Iberian, British, and US imperialisms in Africa have impacted the relationships between African and mainly Latinx identities. This is the first book-length project to address the African colonial and imperial inheritance of Latinx literature.

Sarah M. Quesada is Assistant Professor of Romance Studies at Duke University.
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