

GUSTAVO PÉREZ FIRMAT

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Narrative Summary

Gustavo Pérez Firmat was born in Havana, Cuba, and raised in Miami, Florida. He was educated at Miami-Dade Community College, The University of Miami, and The University of Michigan, where he earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. He taught at Duke University from 1979 to 1999 and is currently the David Feinson Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. Pérez Firmat has been the recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Mellon Foundation. In 2004 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His books of literary and cultural criticism include: *A Cuban in Mayberry* (2014); *The Havana Habit* (2010); *Tongue Ties* (2003); *Cincuenta lecciones de exilio y desexilio* (2000; rev. ed. 2016); *My Own Private Cuba* (1999); *Life on the Hyphen* (1994; rev. ed. 2012; Spanish version: *Vidas en vilo*, 2000; rev. ed. 2015); *Do the Americas Have a Common Literature* (editor, 1990); *The Cuban Condition* (1989); *Literature and Liminality* (1986); *Idle Fictions* (1982; rev. ed. 1993). He has also published several collections of poetry in English and Spanish—*The Last Exile* (2016); *Scar Tissue* (2005); *Bilingual Blues* (1995); *Equivocaciones* (1989); *Carolina Cuban* (1987)—a novel, *Anything but Love* (2000); and a memoir, *Next Year in Cuba* (1995; Spanish version: *El año que viene estamos en Cuba*, 1997). He was a coeditor of the *Norton Anthology of Latino Literature* (2010). *Next Year in Cuba* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in non-fiction; *Life on the Hyphen* was awarded the Eugene M. Kayden University Press National Book Award for 1994 and received Honorable Mention in the Modern Language Association's Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize and the Latin American Studies Association's Bryce Wood Book Award. *Sin lengua, deslenguado*, a selection of his writing, will be published in 2017 in the Colección Letras Hispánicas of Ediciones Cátedra.

In 1995, Pérez Firmat was named Duke University Scholar/Teacher of the Year, Duke University's highest award for undergraduate teaching. In 1997 *Newsweek* included him among "100 Americans to watch for the 21st century" and *Hispanic Business Magazine* selected him as one of the "100 most influential Hispanics" in the United States. In 2004 Pérez Firmat was named one of New York's thirty "outstanding Latinos" by *El Diario La*

Prensa. In 2005 he was selected Educator of the Year by the National Association of Cuban American Educators. Pérez Firmat has been featured in the documentary *CubAmerican* and in the 2013 PBS series *Latino Americans*. In 2016 he was inducted into the Academia de la Historia de Cuba en el Exilio.

Education & Employment

Ph.D. University of Michigan, 1979
 M.A. University of Miami, 1973
 B.A. University of Miami, 1972
 A.A. Miami-Dade Community College, 1970

1999- Columbia University, David Feinson Professor in the Humanities
 1988-99 Duke University, Professor
 1983-88 Duke University, Associate Professor
 1979-83 Duke University, Assistant Professor
 1978-79 Duke University, Instructor
 1973-78 University of Michigan, Teaching Assistant
 1972-73 University of Miami, Teaching Assistant

2005 Visiting Professor, Yale University (Fall semester)
 2002 Visiting Professor, Emory University (Spring semester)
 1997 Wayne G. Basler Chair of Excellence, East Tennessee State University
 1983 Visiting Professor, Middlebury Language School (Summer)

Honors and Awards

Mayor Greg E. Fischer proclaimed October 27, 2016 “Gustavo Pérez Firmat Day” in Louisville, Kentucky
 Inducted into the Academia de la Historia de Cuba en el Exilio, 2016
 Finalist, Eric Hoffer Book Award for *A Cuban in Mayberry*, 2015
 International Merit Award, Poetry 2015 International Poetry Competition, 2015
 Finalist, James Baker Hall Memorial Prize in Poetry for “Land for Sale,” 2014.
 Honorable Mention, Accents Publishing 2014 Chapbook Contest for “The Mayberry Chronicles”
 Finalist, Jacar Press 2014 Chapbook Contest for “The Mayberry Chronicles”
 Featured writer, Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, East Carolina University, September 2013.
 Emilia Bernal Prize for Literary Achievement, Emilia Bernal Foundation, 2012
 Institute of Latin American Studies Research Fellowship, Columbia University, 2008
 Díaz-Ayala Travel Fellowship, Florida International University, 2008
 Educator of the Year, National Association of Cuban American Educators, 2005
 “Spotlight Artist.” Raintiger.com, April 2005
 Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2004
 “Él” Award, given by *El Diario La Prensa* to the “30 Outstanding Latinos” in New York

City, 2004
 Honorary Board, Globe Link Productions, 2000
 “Palma Espinada” Prize, Southern Californian Cuban American Cultural Institute, 2000
 Excellence Award, FACE [Facts About Cuban Exiles], 1996
 Duke University Scholar/Teacher of the Year, 1995
 Featured Writer, Blumenthal Writers and Readers Series, North Carolina Writers
 Network, 1995
 Eugene M Kayden University Press National Book Award for *Life on the Hyphen*, 1995
 Honorable Mention, Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize, Modern Language Association, for
Life on the Hyphen, 1995
 Honorable Mention, Bryce Wood Book Award, Latin American Studies Association, for
Life on the Hyphen, 1995
 Guggenheim Fellowship, 1985 (tenure 1986-87)
 National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellowship, 1985-86
 National Humanities Center Fellowship, 1985 (declined)
 Social Science Research Council Fellowship, 1985 (declined)
 Duke University Major Faculty Grant, 1985, 1991, 1994, 1997
 First Prize, Poetry, Hispanic Festival of the Arts, Miami, FL, August, 1983
 Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Duke University, 1981-82
 ACLS Fellowship for Recent Recipients of the Ph.D., 1981
 Duke University Summer Stipend, 1981, 1985, 1988, 1990
 Duke University Faculty Travel Grant, 1979
 Horace H. Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1977-78

Books

Sin lengua, deslenguado. Ed. Ángel Esteban and Yannelys Aparicio. Madrid: Ediciones
 Cátedra, forthcoming.

The Last Exile. Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2016. Chapbook.

A Cuban in Mayberry: Looking Back at America’s Hometown. Austin: The University of
 Texas Press, 2014.

Reviews

The eBullet: Official Newsletter of The Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers Club
 14.5 (September 2014). http://tagsrwc.com/the_ebullet/2014/09/

Cliff Bellamy, “A Cuban Looks at Mayberry.” *The Herald-Sun*, October 31,
 2014. <http://www.heraldsun.com/lifestyles/books/x1476702630/A-Cuban-looks-at-Mayberry>

Jessy Krupa, “A Cuban in Mayberry Travels from a America’s Hometown to an
 All-American Nowhere,” *PopMatters*, December 29, 2014.

<http://www.popmatters.com/review/188240-a-cuban-in-mayberry-looking-back-at-americas-hometown-by-gustavo-per/> Also in *Gossip Time* <http://gossip-time.com/a-cuban-in-mayberry-travels-from-americas-hometown-to-an-all->

[american-nowhere-review/](#) and in *Pally News* <http://pallynews.com/2014/12/30/a-cuban-in-mayberry-travels-from-americas-hometown-to-an-all-american/>
 Miles Smith IV, "March Read of the Month: *A Cuban in Mayberry*," *Southern Literary Review*, March 11, 2015.
<http://southernlitreview.com/category/reviews/read-of-the-month>
 Rochelle Sara Miller, "The Andy Griffith Show Receives Scholarly Attention," April 27, 2015 <http://www.rochellesaramiller.com/?tag=a-cuban-in-mayberry>
 Adriana Méndez Rodena, *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 48.1 (2015): 150-151.
 Michele Shaul, *South Atlantic Review* 79.3-4 (2015): 219-221.
 Joy Landeira, *Rocky Mountain Review* 69.2 (2015): 298-300.
 Carmen Gabriela Febles, "Exploring the Limits of Transculturation: Gustavo Pérez Firmat's *A Cuban in Mayberry*," *Caribe* 17.1-2 (2014-2015): 113-126.
 Kristi L. Ulibarri. "Mapping North Carolina, Locating Latinidad." *North Carolina Literary Review Online* 2016. <https://issuu.com/eastcarolina/docs/2016-nclronline-final/48>
 Sara K. Eskridge, *The Journal of Southern History* 82.2 (2016): 480-481.
 Jorge Febles, *Hispania* 99.2 (2016): 351-352.

The Havana Habit. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2010.

Reviews:

Jay Freeman, *Booklist*, September 25, 2010: 21-22.
 Boyd Childress, *Library Journal*, October 1, 2010: 92.
 Thomas Felten, "When Cuba Invaded America," *Wall Street Journal*, October 16, 2010.
 Carlos Espinosa Domínguez, "Historia de un amor disfuncional," *Cubaencuentro*, December 24, 2010. <http://www.cubaencuentro.com>
The Scotsman, January 8, 2011. <http://www.scotsman.com/>
 A.M. Stock, *Choice* 48.9 (May 2011).
 Rafael Rojas, "Fantasía habanera," *Los libros del crepúsculo*, February 2, 2011. <http://www.librosdelcrepusculo.com/>
 Olga Connor, "El hábito de La Habana," *El Nuevo Herald*, February 13, 20, 27, 2011. <http://www.elnuevoherald.com/>
 Ian Craig, "Crazy for Cuba," *Caribbean Review of Books*, March 26, 2011. <http://caribbeanreviewofbooks.com/>
 A.M Stock, *Choice*, May 1, 2011.
 Gabriel Paquette, *Times Literary Supplement*, February 17, 2012.
 Stephen Clark, *Caribe* 13.2 (2010-2011): 175-177
 José Manuel Prieto, *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 85 (2012): 276-278.
 Myrna García Calderón, *Symposium* 66.1 (2012): 57-59.
 Richard Blanco, "'Rum, Rumba, and Romance': A Book on Cuba's Enduring Mystique," "All Things Considered," National Public Radio, December 19, 2014. <http://www.npr.org/2014/12/19/371714205/a-book-on-cubas-enduring-mystique>

The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature. Co-editor (with Ilán Stavans, Edna Acosta Belén, Harold Augenbraum, María Herrera Sobek, Rolando Hinojosa). New York: Norton, 2010.

Reviews:

Donna Seaman, *Booklist*, Sept 15, 2010: 17.

Cristella Bond, *Library Journal*, November 1, 2010.

Jan Gardner, "Chorus of Latino Voices," *The Boston Globe*, November 21, 2010.

Scar Tissue. Tempe, AZ: Bilingual Press, 2005.

Reviews:

Alex Meneses Miyashita. *Hispanic Link* 24.2 (January 2006): 7.

Danilo H. Figueredo. *Multicultural Review* 15.2 (Summer 2006): 77.

David T. Gies. *Virginia Quarterly Review* 82.2 (2006): 310-311.

Miami: The University of Miami Magazine 13.3 (2006): 42.

Carlos Espinosa Domínguez. *Encuentro en la Red* 14 August 2006.

<http://www.cubaencuentro.com/>

Francisco Morán. *La Habana Elegante* 35 (Fall 2006).

<http://www.habanaelegante.com/>

Wilfrido Corral. *World Literature Today* 80.5 (September-October 2006): 75-76.

D. H. Figueredo. *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 40.1 (2007): 203-204.

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Tongue Ties: Logo-Eroticism in Anglo-Hispanic Literature. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

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Nina C. Ayour. *Chronicle of Higher Education* 7 November 2003: A-18.

R. Ocasio. *Choice* 41.8 (1 April 2004): 1473.

Pablo Brescia. *South Atlantic Review* 69 (2004): 115-117.

Juan E. de Castro. *Revista de estudios hispánicos* 38 (2004): 382-384.

Wilfrido Corral. *Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana* 34/35 (2004-2005): 320-322.

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Aneta Pavlenko. "Bilingual Bliss, Bilingual Blues: Reflections by and about Bilingual Writers." *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* 8.5 (2005): 345-352.

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Ralph Rodríguez. *Comparative Literature Studies* 42.2 (2005): 316-320.

Roberto Gonzalez Echevarría. *Cuban Studies* 36 (2005): 162-164.

Gustavo Pellón. *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* 83.3 (2006): 453-454.

Vidas en vilo: La cultura cubanoamericana. Madrid: Editorial Colibrí, 2000. Revised edition: Madrid: Hypermedia, 2015.

Reviews:

Tony Évora. *Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana* 20 (Spring 2001): 333-335.

Jorge Rodríguez-Florido. *Hispania* 86 (2003): 70-71.

Pamela María Smorkaloff. *Hispanófila* 138 (May 2003): 163-166.

Elisabeth Austin. *Hispanic Review* 73 (Winter 2005): 122-123.

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Cincuenta lecciones de exilio y desexilio. Miami: Ediciones Universal, 2000. Revised edition: Madrid: Hypermedia, 2016.

Reviews:

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Olga Connor. *El Nuevo Herald* 9 April 2000: 1-E.

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Libby Romero. *Library Journal* (July 2000): 71.

Isabel Álvarez Borland. *Caribe* 1.3 (2000): 123-126.

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Patricia Pardiñas Barnes. *Hispania* 83 (2000): 813-814.

Ilán Stavans. *World Literature Today* 74.3 (Summer 2000): 681.

Miguel Ángel de Feo. *South Eastern Latin Americanist* 44.4 (2001).

Humberto López Cruz. *South Atlantic Review* 65 (2000): 220-222; *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* 18 December 2000: 48.

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Pamela María Smorkaloff. *Hispanófila* 138 (May 2003): 163-166.

Anything But Love. Houston: Arte Público Press, 2000.

Reviews:

“Love at the Edge of a Precipice.” *Hispanic News* 21 2000.

Patricia Pardiñas Barnes. *Caribe* 3.2 (2000): 94-98.

Lydia Gil. “Escritor trata con humor e ironía el ‘sueño americano’ de los Inmigrantes.” *Latino.com* 17 January 2001.

Patricia Pardiñas Barnes. “La dialéctica del plantado: ¿cubanía o hibridez?” *Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana* 19 (Winter 2000-2001): 184-186.

Jen Stevens. *Counterpoise* 6.1/2 (2002).

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- Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana* 16/17 (Spring/Summer 2000): 264.
 William Siemens. *World Literature Today* 74.3 (Summer 2000): 681.
 Juan Manuel Fierro. *Estudios filológicos* 35 (2000): 234-236.
 Carlota Caulfield. *Latin American Research Review* 37.3 (2002): 240-243.
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El año que viene estamos en Cuba. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1997. [Author's Spanish-language version of *Next Year in Cuba*.]

Reviews:

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Reviews:

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 Jorge Ibáñez. *Baneke* 3 (1995): 6-7.
 Milexis J. Rodríguez. *Hispanic Magazine* August 1995: 60-61.
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 Orlando Alomá. "Pondering the Essential Question of Cuban Exile: What If...?" *The Miami Herald* 3 September 1995: I-3.
 Janet St. John. *Booklist* 15 September 1995: 129.
 Aleida Durán. "El año que viene, en Cuba." *La Razón* 22 September 1995: 4.
 Alisa Valdés. "Haunted by a Land He Hardly Knew." *Boston Globe* 25 September 1995: 32.
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 Aleida Durán. *Contacto* 2.4 (October 1995): 37-39.
 Teresa Hernández. "An Exile's Tale." *Grand Rapids Press* 5 November 1995.
 Bob Trimble. *The Dallas Morning News* 22 October 1995: 8-J.
 Mari Rodríguez Ichaso. "Inolvidables Memorias." *Vanidades* 19 December 1995: 17.
 Linda Chávez. *Reason* 27.7 (December 1995): 41.
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Reviews:

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Life on the Hyphen: The Cuban-American Way. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1994. Rpt. 1996, 1999. Revised and expanded edition, 2012.

Reviews:

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Antoni Kapcia. *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 74.2 (April 1997): 255-56.

Paula Shirley. *Melus* 23 (Spring 1998): 182-184.

Jorge Febles, *Hispania* 96.4 (December 2013): 794-796.

Do the Americas Have a Common Literature? Ed. Gustavo Pérez Firmat. Durham: Duke University Press, 1990.

Reviews:

Gordon Brotherston. "Texts to Bridge the Rio Grande." *Times Higher Education Supplement* 14 June 1991: 23.

Choice 28 (June 1991): 132-133.

Ilán Stavans. *Revista Hispánica Moderna* 44 (1991): 313-316.

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- Ellen McCracken. *Revista Interamericana de Bibliografía* 41.1 (1991): 127-28.
 John Walker. *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 69 (1992): 99.
 Lesley Bary. *Criticism* 34 (1992): 458-460.
Forum for Modern Language Studies 27 (1992): 285.
 Scott Klein. *Latin American Anthropology Review* 4.1 (1992): 47-48.
 Rita de Grandis. *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies* 33 (1992): 139-142.
 Thomas Alan Holmes. *American Studies International* 31.1 (April 1993): 147-148.
 George Lang. "No hay centro: Postmodernism and Comparative New World Criticism." *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* (March-June 1993): 105-123.
 D. H. Pageaux. *Revue de Littérature Comparée* 68 (1994): 240-242.
 Earl Fitz. *Comparative Literature Studies* 31 (1994): 72-83.
 Paul Dixon. *Latin American Research Review* 31 (1996): 203-217.

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Reviews:

- Jorge Febles. "Gustavo According to Gus: Una lectura Pérezfirmatiana de la *Equivocaciones* de Pérez Firmat." *Alba de América* 11.20-21 (July 1993): 167-177.

The Cuban Condition: Translation and Identity in Modern Cuban Literature. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. Rpt. 1997, 2006.

Reviews:

- Paul Julian Smith. "Stirring Stuff." *Times Higher Education Supplement* 25 August 1989: 16.
 Jo Labanyi. "On the Way to Elsewhere." *Times Literary Supplement* 20 October 1989: 1165.
 Gustavo Pellón. "La condición cubana." *Insula* 521 (May 1990): 9-10.
 R. Ocasio. *Choice* 27 (May 1990): 191-192.
Forum for Modern Language Studies 25 (April 1990).
British Bulletin of Publications 82 (April 1990).
 Antoni Kapcia. *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* 62 (1990): 436-437.
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 Antonio Benítez Rojo. "Un estudio posmoderno de la literatura cubana." *Insula* 531 (March 1991): 8; *La Torre* 4.15 (1991): 419-421.
 Peter Turton. *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos* 15 (1991): 358-360.
 Julio Matas. *Revista Iberoamericana* 152-153 (1990): 1392-1393.
 Enrique Fernández. "The Condition His Condition Is In." *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 44 (January-June 1991): 98-99.
 Keith Ellis. *Hispanic Review* 59 (1991): 366-368.
 Soren Triff. "La obra de Pérez Firmat." *Latino Stuff Review* 3 (1991): 7; rpt.

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William Luis. *Cuban Studies* 21 (1991): 255-258.

John Brotherton. *Romance Quarterly* 38 (1991): 249-250.

Verity Smith. *Modern Language Review* 86 (1991): 238-239.

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Reviews:

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Scholarly Articles

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- “La Habana de Wallace Stevens,” *Cuban Studies* 44 (2015): 214-229.
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- “Eliseo Diego entre el porrazo y la payasada,” *La Habana Elegante* 57 (noviembre 2015). http://www.habanaelegante.com/November_2015/Invitation_PerezFirmat.html
- “Home Amid Resemblances: The Poetry of Ricardo Pau-Llosa,” *South Atlantic Review* 78.3-4 (2015): 35-51.
- “Oscar Hijuelos,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies*. Oxford Bibliographies Online. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- “Le « si/non » cubano-américain,” *L’Amérique latine entre critique et théorie. Un autre regard sur la littérature*. Ed. Carine Durand and Sandra Raguene. Paris: Éditions Classiques Garnier, 2015. 215-224.
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