

# 2018 Grid of the Future

PANELIST: PUERTO RICO – ONE YEAR LATER



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Marcel J. Castro-Sitiriche is an associate professor of Electrical Engineering and co-director of the Center for Hemispherical Cooperation in Research and Education in Engineering and Applied Science (CoHemis) at the University of Puerto Rico in the Mayagüez Campus, Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez (UPRM-RUM). His research efforts include academic, educational and service activities. Some of my areas of interest include appropriate technology, renewable energy systems, rural

electrification, engineering education, power electronics, and responsible wellbeing. Marcel is the principal investigator of a National Science Foundation funded project that combines most of his research interests based in the concept of responsible wellbeing. The five-year project title is “Cultivating Responsible Wellbeing in STEM: Social Engagement through Personal Ethics” and it is expected to end in 2019.

Since 2015 he is also adjunct professor at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha, Tanzania. Marcel spent the 2014-2015 at NM-AIST as a Fulbright Scholar researching the impacts that access to electric energy has on human wellbeing, particularly through rural microgrids. Since Hurricane María he has been coordinating an effort called “Oasis de Luz” to establish small solar systems in rural Puerto Rico where grid electricity might be available again almost a year after María destroyed a great portion of the transmission and distribution system. Ongoing research includes alternative resilient power for remote rural communities that are cost effective and aligned with a long term energy sovereignty vision.

Web portal - <https://sites.google.com/a/upr.edu/marcel/>