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Education

Ph.D. 1999. Ohio State University
M.A. 1996. Ohio State University
B.A. 1991. University of Texas at Austin

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Baylor University, 2023-present
Associate Professor, Department of English, Hope College, 2006-2023
Founder and Interim Director of American Ethnic Studies, Hope College, 2003-2007
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Hope College, 1999-2006

Publishing

Books

Brave(r) New Worlds: Latinx Speculative YA, Environmentalism, and Social Justice (in progress).

Young Latinx Shakespeares: Race, Justice, and Literary Appropriation. Palgrave Macmillan (under contract, manuscript submitted).

Tactics of Hope in Latinx Children's and Young Adult Literature, co-written with Regan Postma-Montaña. U of New Mexico P, 2022.

Scholarly Articles and Book Chapters

"The Aesthetics of Mestizaje via Shakespearean Reimagining in Edit Villarreal's, *The Language of Flowers*" (in progress).

"Save the Chupacabras: Environmentalism, Social Justice, and Kinship in Latinx Children's and Young Adult Literature." In *Multidisciplinary Entanglements in Children's Cultures and Pedagogies in the Anthropocene*, edited by Terri Doughty, Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak, and Janet Grafton (chapter manuscript submitted).

“Comidas y Cuentos: Decolonizing YA Speculative Literature in Donna Barba Higuera’s *The Last Cuentista*.” In *Comidas, Cocinas, y Cultura: Food in Latinx Children’s and Young Adult Literature*, edited by Cristina Herrera and Cristina Rhodes (chapter manuscript submitted).

“Atravesando Nepantla: Queer Latinidades in US Latinx and Mexican Young Adult Novels,” co-written with Regan Postma-Montaño. In *Atravesados: Essays on Queer Latinx Young Adult Literature*, edited by Trevor Boffone and Cristina Herrera, UP of Mississippi (in press).

“Re-Verse,” co-written with Kathryn Vomero Santos. In *Design and Discomfort: Teachers, Teacher Educators, Theater-Based Educators, and Scholars Collaborate for Anti-Racist Classrooms*, edited by Laura Turchi, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Press (forthcoming March 2024).

“When Romeo and Juliet Fought the Texas Rangers: Race, Justice, and Appropriation in *Shame the Stars* by Guadalupe García McCall.” In *Liberating Shakespeare*, edited by Deborah Uman and Jennifer Flaherty, The Arden Shakespeare, 2023.

“Confronting the Whitewashing of (My) History: The Reparative Value of Latinx YA Historical Novels and Testimonio.” *The Lion and the Unicorn*, Vol. 46, No. 1, January 2022.

“Latin American Heroes in Latinx Picture Books: Toward Creative Resistance and Transnational Solidarity.” *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*, Vol. 47, No. 2, 2022.

“Bordercrossing in Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” *Multicultural Review*, Vol. 18, No. 1, Spring 2009.

“*Sir Gowther*: Imagining Race in Late Medieval England.” In *Meeting the Foreign/er in the Middle Ages*, edited by Albrecht Classen, Routledge, 2002.

Textbook Photography and Essays

“US/Mexico Borderscapes.” PhotoEssay. In *Rostros: Intermediate Spanish Language and Culture*, edited by Lee Forester and David Antoniuk, Evia Learning, 2020.

“Descansos: Latinx Public Mourning Spaces.” PhotoEssay. In *Rostros: Intermediate Spanish Language and Culture*, edited by Lee Forester and David Antoniuk, Evia Learning, 2020.

“Between and Betwix Cultures.” Personal Essays on Migration and Family. In *Ritmos: Beginning Spanish Language and Culture*, edited by Lee Forester and David Antoniuk, Evia Learning, 2020.

Grants

“Stories of Equity and Hope.” Andrew W. Mellon Community-Based Partnership Initiative. 2022. \$36,000.

“Stories of Equity and Hope.” Andrew W. Mellon Community-Based Partnership Initiative. 2021. \$10,000.

“Young Adult Latinx Literary Appropriations of Shakespeare.” Jacob E. Nyenhuis Faculty Development Grant. Hope College. 2020. \$4,000.

“#OwnVoices Scholars and Latinx Young Adult Historical Novels.” Children’s Literature Association Diversity Grant. 2020. \$750.

“Secrets of the Universe.” Technology and Society Pathway. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grand Challenges Initiative at Hope College. 2018. \$6,000.

“My Story Can Build Our Bridge.” Great Lake College Association Oral History in the Liberal Arts. Faculty-Student Collaborative Project Oral History Mentorship Opportunity. 2018. \$1,500.

“Tactics of Hope in Latinx Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” Jacob E. Nyenhuis Collaborative Faculty Grant. Hope College. 2018. \$4,000.

“The Power of Immigration and Acculturation Narrative to Cross Borders and Build Bridges.” Borders and Bridges Pathway. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grand Challenges Initiative at Hope College. 2017. \$6,000.

Selected Conference Presentations

“Transformation and the Aesthetics of Mestizaje in Edit Villarreal’s *The Language of Flowers*.” 51st Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America. Minneapolis, MN. March 29 – April 1, 2023.

“Atravesando Nepantla: Queer Latinidades in Chicanx and Mexican Young Adult Novels”. 9th Annual El Mundo Zurdo Conference for the Society for the Study of Gloria Anzaldúa. San Antonio, TX. November 4-6, 2022.

“Save the Chupacabras: Latinx Environmentalisms, Social Justice, and Kinship in Latinx Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” Modern Language Association Convention. Washington, DC. January 6-9, 2022.

“Scholarship as Testimonio: Engaging the Whitewashing of (My) History in Latinx YA Historical Novels.” 2021 Children’s Literature Association Conference. Virtual. June 9-13, 2021.

“Painting Over the Whitewash: ReVisioning Texas History in Latinx Young Adult

Novels.” Childhoods of Color Conference. Madison, WI. September 13-14, 2019.

“The Affects of X, Brown, and the Social Justice Imperative.” 2019 Children’s Literature Association Conference. Indianapolis, IN. June 13-15, 2019.

“Appropriating the Bard in Latinx Young Adult Novels.” The 40th Annual Meeting of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Albuquerque, NM. February 20-23, 2019.

“‘Until We Reached That Other World:’ The Transnational Imaginary in Latinx Novels.” 2018 Children’s Literature Association Conference. San Antonio, TX. June 28-30, 2018.

“Perilous Journeys in Central American-American Literature,” The 30th Annual Meeting of the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. Albuquerque, NM. February 25-28, 2009.

“Social Justice, Exploitation, and Environmentalism in Chicano/a Literature for Children and Adolescents.” Modern Language Association Convention. Chicago, IL. December 27-30, 2008.

“Raising Awareness/Thinking Critically—Teaching Ethnic American Literature for Young People.” 13th European Conference on Reading. Tallinn, Estonia. July 6-9, 2003.

“The Education of Manny Hernandez: Chicano Coming of Age Ethnicity in *Parrot in the Oven*.” III Congreso Internacional de Literatura Chicana. Málaga, Spain. May 21-23, 2002.

“BorderCrossers: Transnationalism and the Coming-of-Age Narrative in *The Circuit*, *Esperanza Rising*, and *Pillars of Gold and Silver*.” The 23rd Annual Conference of The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association. Albuquerque, NM. February 13-17, 2002.

“Imagined Blood, Constructed Genealogies: Medievalism in Contemporary US Latino Literature.” International Medieval Congress 2001. Leeds, UK. July 9-12, 2001.

“Writing Chicano History and Culture: Narrative and Multicultural Theory in *Parrot in the Oven*.” Modern Language Association Convention. Washington, DC. December 27-30, 2000.

Invited Presentations

“The Worlds that Erupt from Books: Latinx Youth Literature in these Times.” Lamstein Lecture in Children’s Literature. University of Michigan. March 24, 2023.

“Transforming Shakespeare’s Tragedies: Adaptation, Education, and Diversity.” NEH Institute for K-12 Educators. July 10-27, 2022.

“Bard on the Borderlands.” (Roundtable Discussant). Arizona State Medieval and Renaissance Center. February 8, 2021.

“El Gallito and the Quiquiriquí to Action: The Little Read Lakeshore in the Context of Latin American Children’s and Young Adult Literature.” (Keynote Speaker). NEA Big Read/ MI Humanities Little Read Lakeshore Kickoff. October 28, 2019.

“Reading *Station Eleven* from the Margins.” NEA Big Read Lakeshore. Holland, MI. November 5, 2018.

Selected Teaching Experience

Ethnic American Young Adult Literature (English)

This course engages students in questions of race, ethnicity, and belonging in Young Adult literature by diverse authors. Anti-racist pedagogy is utilized to foster discussions on representation, asset-based thinking, and culturally sustaining reading and learning practices.

Literature of Our Americas (English)

Remapping literary studies along hemispheric lines allows students to explore how literary texts cross national borders. Creative and critical assignments raise awareness of transnational solidarity initiatives used to disrupt neocolonialism and racism.

Global Shakespeares (English)

This course invites students to study *why*, *how*, and in *what ways* we read Shakespeare, perform Shakespeare, and teach Shakespeare. Companion Young Adult novels, Vlogs, and contemporary adaptations paired with the Bard’s work help focus discussions on race, gender, and sexuality.

Ethnic American Literature (English)

Anti-racism movements, past and present, are propelled by literature, art, and film. Students study the role of creative works in critiquing forms of oppression in society and then in rebuilding society in more just and equitable ways.

Introduction to American Ethnic Studies (American Ethnic Studies)

Students develop a foundational understanding of systemic issues facing ethnic Americans (including police violence, racism, and systemic poverty) and consider the role of literature, art, and film in creating societal change. Class engages with Critical Race Studies and other critical concepts involving race and ethnicity.

Native American Literature and History (Online, Interdisciplinary Studies)

This General Education course exposes students to Indigenous stories, histories, and forms of resistance in the past as well as in the present. Ranging from creation stories to contemporary literary works, with historical texts as ballast, this course provides students with postcolonial and decolonial lenses by which to examine Indigenous communities and

people, providing important perspectives to repair the trauma of colonialism.

Vocational Discernment and Experiential Learning (English)

Students learn and then use design thinking to explore post-graduate careers in publishing, the non-profit sector, and other industries. Taught in conjunction with the Boerigter Center for Career and Calling.

Science Writing (English)

Designed with science students in mind, this course asks students to bridge the boundaries between their science education and research and what society needs in order to make informed decisions on issues such as climate change, health, and sustainability.

Campus and Community Presentations

“A World Made of Stories.” Strength in Stories Event. Lighthouse Immigrant Advocates. Holland Arts Council. December 15, 2018.

“What Does It Mean to Be Human in a Dystopic World.” Video. Hope College Dean of the Humanities Initiative. April 5, 2018.

“after the birth of the simple light.” (Poem). Hope College Pre-College Conference. August 24, 2017.

“stories needing being told.” (Graduation Address). Hope College Commencement. May 10, 2011.

“Illegally Yours.” (Non-Fiction and Photography). Hope College Critical Issues Symposium. October 3, 2007.

“The Border in Literature, Art, and Film.” (Colloquium). Hispanic Heritage Month. Hope College. October 2001.

“This Talk of Alchemy: The Language and Practice of Cultural Translation.” Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony. Holland Arts Council. September 12, 2014.

Sal y luz: A Presentation on Chicano Poetry. First Annual Tulipanes Latino Arts and Film Festival. St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. 2000.

Photography: Print and Web Publishing

“Dignity of Work.” Martha Miller Center. KruiZenga Art Museum Hope College Permanent Collection. 2009.

“Imagining Blue and Red.” Van Zoeren Hall. KruiZenga Art Museum Hope College Permanent Collection. 2006.

In *Approaching Literature in the 21st Century*, edited by Peter Schakel and Jack Ridl, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.

Faculty Advisor

Faculty advisor for Hope College Campus Ministries Spring Break Immersion Mission Trip, Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota. Partnered with Re-Member, organization serving the Oglala Lakota Nation. 2012, 2013.

Faculty Advisor to the Latino Student Organization.

Faculty Advisor to Mortarboard.

Professional Service

Hope College Representative to the Great Lake College Association

Great Lake College Association Academic Leadership and Innovation Institute (GALI)

Professional Interests Committee

Committee on Multicultural Affairs

Advisory Committee on Financial Resources

GLCA Border Studies Program, Hope Representative

Site Visit Advisor for International Studies in the Dominican Republic

Awards and Fellowships

H.O.P.E. Award: Hope College Professor Educator, 2010

Sluyter Fellowship, Hope College, 2002-03

Dissertation Fellowship, Ohio State University, Department of English, 1998

Summer Fellowship, Ohio State University, Department of English, 1998

Deans Fellowship, Ohio State University, 1993-94