

SONIA VELÁZQUEZ

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Departments of Religious Studies and Comparative Literature, Spring 2016-
Assistant Professor, Departments of Religious Studies and Theatre, Spring 2015-Fall 2015
Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania, 2012-15

EDUCATION

Princeton University
PhD, Spanish Literature and Culture (2012)

University of California, Irvine
M.A., Spanish Literature, high distinction on the Master's Examination (1999)
Preliminary Teaching Credential in English language and literature (2000)

Princeton University
B.A. Comparative Literature, Magna cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa (1997)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Promiscuous Grace: Rethinking Beauty and Holiness with Saint Mary of Egypt. Manuscript in progress.

This book challenges contemporary understandings of hagiography as synonymous with uncritical acclamation, of belief as the static acceptance of dogma, and of beauty as that which “one does not have to work at” (Arthur Danto) by offering a theoretical study of medieval and early modern visual and textual manifestations of the legend of the holy-harlot Saint Mary of Egypt. Throughout its six chapters, the book also offers insights into how modern criticism came to lose sight of the surprising roles of beauty in religious texts.

Pastoral and the Humanites: Re-inscribing Arcadia. Co-editor with Mathilde Skoie. Exeter, UK: Bristol Phoenix Press, 2006. Reviewed in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* Feb 28, 2008 [online], and *Classical Review* 58 (2008): 463-464.

ARTICLES (* indicates peer-reviewed)

* “Pero, ¿Quién eres tú?: The Radical Politics of *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*.” Special volume on Miguel de Cervantes, *e-humanista* (UC Santa Barbara), eds. Mercedes Alcalá Galán, Antonio Cortijo Ocaña, and Francisco Layna Ranz. Forthcoming.

- * “The Ends of Poetry: Introduction to Critical Cluster on Giorgio Agamben and the Poetry of the Spanish Golden Age.” *MLN*, forthcoming 2017.
- * “No End in Sight: Echoing Grief in Fray Luis de León’s “Oda en la Ascensión” *MLN*, Critical Cluster on Giorgio Agamben and the Poetry of the Spanish Golden Age. Forthcoming 2017.
- * “Gambling for Salvation With Cervantes and Pascal” *Belief and Doubt in Early Modern Spain, Texts and Images*. Eds. Matthew Ancell and Aneta Georgievska-Shine. Nebraska UP, Forthcoming.
- “Idolatrous and Confessional Visions in *Vida de Santa María Egipcíaca*.” Invited contribution for *Reading and Writing Subjects in Medieval and Golden Age Spain: Essays in Honor of Ronald E. Surtz*. Eds. Christina H. Lee and José Luis Gastañaga. Newark, DE: Juan de la Cuesta, 2016.
- * “Secular Spectacle?: Cervantes, Hardy and the Question of Religion.” *Republics of Letters* (Stanford U), special issue on Cervantes on the World Stage, ed. Barbara Fuchs. 4.2 (2015): 1-17.
- “Sens-Contresens: La Transhistoricité de la littérature de Théophile de Viau à Octavio Paz.” *Versants Revue suisse des littératures romanes* 62:1 (2015): 123-30.
- * “Of Poets and Barbarians: Challenging Linguistic Hierarchies in Cervantes’ *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*.” *Revista Hispánica Moderna* 67.2 (2014): 205-221.
- * “Didacticism and the Ends of Storytelling: Walter Benjamin’s Medievalism and Forms of Knowledge in *Sendebär*.” *Exemplaria: Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 25.1 (2013). Recipient of the “R. Allen and Judy Shoaf Award for the Best Essay Published in *Exemplaria*, 2013”
- “La littérature comme objet de reconnaissance: réflexions sur la transhistoricité de l’objet poétique.” *Mouvement Transitions* [online journal] Apr. 27 2013.
- * “Theory and Practice of Relation: José Luis González, Edouard Glissant, and the Task of the Storyteller.” *Romance Studies* 28.3 (2010): 182-93.
- “Metaphors to Write By: Words as Citizens, Literature as Commonwealth.” *Borrowed Feathers: Plagiarism and the Limits of Imitation in Early Modern Europe*. Ed. Hall Bjørnstad. Oslo: Unipub/Oslo Academic Press, 2008. 67-83.
- “The Wonders of Theatrical Production: Cervantes and Shakespeare at the Turning Point of Baroque Aesthetics.” Trans. Mette Nygård. *Overdådighet og død i barokken. [Exuberance and Death in the Baroque]* Eds. Hall Bjørnstad and Mette Nygård. Oslo: Emilia, 2002. 183-94.

GRANST AND AWARDS (sel.)

- College of Arts and Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship* (Spring 2017)
- Mellon Innovating International Research, Teaching and Collaboration Grant* (Fall 2016)
- College of Arts and Humanities Institute Conference, Workshop & Symposia Funding Grant* for “Bring Out Your Dead: Dancing on the Graves of Shakespeare and Cervantes” (Fall 2016)
- R Allen and Judy Shoaf Award for the Best Essay Published in Exemplaria* (2013)
- Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship*, Dissertation-writing fellowship (2007-08)

INVITED TALKS

“The Untimeliness of Don Quixote and a Time for Utopia” Phi Beta Kappa keynote lecture for DePauw University’s 2016 ArtsFest celebration on the theme “Utopias” Nov. 1, 2016.

“Lyric, Translation and the Poetics of the Novel” Cervantes’ Intricate Labyrinth: The “Persiles” @ 400. Symposium organized by Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Princeton U, Sep. 23-24, 2016.

“Hospitality and Shibboleth From the Cantigas to Cervantes” Workshop on medieval lyric organized by University of Pennsylvania, Department of Romance Languages, Linhares, Portugal, Jun. 10-13 2016.

“The Surprise of Grace: Cervantes, Caravaggio and Pascal” Invited lecture at the Center for Catholic Studies, University of Illinois Chicago, Apr. 15, 2016.

“Towards a Quiescent Modernity: Cervantes and the Staging of Sainthood” USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Symposium and the Department of Spanish at USC “Happy in the Life to Come: Cervantine Afterlives” Feb. 10-12, 2016.

“Gaming the System or Earnest Play? The Rules of Sainthood on Stage in Lope and Cervantes” Early Modern Interdisciplinary Workshop on Play and Display at Princeton University. May 15-16, 2015.

“The Curious Modernity of Cervantes’ *El Rufián Dichoso*” One-day symposium on Early Modern Curiosity at Princeton University. April 4, 2015.

“Speak for Yourself: On the Fragility of Poetry and Translation” In Praise of Fragile Human Actions, a symposium in Honor of Miguel Angel Balsa Marín at Cornell University (Humanities Institute). 11-12 Apr. 2014.

“Tic, Toc : Parataxis and the Problem of Interruption in *Danza general de la muerte*” Medieval Iberia Workshop at Princeton University. 5 Apr. 2014.

“Liberating Labor: Form as Freedom in Teresa de Cartagena’s *Arboleda de los enfermos*.” Symposium in Honor of Ronald E. Surtz at Princeton University. 12 Oct. 2013

“Staging the Unbelievable: Cervantes, Hardy, and the Matter of Religion.” UCLA, Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies and the Clark Library. 11 Oct. 2013.

“Neither Venus nor Venerable Transvestite: The Inconsumable Beauty of Ribera’s Saint Mary of Egypt.” Temple University, Distinguished Lecture Series, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. 18 Apr. 2013.

“Secrets and Profanations in the Legend of Saint Mary of Egypt” *The Secret Life of Texts: Textual Transmission in Premodern Literature*. International Colloquium at Princeton University. 8-10 Nov. 2012.

“Lire Théophile de Viau, un objet comme un autre ou un objet tout autre?” *La (trans)historicité de la littérature: Le cas Théophile de Viau*. Journées d’étude internationales organized by Cercle 17-21, Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France. 2-3 Jul. 2010.

“Writing the Other: Perspectives from Spain.” Part of a lecture series on translation across the disciplines. Barnard College, Center for Translation Studies. 23 Feb. 2010.

“How to Tell a Peacock from a Crow, and Why It Matters.” Closing symposium of the research project *Dislocations: Practices of Cultural Transfer in the Early Modern Period*, University of Oslo, Norway. 17 Apr. 2009.

WORK PRESENTED IN ACADEMIC CONFERENCES (sel.)

“Voice, Violence, and Peregrine Verses in *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*” Panel on Cervantine Soundscapes. Organized by Natalia Pérez. Cervantes en el Septentrión, University of Tromsø, Norway. Jun. 26-28, 2017.

“The Lady Would Rather Not: Auristela’s Non-Action and the Politics of Exception” Panel on Embodied Protagonists and Authorial Intentions in the Works of Cervantes. Organized by Anne J. Cruz. Chaired by Steven Hutchinson. Sponsored by the Cervantes Society of America. At Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, IL, Apr. 2017

“Mobilizing Medievalisms: Miguel de Luna and the Translations of the Past in Spain and England” Panel on “Arabic in Europe: Memory, History, and Identity” Organized by Jill Ross. At *MLA* Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 2017.

“Cervantes’ curious comedia: *El rufián dichoso* as a drama of care.” Panel on Curiosity in the Early Modern Iberia, Renaissance Society of America, Boston, MA Apr. 2016.

“Falacia de Filacteria: Cervantes, la palabra escrita, el adorno visual y la búsqueda de significado en *Las novelas ejemplares*.” Panel on “El Siglo de Oro: Visión, suspensión y subjetividades alternas en las *Novelas Ejemplares* de Cervantes,” organized by Paul Johnson. At XVII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica, Mérida (Méx.), Mar. 9-11, 2016.

“The Politics of a Common Language in Cervantes’ *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*.” Guaranteed session on Cervantes’ last novel sponsored by the Cervantes Society of America. At *MLA* Austin, TX. Jan. 2016.

“Fray Luis de León and The End of the Poem in ‘La oda en la Ascensión.’ Panel on “Giorgio Agamben’s *The End of the Poem* and Renaissance and Baroque Poetry,” at the 12th Biennial Conference of the Society for the Study of Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry. 24-26 Oct. 2015.

“Cervantes, Narrative Ethos and the Mystery of the Missing Portrait.” Panel on “Longing for Presence: Reconceptualizing Ekphrasis from Cervantes to Today” at the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature Conference. Chicago, IL. 5-8 Mar. 2015.

“Verses of Strife: Voice, Violence, and Poetry in *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*.” Panel sponsored by the Cervantes Society of America and the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry. *Renaissance Society of America*. New York, NY. 27-29 Mar. 2014.

“Grace and the *gracioso*: Forms of Parody in the *comedia de santos*.” Humor in the *Comedia*, panel organized by the Division on 16th and 17th c. Theatre, chaired by Robert Shannon. *MLA*. Seattle, WA. 5-7 Jan. 2012.

“When Beauty is not Truth: Word, Image and Gender in Sor Juana’s ‘Este que ves’ sonnet.” Untold Sisters, panel organized by *GEMELA* [Group for the Study of Women in Spain and Latin America, pre 1800], chaired by Stacey Schlau. *MLA*. Seattle, WA. 5-7 Jan. 2012.

“All the more horrible because she was beautiful’: Picturing Saint Mary of Egypt.” Representing Sacred Texts in Early Modern Spain panel, chaired by Christina H. Lee. *Renaissance Society of America*. Montreal, Canada. 24-26 Mar. 2011.

“On the Way to the Novel: The Functions of Lyric in Cervantes’ *Persiles*.” European Epic panel chaired by Ayesha Ramachandran. *Sixteenth Century Society Conference*. 14-17 Oct. 2010.

“Beauty and the Sacred: A Baroque Version of the Life of Saint Mary of Egypt.” *Sacred and Profane in the Early Modern Hispanic World*, Symposium in conjunction with the Indianapolis Museum of Art exhibit *Sacred Spain*. IMA and IU Bloomington. 16-17 Oct. 2009.

“Living to Learn, Learning to Die: Didacticism and Storytelling in *Sendebär* (1253) and Walter Benjamin.” *Romance Studies Colloquium*. Montclair, NJ. 1-3 Oct. 2009.

“From Idol to Icon: The Conversion of Illicit Beauty in the Verse *Vida de Santa María Egipcíaca*.” Holy Beauty panel organized by the Division on Literature and Religion. *MLA*. Chicago. 27 Dec. 2007.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“Anxieties of Representation” *Out/Lines: Boundary Conditions of the Early Modern Iberian World*, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania. Jan. 6, 2016.

“Cannibalizing the Past: Eating the Heart, Birthing the Novel in Cervantes” for “Medieval Cardiologies” Organized by Lucas Wood, Indiana University, IN, Oct. 28-29 2016.

“Of Shoes, Leather, Saints and Letters” for “What Was Beauty?” Organized by Renaissance Studies and Themester on Beauty. Indiana University, IN, Oct. 21 2016.

“The Wonders of Painting Sheep, Secular and Biblical” *Re-reading the Book of the World: Wonder and the Orders of Nature in Medieval Literature and Culture*. Medieval Studies with funding from Indiana University Consortium for the Study of Religion, Ethics, and Society. Apr. 15-16, 2016.

“Conversion or Metamorphosis? The Case of St Mary of Egypt” for “Rethinking Early Modern Conversion: Explorative Workshop (1 of 3)” Indiana University, IN, 5-6 Dec. 2014.

“A Curious Dialogue and the Legitimacy of the Liberal Arts” for Symposium on Hans Blumenberg’s Concept of Modernity. Center for Theoretical Inquiry, Bloomington, IN. Organized by Patricia Ingham & Johannes Türk. 31 Oct. 2014.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Co-organizer and Principal Investigator for “Bring Out Your Dead: Dancing on the Graves of Shakespeare and Cervantes.” Indiana University, IN, Oct. 6 2016.

Co-organizer of symposium “Amor Mundi” in conjunction with the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities (Spring 2016).

Co-organizer with Michael Solomon of conference, “Thinking with Cervantes: Exemplarity and the Potential to Be Otherwise” (Marina Brownlee, Princeton; Roger Chartier, Collège de France; Rita Copeland, U of Pennsylvania; Michael Gerli, UVA; Jacques Lezra, NYU; Michael Solomon, U of Pennsylvania), University of Pennsylvania. 16 Feb. 2013.

Co-organizer of workshop, “Innovating Style: Historical Change and Humanist Truth” (Kathy Eden, Columbia). Sponsored by the Initiative for the Humanistic Study of Innovation, Indiana University Bloomington. 16 Sep. 2010.

Co-organizer of roundtable, “Always Already: Conservation and Innovation in the Humanities” (Victoria Kahn, UC Berkeley and H el ene Merlin-Kajman, Paris 3). Sponsored by the Initiative for the Humanistic Study of Innovation, Indiana University Bloomington. 4 Oct. 2010.

Co-organizer of works in progress colloquium, “Framing the Past: Theoretical Approximations to Medieval and Early Modern Texts” Princeton University. 10 Jan. 2008.

“Book Errant: Four Hundred Years Reading *Don Quixote*.” Organizer of a week-long celebration of the publication of Cervantes’ *Don Quixote*, including a scholarly colloquium and events of general interest. Princeton University. 7-11 Mar. 2005.

Co-organizer of “The Uses and Abuses of Pastoral: Arcadia Re-visited.” International colloquium on ancient and modern pastoral. University of Oslo, Norway. 23-25 Apr. 2003.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Fall 2016

COLL-C 103: “Work Hard, Pray Hard”

REL-D 369 / CMLT-C 355: “Beauty and Its Others” (Themester)

Spring 2016

CMLT-C219: Romance and the Western Tradition: Tales of Conversion

CMLT-C347: Literature and Ideas: The Human Condition

Fall 2015

REL-R300: Studies in religion: “Nuns and Guns”

REL-A 351: Christianity and modernity “Labor: Salvation or the Curse of Mankind?”

Spring 2014

REL-A 202 “On Being Otherwise: Conversion, Transformation, and Deceit”

THTR-T 583 “What Was Theatre?”

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Assistant Professor, Romance Languages. 2012-2015

Graduate and Undergraduate courses in Spanish medieval and early modern literature and culture

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Instructor for beginning, intermediate and advanced Spanish language and culture (2003-07)

Preceptor for Spanish/Comparative Literature course on *Don Quijote* (2006)

Humanities T.A. Training Leader for the McGraw Center for Teaching, (2006-07)

Departmental Liaison to the McGraw Center for Teaching (2005-06)

Convener for Senior thesis writing group (2005-06)

Centro Cultural Hispanoamericano, Oslo, Norway

Foreign language instructor (beginning and intermediate language) in Spanish, (beginning) French and conversational English (2002)

Century High School, Santa Ana, California

College Preparatory English (9-10th grade); English for non-native speakers (9th); Business English (12th); French 1-2 (1999–2001)

University of California, Irvine, CA

Primary instructor for beginning and intermediate Spanish (1998-1999)

Instructor for award-winning Humanities Out There Outreach Literacy Program, responsible for developing and implementing academic units for use in public schools on world mythology, women’s writing, and Homer’s *Odyssey* (1997-2001)

SERVICE

Indiana University

- Steering Committee Member for Renaissance Studies (2014- present)
- Steering Committee Member of Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities (2014-present)
- Graduate Studies Committee (Religious Studies 2015-16)
- Teaching Excellence Committee (Religious Studies 2016-17)
- Comparative Arts Committee (Comparative Literature 2015-)

- Co-convenor for the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities reading group on Hannah Arendt's *The Human Condition* (Spring 2016)
- Speaker at the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities Seminar for Undergraduate Students on "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About God—But Were Too Afraid to Ask" co-sponsored by the Honors College, Oct. 27, 2015.
- Member of the Initiative for the Humanistic Study of Innovation (2010-)
- Faculty Advisor for Undergraduate Religious Studies Academic Journal (2015-)
- Reader for MA Thesis in Religious Studies, Jade Powers, "Fluid Indian Nationalism as Seen through M.F. Hussain's Artwork and Reception" (Spring 2015)
- Reader for MA Thesis in Theatre, Michael Rodriguez, "Captivity and Empire in Late-Eighteenth-Century American Drama" (Spring 2015)
- Reader for MA Thesis in European Studies, Rowena Galavitz "Corpus to Corpus" (Summer 2016)
- Member of PhD exam committee for Miriam Poole (Theatre, IU Fall 2016)
- Member of PhD exam committee for Jacob Boss (in progress)
- Member of PhD exam committee for Emerson Richards (in progress)
- Senior thesis advisor for Megan Vinson (CMLT, 2016-17)
- Co-advisor for senior thesis for Rachel K. Carpenter on "Devotional Art" in Religious Studies (2015-16)
- Invited speaker, "Beauty and Its Others: Reimagining Holiness" University Club Luncheon with faculty. Feb. 22, 2017.
- Invited speaker, "Visions of Conversion" for Eskenazi Museum of Arts, on Tiepolo's drawings of St Paul's Conversion. Jan. 18, 2017.
- Invited speaker at Hutton Honors College "Breakfast ethics" on the virtues of virtual reality Oct. 28, 2016.
- Invited speaker "Dessert and Themester" on beauty and religion Nov. 11, 2016.
- Invited speaker at Collins Living Learning Center, "Animation and the Macabre" Nov. 11, 2015.
- Lead discussion for Undergraduate Religious Studies Association Film Night, "Ex-Machina: Where is God?" Oct. 23, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Hispanic Studies

- Editorial Board Member and Manuscript reader, *Hispanic Review* (2012-15)

- Co-organizer of Paleography Workshop on *Cronografía y cosmografía de la invención y de los inventores de las letras* by Gaspar Galcerán de Castro y Pinos (1632) for Graduate Students in Salamanca, Summer 2014
- Member of the job hiring committee for Assistant Professor position in Brazilian or Colonial Latin American literature, AY 2013-14
- Dissertation advisor to Steven Dolph, “Early Modern Iberian Ecology and the Poetics of Pastoral” to be turned in Spring 2017
- Dissertation Advisor to Víctor Sierra, “La voz partida: prácticas literarias y subjetividad lírica en la Alta Modernidad hispánica (ss. XVI-XVII).” Prospectus turned in Fall 2016.
- Reader for Juan Escourido’s dissertation “Poniendo en juego la Iberia premoderna: Alfonso X, el *Libro de Buen Amor* y la poesía cancioneril” (on-going); reader for two dissertation defences: Larissa Brewer-García’s “Beyond Babel: Translations of Blackness in Colonial Peru and New Granada” (Spring 2013), and Matthew Goldmark’s “Bad Examples: The Troubled Futures of Kinship in Colonial Spanish America” (Spring 2014)
- Chair of MA examination committee for Diana Eguía (Fall 2014); member of MA examination committees for Juan Escourido (Fall 2012), Andrés García Londoño, Steven Dolph (Fall 2013)
- Advisor for undergraduate honors thesis in Hispanic Studies (Christian Gallopo, Spring 2014)

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences

- Advisor for undergraduate honors thesis in Comparative Literature (Emmett Wynn, AY 2014-15)
- Invited speaker, with Kevin Brownlee. The Philomathean Society panel on “Cervantes and Dante: Text and National Identity” (14 Apr. 2014)
- Guest speaker in the Graduate Student Teaching Workshop Series organized by Bryan Jones for the Center for Teaching and Learning (4 Apr. 2013)
- Panelist at a Career Services workshop on the academic job market (24 Sep. 2012)

Service to the Profession

- Manuscript Reviewer for:

Comparative Literature (Oregon University)

Exemplaria: Journal in Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies (Maney Publishers)

Hispanic Review (University of Pennsylvania)

Tamesis Books (imprint of Boydell & Brewer)

Traditio: Studies in Ancient and Medieval Thought, History, and Religion (Fordham University)

Mouvement Transitions (online journal, Université de Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle, France);
also member of the Editorial Board

Romanic Review (Columbia University)

- Founder and organizer for the Philadelphia Medieval and Early Modern Research Group (2014-)

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish (native); French (near native); Norwegian (fluent); Italian, Latin, Portuguese (reading proficiency).

REFERENCES

Available upon request