

NOTES ON EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Biographical notes in alphabetical order

AHARON ARVIZU RAMÍREZ is a fourth year Ph.D. student in the program of Spanish and Portuguese at University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a Ph.D. candidate currently working on his dissertation “Razón imperial en la novela del dictador latinoamericano: hacia una descolonización del género”. The project takes an epistemological turn to focus on the minor characters of The Dictator Novel who set the narrative gear in motion and who often occupy a secondary place in the work undertaken by academic criticism, instead of deal with the great conceptual characters or tropes of power that inhabit the proposed genre, the caudillo, the dictator, power, the dictatorial system, and the Lascasian legacy. Aharon holds an M.A. in Spanish from San Diego State University with emphasis in Applied Linguistics, where he was recognized with the *Outstanding Literature Master of Arts Student Award* (2017-2019) and the *Outstanding Graduate Student in Portuguese Courses Award* (2018). Aharon also completed two bachelor's degrees in law (5 years) and Spanish Literature

(with emphasis in Linguistics) (5 years) from Universidad Autónoma de Baja California in Tijuana, México.

MÁRCIA BRITO holds a degree in Arts Education from Universidade de Cabo Verde, and an M.A. in Theater from the Universidade de Évora, Portugal. She is an arts professor, performer and interpreter. She is Co-founder of the *Associação txon-poesia* and Co-editor of the #000 *Revista txon* in 2020. She has also directed the performance “Reviro”, a production of the *Coletivo de teatro do Txon-poesia*, within the *FITAP – IX Festival Internacional de Teatro e Artes Performativas*, in 2022, representing Cabo Verde. She was a performer in “Árvore da Vida”, a production of *Associação Portuguesa Malvada Associação Artística*, 2022. Brito was a interpreter in *TRANSMISSÃO – Ciclo de teatro do Imaginário* (radiophonic theater in Cape Verde and Portugal) in 2020, *Sessão de Teatro-Fórum*, and in “Ela pediu-me ajuda e eu tirei-lhe uma fotografia”, in *Março, mês do teatro*, 2019 (Cabo Verde). She was a member

of the organization of *Encontro Internacional de poesia e poética em Mindelo*, 2019, and Coordinator of the Project Kuzñola, within the scope of the same festival (traditional Cape Verdean cuisine with students from the Universidade de Cabo Verde).

JULIA CALDERÓN holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Hispanic Studies from the University of Seville and is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Her dissertation examines detective fiction written by Central American and U.S.-Central American authors in the frame of neoliberal structural changes in the Isthmian postwar societies. She is also interested in memory and trauma studies, genocide studies, gender studies, and diaspora studies.

MONICA CAMPBELL is from the small town of Paradise, California and credits their high school Spanish teacher, Señora Nájera to helping plant the seeds of her love for the Spanish language and Latino American Cultures. They are a recent graduate of University of California, Los Angeles, with a B.S. in Neuroscience and a minor in Spanish. Currently she is enjoying postgrad life, indulging in her hobbies of painting and cooking. In the future they hope to have the opportunity to visit several countries in Latin America, including Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil.

CINTIA CARRIÓ is a researcher at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and Professor of General Linguistics and Grammar of Spanish at Facultad de Humanidades

y Ciencias (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina). Cintia obtained her Ph.D. in Linguistic at Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina). She conducts research on South American indigenous languages, focusing on the Mocoví and Spanish languages. She is the director of research projects that describe the Mocoví grammar and of extension projects for the generation of analog and digital didactic material (mini-video games).

ÍCARO CARVALHO is a Ph.D. student at University of California, Los Angeles. His research focuses in literature, history and society.

ESTHER CLAUDIO is a Postdoctoral Fellow for the “Racial Reckoning through Comics” Mellon Sawyer Seminar at the University of Iowa. She holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic Literatures from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research studied the public articulation of trauma in Spanish graphic novels and her interests include gender studies, critical race theory, urban studies and visual culture. She co-founded the comicsgrid.com, one of the leading open access comics journals, and the Hispanic Comics Studies Collective. She co-edited *On the Edge of the Panel: Essays on Comics Criticism* (2015), and she is part of the editorial board of *Studies in Comics* and *CuCo: Cuadernos de Comics*. She features in the “Love & Rockets: The Great American Comic Book” Artbound documentary and she is proud to have written the Foreword for the English version of Ana Penyas’s *We’re All Fine*, published by Fantagraphics (2023). When she’s not entangled with academic work, she enjoys the company of her

friends, volleyball, drawing, memes and volunteering at the dog's shelter.

PEDRO CUEVAS is a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Languages and Literatures at University of California, Los Angeles. His main research interest is on contemporary Brazilian and Chilean literatures. Pedro is the Vice President of the Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Student Association. At UCLA, he has collaborated as editor of the graduate student journal *Mester* and the creative magazine *Párrafo*.

EDUARDO DÍAZ is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is interested in XIX and early-mid XX-century Mexican literature. His research focuses on rural communities in Jalisco, Mexico, and, more generally, Western Mexico. He is specifically interested in rural narratives within folklore, folktales, rural literary production, and depictions of rurality in Western Mexico during the post-Cristero War period. Eduardo is the Co-editor and Creative Chief of *Párrafo* magazine.

SUSANNAH R. DRISSI, Ph.D. is Faculty in Writing Programs at UCLA, and Affiliate Scholar in UC-Cuba Program Initiative, University of California, Irvine. She is the award-winning author of *Until We're Fish* (2020), a Nautilus Book Award winner and winner of the International Latino Book Award Gold Medal for best historical fiction, an honor she shares with Gabriel García Márquez, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Isabel Allende. Her work has appeared in journals and anthologies such as *In Season: Stories of Discovery, Loss, Home, and Places in Between*, winner of the

2018 Florida Book Award; *Publisher's Weekly*; the *Los Angeles Review of Books*; *Miami Herald*; *Nuevo Herald*; *Saw Palm*; *Literal Magazine*; *Diario de Cuba* (Madrid); *SX Salon*; and *Acetos Review*, among many others. As a member of the Dramatist Guild, her award-winning plays have premiered at the prestigious Lee Strasberg Film & Theatre Institute, in Los Angeles, The Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, the Fringe Hollywood Festival, the Short+Sweet Hollywood Festival, and elsewhere. Rodríguez Drissi is also the author of *The Latin Poet's Guide to the Cosmos* (Floricanto Press, 2019) and *Rey y Atenea / Rey and Ateenea, a Bilingual Edition* (Cassandra Press, 2019).

MADISON FELMAN-PANAGOTACOS is a Fulbright-Hays scholar, translator, and doctoral candidate in Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received an M.A. in Spanish. Her areas of research center on the cultural production of twentieth- and twenty-first-century Mexico and Argentina, and focus on studies of feminist social movements, maternity and non-patriarchal parenthood, femicide, and abortion rights. She has been published in *A contracorriente*, *Imagofagia*, *Mester*, and the *LA Review of Books*. Currently, she is writing about fiction representations of the Argentine folk saint la Difunta Correa.

VERÓNICA GARCÍA MORENO is a Spanish scholar, journalist, and award-winning writer. She is Visiting Scholar in the Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA and Teaching Assistant Professor at Montana State University. Verónica

obtained a Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature at UCLA, an M.A. in Applied Linguistic/ Cyberpragmatics at University of Lean and a MA in Islamic Studies at the Universidad de Sevilla. Her research explores the Islamic Arab element in the articulation of the Hispanic identities and peripheral nationalisms, the liquid frontier of al-Andalus, and the power of the image in the configuration of Arab otherness. Her current research focuses on the works of Rafael Cansinos as a translator of the Persian poets into Spanish and his influence on Borges' orientalism. Verónica is an active member of the Spanish Iranian Society and the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society-Latina.

ISAAC GIMÉNEZ is a Ph.D. Candidate at University of California, Los Angeles. His scholarly work focuses on contemporary Latin America literature and, more specifically, on expanded forms of visual, oral, performance, and digital poetry in Brazil. Generally, he explores the tensions between corporality (representations of the body and the role of the body in textual production), embodied writing practices (body as text), contested authorship and *recycling poetics*. His interest in “uncreative”, “unoriginal” and “anthropophagic” writing practices resides in their potential to contest textual authority, on the one hand, and to bring forward the role of collective readership on the other.

LEANDRO ARSENIO HERNANDEZ is a Ph.D. Candidate in Hispanic Languages and Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his M.A. in Spanish from Ohio University, and he holds a B.A. in Literature and Linguistics from the Universidad Nacional del

Litoral, Argentina. His interests include queer studies, and the relationship between literature, bodies, and chronic illnesses. His research focuses on the representation of HIV/AIDS in Argentine narratives and its impact on cultural and media production. Leandro was a member of *Mester* Editorial Board for two years before being elected Editor-in-Chief for the 51st volume. He won the Kurnitz International Student Creative Writing Award with his novel *Stored Bodies* in 2020. Back in Argentina, Leandro was a committed high school teacher, and today continues to be passionate about teaching, now in higher education. His other passions include writing, photography, and videogame narratives.

AMELIA INO is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Comparative Literature at University of California, Los Angeles. She also holds an M.A. in Comparative Literature (Africa and Asia) from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Her research focuses on global Memory Studies, experimental approaches to literature pedagogy, and contemporary Turkish and Latin American literatures.

VALENTINA JARA is a Ph.D. candidate at Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) in Argentina. Her research work specializes in deverbal nominalizations in Mocoví language, an indigenous Latin American language, Guaycurú family. She holds a B.A. in Letters and she is a teacher in Spanish literature and linguistics.

BRENDA SARAÍ Jaramillo is a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Languages and Literature at the University of California, Los

Angeles, where she has also completed a concentration in Gender Studies and Experimental Critical Theory. She received her B.A. in Comparative Literature from Brown University. Her interests include queer maternity, pregnancy, and embodiment in Latin American and Latinx literature. She is also interested in translation theory and practice, and has published several translations of Spanish Golden Age plays in collaboration with the UCLA Working Group in Comedia.

JOO KYEONG KIM is a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Languages and Literature at University of California, Los Angeles, with specialization in Spanish Linguistics. She received her B.A. and M.A. in Hispanic Languages and Literature at Seoul National University. Her research interests include multilingualism, language assessment, and phonetics/phonology.

MICAELA LORENZOTTI is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) in Argentina. She holds a Ph.D. in Humanities with a focus in Linguistics, an M.A. in Specific Didactics, and a B.A. in Letters from Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL), Santa Fe, Argentina. She is a member of the Instituto de Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales del Litoral and she is Assistant Professor of “Interculturality and Languages” and “Spanish Grammar” at UNL. Her research areas include linguistic-educational policies with special attention to intercultural bilingual education for indigenous peoples, Spanish grammar, and language didactics.

ERIN MAUFFRAY is a Ph.D. candidate in Spanish linguistics at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at University of California, Los Angeles, where her interests include Spanish as a heritage and second language, primarily in the areas of morphosyntax, pragmatics, and psycholinguistics, as well as pedagogy. Erin holds a B.A. in International Studies and Spanish from the Croft Institute for International Studies at the University of Mississippi, with a focus on social and cultural identity of Latin America. She completed her M.A. in Spanish linguistics at the University of Georgia with a focus on Spanish second language acquisition, pragmatics, and phonetics. Erin taught Spanish at Murrah High School in her home state of Mississippi for four years before pursuing her Ph.D. at UCLA. She is currently working on her dissertation, which explores the acquisition of complex morphosyntactic properties in heritage and second language Spanish with web-based experiments.

EMANUEL MERLO holds a Teaching Degree and a B.A. in Letters (Literature and Linguistics) by Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina. His research focus on psychoanalysis and literary theory. Lately, he has been developing reading strategies based on Jacques Lacan and Roland Barthes' categories.

GABRIELA MOLINA holds a Teaching Degree in Letters (Literature and Linguistics) by Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina. Currently, she is finishing the certification in Spanish as a Second and Foreign Language at Universidad de Buenos Aires. In the last few years her research, following a

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CRISTIÁN MORA is a current Ph.D. student in Hispanic Languages & Literatures at the University of California, Los Angeles. He received his B.A. in Journalism from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile in 2012, and he obtained his M.A. in Film & Media Studies from the Washington University in St. Louis in 2018. His research interests are centered in Latin American cinema and literature, with a special emphasis in Chile, and in the representation of contemporary social issues.

MARIANA OGGIONI is in her last year of the Ph.D. program in “Modern Languages, Cultures and Societies and Linguistics” at Ca’Foscari University. She holds a B.A. in Literature and Linguistics from Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina, and she obtained a M.A. in “European, American and Postcolonial Languages and Literatures” from Ca’Foscari University of Venice. She has conducted research at University of Barcelona, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and University of Buenos Aires. Her research focuses on contemporary crime fiction in Argentina and Spain.

LETICIA PILGER DA SILVA is a Brazilian Ph.D. researcher in Literary Studies at Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), Brazil. She studies feminist literary critique, decolonial thinking, Latin American Literature and contemporary literature. She is also a teacher

of Portuguese, literature and writing, as well as a translator of Spanish.

JAIR ANDRÉ PINTO DOS REIS holds teaching positions at the Graphic Arts at Escola Técnica of Mindelo, and the Universidade de Cabo Verde, College of Education and Sports, since 2012. Here, he is a professor of Art Education, on a part-time basis, in the training course of teachers specializing in Arts Education, and a supervisor of their final works. He has worked at the Cape Verde Ministry of Education since November 1999 and has been a member of curriculum review teams since 2008, in the design/elaboration of programs and guides for plastic arts education and design for elementary and secondary education. He graduated in Visual Arts Teacher at Mindelo Escola Internacional de Arte (M_EIA) in Cape Verde. He holds a graduate degree in Cinema and Audiovisual, M_EIA, and a M.A. in Art Education by IPVC Escola Superior de Educação, Viana do Castelo (Portugal). He was also a Ph.D. Student in Art Education at Faculdade de Belas Artes da Universidade do Porto, (Portugal).

MAURÍCIO JOÃO VIEIRA FILHO is a doctoral student in the Graduate Program in Communication at the Federal University of Juiz de Fora (PPGCOM/UFJF). He holds an M.A. in Social Communication from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (PPGCOM/UFMG). He also has a B.A. in Social Communication - Journalism from the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV). Maurício is a member of the research group “DIZ: Discourses and Aesthetics of Difference”, where he conducts research on life narratives,

queer theory, identity, difference, bodies, gender, and sexuality.

CRISTINA VÁZQUEZ is a Ph.D. candidate from the Spanish and Portuguese Department at University of California, Los Angeles. She received her M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese from the University of California, Davis, where she also worked as an editor for *Brújula*, an interdisciplinary academic journal. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Peninsular and Mexican Literature and Culture through the Spanish & Portuguese Department at UCLA. Her research interests include the counter-narrative of Sub-Saharan and Haitian immigration and identity discourse through a transatlantic approach from the Lavapiés neighborhood in Madrid, Spain, and the Little Haiti neighborhood in Tijuana, México. Presently, Cristina is serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Mester* for the 2022-2023 academic year. She was also part of the 2019-2020 Urban Humanities Initiative (UHI) cohort and digital archive, where she holds a graduate certificate and she is co-author of the *Mujer Migrante Memorial 2021*.

NANDO VIVAS is a graphic designer and illustrator from Spain. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Visual Arts from the Hochschule für bildende Künste of Hamburg, Germany (2012) and a Master's degree in Illustration and Advanced Typography from EINA School of Design in Barcelona, Spain (2019). In 2012, he published *IV. Edition Zeichnung* (Materialverlag, Hamburg), a collection of his designs to that date. He currently lives in Barcelona, where he works as a freelance graphic designer for various

national and international companies. He also collaborates with Barcelona's City Council, especially with the Office of Culture. More recently, he has taught several courses on design and communication at vocational schools. His work can be found at: www.nandovivas.com.