

JENNIFER HARFORD VARGAS

Associate Professor
Department of English
Bryn Mawr College
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor. Bryn Mawr College, Department of English, July 2017-Present.
Assistant Professor. Bryn Mawr College, Department of English, July 2011-July 2017.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of English, Stanford University, 2011.
M.A. Department of English, Stanford University, 2006.
B.A. Department of English and Latin American Studies Program, Miami University, 2002.
Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, University Honors, Department Honors.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Forms of Dictatorship: Power, Narrative, and Authoritarianism in the Latina/o Novel. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination, Co-edited with Monica Hanna and José David Saldívar. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.

JOURNALS ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Undocumented Subjects of *el Hueco*: Theorizing a Colombian Metaphor for Migration.”
Symbolism: An International Annual of Critical Aesthetics. Special Issue Edited by Patricia M. García and John Morán González. 17 (2017): 31-53.

“Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination: From Island to Empire.” Co-authored with Monica Hanna and José David Saldívar. *Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination*. Duke University Press, 2016.

“Transnational Forms.” Co-authored with Monica Hanna. *Latino/a Literature in the Classroom: 21st*

Century Approaches to Teaching. Ed. Frederick Luis Aldama. Routledge, 2015.

“Novel Testimony: Alternative Archives in Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*.” *Callaloo*. 37.5 (Fall 2014): 1162-1180.

“Dictating a Zafa: The Power of Narrative Form in Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.” *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*. 39.3 (Fall 2014): 8-30.

—. Revised and republished as “Dictating a Zafa: The Power of Narrative Form as Ruin-Reading.” *Junot Díaz and the Decolonial Imagination*. Eds. Monica Hanna, Jennifer Harford Vargas, José David Saldívar. Duke University Press, 2016.

“Critical Realisms in the Global South: Narrative Transculturation in Senapati’s *Six Acres and a Third* and García Márquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.” *Colonialism, Modernity, and the Study of Literature: A View from India*. Ed. Satya Mohanty. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

—. Previously published as “A Tale of Two Novels from the Global South.” *Economic and Political Weekly*. 30.50 (December 13, 2008): 52-61.

UNDER CONSIDERATION:

“Crossing *por el Hueco*: The Visual Politics of Smuggling in Colombian Migration Films.” *Border Cinema*. Eds. Monica Hanna and Rebecca A. Sheehan. (submitted)

“Navigating the Wreckage of a Dictator-ship in Francisco Goldman’s *The Ordinary Seaman*.” *Formative Iterations: The Conceptual States of Contemporary U.S. Latino/a Literary Theory and Criticism*. Ed. Belinda Rincón. (submitted)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Rosabeth Moss Kanter Change Master Fund, Bryn Mawr College, May 2017.

Career Enhancement Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2014.

Mellon Regional Faculty Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum, 2014-2015.

Mellon Tri-College Faculty Forum Program; Root Grant (2015-2017), Seed Grants (2012-2013 and 2013-2014), and Brainstorming Grant (Spring 2012) for Faculty of Color Group.

Mellon Tri-College Faculty Forum Program, Brainstorming Grant for Junior Faculty Group, Spring 2012.

Isabel H. Benham Fund for Faculty Research, Bryn Mawr College, 2011-2012.

The Research Institute of Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Dissertation Fellow, Stanford University, 2010-2011.

Ernesto Galarza Prize for Excellence in Graduate Student Research, Stanford University, 2010-2011.

El Centro Chicano, Graduate Scholar-in-Residence, Stanford University, 2009-2011.

Diversifying Academia Recruiting Excellence Fellow, Stanford University, 2008-2010.

Chicano/Latino Community Awards, Outstanding Graduate Mentor, Stanford University, 2006.
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Graduate Fellow for Humanistic Studies, 2004-2005.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Metaphors in the Undocumented Migrant Imaginary.” The Athenaeum. Bryn Mawr College. April 2017.
- “The Visual Politics of Smuggled Bodies in Colombian Migration Films.” *Border Cinema: A Symposium*. California State University, Fullerton. April 2016.
- “The Floating Dictatorship in Francisco Goldman’s *The Ordinary Seaman*.” American Literature Reading Group. University of Pennsylvania, March 2015.
- “The Colombian Undocumented Migrant Imaginary in Jorge Franco’s *Paraíso Travel*.” Latin American Studies Program. Pennsylvania State University, March 2012.
- “Unsealed Voices: Testimonial Archives against the Parsley Massacre in Edwidge Danticat’s *The Farming of Bones*.” Department of English. Miami University, September 2009.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “*El Hueco*: Theorizing a Colombian Metaphor for Undocumented Migration.” U.S. Colombianidades and the Future of Latinx Studies: Inaugural Interdisciplinary Symposium. Williams College, October 2017.
- “Cristina García’s *Resolver* Aesthetics.” Northeastern Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Baltimore, April 2017.
- “The Fall of the Patriarchs in Cristina García’s *King of Cuba*.” Latino Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference. Pasadena, July 2016.
- “Forms of Dictatorship in the Latina/o Counter-Dictatorial Imaginary.” Colloquium for Latina/o Literature and Theory. CUNY Graduate Center, April 2016.
- “The Latina/o Counter-Dictatorial Imaginary: Forms of Power and the Power of Form.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Austin, January 2016.
- “Entering through *el Hueco* and Living in *las Entrañas*: The Colombian Undocumented Migrant Imaginary.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Toronto, October 2015.
- “The Phantom Dictatorship.” 2nd Biennial U.S. Latina/o Literary Theory and Criticism Conference. The City University of New York-John Jay College, April 2015.
- “Plotting Justice in Héctor Tobar’s *The Tattooed Soldier*.” Penn Humanities Forum. University of Pennsylvania, October 2014.
- “The Borderlands of Authoritarianism in Salvador Plascencia’s *The People of Paper*.” Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas. Tepoztlán, México, July 2014.
- “The Marooned Dictatorship in Francisco Goldman’s *The Ordinary Seaman*.” Imagining Latino Studies: Past, Present, and Future. Chicago, July 2014.

- “Forms of Dictatorial Power in the Latina/o Novel.” Faculty Working Group in American Studies. Haverford College, May 2014.
- “Plotting Justice in the Latino Dictator Novel.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. New York University, March 2014.
- “Colombian Migration Metaphors.” 1st Biennial U.S. Latina/o Literary Theory and Criticism Conference. The City University of New York-John Jay College, March 2013.
- “Junot Díaz and the Latino American Literary Field Imaginary.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting. San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.
- “Reading the Ruins of Dictatorship.” *Junot Díaz: A Symposium*. Stanford University, May 2012.
- “Dictatorship, Diaspora, and the Fantasy of Justice: Intersections of Insurgence in *The Tattooed Soldier*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Seattle, January 2012.
- “*Authoritarianism and the Borderlands of Dictatorship*.” TransAmerican Studies Working Group. Stanford Humanities Center, November 2010.
- “The Fall of the Author in *The People of Paper*.” Clinton Institute for American Studies Summer School. University College Dublin, July 2010.
- “The Trans-American Counter-Dictatorial Imaginary.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, April 2010.
- “The TransAmerican Power of Form: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* as a Decolonial *Zafa*.” Working Group on the Novel. Stanford Humanities Center, October 2009.
- “A TransAmerican *Zafa*: The Decolonial Power of Narrative Form in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.” The Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, June 2009.
- “Dictating Form, Countering Power: Characterizations of Dictatorship and the Critical Structures of Storytelling.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. Harvard University, April 2009.
- “Counter-Dictatorial *Zafas*: The Decolonial Politics of Narrative Form in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*.” Decolonizing Epistemology: New Knowing in Latina/o Philosophy and Theology. Drew University, November 2008.
- “Migrating Dictator Novels: The Fall of the Patriarch in the Latina/o Imaginary.” Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies of Europe and the Americas Conference. Leiden University, June 2008.
- “Decolonizing Wounds: Testimonial Narrative Politics in the Americas.” The Future of Minority Studies Summer Institute. Cornell University, July 2007.
- “Migrating Testimonies.” National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Annual Meeting. San José, April 2007.
- “(E)signifyin(g) in Espanglish: The Subversive Linguistic Politics of Latina/o Poetry,” Stanford-Berkeley English Graduate Conference, Stanford University, 2005.

COURSES TAUGHT AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

ESEM 008: “Borders”

Freshman writing seminar.

ENGL 217: "Narratives of Latinidad"

Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors.

Cross-listed in: Spanish; Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Africana Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ENGL 236: "Latina/o Culture and the Art of Undocumented Migration"

Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors.

Cross-listed in: Spanish; Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ENGL 237: "The Dictator Novel in the Americas" and "The Latina/o Dictator Novel"

Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors.

Cross-listed in: Spanish; Comparative Literature; Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ENGL 250: "Methods of Literary Study"

Required seminar for majors and minors.

ENGL 276: "Transnational American Literature"

Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors.

Cross-listed in: Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Africana Studies.

ENGL 345: "Theories of the Ethnic Novel"

Upper-division seminar for majors.

Cross-listed in: Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Africana Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ENGL 399: "Senior Essays"

Thesis advising for majors.

SERVICE AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE SERVICE:

Co-Director, Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Peoples and Cultures Program, 2016-2017.

Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Peoples and Cultures Program, Steering Committee, 2011-Present.

Program in Comparative Literature, Steering Committee, 2013-Present.

360 Steering Committee, 2015-2016.

Curriculum Committee, 2015-2016.

Committee on Undergraduate Awards and Fellowships, 2015-Present.

Committee on Endowed Lectures, 2013-Present.

Honor Board, 2012-2013.

English Department Job Search, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
Spanish Department Job Search, 2012-2013.
Search for a Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts Colleges Postdoctoral Fellow,
2012-2013.
Bryn Mawr Messaging Project, Spring 2014.
Thomas Prize in Diversity, Selection Committee, Spring 2013 and Spring 2016.
Seymour Adelman Poetry Award, Selection Committee, Spring 2014 and Spring 2016.
M. Carey Thomas Essay Prize, Selection Committee, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014.

ADVISING:

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Faculty Advisor, 2012-2014 and 2015-2017.
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Faculty Co-Advisor, 2014-2016.
Hanna Holburn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Faculty Advisor, Summer 2012 and
Summer 2016.
Pensby Center Fellowship, Faculty Advisor, Summer and Fall 2013.
English Department, Major Advisor, Class of 2015 and Class of 2017.
Independent Major in Latina/o Performance Studies, Major Advisor, Spring 2014-Spring 2016.

CAMPUS EVENTS:

New Faculty Orientation, Panelist, Fall 2013 and Fall 2015.
Discussion about National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity, Panelist, Fall 2015 and
Spring 2016.
Teaching and Learning Institute New Faculty Pedagogy Seminar, Panelist, Fall 2013.
“On Graduate School,” Event Organizer and Panelist, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.
“Migration, Art, and Social Justice,” Event Co-Organizer and Panel Moderator, Spring 2012.
Pensby Center Social Justice Training Program, Lecture on “The Art of Undocumented Migration,”
Spring 2012.

WORKING GROUPS:

— Faculty of Color Group, Co-Coordinator, 2012-Present.
— Faculty Working Group on American Studies, Haverford College, Participant, 2011-Present.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer:

— *Contemporary Literature*
— *Hispanic Review*
— *Latino Studies*
— *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*
— *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association*

Symposium Co-Organizer. “U.S. Colombianidades and the Future of Latinx Studies: Inaugural Interdisciplinary Symposium.” Williams College, October 20th-21st 2017.

Co-Organizer. Colloquium for the Study of Latina/o Culture and Theory, 2016-Present.

Symposium Co-Organizer. *Junot Díaz: A Symposium*. Stanford University, May 18th-19th 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Latina/o Studies Association (LSA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)