

Vincent D. Cervantes

Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
5080 Foreign Language Building, MC-176
707 South Matthews Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

Email: vdc@illinois.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018- Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies and Department of Latina/Latino Studies.
- 2017-2018 Predoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University
- 2015-2016 International Research Associate, Programa Universitario de los Estudios de Género, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Ph.D. Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (Spanish and Latin American Studies) 2018
M.A., Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture (Spanish and Latin American Studies) 2014

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- M.T.S., Religions of the Americas 2012

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

- B.A., with honors, Religious Studies 2010

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Modern Latin American and U.S. Latina/o/x literary and visual cultures; 20th- and 21st-century Mexican and Mexican-American literature and culture; performance studies; queer theory; continental philosophy and critical theory; deconstruction; border studies; critical race theory and postcolonialism; cultural studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- “Drag Acts of Transitional Performance: Sex, Religion, and Memory in Pedro Almodóvar’s *La mala educación* and Ventura Pons’s *Ocaña, retrat intermitent.*” *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 15.4 (2014): 419-436.

“Traces of Transgressive Traditions: Shifting Liberation Theologies through Jotería Studies.” *Aztlán: Journal of Chicano Studies* 39.1 (2014): 195-206.

Book Reviews in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Queering the Chilean Way: Cultures of Exceptionalism and Sexual Dissidence, 1965-2015, by Carl Fischer. *Chasqui: Revista de literatura latinoamericana* (forthcoming).

A Taste for Brown Bodies: Gay Modernity and Cosmopolitan Desire, by Hiram Pérez. *Men and Masculinities* 20.2 (2017): 279-280.

Cultural Journalism

“Sacred Geography: A Queer Latino Theological Response to Orlando.” *Religion Dispatches* (2016): <http://religiondispatches.org/sacred-geography-a-queer-latino-theological-response-to-orlando/>

Work in Progress – Book

A Body Exposed: The Aesthetics of Sex, Death, and Mexicanness (monograph, in preparation)

Work in Progress – Essays and Book Chapter

“Lechedevirgen Trimegisto’s *Inferno Varieté*, Queer Mexicanness, and the Erotics of Violence” (article in review)

“Paz’s Pasivo: Thinking Mexicanness from the Bottom” (article in review)

“Remembering Blackness: On Race and the Human in Tamaulipas, Mexico 2010” (article in preparation)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

USC, Russell Endowed Fellowship, 2017-2018

USC, Del Amo Foundation Summer Research Fellowship, 2012-2017

USC, Graduate School Research Enhancement Fellowship, 2015-2016

USC, Del Amo Foundation Endowed Fellowship, 2012-2013

Harvard, Srinivasan Scholarship Fund, 2011-2012

Harvard, William and Lucille Nickerson Scholarship, 2010-2011

UCR, Edwin Gaustad Award for Religious Studies, 2010

UCR, Religious Studies Encouragement Award, 2009

INVITED TALKS

2019 “Violence *After* Queer Aesthetics in Mexican Performance Art.” Program in Critical Theory, Northwestern University (accepted)

2018 “Reading Queer Death in Mexico’s Historical Present.” Center for Ideas and Society,

- University of California, Riverside.
- 2018 “Lechedevirgen’s Risk: Queer Mexicanidad and Aesthetic Strategies.” Harvard Theater and Performance Colloquium. Harvard University.
- 2017 “Unbecoming Subjects: Rectum and Nation.” Department of Hispanic Languages and Literatures. Stony Brook University.
- 2016 “Laberintos riesgosos: la crisis sexual del nacionalismo mexicano en la obra de Octavio Paz.” Programa Universitario de los Estudios de Género. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.
- 2012 “Jotos in the Margins: Mexican Maleness and Queer Identities.” Department of Chicana/o Studies, California State University, Fullerton.
- 2011 “Borders Trouble: Decolonizing Unity in Difference and Power.” Keynote lecture at the East Coast Chicana/o Student Forum. University of Pennsylvania.

CONFERENCES & SYMPOSIA PARTICIPATION

Selected Scholarly Presentations (including participation by invitation)

- 2019 “Sex After Corruption: Pornographic Archives of the Nation-State in Mecos Film’s *Corrupción mexicana*.” Queer History Conference 2019. San Francisco State University (accepted).
- 2019 “Shameful Skin.” Latin American Studies Association. Boston, MA (accepted).
- 2018 “Disposable Blackness: A Queer Reading Ethics of Race in Tamaulipas, 2010.” XXIV Annual Juan Bruce-Nova Mexican Studies Conference. University of California, Irvine.
- 2017 “Passive Archives: Exposure and Queer Terrorism in the Performance of Lechedevirgen Trimegisto.” XXIII Annual Juan Bruce-Nova Mexican Studies Conference. University of California, Irvine.
- 2016 Roundtable on Kate Jenckes’s *Witnessing beyond the Human: Addressing the Alterity of the Other in Post-coup Chile and Argentina* (2017). Symposium: “Latin America in Theory / Theory in Latin America: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics.” University of Southern California.
- 2016 “Lemebel entre crítica e identidad.” Invited talk presented at Colloquium on “Arqueología de la pobreza”: Cuerpo, precariedad y posteridad en Pedro Lemebel. University of California, Riverside.
- 2016 “Sexual Aporias of Nihilistic Nationalisms.” American Comparative Literature Association. Harvard University.
- 2015 “Subjetividades nihilistas, necropolítica y las respuestas artísticas.” Invited talk presented at XXII Coloquio Internacional de Estudios de Género. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de

México.

- 2015 Invited Discussant. “Precarious Affect in Latino America.” Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2015 “Disembodiment and Thinking Beside the Trans-Corporeality in Ana Clavel.” Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2014 “Castrating Desire: Mutilated and Sexual Memory in Cristina Rivera Garza’s *La muerte me da*.” Latin American Studies Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 Graduate Roundtable. Colloquium on “The Marrano Spirit: Derrida and Hispanism.” University of Southern California.
- 2014 “Perversions of the Letter: Dismembering Lacan, Bataille, and Elizondo.” American Comparative Literature Association. New York University.
- 2014 “Subalternidad, sexualidad y sujetos: críticas radicales de la representación y la traducción de lo queer.” 5ª Conferencia Internacional de Paradigmas Queer. Quito, Ecuador.
- 2013 “Decolonizing Grace and Incarnation.” Colloquium on “Pressing On: Legacy of Marcella Althaus-Reid.” Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2013 “Political Forces and Body Matters in Peri Rossi’s *La nave de los locos* and Zapata’s *El vampiro de la colonia Roma*.” Latin American Studies Association. Washington, D.C.
- 2012 “Our Bodies, Our Spirits: Latinidad in Process of a Theological Mestizaje.” Queering Paradigms IV. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Conference Panels Organized

- 2019 “Thinking with Blackness: Languages, Aesthetics, and Theories of Afro-Latin Americanism.” Latin American Studies Association. Boston, MA (accepted).
- 2018 “Queer Aesthetics and Politics of Race and Class in a Global Latin America: Nation, Citizenship, and Desire.” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain.
- 2016 “Comparative Queer Studies in Hemispheric Latin(o) America and the Caribbean” Co-Organized with Adrián Emmanuel Hernández-Acosta. American Comparative Literature Association. Harvard University.
- 2015 “Escrituras, teorías y desafíos de lo trans.” Co-Organized with Juan Ariel Gómez. Latin American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2014 “Body Pain, Sex, and Memory in Modern Latin America.” Latin American Studies Association. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 “Capital Perversions.” American Comparative Literature Association. New York University.

2013 “Sexual Dissidents and Deviants in Modern Latin America.” Latin American Studies Association. Washington, DC.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

SPAN 535: The Politics of Pleasure: Latin America Queered, Exposed, and Affected (graduate seminar, planned for Fall 2019)

SPAN 246: From Deviants to Divas: Performance and Storytelling in Latinx Popular Culture (Gender & Sexuality in Latina/o Literature) (undergraduate, planned for Fall 2019)

SPAN 326: Sex and Power in the Latin American Aesthetic Imaginary (undergraduate, Spring 2019)

SPAN 595 (Independent Study): Queer Theologies in the Américas (graduate, Fall 2018)

SPAN 254: Introduction to Cultural Analysis (undergraduate, Fall 2018; Spring 2019)

At the University of Southern California

SWMS 210: Social Issues in Gender (Spring 2015) (Teaching Assistant)

SWMS 215g: Gender Conflict in Cultural Contexts (Fall 2014) (Teaching Assistant)

SPAN 140: Spanish II (Spring 2014) (Assistant Lecturer)

SPAN 120: Spanish I (Fall 2013) (Assistant Lecturer)

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Member, Dissertation Proposal Committee for Megan Gargiulo (Fall 2018)

Course Supervisor, Spanish 254: Introduction to Cultural Analysis (Fall 2018)

Member, Graduate Awards Committee (2018-present)

At the University of Southern California

Organizer, Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture Graduate Reading Group on Derrida and Deconstruction (2013-2014)

Co-Organizer, Sexuality and Spirituality Program Retreat (2012-2014)

Member, Steering Committee for the Sexuality and Spirituality Initiative (2012-2014)

Senator, Graduate Student Government (2012-2013)

At Harvard University

Member, Harvard Divinity School Graduate Admissions Committee (2012)

President, Nuestra Voz: Latin American and Latina/o Graduate Student Organization (2011-2012)

Vice Executive Director, The Immigration Project (2011-2012)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Board Member, *Women & Language* (2018-2021)

Steering Committee Member, Gay Men and Religion Unit, American Academy of Religion (2015-)

Juror, Sexualities Section, Latin American Studies Association, Sylvia Molloy Prize for Best Peer-Reviewed Article in the Humanities (2015-2016)

Peer Reviewer for Academic Journal

TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)

SUMMER INSTITUTE

Human Rights Campaign Summer Advanced Institute in Religious and Theological Study (2013)

LANGUAGES

English (native), Spanish (near-native), Portuguese (advanced), French (proficient reading)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

Last updated: February 5, 2018