

**MELISSA HUERTA, PHD**  
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Department of Modern Languages  
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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Department of Hispanic Studies. 2014.  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
Primary Area: U.S. Latina/o Studies (Focus on U.S. Latina Theater and Performance)  
Secondary Area: Contemporary Latin American Theater and Performance

M.A., Spanish Language and Literatures, Marquette University. 2006.  
B.A., Sociology/Chicano Studies, University of Minnesota. 2004.

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program Director, Denison University. July 2022-Present  
Affiliate Appointment of Associate Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Denison University. May 2022-Present  
Department of Modern Languages, Associate Professor, Denison University. 2020- Present.  
Department of Modern Languages, Assistant Professor, Denison University. 2014-2020.  
El Instituto, Pre-Doctoral Fellow, University of Connecticut, Storrs. 2013-2014.  
Spanish and Italian Studies, Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Chicago. 2007-2013.  
Modern and Classical Languages, Lecturer, North Central College. 2010.  
Latin American and Latino Studies, Lecturer, DePaul University. 2008-2009  
Foreign Languages and Literatures, Teaching Assistant, Marquette University. 2005-2006.

### **CLASSES TAUGHT AT DENISON**

SPAN 112, Second Semester Spanish, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2021, Spring 2022  
SPAN 211 Third Semester Spanish, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019  
SPAN 213, Oral Communication Skills, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, Spring 2020, Fall 2022  
SPAN 220, Introduction to Literary Analysis, Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Spring 2021  
SPAN 325, Survey of Latin American Literature, Fall 2015 and Fall 2018  
SPAN 335, Survey of Latin American Culture, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2022  
SPAN 425, Seminar in Latin American Literature, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2021  
SPAN 435, Seminar in Latin American Culture, Fall 2019  
LACS 201: Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Spring 2016, Spring 2020, 2021

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

DURF Recipient, \$3,040 for research, Denison University, 2018-2019.  
NEH Summer Scholar Recipient: Latin American Theater Today (Buenos Aires, Argentina). 2015.  
University of Connecticut, Storrs: El Instituto Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. 2013-2014.  
UIC: Spanish and Italian Studies, Excellence in Teaching: Teaching Assistant award. 2008-2011.

Smithsonian Latino Center, Latino Museum Studies Fellow. Washington, D.C. 2007.

### **ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS**

“Writing and Staging Our Latinx Bodies: Utopian Performatives in Teatro Luna.” *Modern Drama*, 64 (1), pp. 88–108, 2021.

“Reading Audiences, Reading Materials: Reception in Tanya Saracho’s *El Nogalar*.” *Aletria*, Belo Horizonte, v. 29, n. 1, p. 53-72, 2019.

“*Time to Speak Out*.” *Towards Conocimiento in Tanya Saracho’s Kita y Fernanda*. *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social*. Vol. 17, Issue 2, Spring 2018.

### **OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

“Cherríe Moraga” *50 Key Latin American and Latinx Theatre Artists*, eds. Paola Hernandez and Analola Santana. London: Routledge, 2022. Invited. Peer-Reviewed.

“This is how I was born on the operating table of an abortion clinic:” *Coatlucue State and Reproductive Decision-Making in Teatro Luna*.” *Representing Abortion*, ed. Rachel A. Johnston Hurst. London: Routledge, 2020. Peer reviewed.

“Between and Beyond the Mediated and the Material in Teatro Luna’s *Generation Sex*.” *Latina Outsiders: Remaking Latina Identity*, ed. Grisel Y. Acosta. London: Routledge, 2019. 99-105. Peer reviewed.

Performance review of "Latins in La La Land" (dir. Jimmy A. Noriega) at the Freedlander Theatre (College of Wooster), for HowlRound (Café Onda), January 19, 2016.  
<http://howlround.com/latins-in-la-la-land-at-the-freedlander-theatre>

Book review for “Transnational Latina Narratives in the Twenty-First Century: The Politics of Gender, Race, and Migrations.” *Letras Femeninas* (Fall 2012).

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

“Latina/x Abortion Narratives in Popular Culture.” *Forum: Roe vs Wade at 50*, Rachel Weingarten, editor.. *Feminist Studies*, Invited. Tentative, 2023.

“Sonic Resistance and Resilience in Teatro Luna’s *Talking While Female and Other Acts*”, in (Title TBD), Noe Montez and Olga Saltiviet, eds., Book chapter. Invited. (TBD).

“Reimagining Myths and Fairytales: Gendered Empowerment in Marisela Treviño Orta’s *The Wolf at the Door* and *The River Bride*” (working title), Book chapter. Invited (TBD).

### **BOOKS**

*Representing Latina/x Reproductive Decision-Making*. Lanham: Lexington Book, 2022. [Representing Latina/x Reproductive Decision-Making - 9781793626974](#)

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

“Learning Frequent Vocabulary in Spanish L2 Literature Courses with Flashcards: Learners’ Perceptions and Gains.” with Nausica Marcos Miguel (lead investigator). Roundtable. American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Pittsburgh, PA. March 19-22, 2022.

“Abortion Representation in Latina/x Cultural Texts” George Washington University. “Abortion Access in the U.S.,” Invited Panelist. Hosted by GWU Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. Oct 1, 2021 . Virtual.

“Experiencing Latinx Maternity in Jane the Virgin.” Popular Culture Association (PCA), Philadelphia, PA. April 2020. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.

“Matrilineage, Power and Theater: Women of Color Feminisms and Teatro Luna.” Northeast MLA (NeMLA), Washington D.C. March 2019.

“Collective-Consciousness in Latinx Theater Companies: Teatro Luna and Teatro Público de Cleveland.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), San Diego, CA. November 2018.

“Tradaptation and Spectatorship in Tanya Saracho’s *El Nogalar*.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Barcelona, Spain. May 2018.

“Writing and Staging Our Latinx Bodies: Collective-Consciousness in Teatro Luna’s “The María Chronicles.”” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Atlanta, GA. November 2017.

“Lunática Consciousness in Teatro Luna’s *Generation Sex* as a Hemispheric Feminist Project.” Modern Languages Association (MLA), Philadelphia, PA. January 2017.

“*Generation Sex* and Participatory Theatre: Traversing Platforms and Reclaiming Sexualities through Social Media.” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Minneapolis, MN. November 2016.

“Teatro Luna & Generation Sex: The Impact of Academic & Community Collaborations on Ensemble Development,” in conjunction with Teatro Luna. Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET) at Columbia College, Chicago, IL, May 2016. Virtual.

“Towards a Lunática Consciousness in Teatro Luna’s *S-E-X-Ob?*” American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR), Portland, OR. November 2015.

“Dolls, Horses, and iPads: Negotiating Upper-Middle Class Mexican Values in Tanya Saracho’s *El Nogalar* (2011).” Popular Culture Association (PCA), New Orleans, LA. April 2015.

“Negotiating Trans-Mexican Feminidad: Memory and (Im)Migration in Tanya Saracho’s *Kita y Fernanda* (2008).” Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures (MACHL), University of Wisconsin, Madison. October 2014.

## **LECTURES GIVEN AT DENISON**

“Representing Latina/x Reproductive Decisions” - Monomoy Research Dinner. Spring 2022.

“Latinx Representation in the Media” - La Fuerza Latina- Invited. February 2021

Sigma Lambda Gamma Founders Week - Professor Panel. Invited. April 2019

“Latinx Faculty’s Journey to the Academy.” at Ohio Summit of Latinx (SOL)  
Faculty panel with Dr. Lauren Araiza and Dr. Johan Uribe. April 2019.

“Adventures in Teatrolandia.”  
Tuesday Faculty Lunch. September 2015.

“U.S. Latino/a Theatre”  
Invited Speaker for Dr. St-Georges’ SPAN 325 course. Spring 2015.

### **LECTURES GIVEN OUTSIDE OF DENISON**

“Languages in Contact” at Ohio Summit of Latinx (SOL)  
Invited speaker with Dr. Nausica Marcos-Miguel, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH. April 2017.

Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellows Student Social Hour  
Invited Speaker, Connecticut College, New London, CT. October 2013.

LULAC-WI Local Chapter  
Invited speaker, Milwaukee, WI. May 2013

### **OTHER ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS**

Frequent Vocabulary in Content Courses with Dr. Nausica Marcos Miguel (lead investigator), Spring 2021-present

Textbook Collaborator under Dr. Kimberly Potowski, *Conversaciones Escritas* (2011) for Wiley & Sons (2009-2010).

### **SERVICE TO DENISON**

Laura C. Harris Committee Member, Womens and Gender Studies Program, Denison University, Fall 2022-  
IRB Member (Humanities representative), Denison University, 2022-2023

Teaching assistant and tertulia leader supervisor, Spanish section, Modern Languages, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

International Studies Senior Research Project Reader, Fall 2018

Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS) Senior Research Faculty Advisor, Spring 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2022

Fullbright Mock-interviewer, Lisska Center, Fall 2014-

Advising circle co-leader with Dr. Mónica Ayala-Martínez, Fall 2018 (Latinx, Latino/a students)

Spanish section book order coordinator, Modern Languages, Spring 2015-Fall 2016; Fall 2018-

Sigma Delta Pi co-advisor with Dr. Mirela Butnaru, Spanish section, Modern Languages, Spring 2015-Fall 2016; Fall 2018-2019

SPAN 112 coordinator, Fall 2016, Spring 2018, AY 2021-2022

SPAN 211 coordinator, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

SPAN 220 co-coordinator with Jose Manuel Cañibano, Fall 2017

Women’s and Gender Studies Committee Member, Fall 2014-

Process Advocate, Spring 2021-

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Committee Member, Fall 2014-

Committee on Honorary Degrees, Fall 2018-Spring 2021

SOS Employee of the Year Selection Committee, Fall 2018-Spring 2020  
Wellness committee member, Spring 2016-Spring 2020  
Faculty Advisor to La Fuerza Latina, Fall 2019-2022  
Faculty Advisor to Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc (Denison chapter), Fall 2018-2020  
FOCIF Co-leader with Dr. Lauren Araiza, Fall 2016-Spring 2017  
FOCIF Co-leader, Spring 2021  
Faculty Participant, Sisters in Dialogue, 2018- present  
Language House Colloquium instructor, Spring 2016

### **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

External Reviewer, Modern Languages and Cultures Department, Albion College. February 2022.  
Ensemble member scholar, Teatro Luna. 2016-present  
Script evaluator for Ingenio 2020. Summer 2020  
Job Clinic Mentor, Northeast MLA (NeMLA), March 2019  
Reviewer: *Theatre Topics*, Fall 2016; *Queer Studies in Media & Popular Culture* (QSMPC), Fall 2021  
AP Spanish Literature Reader, Summer 2017  
Conference Volunteer, Latino Studies Association (LSA), Summer 2014

### **SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Volunteer, Girls on the Run of Franklin County (running buddy) Fall 2016-Fall 2017  
Volunteer, In Christy's Shoes, May 2017, May 2018  
Volunteer, Meals on Wheels Summer 2019-  
Volunteer, Columbus Cancer Clinic, Summer 2022-

### **LANGUAGES**

English – native language  
Spanish – native language  
French and Portuguese – reading proficiency

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society for Theatre Research  
Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS)  
Theatre Communications Group