

Elizabeth Barrios

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022– Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American & Latino/a Studies
Department of Modern Cultures and Literatures
Albion College, Albion, Michigan
- 2024– Chair, Ethnic Studies
Albion College
- 2016–2022 Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American & Latino/a Studies
Albion College

EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D., Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish)
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 2009 B.A., English Literature and Spanish
Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois
summa cum laude

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

- 2026 *Failures of the Imagination: Reckoning with Oil in Venezuelan Cultural Production*. University of Pittsburgh Press, part of the book series, “Illuminations: Cultural Formations of the Americas.”

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

- n.d. “The Aftermath of El Dorado in The Films of Jorge Thielen-Armand and Rodrigo Michelageli.” *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*. Accepted.
- n.d. “Towards a Compost Ethics in Lina Meruane’s *Fruta podrida* and Helena Maria Viramontes’ *Under the Feet of Jesus*.” *PMLA* (under review).
- n.d. “Greenwashing Through Culture: The Environmental Aesthetics of The Oil Industry in Venezuela and Perú.” Submitted to *Latin American Research Review* (under review).
- 2021 “This Is Not an Oil Novel: Obstacles to Reading Petro-Narratives in High-Energy Cultures.” *Textual Practice*. pp. 1–16.

- 2019 “The Times and Surfaces of Venezuelan Oil Literature: A Reading of *Oficina No. 1* and *Guachimanes*.” *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*. Volume 23. pp. 33–51.
- 2018 “The Chicago Latino Film Festival: Shaping Latin American/Latino Cinema in the United States.” *Transnational Cinemas*. p. 212–226

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters:

- 2026 “Mining Time.” *Margot Benacerraf*, edited by Moira Fradinger. SUNY University Press.
- 2026 “Nature Sells: Examining The Use of Natural Beauty in Oil Industry Advertisements.” *Teaching Energy Humanities*, edited by Debby Rosenthal and Jason Moleski. Modern Languages Association Book Publications.
- 2025 “Vivir y morir del petróleo: La lenta catástrofe ecológica en *Nuestro petróleo y otros cuentos*.” *Los paisajes del subsuelo: Configuraciones, narrativas y espacios en la cultura del petróleo*, edited by Manuel Silva-Ferrer. De Gruyter.
- 2025 “Petróleo.” *Conceptos claves para los estudios de la literatura venezolana*, edited by Tatiana Capaverde. Ediciones Makunaima.

Public Scholarship:

- 2023 “Obstáculos a la lectura de la petroficción y la necesidad de conectar los textos venezolanos con el contexto planetario.” *Trópico absoluto*.
- 2020 “*Nuestro petróleo y otros cuentos*: naturaleza y extractivismo en la Revolución Bolivariana.” *Trópico absoluto*.

Translations:

- n.d. “*Mene* and *Guachimanes*: Toward a Geological Reading” by Raquel Abend van Dalen (under review).
- 2014 *[[{ }]] The Desert Survival Series/La serie de sobrevivencia del desierto* (bilingual edition), Electronic Disturbance Theater 2.0/b.a.n.g. lab, computer code by Brett Stalbaum and Jason Najarro, poetry and statement by Amy Sara Carroll. The University of Michigan Digital Environments Cluster Publishing Series.

Projects in Progress:

- n.d. *Plastic Environmentalisms: Petrocultures and Climate Denial in Latin America*. Book project.
- n.d. “El genocidio olvidado y la pre-historia de ExxonMobil.” In preparation for *Trópico absoluto*.
- n.d. *Climate Stories of the Venezuelan Andes*. An oral history about environmental change in the Venezuelan Andes. Multimedia project.

EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2025-2026 Society for the Humanities Fellowship, “Scale,” Cornell University
- 2020 Global Crossroads Themed Courses Grant, Great Lakes College Association: “Historical Development of Race in Latin America”
- 2017 Pragma Spanish Film Club Grant, Secretary of State for the Culture of Spain

INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Albion College Excellence Award
- 2018–2024 Faculty Development Grant, Academic Affairs, Albion College
- 2022 Student’s Choice Award, Albion College
- 2021 Teaching Innovation Award, Albion College
- 2018 Ferguson Faculty Development Award, Albion College
- 2009–2016 Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2015 Sweetland Dissertation Writing Institute, Participant, University of Michigan
- 2014 Arts at Michigan Course Connections Grant, University of Michigan
- 2012, 2015 Romance Languages and Literatures Summer Grant, University of Michigan
- 2013 Mellon Dissertation Seminar in the Humanities Awardee, “Science Studies, Cultural Theory and Scholarly Writing,” University of Michigan
- 2011 International Institute Individual Fellowship, University of Michigan

INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “Alchemy By Other Means: Petroleum and The Narrative Imagination,” Latin American Center Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland, March 7.
- 2022 “Esto no es una petro-narrativa: el regreso de la novela del petróleo,” Literature Department, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela, December 21.
- 2017 “The House That Oil Built: Petrochemicals and Their Narratives,” English Literature Department, Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, May 19.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2024 “New Approaches to Venezuelan Studies.” Session Chair & Organizer. Co-organized with Dr. Irina Troconis. Sponsored by the Venezuelan Studies Section. Latin American Studies Association, Bogotá, Colombia, June 11–15.
- 2019 “Enclaves, Environment, and Exploitation in Latin America and The Caribbean.” Co-organized with Dr. Paige Andersson. Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Davis, California, June 26–30.
- 2018 “Reckoning with Oil in Latin American Cultural Production.” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain, May 25.
- 2017 “Locating Oil.” Session Chair & Organizer. Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Detroit, Michigan, June 21–24.

Panels Chaired

- 2024 “New Approaches to Venezuelan Studies.” Session Chair & Organizer. Sponsored by the Venezuelan Studies Section. Latin American Studies Association, Bogotá, Colombia, June 11–15.
- 2019 “Enclaves, Environment, and Exploitation in Latin America and The Caribbean.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Davis, California, June 26–30.
- 2018 “Reckoning with Oil in Latin American Cultural Production.” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona, Spain, May 25.
- 2017 “Locating Oil.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Detroit, Michigan, June 21–24.
- 2016 “The Bordered World: Nation & Temporality.” Panel Chair & Discussant. ASLE Symposium: Toxic Borders and Bondages: Intersecting Ecology with Capitalism, Racism, Heteropatriarchy and (Dis)possession. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, October 22.

Papers Presented

- 2025 “El tiempo profundo en *Mene* de Ramón Díaz Sánchez.” To be presented at the *II Congreso Internacional: Humanidades en Tiempo Presente*. Caracas, Venezuela, May 29-30.
- 2025 “Mining Time: The Timescapes of *Araya* (1959)” Latin American Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, California, May 23-26.
- 2025 “Nocturnos eléctricos: Cuerpo, insomnio y crisis en la noche latinoamericana”

- Roundtable participant. Latin American Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, California, May 23-26.
- 2025 “The End of The Eternal Snow: Narrativizing Venezuela’s Disappearing Glaciers.” Modern Languages Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, January 9–12.
- 2024 “Venezuelan Geological Imaginaries.” Latin American Studies Association Conference. Bogotá, Colombia, June 11–15.
- 2024 “Towards a Compost Ethics.” Waste Worlding Summer Institute. Bucknell Humanities Center. Bucknell University, June 3–6.
- 2024 “Silencing The Barí in the Venezuela-Colombia Borderlands.” Petrocultures Conference. Los Angeles, California, May 15–18.
- 2023 “Venezuelan Narratives In The Longue Durée.” Latin American Studies Association Conference. Vancouver, Canada, May 24–27.
- 2023 “Venezuela's *Casas muertas* before and after the Oil Bubble.” Rethinking Venezuela Symposium. Cornell University, April 13.
- 2020 “Toxic Preservation and Decay in Contemporary Agricultural Narratives.” Latin American Studies Association (Online). May 16.
- 2019 “Time in the Venezuelan Oil Enclave.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Davis, California, June 26–30.
- 2018 “*Nuestro petróleo y otros cuentos* and The Representation of Ecological Harm.” Latin American Studies Association. Barcelona Spain, May 23–27.
- 2017 “The Trouble with Harmony in *El museo del petróleo*.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Detroit, Michigan, June 21–24.
- 2016 “Erasing Extraction in *Tierra de extracción* by Domenico Chiappe.” Latin American Studies Association Conference. New York, NY, May, 27–30.
- 2015 “Petroleum and its Phantoms: The Scales of Oil Exploitation in the Work of Rolando Peña.” Southeastern College Art Conference. Pittsburgh, PA, October 21–24.
- 2014 “Dead Landscapes, Living Nation: Echoes of Nature and The Limits of National Narratives.” Venezuela Research Network Conference. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, September 20–21.
- 2014 “Límites deshechos y el terror del cuerpo eterno en *Fruta podrida* de Lina Meruane.” Presented at the XL Congreso del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana. Mexico City, Mexico, June 10–12.

- 2014 "The House that Oil Built: Nature and the Spaces of Oil Exploitation in *la novela del petróleo*." Presented at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference. New York, New York, March 20–23.
- 2013 "Latin American in Name and Image: International Film Festivals and the Creation of Contemporary Latin American Cinema." Presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, Kentucky, April 18–20.
- 2013 "The Timeless Peninsula" Presented at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference. Antigua, Guatemala, March 21–24.
- 2011 "Impossible Memories: Representations of a (mis)Remembered Past in Albertina Carri's *Los rubios* (2003). Presented at the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 14–16.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2021 "Reading for Oil." *Everyday Energy*. Podcast by the Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University in Qatar. June.
- 2014 "Poetry, Code and Desert Landscapes: An Interview with Amy Sara Carroll." Interview conducted with Mary Renda, *Tiresias: Culture, Politics and Critical Theory*. October.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Albion College, Department of Modern Languages & Cultures

(All courses taught in Spanish unless otherwise noted)

Climate Change and the Humanities (in English) (Spring 2025, Fall 2019, Fall 2017)

Spanish for Bilingual Students (Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Fall 2019)

Key Issues in U.S. Chicano/Latino Studies (Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2018, Fall 2016)

Spanish for Heritage Speakers (Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018)

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition (Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2018)

Race, Ethnicity, and Diaspora in Latin America and the United States (in English) (Spring 2023, Spring 2020, Spring 2018, Spring 2017)

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition Through Film (Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2020)

Intermediate Spanish: Exploring Latin American Identities through Music and Film (Fall 2022, Spring 2020)

Cultural Encounters in Hispanic North America (Spring 2022, Spring 2020, Spring 2018)

First Year Seminar: Black Cinemas in Latin America and the U.S. (in English) (Fall 2020)

Advanced Spanish Conversation (Spring 2019)

Elementary Spanish II (Spring 2018)

Cultura reciclada: Remix as Artistic Creation in Latin America (Spring 2017)

Intermediate Spanish I (Fall 2017, Fall 2016)

University of Michigan, Romance Languages & Literatures (Instructor of Record)
(All courses taught in Spanish)

In Transit: Travel, Displacement, and Immigration (Fall 2015)

Intermediate Spanish II (Winter 2015, Spring 2014, Winter 2011)

Cultura reciclada: Remix as Artistic Creation in Latin America (Winter 2014)

Introduction to Literary Genres in Hispanic Literature (Winter 2013)

Intermediate Reading and Composition (Fall 2012, Winter 2013)

Elementary Spanish I (Summer 2012, Fall 2010)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Academic Program Review

February, 2025 Hispanic and Latinx Studies Department, Goucher College

Editorial Board

2013-2014 *Tiresias: Journal of Culture, Politics and Critical Theory* (Editor)

Manuscript Peer Review

2024 *Revista Visitas al Patio*

2024, 2022 *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

2022 *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group*

2019 *Latin American Research Review*

Committee and Advisory Board

2024– Support Network for Venezuelan Academics and Students/Red de apoyo para el académico y estudiante venezolano, Founder

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Albion College

Committees and Advisory Work

2022–	Chair, Undocumented Student Support Committee
2024–	Hearing & Grievance Committee
2021-2022	Chair, Undocumented Student Support Taskforce
2019–2024	Committee Member, Ethnic Studies
2020–2022	Advisory Board Member, Albion Labs
2017–2022	Committee Member, Undocumented Student Support Committee
2020–2021	Advisory Board Member, TRIO Student Success Program
2019–2020	Chair, Faculty Committee on Diversity
2017–2019	Committee Member, Faculty Committee on Diversity

Events Organized

2016–2017	Latinx Heritage Month, Planning Committee
2019, 2021	
2021	Community Dinner: Cena para hispanohablantes
2020	Lecture and Performance: Nationalism in Europe and Latin America
2019	A Conversation about The Border with Scott Warren
2019	Community Panel: Latinx Identities in Albion
2019	Film Screening: <i>La soledad</i> (2016).
2018	Student Trip: Olmeca Performance in Kalamazoo, MI
2017	Film Series: Latin American Film Festival. Student Trip
2017	Student Trip: Organization for Latinx Awareness Trip to Detroit
2016	Hispanic Culture Walk

Advising and Training

2017–2022	Faculty Advisor, Organization for Latinx Awareness
2019-2022	Orientation for International Students and Teaching Assistants: The Inequities of the U.S Educational System
2020	MLK Day of Dialogue Presentation: “The Complexities of Latinx Identities”

Events organized

2014	Film Series: <i>In Transit: Border Crossing in Spanish Language Cinema</i> , February 20th – April 10th.
2013	Lectures and Roundtable: Dr. Claire Fox, “Latin/o American Visual Art + Cultural Policy Under Neoliberalism,” November 6.
2013	Dr. Laura Gutierrez, "Triangulated Racialized Sexualities: Cross-Border Desires and Anxieties in Mexican Rumbera Cinema, 1940s-1950s," November 7.
2013	Lecture: Jacques Rancière, “Aesthetics, Politics, and Performance,” March 31.
2013	<i>Latin American Film Series</i> , January 30 - February 27.

- 2013 “Thinking with Things: Towards a Matter-Oriented Cultural Analysis.”
Charles F. Fraker Conference, November, 14-16
- 2012 Lecture and Screening: An Evening with Alex Rivera and screening of *Sleep Dealer* (2008), April 10.
- 2011 “Caring, Protecting, Policing: Unveiling the Rhetorics of the Guardian”
Charles F. Fraker Conference, November 18-19, 2011.

PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

University of Arizona, Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy

Teaching Languages for Intercultural Citizenship and Social Justice (May 2021)
Translation in the Multilingual Language Classroom: Rationale, Roles and Activity Design (April 2021)

University of Minnesota, The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition Now What? Considering Career Readiness in Second and Foreign Languages in Times of Crisis (April 2021)

Transitioning to Teaching Online Summer Institute (June–July 2020)
Teaching Heritage Languages and Learners (August 2019)

Association of College and University Educators

Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Online Learning Environment (July–Sept. 2020)
Course in Effective Teaching Practices (2018–2019)

Albion College

Experiential Learning Workshop (March 2021)
Mental Health First Aid Training (March 2020)
Equity in The Classroom Workshop (August 2018)
Building PathFinder Connections Mentoring Retreat (June 2017)

The Center for Open Educational Resources and Language Learning, University of Texas, Austin

Heritage Spanish Summer Workshop (June 2018)

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), University of Michigan

Enriching Scholarship: Teaching and Technology Workshop (May 2018)
Diversity and Inclusive Teaching Seminar (Fall 2015)
Advanced Practices for Inclusive Teaching (Fall 2014)
Writing and Grading Exams (Summer 2014)

The Institute for the Humanities, Digital Pedagogies Program, University of Michigan

Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Pedagogy (Winter 2015)
Exploring, Remixing, Analyzing: Teaching History (Winter 2013)

THESES ADVISED

Pérez García, Mauricio. “Resilience by Means of Compliance: Examining Racial Production and Practices in the United States and México.” Foundation for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (FURSCA), Albion College, 2022 and Honors Thesis, 2023, Faculty Advisor and Chair.

Pérez, Jimena. “Examining Latinidades.” Foundation for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (FURSCA), Albion College, 2023, Chair.

Flint, Noah. “Un estudio de la representación urbana en Batman.” Honors Thesis, 2023, Chair.

Hitchko, Alexa, “The World of Healthcare: An Examination of the System in Place in Spain and The United States.” Honors Thesis, 2023, Committee Member.

Wiese, Victoria. “Iskay Simipi Yachay: The Role of Bilingual Intercultural Education in the Preservation and Assessment of Quechua in Peru.” Honors Thesis, 2021, Chair.

Gumbleton, Lynette “Cómo la gente de Ocongate celebra Qoyllurit’i mientras resiste y se adapta a un mundo cada vez más globalizado y occidentalizado.” Honors Thesis, 2019, Chair.

Antal, Taylor. “Beliefs about Government and Industry Responsibility Affect the Relationship between Environmental Locus of Control and Pro-Environmental Behaviors.” Honors Thesis, 2019, Committee Member.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

Association for the Study of Environmental Literature
Latin American Studies Association
Latinx Studies Association
Modern Languages Association
Oral History Association

LANGUAGES:

Spanish - native speaker
English - native-level fluency