

JENNIFER HARFORD VARGAS

Associate Professor of Literatures in English

Bryn Mawr College

101 N. Merion Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

jharfordva@brynmawr.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Dorothy Nepper Marshall Professorship of Hispanic and Hispanic-American Studies. Bryn Mawr College, May 2022-Present

Associate Professor. Bryn Mawr College, Department of Literatures in 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, 2017. Winner of the 2019 Outstanding Book Award from the Latina/o Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

CO-EDITED SCHOLARSHIP

Reimagining U.S. Colombianidades: Cultural Expressions, Transnational Subjectivities, and Political Contestations. Co-Edited with María Elena Cepeda, Johana Londoño, and Lina Rincón. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

—. Originally published as a Special Issue on Reimagining U.S. Colombianidades in the journal *Latino Studies*. 18.3 (2020): 301-465.

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

- “On Huecos and Desaparecidos: State-Sanctioned Violence and Undocumented Migration in Latinx South American Literary Imaginaries.” *Latinx Literature in Transition, 1992-2020*. Ed. William Orchard. Vol. 3 of Latinx Literature in Transition Series. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2025.
- “Reimagining U.S. Colombianidades: Cultural Expressions, Transnational Subjectivities, and Political Contestations.” Co-Authored with María Elena Cepeda, Johana Londoño, and Lina Rincón. *Latino Studies*. 18.3 (2020): 301-325.
- “Moving Monuments to Undocumented Migration.” *Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for American Civic Space*. Eds. Paul Farber and Ken Lum. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2019.
- “Crossing *por el Hueco*: The Visual Politics of Smuggling in Colombian Migration Films.” *Border Cinema: Re-Imagining Identity through Aesthetics*. Eds. Monica Hanna and Rebecca A. Sheehan. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2019.
- “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*. Durham: 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.

SCHOLARSHIP IN-PROCESS

Latinx Colombianidades: Critical Regionalisms and Diasporic Subjects. Co-edited with María Elena Cepeda, Johana Londoño, and Ariana Ochoa Camacho (interest expressed by Duke University Press)

“The Speculative Géneros of el Hueco in Latinx Colombian Cultural Production”

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Ylce Irizarry, *Chicana/o and Latina/o Fiction: The New Memory of Latinidad*. *The American Literary History* Online Review Series. XVI (2018): 1-4.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Simpson Center for the Humanities Colloquia and Conferences Grant, University of Washington, 2024-2025

Mellon Humanities Faculty Leadership Program, Swarthmore College, June 2023.

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 and 2017-2019), 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 LECTURES AND PANELS

“Latinx Visual Memorials to Undocumented Migration and Family Separation.” Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i Houston Club. March 2023.

Roundtable Panelist for Mural Arts Discovery Project with Artist Doris Salcedo. Philadelphia, March 2021.

- “Latinx Dictatorship Novels and the Fall of the Patriarchs.” Villanova University. February 2020.
- “Memories of Disappearance” and “Imagining Justice.” Patagonia Frontiers. Bryn Mawr Alumnae/i Travel Program. March 2019.
- “Preparing for Tenure and Beyond.” DARE @ 10 Homecoming: Conference and Celebration. Stanford University, November 2018.
- “Literary Form and Authoritarian Power in the Latina/o Novel.” University of Southern California. October 2018.
- “Theorizing the Latina/o Dictatorship Novel.” First Books Salon, Program in Modern Thought and Literature and the Department of English, Stanford University. October 2018.
- “Forms of Dictatorship in Latinx Cultural Production.” Taller Puertorriqueño. October 2018.
- “Literary Form and Authoritarian Power in the Latina/o Novel.” Crisis and Conflict in Postcolonial and Ethnic American Literatures. George Washington University. October 2018.
- “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

- Roundtable Panelist on “Editing US Colombianx Studies.” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Bogotá, Colombia, June 2024.
- Roundtable Panelist on “Diasporic Colombian Cultural Production.” Arizona State University, April 2024.
- “Speculative Géneros: Gender, Genre, Family Separation, and Futurity in Latinx South American Fiction.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Baltimore, October 2023.
- “On Huecos and Desaparecidos: Latinx South American Literary Imaginaries and Keywords for State-Sanctioned Violence and Undocumented Migration.” 5th Biennial U.S. Latina/o Literary Theory and Criticism Conference. The City University of New York-John Jay College, April 2023.
- “Testimonios from El Hueco: Narrating Undocumented Colombian Migration.” Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology. Cartagena, Colombia, March 2023.
- “Huecos and Desaparecidos: U.S. South American Cultural Memories of Migration and State-Sanctioned Violence.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, November 2022.
- Roundtable Panelist on “U.S. Colombianx Studies and the Futures of Latinx Studies.” Latina/o/x Studies Association Conference. Notre Dame, July 2022.

Roundtable Panelist on “Encountering US Colombianidades: Dialogues in Latin American and Latinx Studies.” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Virtual Congress, May 2021.

Roundtable Panelist on “U.S. Colombianx Imaginaries.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting. Honolulu, November 2019.

Roundtable Panelist on “Nuestra América through a Latinx Lens: Reading (with) Héctor Tobar.” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Boston, May 2019.

“Moving Monuments to Undocumented Migration.” 4th Biennial U.S. Latina/o Literary Theory and Criticism Conference. The City University of New York-John Jay College, April 2019.

Roundtable Panelist on “The Art of Documenting Migration and Detention.” Latino Art Now! Conference. Inter-University Program for Latino Research. Houston, April 2019.

“Metaphors of Border Crossing.” Latina/o Studies Association Bi-Annual Conference. Washington D.C., July 2018.

“*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*.” Latina/o 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”
Writing seminar for first-year students.
- 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 236/336: “Latinx Culture and the Art of Undocumented Migration”
Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors when taught as 200-level; upper-

division seminar and Praxis I course for major and non-majors when taught as 300-level.
Cross-listed in: Spanish; Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies.

ENGL 237: “Cultural Memory and State-Sanctioned Violence in Latinx Literature,” “The Latina/o Dictator Novel,” and “The Dictator Novel in the Americas”
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.
Taught as part of the 360 Cluster on Migrations.

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 277/382: “Speculative Futures, Alternative Worlds”
Lower-division seminar for majors and non-majors when taught at the 200-level; upper-division seminar for major and non-majors when taught at the 300-level.
Cross-listed in: Spanish; Comparative Literature; Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies; Africana Studies.
Taught as part of the 360 Cluster on Decolonizing Knowledges.

ENGL 345: “Theorizing Ethnic Narratives” and “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 398: “Senior Essays”
Thesis writing seminar for majors.

ENGL 399: “Senior Essays”
Thesis advising for majors.

GNST 245: “Introduction to Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies”
Lower-division seminar for minors.

SERVICE AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE SERVICE:

Faculty Coordinator, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, 2018-present.
Co-Director, Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies Program, 2016-2017 and 2018-2023.
Steering Committee, Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies Program, 2011-Present.
Search Committee for Dean of Undergraduates, Fall 2022.

Search Committee for Assistant Dean for Student Support and Belonging, Summer 2021.
 Junior Faculty Liaison, 2020-2021.
 Steering Committee, Program in Comparative Literature, 2013-2020.
 360 Steering Committee, 2015-2016 and 2018-2020.
 Curriculum Committee, 2015-2016.
 Committee on Undergraduate Awards and Fellowships, 2015-2017.
 Committee on Endowed Lectures, 2013-2015.
 Honor Board, 2012-2013.
 Job Search Committee, Spanish Department, 2012-2013 and 2022-2023.
 Job Search Committee, Department of Literatures in English, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2021-2022.
 Job Search Committee, International Studies Program, 2018-2019.
 Search Committee 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:

Faculty Advisor. Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program; 2012-2014, 2014-2016, 2015-2017, 2017-2019, 2018-2019, 2020, 2019-2021, 2022-2024, 2023-2025.
 Faculty Instructor. Independent Study on Latinx Spanglish and Bilingual Education, Fall 2022.
 Faculty Instructor. Independent Study on Undocumented Migrant Narratives and Memoirs of the American Dream, Spring 2021.
 Faculty Instructor. Independent Study on Migration Studies and Migrants Rights Activism, Spring 2020.
 Faculty Advisor. Praxis Independent Study, Fall 2019.
 Faculty Advisor. Hanna Holburn Gray Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Summer 2012 and Summer 2016.
 Faculty Advisor. Pensby Center Fellowship, Summer and Fall 2013.
 Major Advisor. English Department, Class of 2015, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2025.
 Co-Major Advisor. Independent Major in Creative Writing and Latinx Studies. Spring 2023-Spring 2026.
 Co-Major Advisor. Independent Major in Latina/o and Migration Studies, Spring 2016-Spring 2019.
 Major Advisor. Independent Major in Latina/o Performance Studies, Spring 2013-Spring 2016.

EVENTS:

Decolonizing Knowledges, Transforming Academia. Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Regional Conference at Bryn Mawr College, Faculty Organizer, Fall 2021.

“Cultures of Resistance.” The Greater Philadelphia Latin American Studies Consortium, Student Research Conference, Faculty Co-Organizer, Spring 2019.

Familias Separadas Film Screening and Discussion with Michelle Angela Ortiz and Shut Down Berks Coalition and Art Making Workshop with Michelle Angela Ortiz, Event Co-Organizer, Fall 2019.

Anti-Deportation Solidarity Suitcase Workshop with Lourdes Bernard, Event Organizer, Spring 2019.

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, 2012-2022.

— Faculty Working Group on American Studies, Haverford College, Participant, 2011-2020.

— CARLA: Campaign for Anti-Racist Literacy at Bryn Mawr, 2020-Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

BOARD OF EDITORS

— *American Literary History*

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER:

— *American Literary History*

— *ASAP: Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present*

— *Contemporary Literature*

— *Contemporary Literature Studies*

— *Hispanic Review*

— *Latino Studies*

— *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*

— Oxford University Press

— *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association*

CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZER:

— “Decolonizing Knowledges.” Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Annual Regional

- Conference. Bryn Mawr College, November 12th-13th, 2021
- “U.S. Colombianidades and the Future of Latinx Studies: Inaugural Interdisciplinary Symposium.” Williams College, October 20th-21st 2017.
- *Junot Díaz: A Symposium*. Stanford University, May 18th-19th 2012.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WORK:

- Program Committee, Latina/o/x Studies Association, 2021 and 2024.
- Co-Chair, Latina/o Studies Section, Latin American Studies Association, 2017-2019.

WORKING GROUPS:

- Colloquium for the Study of Latina/o Culture and Theory, 2016-2018.
- U.S. Colombianidades Working Group, 2017-Present.

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES:

- Abraham Encinas, University of California, Los Angeles (completed PhD in 2025)
- Leah Rubinsky, University of Washington (completed PhD in 2023)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Latina/o Studies Association (LSA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board of Directors, Juntos, Philadelphia, May 2018-Present.