

ESTHER WHITFIELD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
BROWN UNIVERSITY
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Education

- Ph.D. Harvard University, June 2001. Romance Languages and Literatures.
Dissertation topic: "Fictions of Cuba in Literary Economies of the 1990s."
Director: Doris Sommer. Readers: Jorge I. Domínguez and Gustavo Pérez Firmat.
- A.M. Harvard University, June 1998. Romance Languages and Literatures.
- B.A. Oxford University, June 1994. Modern Languages (First Class Honours).

Professional appointments

- Brown University. July 2002 - the present.**
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature
- Harvard University. September 1996 - June 2002.**
Lecturer on History and Literature. 2001-02.
Tutor and Teaching Fellow in Romance Languages and Core Curriculum. 1996-2001.

Completed publications

Books

Cuban Currency: The Dollar and "Special Period" Fiction. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming February 2008. 248 pages.

New Short Fiction from Cuba. Anthology co-edited with Jacqueline Loss. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2007. 200 pages; introduction 10 pages.

Critical edition of Antonio José Ponte, *Un arte de hacer ruinas.* México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2005. 191 pages; introduction 24 pages.

Chapters in books

"El presente en ruinas." Ed. Teresa Basile. *Acercamientos críticos a Antonio José Ponte.* La Plata, Argentina: Editorial Katatay, forthcoming in 2008. Previously published in *Miradas* (on-line journal of the Havana International Film School). November 2005.

"Truths and Fictions: The Economics of Writing in Cuba, 1994-1999." Ed. Ariana Hernández-Reguant. *New Generation Cuba: The Special Period and the Culture of Late Socialism.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming in 2008.

"La narrativa cubana y el ejemplo del exilio: El caso Zoé Valdés." Ed. Juana Martínez. *Exilios y residencias: Escrituras de España y América.* Madrid/ Frankfurt: Iberoamericana/ Vervuert, 2007. 245-254.

"Economías literarias de los noventa." Eds. Anke Birkenmaier and Roberto González Echevarría. *Cuba: un siglo de literatura.* Madrid: Ediciones Colibrí, 2004. 391-402.

"The Novel as Cuban Lexicon: Bargaining Bilingualism in Daína Chaviano's *El hombre, la hembra y el hambre.*" Ed. Doris Sommer. *Bilingual Games: Some Literary Investigations.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003. 193-201.

“*Mordecai a Haman: The Drama of Belonging in Welsh America.*” Ed. Marc Shell. *American Babel: Literatures of the United States from Abnaki to Zuni.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002. 93-116.

“Comprando y vendiendo: Lenguaje e intercambio en *Te di la vida entera* y *The Aguero Sisters.*” Ed. Rafael Hernández. *Culturas Encontradas: Cuba - Estados Unidos.* Cambridge, Mass. & Havana, Cuba: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and Centro Juan Marinello, 2001. 99-112.

Journal articles

“Billetes buenos y falsos: El dinero en la reciente narrativa cubana.” *Temas* [Havana] 32 (enero-marzo 2003): 32-37.

“Dirty Autobiography: The Body Impolitic of *Trilogía sucia de la Habana.*” *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* 36.2 (May 2002): 329-351.

“The Return of the Cuban Novel.” *Correspondence: An International Review of Culture and Society* 7 (January 2001): 21-22.

“Umbilical Chords.” Review of Ana Menéndez, *In Cuba I was a German Shepherd.* *The Women’s Review of Books* XVIII.10-11 (July 2001): 31-32.

Work in progress

“Remembering the Welsh of Patagonia.” Book-length project on recent literary and visual representations, in Welsh and Spanish, of mid nineteenth-century emigration from Wales to Patagonia, and their relationship to present-day understandings of the nation.

“Welsh women traveling to Patagonia.” Book chapter requested for a volume on Welsh women in the Americas, edited by William Jones and Wynn James and invited for submission to the University of Wales Press.

“Mapping Havana.” Collection of essays edited by Anke Birkenmaier and Esther Whitfield. Invited for submission to Duke University Press.

Invited lectures and presentations

“Havana in Recent Fiction.” Bristol Community College, Fall River MA. Hispanic Heritage Week Speaker Series. October 2007.

“Writing for and against the market in Cuba’s Special Period.” New York University, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. May 2007.

“Images of Havana in Recent Fiction.” College of the Holy Cross, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. April 2007.

“Havana and the Ideology of Ruins.” Brown University, Center for Latin American Studies. February 2006.

“Truths and Fictions: The Economics of Writing in Cuba, 1994-1999.” Conference on “The Special Period: Cuban Culture in the 1990s.” University of California, San Diego. December 2005.

“Caribbean Havana.” Symposium in honor of Antonio Benítez Rojo. Amherst College/ University of Massachusetts. November 2005.

“The Present in Ruins.” Symposium in honor of Josefina Ludmer. Brown University, Department of Hispanic Studies. November 2004.

“Centro Habana: Ruins and the Fiction Industry.” University of Connecticut, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. April 2004.

“La narrativa cubana y el ejemplo del exilio: El caso Zoé Valdés.” Conference on “Exilios y residencias.” Universidad Complutense, Madrid. May 2003.

“Cuban Literary Economies.” Conference on “Cuba: One Hundred Years of Independence, A Century of Literature.” Yale University. October 2002.

“Dirty Autobiography: The Body (Im)politic of *Trilogía sucia de la Habana*.” Symposium on “Culture, Politics and Change in Contemporary Cuba.” University of Iowa. October 2001.

“Polémicas de los noventa.” Roundtable discussion on “Cuban Culture: Conflicts and Debates.” Harvard University. November 2000.

“Intercambios culturales en dos novelas cubanas de los 90.” Conference on “Culturas encontradas: Cuba-Estados Unidos.” Instituto Juan Marinello, Havana. January 1999.

Conference papers given

“Post-war Havana.” Presenter on panel “Mapeos de la Habana.” XXVII Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal. September 2007.

“Havana as Beirut.” Chair and presenter on panel “Antonio José Ponte and Contemporary Cuban Culture.” XXVI Latin American Studies Association Congress. San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 2006.

“El arte del desvío: cultura y periodo especial en Cuba.” Roundtable presentation at XXV Latin American Studies Association Congress. Las Vegas. October 2004.

“Centro Habana: Ruins and the Fiction Industry.” Conference on “Continuity and Change since the periodo especial.” Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, City University of New York. October 2004.

“The Margins and the Center: Centro Habana in Recent Fiction.” Fifth Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University. October 2003.

“Otro boom: El mercado, el dólar y la narrativa cubana.” Co-chair and presenter on panel “Cultural Economies in Latin(o) America: Global/Local.” XXIV Latin American Studies Association Congress. Dallas. March 2003.

“The Dollar, Incorporated.” Fourth Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University. March 2002.

“Dirty Autobiography: The Body (Im)politic of *Trilogía sucia de la Habana*.” Co-chair and presenter on panel “El yo cubano: Autobiografía en la isla.” XXIII Latin American Studies Association Congress. Washington D.C. September 2001.

“The Novel as Lexicon: Words and Economies in Daína Chaviano’s *El hombre, la hembra y el hambre*.” Third Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University. October 2000.

“Cultural Negotiations in the Novels of Zoé Valdés and Cristina García.” Second Conference on Cuban and Cuban-American Studies. Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University. March 1999.

“Coverage: The Cultural Pages of *Granma*, Inside Cuba and Out.” Co-chair and presenter on panel “Exile and Migration in the Americas.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Austin, Texas. March 1998.

“*Mordecai a Haman: The Drama of Belonging in Welsh America.*” Longfellow Institute panel on non-English literatures of the USA. American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. April 1997.

Fellowships

Brown University Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship. Teaching award for untenured faculty providing one semester of paid leave. Fall 2006.

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Eliot Fellowship for dissertation writing. 1999-2000.

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellowship for dissertation research. Fall 1998.

Harvard Graduate Society and Center for Latin American Studies fellowships for summer research in Cuba. 1997 and 1999.

Boston University “Writing in the Americas” Summer Institute Fellowship. Summer 1997.

Kennedy Memorial Trust Scholarship. Award given annually to ten British students for study at Harvard University. 1995-1996.

Grants for teaching and research:

Course Development Faculty Grant. Brown University Center for Latin American Studies. 2007-08.

Office of the Vice President for Research Departmental Research Funds in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Brown University. For research in Cuba, Wales and Argentina. 2005-08

PEN Club New York Council of the Arts Translation Grant Award for *New Short Fiction from Cuba*. 2006.

Courses taught at Brown University

Comparative Literature 282: Latin America and Theory. Spring 2006.

Comparative Literature 181: Reading Revolution: Representations of Cuba. Spring 2003, Fall 2004 and Spring 2008.

Comparative Literature 181: Latin American Literature in Dialogue with France. Spring 2004 and Spring 2007.

Comparative Literature 142: Tales of Two Cities: Havana-Miami, San-Juan-New York. Fall 2003 and Fall 2007.

Comparative Literature 142: Fictions of the Caribbean. Fall 2002.

Comparative Literature 81 (with Prof. Stephanie Merrim): The Colonial and Postcolonial Marvelous. Spring 2004 and Spring 2007.

Comparative Literature 81: Confession, Autobiography, Testimony. Spring 2003 and Fall 2004.

Comparative Literature 71: Latin America: The French Connection. Fall 2002.

Comparative Literature 51: Caribbean Re-writes. Fall 2003 and Spring 2006.

Comparative Literature 51: Che Guevara, the Man and the Myths. Fall 2007.

Student advising at Brown University

Member of dissertation committees of six graduate students in Comparative Literature, French Studies and English. 2002-07.

Primary advisor to nine senior thesis writers in Comparative Literature and second reader to nine in Comparative Literature, Latin American Studies and Women's Studies. 2002-07.

Freshman advisor to eight students and sophomore advisor to nine. 2003-07.

Independent study advisor to one undergraduate and one graduate student. 2004.

Faculty participant in Mellon Graduate Workshop on "Our America." 2006-07.

Professional service and affiliations

Brown University Center for Latin American Studies. Chair of Cuba Task Force (2006-the present); Member of Caribbean Initiative Steering Committee (2006-the present); Member of Executive Committee (2005-the present).

Brown University Department of Comparative Literature Graduate Committee. 2005-06.

Brown University Department of Comparative Literature Early Modern Search Committee. 2007-08.

Brown University Office of International Programs Brown in Britain Selection Committee. 2007-08.

Brown University Faculty Executive Committee. Elected member. 2004-06.

Grant reviewer for Montana State University Scholarship and Creativity Grants Committee. 2005.

Article reviewer for *Differences* (2004) and *PMLA* (2007).

Latin American Studies Association Committee on Academic Freedom and Human Rights. Appointed member. 2002-03.

Member of Modern Language Association, Latin American Studies Association, New England Council of Latin American Studies.

Languages: English, Spanish, Welsh, French.