

Charles H. Geyer

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EDUCATION

August 2019	Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
December 2017	M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University
2012	B.A. in English and Creative Writing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

EMPLOYMENT

August 2020—Present	Teaching Assistant Professor of Spanish Ball State University
August 2019—August 2020	Postdoctoral Scholar, Research Vanderbilt University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Literature and Cultural Studies: Contemporary literature of Spanish America and Brazil; Latinx literature; Transnational American Studies; Inter-American Comparative Literature Studies; avant-garde poetry of the 20th century; Boom and Post-Boom narrative; literary, psychoanalytic, gender, and queer theory; fantastic narratives.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation

Title: “Disturbing Beauty: Poetry, Performance, and Utopia in Ferreira Gullar, Miguel Piñero, and Pedro Juan Gutiérrez”

Director: Professor Benigno Trigo

Book Manuscript (In progress)

Title: *Disturbing Beauty: Aesthetics, Politics, and Marginality in Contemporary Latin American and Latinx Literature*

In my book manuscript, I study the relationship between marginality, aesthetics, and politics. Specifically, I examine the way in which marginalized groups are represented in public discourse as grotesque, revolting, or threatening, and the manner in which literature offers a contestatory discourse through finding beauty in bodies and spaces that have been rendered abject in the dominant cultural imaginary. In the work of Ferreira Gullar (Brazil), Miguel Piñero (Puerto Rico/New York), Pedro Juan Gutiérrez (Cuba), Gabriela Cabezón Cámara (Argentina), Mario Bellatin (Mexico/Peru), and Yuri Herrera (Mexico), beauty continually appears amidst scenes of oppression, and I argue that this beauty has a disturbing function, in both a political and an aesthetic sense. Politically, I argue that the

beauty that these authors find in the stigmatized zones of social life offers a utopian vision—a promise of an alternative order of social relations in which oppressive and debasing social categories cease to exist. Aesthetically, I contend that the works of these writers, in which the grotesque, the beautiful, and the sublime intermingle, engender a necessary rethinking of traditional aesthetic categories, and a reexamination of the role of the aesthetic in the political efficacy of art.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Re-Thinking Todorov: The Fantastic and the Ironic in *Memorias Póstumas de Brás Cubas* and ‘O pirotécnico Zacarias.’” *Chasqui: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana*, vol. 47, no. 2, 2018, pp. 176-89.

“Creolizing the Canon: Manuel Puig, Junot Díaz, and the Latino Poetics of Relation.” *The Comparatist*, vol. 43, 2019, pp. 173-93.

“Abject Failure and Utopian Longing in the Lower East Side: The Poetry and Performance of Miguel Piñero.” (In press at *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, forthcoming Summer 2021).

“Alegorías de deseo: trascendencia y temporalidad en el *Diario de un poeta recién casado*.” (Under review at *Modern Language Notes*)

Critical Review

Review of *Ediciones Vigía: poéticas visuales*, a film by Juanamaría Cordones-Cook. *Afro-Hispanic Review*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2015, pp. 183-85.

Articles in Progress

“Somos anormales: utopía y abyección en el rap puertorriqueño”

HONORS AND AWARDS

2019	Pass with Distinction, Dissertation Defense, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University
2018	American Studies Award, Vanderbilt University, for attendance at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth University
2018	Department of Spanish and Portuguese Service-Free Dissertation Writing Award
2017	Pass with Distinction, Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University
2017	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Kristeva Circle Conference
2017	Graduate Student Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University

- 2016 Pass with Distinction, M.A. Comprehensive Exam, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University
- 2016 Vanderbilt University Department of Spanish and Portuguese Miguel Enguñados Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Research
- 2015 Foreign Language and Area Studies FLAS Fellowship: Study of Portuguese and Brazilian Literature in São Paulo

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor of Record

- Spring 2021 HONR 499 Beauty in Ruins (Independent Study for Honors Thesis)
Ball State University, Muncie IN
- SP 362 Survey of Spanish-American Literature
Ball State University
- SP 335 Beauty and Marginality in Contemporary Latin America
Ball State University
- SP 302 Spanish Grammar and Composition
Ball State University
- Fall 2020 SP 335 Beauty and Marginality in Contemporary Latin America
Ball State University
- SP 302 Spanish Grammar and Composition
Ball State University
- SP 202 Intermediate Spanish 2
Ball State University
- Spring 2020 SPAN 3303 Introduction to Spanish and Spanish American Literature
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- SPAN 2203 Intermediate Spanish
Vanderbilt University
- Fall 2019 SPAN 3893 Beauty and Marginality in Contemporary Latin America
Vanderbilt University
- SPAN 3301W, Intermediate Spanish Writing
Vanderbilt University

Spring 2018	SPAN 2203 Intermediate Spanish Vanderbilt University
Fall 2017	PORT 1103 Intensive Elementary Portuguese Vanderbilt University
Summer 2017	SPAN 1102 Elementary Spanish II Vanderbilt University
Spring 2017	SPAN 1103 Intensive Elementary Spanish Vanderbilt University
Fall 2016	SPAN 1101 Elementary Spanish I Vanderbilt University
Spring 2016	SPAN 1102 Elementary Spanish II Vanderbilt University
Fall 2015	SPAN 1100 Spanish for True Beginners Vanderbilt University

As Teaching Assistant

Spring 2018	SPAN 3303 Introduction to Spanish and Spanish American Literature Vanderbilt University
Summer 2016	IGHM 5255/PUBH 5555 Global Health in Nicaragua, Spanish Language Instruction, Vanderbilt University

PRESENTATIONS

July 2021	“Ruinas utópicas: la poesía de Pedro Juan Gutiérrez” Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, Reims, France (held virtually)
April 2021	“Allegories of Abjection: Beauty and Mourning in the Poetry of Pedro Juan Gutiérrez” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference, Montréal, Canada (held virtually)
May 2020	“The Politics of Ruins and the Poetics of Trash: Special Period Havana in the work of Pedro Juan Gutiérrez” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference, Guadalajara, Mexico (held virtually)

- October 2019 “Abject Aesthetics: From *Poema sujo* (1976) to *Vinagre: uma antologia de poetas neobarracos* (2013)”
Da abertura à crise: Contemporary Brazilian Literature and Socio-Political Change, Brazilian Studies Symposium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- July 2019 Disturbing Beauty: An Inter-American Study of Abject Aesthetics and Utopian Promise
Colloquium: Politics, Poetics, and World Literature, Institute for World Literature, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- June 2018 “Beauty and Horror: An Outline of the Inter-American Poetics of Abjection”
Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH
- October 2017 “The Poetics of Abjection: Marginalization, Sublimation, and Political Resistance in Miguel Piñero’s *La Bodega Sold Dreams*”
Kristeva Circle Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- October 2017 “The Value of Comparative Studies and the Ethos of the Comparative Method”
Panel Participant, A Discussion of Earl Fitz’s *Machado de Assis and Female Characterization: The Novels*, Vanderbilt Spanish and Portuguese Department, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- May 2017 “*Don Quixote*, Ironic Polysemy, and the ‘True History’ of the Moriscos”
Fictions of History Conference: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Critical Theory, CUNY, New York, NY
- April 2017 “Double Vision and Absurdist Insight: The Fantastic and the Ironic in *Memórias póstumas de Brás Cubas* and ‘O Pirotécnico Zacarias’”
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky Lexington, KY
- March 2017 “Lo sublime abyecto: marginalización y sublimación en *La Bodega Sold Dreams*”
Shifting Landscapes: University of Minnesota Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Student Conference, Minneapolis, MN

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Research

- 2019 The Institute for World Literature, Harvard University, Boston, MA
- Seminar 1: “World Literature between Historical and New Materialism,” Professor Héctor Hoyos, Stanford University
- Seminar 2: “About the End of the World: Crises of Cosmopolitanism in Contemporary Culture and Theory,” Professor Mariano Siskind, Harvard University
- 2018 Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth University, Hanover, NH

Pedagogy

- 2017 Certificate in Humanities Teaching and Learning, Vanderbilt Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- November 2019 Committee Member, Cultural Studies Course Design Committee: Contemporary Issues in the Spanish-Speaking World, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Vanderbilt University
- October 2019 Invited Respondent for Post-Screening Q&A on the Portuguese Film *Sefarad* (2019), Nashville Jewish Film Festival, Belcourt Theatre, Nashville, TN
- November 2018 Guest Lecturer, English Composition II: Composing Identities, Composing Work, Composing Futures, Georgia State University
- September 2018 Guest Lecturer, Contemporary Latin American Narratives XX Century Spanish, Spelman College
- December 2017 Panel Chair, Poetry and its Others: At the Crossroads of Arts and Discourse, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- April 2017 Panel Organizer, “The Fantastic in Brazil: An Exploration of the Political, Psychological, and Literary Implications of the Fantastic Genre, from Machado de Assis to the Present,” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY.
- 2016-2017 Graduate Student Representative, Spanish and Portuguese Department, Vanderbilt University

- 2016-17 Member of Visiting Speakers Committee, Spanish and Portuguese Department, Vanderbilt University
- Co-organizer of the visit of Dr. Mayra Santos-Febres to Vanderbilt University in Spring 2017. Assisted with organization of travel plans, lodging, budget development, and coordination of activities.
- 2016 Guest Lecturer, First Year Writing Seminar: Exploration of Brazilian Cultures, Vanderbilt University
- 2015-18 Editorial Board, *Furman 217*

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2016 Medical Translation for Vanderbilt Medical Service Learning Trip in Nicaragua
- Spanish to English and English to Spanish translation between medical students and patients in Nicaraguan hospitals and clinics.
 - Spanish to English and English to Spanish translation of question and answer component of medical journal presentation.
- 2012-2014 Technical Writer/Business Strategist, Human Learning Systems, LLC, Atlanta, GA
- Assisted in localized execution of Job Corps services on behalf of the Federal government, which entailed providing high school education, employability skills, and career technical training to at-risk youth ages 16-24 across the United States.

CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS

- “Don't Talk to the Void.” *Furman 217*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2017, p. 11.
- “Pixacisma.” *Furman 217*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2016, pp. 12-15.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English: native speaker
 Spanish: near-native speaker
 Portuguese: near-native speaker
 Italian: fair knowledge