

**MICAH D. McKAY**

Dept. of Modern Languages & Classics  
University of Alabama  
Box 870246  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0246

**EDUCATION**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Ph.D. in Spanish, Minor in Portuguese (2017)

Dissertation: “Stories from the Dump: Contemporary Latin American Trash Narratives”

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

M.A. in Spanish (2012)

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

M.A. in Translation Studies (2007)

**Truman State University**

B.A. in Spanish, Minor in Philosophy and Religion (2004)

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2018-present Assistant Professor of Spanish, Dept. of Modern Languages & Classics,  
University of Alabama

2018 Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish, Dept. of Modern Languages &  
Literatures, Beloit College

2017 Lecturer, Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Latin American Literature (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries), Film Studies (especially documentary),  
Ecocriticism, Environmental Humanities, Discard Studies, Biopolitics, Neoliberalism, Urban  
Studies, Critical Animal Studies, Posthumanism

**SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY**

**Co-edited volume**

*Environmental Cultural Studies Through Time: The Luso-Hispanic World*. Co-edited with  
Katarzyna Beilin and Kathleen Connolly, *Hispanic Issues On Line* (University of Minnesota  
Press), vol. 24, 2019.

## Articles and chapters in peer-reviewed venues

- 2020: “‘Pasto sin fin del basurero’: Trash and Disposal in the Poetry of José Emilio Pacheco.” *Latin American Literary Review*, vol. 47, no. 93, 2020, pp. 49-58.
- 2019: “Una imagen deliciosa sobre los escombros: la producción y estética de las ruinas en *Trilogía sucia de La Habana*.” *Romance Notes*, vol. 59, no. 2, 2019, pp. 349-60.
- “Trash and the Coming Community: Portrayals of Trash and Trash Workers in Argentina and Brazil.” *Environmental Cultural Studies Through Time: The Luso-Hispanic World*, edited by Katarzyna Beilin, Kathleen Connolly, and Micah McKay, *Hispanic Issues On Line* (University of Minnesota Press), vol. 24, 2019, pp. 45-64.
- 2017: “The Littered City: Trash and Neoliberal Urban Space in *El aire*, *Bariloche*, and *La villa*.” *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*, vol. 41, no. 3, 2017, pp. 597-620.
- “‘Deus, salve a América’: Ignácio de Loyola Brandão’s *Zero* and the Production of Trash.” *Chasqui: revista de literatura latinoamericana*, vol. 46, no. 2, 2017, pp. 144-60.
- 2016: “Documenting Jardim Gramacho: *Estamira* (2004) and *Waste Land* (2009).” *Luso-Brazilian Review*, vol. 53, no. 2, 2016, pp. 134-52.

## Invited Talks

- 2020: “Trash and the Coming Community,” Spanglish Exchange Buenos Aires (webinar), May 2020
- 2018: “Trash or Treasure? Recycling in Latin American Culture,” Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, October 2018
- 2014: “‘Deus, salve a América’: Ignácio de Loyola Brandão’s *Zero* and the Production of Trash,” University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies (Lunchtime Lecture Series), Madison, WI, September 2014

## Conference Panels Organized

- 2020: “Ecocrítica: ecología y botánica en América Latina,” XXXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Guadalajara, Mexico, May 2020
- 2017: “Archivos alternativos en la literatura latinoamericana contemporánea,” XXXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Lima, Peru, April-May 2017
- 2014: “Trash in Contemporary Argentine Cultural Production: A New Aesthetic Horizon,” Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, Madison, WI, October 2014

## Papers Presented

- 2021: "Trash and Archive in Contemporary Spanish American Fiction," XXXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, May 2021 (proposal accepted)
- 2020: "Trash Thresholds in Luis Alberto Urrea's *By the Lake of Sleeping Children*," Border Environments: Toward a Political Ecology of the Edges of the World, Lake Erie Latin American Cultural Studies Symposium, Cornell, NY, November 2020
- "La basura está a punto de ahogar al mundo': Waste and Environmental Justice in the Poetry of José Emilio Pacheco," XXXVIII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Guadalajara, Mexico, May 2020
- 2019: "*Baile con serpientes* y la (des)estructuración del sentido," 91<sup>st</sup> Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2019
- "Paradise Laid Bare: Juan Villoro's *Arrecife* as Capitalocene Fiction," 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, University of California, Davis, June 2019
- "Pasto sin fin del basurero': Trash and Disposal in the Poetry of José Emilio Pacheco," Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 2019
- 2018: "Gallinazo Avisa: La teoría de ensamblajes y los límites del activismo ambiental," 90<sup>th</sup> Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, AL, November 2018
- "Trash as Threshold in 'Los gallinazos sin plumas,'" LIV Congress of the Canadian Association of Hispanists, University of Regina, May-June 2018
- 2017: "Resisting Catastrophe in the Dump: Trash and the Coming Community," 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, Wayne State University, June 2017
- "Desechos narrativos: El archivo de la basura en la novela hispanoamericana contemporánea," XXXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Lima, Peru, April-May 2017
- 2016: "More or Less Human: People, Animals, and Trash in 'Ilha das Flores,'" New Materialisms and Economies of Excess, Emory University, September-October, 2016
- 2015: "Documenting Jardim Gramacho: *Estamira* (2004) and *Waste Land* (2009)," Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Toronto, ON, April-May 2015

2014: "The Place of Trash in Three Contemporary Argentine Novels," Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature, Madison, WI, October 2014

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *Postgrowth Imaginaries: New Ecologies and Counterhegemonic Culture in Post-2008 Spain* by Luis I. Prádanos. *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2019, pp. 499-501.

Review of *Lo siniestro se sigue riendo en la literatura de Lamborghini, Aira y Carrera y en la producción cultural poscrisis 2001* by Ofelia Ros. *Dissidences*, vol. 9, no. 14, 2019, article 1.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **University of Alabama**

##### **Undergraduate Courses**

Spanish 366, Spanish American Civilization: fall 2018, fall 2019

Spanish 376, Masterpieces of Spanish American Literature II: spring 2020, spring 2021

Spanish 390, Independent Study: Waste & Waste Workers in Latin American Culture, fall 2019

Spanish 489, Latin American Trash Narratives: spring 2019

##### **Graduate Courses**

Spanish 538, Spanish American Short Story: spring 2021

Spanish 590, Trash and/as Culture in Latin America: spring 2019

Romance Languages 557, Critical Theory: spring 2020

#### **Beloit College**

Spanish 110, Intensive Spanish Language Review and Culture: spring 2018

Spanish 282, Environmental Hispanic Literature: spring 2018

#### **University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Spanish 102, Second Semester Spanish: fall 2011, spring 2012, summer 2012

Spanish 203, Third Semester Spanish: fall 2012, spring 2013

Spanish 226, Intermediate Spanish Grammar and Composition: fall 2015

Spanish 223, Introduction to Hispanic Cultures (teaching assistant, directed four discussion sections and graded student work): spring 2016, fall 2016

Spanish 311, Advanced Spanish Language Practice: fall 2017

#### **University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

Spanish 101, First Semester Spanish: fall 2005, spring 2006

Spanish 102, Second Semester Spanish: fall 2006, spring 2007

## **Work with Graduate Students (University of Alabama)**

Ivano Fulgaro (dissertation committee member)  
Rachel Reilly (dissertation committee member)  
Gerardo Ruz (dissertation committee member)  
James Dick (master's thesis committee member)

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**

### **Department of Modern Languages & Classics**

2020 Strategic Plan Committee (MLC)  
2019- Co-chair and Organizer of Spanish Clubs Convention (Spanish Program)  
2019 Ad hoc Committee on Research Cohesion (MLC)  
2019 Panelist, Academic Job Search Roundtable (MLC)  
2018- Bulletin Board/Announcement Coordinator (Spanish Program)

### **Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Program**

2019- Organizer of LACLS Film Series

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### **Served as manuscript referee for**

*Hispania* (2019)

## **LANGUAGES**

English: native speaker  
Spanish: near-native proficiency  
Portuguese: advanced proficiency

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment  
Latin American Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association