

## MICAH 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

### 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

### HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2024 Honorable Mention, Harold G. Jones Best Essay Award for *Symposium: A Quarterly  
Journal in Modern Literatures* (volume year 2023)

2023 Book Subvention Grant, University of Alabama Office of Academic Affairs (\$1,500)

- 2022 Scholar of the Month (July), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment
- 2021 Honorable Mention, Best Article in the Humanities 2021, Latin American Studies Association Mexico Section

## SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

### Book

*Trash and Limits in Latin American Culture*. University of Florida Press, 2024.

### 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

- “Logics of Waste in Liliana Colanzi’s *Ustedes brillan en lo oscuro*.” *Theory Now: Journal of Literature, Critique, and Thought* (Accepted for publication)
- 2023: “The Salvage Poetics of Ben Clark’s *Basura*.” *Beyond Human: Decentring the Anthropocene in Spanish Ecocriticism*, edited by Maryanne L. Leone and Shanna Lino, University of Toronto Press, 2023, pp. 244-66.
- “Bare Life and Biopolitics in *El Rey de La Habana*.” *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures*, vol. 77, no. 1, 2023, pp. 34-46.
- Honorable Mention, Harold G. Jones Best Essay Award for *Symposium* (volume year 2023)
- “Discard Studies and Spanish Narrative.” *A Companion to Spanish Environmental Cultural Studies*, edited by Luis I. Prádanos, Tamesis, 2023, pp. 263-68.
- 2022: “Trash, Culture, and Transdisciplinarity.” *LACIS Review*, no. 1, 2022.
- 2021: “On the Nature of the Border: Trash Thresholds in Luis Alberto Urrea’s *By the Lake of Sleeping Children*.” *Latin American Literary Review*, vol. 48, no. 96, 2021, pp. 13-21.
- 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.
- Honorable Mention, Best Article in the Humanities 2021, LASA Mexico Section
- 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

2022: “Trash Works: Waste Management in Contemporary Latin American Narrative Fiction,” LACLS Spring 2022 Speaker Series, University of Alabama, April 2022

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

2023: “Life in Destroyed Commons: The Relations that Come After,” ASLE + AESS Conference, Portland, OR, July 2023 (Co-organized with Gina Stamm)

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

- 2024 “Waste and Horror in Liliana Colanzi’s Fiction,” 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Montreal, Canada, March 2024
- 2023: “‘Yo canto a la basura con la basura’: The Poet as Ragpicker,” 95 Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2023
- “Living with Waste in Liliana Colanzi’s *Ustedes brillan en lo oscuro*,” ASLE + AESS Conference, Portland, OR, July 2023
- “Antropomorfismo y vida vegetal en ‘Un césped’ de Sara Gallardo,” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, University of Kentucky, April 2023
- 2022: “The Salvage Poetics of Ben Clark’s *Basura*,” 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment, Granada, Spain, September 2022
- “Trash and Work: Between Crisis and Care,” XL International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2022
- 2021: “Trash and Archive in Contemporary Spanish American Fiction,” XXXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, May 2021
- 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 *Creators and Created Beings in Twentieth-Century Latin American Fiction: Creating Questions* by Amy Frazier-Yoder. *Hispanófila* (under review)

Review of *Transoceanic Animals as Spectacle in Early Modern Spain* by John Beusterien. *Romance Quarterly*, vol. 70, no. 3, 2023, pp. 234-35.

Review of *Pushing Past the Human in Latin American Cinema* edited by Carolyn Fornoff and Gisela Heffes. *Hispanófila*, vol. 197, 2023, pp. 162-63.

Review of *Basura: Cultures of Waste in Contemporary Spain* by Samuel Amago. *Ciberletras*, no. 46, 2022, pp. 178-81.

Review of *Veer Ecology: A Companion for Environmental Thinking* edited by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Lowell Duckert. *H-Environment, H-Net Reviews*, 2021.

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 353, Spanish Conversation (fall 2023)  
Spanish 366, Cultures of Latin America (fall 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023)  
Spanish 376, Latin American Literatures & Cultures since 1900 (spring 2020, 2021, 2023)  
Spanish 390, Independent Study: Waste & Waste Workers in Latin American Culture (fall 2019)  
Spanish 489, Latin American Trash Narratives (spring 2019, 2022)  
Spanish 489, Trash Talk: Waste & Culture in Latin America & Spain (spring 2024)

#### **Graduate Courses**

Spanish 538, Spanish American Short Story (spring 2021, 2024)  
Spanish 590, Trash and/as Culture in Latin America (spring 2019)  
Spanish 590, Anthropocene Narratives (spring 2022)  
Spanish 590, New Latin American Narrative (spring 2023)  
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)

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

#### **Dissertation committee chair**

Alejandro Botía (in progress)

#### **Dissertation committee member**

Ana Belén Álvarez Vivo (in progress)  
Sarah Valentín-Sánchez (in progress)  
Gerardo Ruz (defended in 2022)  
Ivano Fulgaro (withdrew)  
Rachael Reilly (withdrew)

#### **Master's thesis committee member**

Elena Guerra (defended in 2022)  
James Dick (defended in 2020)

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

2022-24 Faculty Senate (Academic Affairs & Student Affairs Committee Member)

### **College of Arts & Sciences**

2023- Faculty Mentor, Hispanic/Latinx Mentoring Program

**Women and Gender Resource Center**

2023 Panelist, Discussing the Life and Legacy of Labor and Women's Rights Activist Dolores Huerta

**Department of Modern Languages & Classics**

2024 Judge, La Última Letra Graduate Student Literary Contest (Spanish Program)  
 2023-24 Postdoctoral Research Associate (Spanish) Search Committee Member  
 2023 Retention Review Committee Member for Language Program Directors (MLC)  
 2022 FTTI (Spanish) Search Committee Chair  
 2022 Interviewed Liliana Colanzi for *Día de las escritoras* event (Spanish Program)  
 2022 Panelist, Academic Publishing Workshop (MLC)  
 2022 Departmental Renaming Committee Member (MLC)  
 2022 TT (Classics) Search Committee Member (MLC)  
 2022 Panelist, Academic Job Search Roundtable (MLC)  
 2021- Graduate Assessment Report (Spanish Program)  
 2021 FTTI (Spanish) Search Committee Member  
 2019-22 Chair and Organizer of Spanish Clubs Convention (Spanish Program)  
 2019 Ad hoc Committee on Research Cohesion (MLC)  
 2019 Panelist, Academic Job Search Roundtable (MLC)  
 2018-20 Bulletin Board/Announcement Coordinator (Spanish Program)

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

2019- Organizer of LACLS Film Series

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION****Editorial Board Membership**

2022- *LACIS Review*

**Served as manuscript referee for**

*ALCESXXI* (2022)

*Ecozon@* (2023)

*Espacios y límites de la (in)justicia en la España contemporánea* (edited vol. chapter, 2023)

*Hispania* (2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)

*ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (2024)

*Romance Studies* (2023)

Routledge (book proposal, 2022)

*Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature* (2021)

**LANGUAGES**

English: native speaker

Spanish: near-native proficiency

Portuguese: advanced proficiency

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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