

ELIZABETH SPRAGINS
Washington and Lee University
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Romance Languages
204 W. Washington St.
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450

Phone: 773.573.9459
Fax: 650.725.9255
Email: spraginse@wlu.edu

EDUCATION

- 2017 **Ph.D. in Iberian and Latin American Cultures**
Stanford University. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures.
Advisor: Lisa Surwillo.
Dissertation: “Material Remains: Narrating the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir.”
Deals from a literary perspective with the role of the corpse in the historical narration of the battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir/Wādī al-Makhāzin (4 August, 1578). Within a Western Mediterranean context, contends that at the heart of the telling of the battle is a renegotiation of the epistemological foundation of how history is written, and that that renegotiation takes place on and through the corpses of those fallen at the battle. Identifies the human body as a connecting thread that weaves together key moments of witnessing, testimony, and reading in historiographical narrative. Through images of corpses, the empathetic reader is drawn into bearing textual witness to the events being told, and recruited as an ally to the narrator’s cause.
- 2010 **M.A. in Hispanic Studies**
University of Pennsylvania
- 2008 **M.A. in Spanish**
Middlebury College
- 2007 **B.A. in Spanish** with highest honors, *cum laude*
Williams College

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medieval and early modern Iberian prose and historiography; Arabic historiography from the Maghreb (16th and 17th centuries); narrative authority and eyewitness testimony; literary representations of the human body; Mediterranean Studies; discourses of tolerance, *convivencia*, and religious conflict on the Iberian Peninsula, 711-1614; Critical Race Studies

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

2017–present Washington & Lee University. Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish.

COURSES TAUGHT:

- Spanish 164: Advanced Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2017, Winter 2018)
- Spanish 220: Introduction to Spanish Literature (Fall 2017)
- Spanish 395: Topics in Spanish Literature (Winter 2018)
- Spanish 200: Critical Race Studies – Early Modern to the Present (Spring 2018)

2016 University of California: Berkeley. Lecturer in Summer Session.

COURSES TAUGHT:

- Spanish 135: Spanish Inquisition and Multicultural Iberia. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

PUBLICATIONS

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Material Remains: Narrating the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

in progress “Mancos, ahorcados, and a Royal Corpse: Narrative Authority of the Dead in *Don Quixote*” 25pp

in progress “Genre and the Dead in Catalina de Erauso’s *La monja alférez*” 25pp

submitted “Body as Text and Text as Body: Ijāzas and Oral Knowledge Transmission in the *Ta’rīkh al-dawla al-sa’diyya*.” 8,300 words. *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*.

2017 “Embodied Authority: The Virgin, Audience, and the Body of the Devotee in Marian Miracles.” *La corónica*, 45:2, 9-36.

BOOK REVIEWS

2017 Wunder, Amanda. *Baroque Seville: Sacred Art in a Century of Crisis*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017. *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*.

2010 Blackmore, Josiah. *Moorings: Portuguese Expansion and the Writing of Africa*, Minneapolis, MN, University of Minneapolis Press, 2008. *Ellipsis: The Journal of the American Portuguese Studies Association* 8: 162-64.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR OF IBERIAN LANGUAGES/LITERATURES

2011–2017 Stanford University

- COMPLIT119: Travel Writing in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean
- Spanish 1: First-Year Spanish Language
- Spanish 5C Intensive First-Year Spanish Language
- Spanish 11C: Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Spanish 12C: Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Catalan 1A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language
- Catalan 2A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language

2009–2010 University of Pennsylvania

- Spanish 110: Elementary Spanish Language
- Spanish 130: Intermediate Spanish Language

CO-INSTRUCTOR OR TEACHING ASSISTANT

- 2013–2016 Stanford University
- CompLit 252B: Classical Arabic Prose. Supervisor: Alexander Key.
 - CompLit 252A: Classical Arabic Poetry. Supervisor: Alexander Key.
 - CompLit 332: Transatlantic Renaissances. Supervisor: Roland Greene.
 - ILAC 120: Advanced Critical Reading in Spanish. Supervisor: Lisa Surwillo.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Narrators in Portuguese Accounts of al-Qasr al-Kabir.”
Dartmouth College.
- 2017 “The Authority of the Material Body in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” The
University of Warwick (U.K.).
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Corporeal Narrators in 17th Century Iberian Narrative.”
Washington and Lee University.
- 2016 “Juan de Silva, el Corcavado, and the Corpse of Sebastian I.” Colby College.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2017 “Mediated Witnessing and the Indexing of Portuguese Empire.” Panel organizer. 62nd
Annual Renaissance Society of America Meeting (Chicago).
- 2016 “Dead Bodies and the Virgin: Historiography and Authority in Leitão de Andrade’s
Miscellânea.” 51st Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2015 “Royal Bodies Beyond the Iberian Peninsula at al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 50th Congress of
Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2014 “Accessing the Dead at the Battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 60th Annual Renaissance Society
of America Meeting (New York).
- 2013 “Historiography and the dead in Jerónimo de Mendonça's *Jornada de África* (1607).”
Panel organizer. Centro de História d’Além-Mar International Congress (Universidade
Nova de Lisboa).
- 2013 “*Aqui foi morto*: Writing the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 48th Congress of Medieval
Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2012 “*Aqui foi morto*: The Material Problems of Death at the Battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir.”
Graduate Student Conference on Latin American and Iberian Cultures (Columbia
University).
- 2011 “Revising Race: Recognizing the Exotic in Zurara’s *Crónica do descobrimento da
Guiné*.” Forum of African Studies (Stanford University).

- 2011 “‘Aissa and the Skull’: Manuscript Culture and Embodied Muslim Practice in Sixteenth-Century Iberia.” *The Crisis of the Confined Body: A Conference in Romance Studies* (University of California, Berkeley).
- 2010 “Grey Shades of Blackness in Gomes Eanes de Zurara’s *Crónica da Guiné*.” *Renaissance Studies Annual Interdisciplinary Conference* (Princeton University).

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2017 “Narrative Empathy as Embodied Indexicality in 17th Century Portuguese Historiography.” *Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (Stanford University).
- 2015 “Body as Text and Text as Body: Corporeal Custody and *Ijāzas* in the *Ta`rīkh al-dawla al-sa`diyya*.” *Center For Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (Stanford University).
- 2013 “Corporeal Chroniclers and the Act of Historiography.” *Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (Stanford University).
- 2009 “Transvestism: Performance, Persona, and Politics.” *Graduate Romanic Association Conference* (University of Pennsylvania).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2016 ePortfolio Award. Collaborative Teaching Project. Stanford University.
- 2016 Finalist (one of 15 selected out of more than 900 applicants). *Society of Fellows in the Humanities*. Columbia University.
- 2016 Department Academic Support Grant. Departments of Comparative Literature and Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to participate in Casa Árabe (Córdoba) Intensive Summer Course on al-Andalus.
- 2015 Division Professional Development Grant. Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Stanford University. Funding to attend MLA Annual Meeting in Austin.
- 2014 Department Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to attend Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo.
- 2014 Department Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to attend RSA Meeting in New York.
- 2013 Bolsa de Investigação de Curta Duração. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal and Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento.
- 2013 Division Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures and Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Stanford University. Funding to attend Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo.
- 2012–2014 Grant for Graduate Student and Faculty Collaborative Teaching in the Humanities. Teagle Foundation. Stanford University.

- 2011 Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship. Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies. Stanford University.
- 2010 US Department of Education. Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Arabic).
- 2009 US Department of Education. Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Arabic).
- 2008–10 University of Pennsylvania. Benjamin Franklin Fellowship for PhD Study. Department of Romance Languages.
- 2007 Williams College. William W. Kleinhandler Prize for Excellence in Music.
- 2007 Williams College. Garret Wright DeVries, Class of 1932, Memorial Prize in Romance Languages.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

- 2017– Roger Mudd Center for Ethics. Faculty Fellow.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- 2010–2017 Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Co-chair of Committee on Gender Problems and the Profession.
- 2016 Discussant. Intensive Summer Course: Al-Andalus, Problems and Perspectives. (Casa Árabe, Córdoba)
- 2012 Discussant. XXVI Jornades Internacionals per a Professors de Català. Institut Ramon Llull (Universitat de Vic).

GENERAL PUBLIC

- 2018 Featured in *Katalonoski*, TV3 (Barcelona) series on non-native Catalan speakers.
- 2016–17 Intern. *Narrative Strategies*. Supervisor: Ajit Maan (George Mason University).
- 2015–16 Private Arabic language tutor. Stanford (CA).
- 2014–17 St. Bede's Episcopal Church. Soprano Section Leader. Menlo Park (CA).
- 2014–17 Private Spanish language tutor. Portola Valley (CA).
- 2014–15 Private Spanish language tutor. Los Altos (CA).
- 2010–16 Stanford Chamber Chorale. Soprano and Booking Manager.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association
 Renaissance Society of America
 American Comparative Literature Association
 American Historical Association
 The Spain and North Africa Project

Middle East Studies Association

LANGUAGES

English: Native fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening
Spanish: Superior proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening
Catalan: Advanced-high proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening
Arabic: Advanced-mid proficiency in reading and writing
Portuguese: Advanced-low proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening
French: Advanced-low proficiency in reading

REFERENCES

Lisa Surwillo, Associate Professor, Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University, surwillo@stanford.edu
Roland Greene, Mark Pigott KBE Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, Iberian and Latin American Cultures by courtesy, Stanford University, rgreene@stanford.edu
Alexander Key, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature, Stanford University, akey@stanford.edu
Leyla Rouhi, Preston S. Parish '41 Third Century Professor of Romance Languages, Director, Oakley Center for the Humanities and Sciences, Williams College, lrouhi@williams.edu