

MATHILDA ELIZA SHEPARD

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CMLL 247
Texas Tech University

Current Position

Assistant Professor of Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies, Texas Tech University, Department of Classical and Modern Languages & Literatures. August 2022-Present.

Education

Ph.D. in Spanish Language and Literature, University of Virginia (2022)
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellow

Dissertation: *Life Politics: Race, Ecology and Dissident Aesthetics in Colombia*

Committee: Anne Garland Mahler (chair), Herbert Braun, Eli Carter, Charlotte Rogers, Joanne Rappaport (Georgetown University)

M.A. in Spanish Language and Literature, University of Virginia (2018)
B.A. in Spanish Literature and Culture/Minor in Religious Studies University of Virginia (2015, Highest Distinction)

Research and Teaching Interests

- 20th- and 21st-century Latin American cultural studies
- Visual culture
- Indigenous studies
- Gender and sexuality studies
- Environmental humanities
- Colombia, Mexico and the Southern Cone

Articles in Scholarly Journals

- **“Mother Earth Liberating Herself’: Indigenous Mobilizations, Planetary Relations and Transcorporeal Solidarities in Cauca, Colombia”** ([under review](#)).
- **“Un *witral* de hebras heridas: tejiendo miradas solidarias en Piñen de Daniela Catrileo”** ([under review](#)).
- **[“Suturing or Puncturing the Social Fabric? Afro-Caribbean Textile Art and the Limits of Repair,”](#) *Journal of Latin American and Latinx Visual Culture* 4, no. 4, 2022.**
- **[“Una opción sutil de protestar:’ Literary Magazines, Subterranean Resistance and Life Politics in Putumayo, Colombia.”](#) *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 30, no. 3, 2021.**
- **["Desplazamientos entretejidos: imaginarios transicionales y la diáspora de la memoria en los Tejidos de Mampuján,"](#) *Revista de Estudios Colombianos* 53, enero-junio 2019.**

Other Publications

- “**Corrido Vibrante/Vibrant Currents: Visual Poetry on the Llano Estacado,**” co-authored with Jorge Hernández Camacho and Criseida Santos-Guevara ([under review](#)).
- “**Detonando miradas: una conversación con Amber Bemak y Nadia Granados**” (Interview). [Forthcoming](#) (accepted) in *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades*.
- [\(Review\) Carlos Gardeazábal Bravo and Kevin G. Guerrieri \(eds.\). 2022. *Human Rights in Colombian Literature and Culture: Embodied Enactments*. Ciberletras 48, no. 48, 2023.](#)
- [\(Review\) Woods, Maxwell. 2022. *On the Chilean Social Explosion*. A Contracorriente 20, no. 2, 2023.](#)
- [\(Review\) Paschel, Tianna. 2016. *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil* in *Afro-Hispanic Review* Vol. 37, Issue 2, Fall 2018.](#)
- [“Network Power: A Critical Definition.” *Global South Studies: A Collective Publication with the Global South*. 17 August 2017.](#)
- [“Private Military Industry.” *Global South Studies: A Collective Publication with The Global South*. 17 August 2017.](#)

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

[Expanding the Circle Faculty Fellow](#)

Academic Years 2023-2026

- Fellowship to develop the Indigenous and Native American Studies curriculum in collaboration with regional Tribal partners. \$1,500 stipend for course development and organizing a symposium.

[Teacher Mentoring through Peer Observation \(TeMPO\) Fellow](#)

Fall 2022

- Interdisciplinary program to improve teaching practices through peer observation. \$500 stipend. Texas Tech University, Fall 2022.

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Academic Year 2021-2022

- \$43,000 (stipend, research funds and university fees) for final year of dissertation writing.

Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation– Movements and Directions in Capitalism Fellowship

Academic Year 2020-2021

- \$500 fellowship to participate in Movements and Directions in the Study of Capitalism, an interdisciplinary working group organized by Professors Sarah Milov (History), Ira Bashkow (Anthropology), Fahad Bishara (History) and David Singerman (History/American Studies).

Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation– Center Grant

Summer 2018-Fall 2019

- \$20,000 awarded to co-organize [Libros en lugar de armas](#), a panel of Colombian Peace Librarians, at the 2019 SALALM conference at the University of Texas at Austin and host the [UVA Symposium on Art and Confrontation in the Americas](#) (September 2019) in

collaboration with Miguel Valladares and Herbert (Tico) Braun, Federico Cuatlacuatl, Lucie Stylianopoulous, Mona Kasra and Lydia Moyer.

Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures– Public Humanities Lab

Academic Year 2019-2020

- \$2,000 grant to fund the event “Towards Don’t Make History: A Conversation about Participatory Action Research with Professor Joanne Rappaport” (co-organized with Matthew Slaats, November 2020), the Reading Practices Working Group (co-directed by Dipsikha Thakur) and the Action and Knowledge Reading Group (co-organized with Matthew Slaats).

Scholars’ Lab– Praxis Fellowship

Academic Year 2018-2019

- Teaching buyout to collaborate with an interdisciplinary team of graduate students in a comprehensive introduction to Digital Humanities research and pedagogy.

Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese– Charles Gordon Reid Summer Fellowship

Summer 2018

- \$4,000 for pre-doctoral research in Colombia

Scholars’ Lab– Digital Humanities Summer Institute Grant

Summer 2018

- \$2,000 from UVA Scholars’ Lab to receive training in web APIs and natural language processing at the University of Victoria Electronic Cultures Lab (Victoria, Canada)

Fulbright Colombia– ETA Grant

Academic Year 2015-2016

- Fellowship to teach English at the Universidad del Atlántico (Barranquilla) and complete a social engagement project with the Colombian Agency for Reintegration.

Jefferson Scholars Foundation– Jefferson Fellowship

March 2015

- 5-year funding package to support doctoral studies

Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese– Wyatt Fellowship

Summer 2014

- \$2,000 for undergraduate thesis research

International Rescue Committee (Charlottesville)– Outstanding Service Award

April 2015

- Recognition for service as an ESL instructor to refugees in Charlottesville, VA

Conference Papers and Symposia

Upcoming Conferences

- “Entre la desnudez y la descolonización: corporalidades indígenas y pospornografía en el Cono Sur.” [Intersecciones](#), Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades (AEGS), October 2023. Querétaro, Mexico.
- “Subverting the Ethno-Pornographic Gaze: Mapuche Counterpoints,” panel on Transfeminist Bondings with Black and Indigenous Knowledges, Modern Languages Association Convention, January 2024. Philadelphia.

Panels Organized

- Chair, “Rethinking Violence in Latin America: Biopolitics, Necropolitics, Life Politics,” [Modern Language Association Annual Convention](#), January 8, 2021.
- Organizer, “Imagining ‘Post-Conflict’ Colombia,” [UVA Symposium on Art and Confrontation in the Americas](#), September 30, 2019.
- Organizer, “Libros en Lugar de Armas/Books Instead of Guns: Libraries as Sites for Peace in Colombia,” [Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials](#), June 28, 2019
- Chair, “The Pen and the Dove: Narratives and Post-Conflict Imaginaries in Colombia,” [Latin American Studies Association Congress](#), May 25, 2019.

Papers Presented

- “Perfomando una solidaridad transcorporal: ecologías disidentes, deseantes y travestis en Abya Yala,” [Futuridades Feministas](#), Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades (AEGS), December 2022. Valparaíso, Chile.
- “‘Tearing Down the Monument of Sugarcane:’ Indigenous Ecofeminisms and the Liberation of Mother Earth,” seminar on *Feminism/Memory/Activism: Forging Transnational Solidarities*, [American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference](#), June 2022.
- “‘Para Desalambrar la Madre Tierra hay que Desalambrar el Corazón’: Liberating Mother Earth as Life Politics in Cauca, Colombia,” [Modern Language Association Annual Convention](#), January 8, 2021.
- “A Subtle Form of Protest: Literary Magazines and Subterranean Resistance in Putumayo, Colombia,” [UVA Symposium on Art and Confrontation in the Americas](#), September 29-October 1, 2019.
- “Jungles and the Colombian Conflict,” [Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference](#), June 27, 2019
- “Una opción sutil de Protestar: Archive, affect and Library Activism in the *Revista Literaria del Putumayo*,” [Latin American Studies Association Congress](#), May 25, 2019
- “Praxis Program Roundtable,” [Decolonizing the Digital Humanities Symposium, University of Virginia](#), April 5-6, 2019.
- “Weaving Networks of Dissent: Displacement, Justice and Afro-diasporic Memory in the Community Quilts of Mampuján,” [UVA Global South Studies Symposium](#), March 29-30, 2019.
- “Minimal Computing Workshop,” [Washington and Lee University/University of Virginia Digital Pedagogy Collaboration](#), March 5, 2019.
- “La televisión iraní en castellano: HispanTV, los ‘desheredados del mundo’ y la exportación de la revolución a España.” Distinguished Majors Symposium, University of Virginia, April 2015.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Seminars

- Cultural Studies Beyond the Human: Perspectives from the Plantation Américas (SPAN 5355). Texas Tech University, Spring 2023.

Undergraduate Courses

- Picturing Pachakuti: Visual Culture and Social Change in the Indigenous Americas (SPAN 3600). Texas Tech University, Fall 2023.
- Social Change in the Hispanic World Through Film, Literature, Art and Music (SPAN 2300). Texas Tech University, Fall 2022.
- Advanced Spanish Grammar (SPAN 4350). Texas Tech University, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023.
- Texts and Interpretations (SPAN 3300), University of Virginia, Fall 2019 and Spring 2020.

- Advanced Grammar and Composition (SPAN 3010), University of Virginia, Spring 2019.
- Intermediate Spanish (SPAN 2010), University of Virginia, Fall 2018 and Spring 2018.
- English 1, 5 and 2, Universidad del Atlántico, Oficina de Relaciones Exteriores/Fulbright Colombia. Fall 2015/Spring 2016.
- Advanced English Conversation, Universidad del Atlántico, Oficina de Relaciones Exteriores/Fulbright Colombia. Spring 2016.

Guest Teaching

- [“El cine indígena: autonomía, colaboración y soberanía visual.”](#) Center for the Liberal Arts Workshop for Spanish Teachers, April 2022.
- [“El Sur Global: historia, métodos y conceptos.”](#) Center for the Liberal Arts Workshop for Spanish Teachers, November 2021.
- “Comics and Participatory Action Research,” Community Engagement in Spanish-Speaking Charlottesville, University of Virginia. Spring 2021.
- “La obra del Padre Alcides Jiménez Chicangana en la Amazonía colombiana,” Literatures of the Latin American Jungle, University of Virginia, Fall 2020.
- “Respuestas a la globalización neoliberal desde el Pacífico colombiano: el caso de CAVIDA,” Afro-Latinidad Across the Americas, University of Virginia, Fall 2019.

Service

Public Humanities

- Editor, [Cultural Production](#) section of [Colombia Syllabus / Primera Línea Académica](#). June 2021-Present.
- Co-Organizer, [Towards Don't Make History: A Discussion about Participatory Action Research with Joanne Rappaport](#), October 2020. Sponsored by the Public Humanities Lab at the Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures. University of Virginia.
- Co-Organizer, [Symposium on Art and Confrontation in the Americas](#), Fall 2019. Sponsored by the Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation, UVA Arts Council, UVA Library, Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures, Fundación Puntos de Encuentro, Centro de las Américas and Page-Barbour Fund.
- Project Liaison, [Institute for Liberal Arts Digital Scholarship \(ILiADS\)](#), College of Wooster. Summer 2019.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- Mentor, [Leadership Alliance Mellon Initiative](#), Summer 2019. University of Virginia.

Departmental and University Service

- Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, AY 2023-2024. Texas Tech University.
- Member of the Latin Americanist Search Committee, AY 2023-2024. Texas Tech University.
- Reviewer for Faculty Book Awards, Spring 2023. Texas Tech University.
- Member of the Mexican Studies Search Committee, AY 2022-2023. Texas Tech University.
- Seville Program Recruitment Week, Fall 2022. Texas Tech University.
- Organizer, Critical Theory Reading Group, Spring 2020. University of Virginia.
- Digital Humanities External Review Committee, Fall 2019

Community Service

- Expert witness for asylum cases involving Colombia, registered at UC Hastings Law School Center for Gender and Refugee Studies (September 2021-present)
- Call Responder, Immigration Rapid Response Hotline, Sin Barreras (Charlottesville, VA), Fall 2019-present

- Translator, Legal Aid Justice Center (Charlottesville, VA), September 2014-present

Other Employment

Universidad del Atlántico (Barranquilla, Colombia)

Fulbright English Instructor, July 2015- May 2016

- Taught beginning, intermediate and advanced English to university students

International Rescue Committee (Charlottesville, VA)

Immigration Services Intern, August 2014-May 2015

- Drafted applications for permanent residency, naturalization, and family reunification. Interpreted for Spanish-speaking clients and translated documents from English to Spanish

The Middle East Institute (Washington, D.C.)

Assistant to the Director of Research, Summer 2014

- Edited submissions to the Middle East/Asia Project, the Sectarian Conflict series, the Korea-GCC Relations project and online articles about current events in the Middle East.

Professional Affiliations

- Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- American Comparative Literature Association
- Latin American Studies Association
- Modern Language Association
- Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment
- Asociación de Colombianistas

Languages

- Spanish (fluent)
- Portuguese (advanced)
- Farsi/Dari (advanced reading/intermediate speaking)

References

Anne Garland Mahler, Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia

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Charlotte Rogers, Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia

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Emily Scida, Professor of Spanish, University of Virginia

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John Unsworth, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, University of Virginia

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