

Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols

Department of Languages and Literatures

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Education

Ph.D. University of Kansas, Spanish and Latin American Cultural Studies 1997.

M.A. University of Kansas, Spanish 1993.

B.A. University of Missouri-Columbia, Spanish 1991.

Professional Experience

Administrative:

PI *Somos*: College Assistance Migrant Program 2015-present

Chair, Department of Languages 2005-2015

Faculty:

Professor of Spanish, Drury University 2008-present

Associate Professor of Spanish, Drury University 2003-2008

Assistant Professor of Spanish, Drury University 1997-2002

Research and Teaching Fields

Fan Studies and Cosplay

Latin American/U.S. Cultural Studies

Latin American/U.S. Women's Literature

Beauty Theory

Women's Literatures

Gender Studies

Publications

Books

Beauty, Virtue, Power and Success in Venezuela 1850-2015.

New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.

Co-Authored Books

Beauty Around the World: A Cultural Encyclopedia. (With Erin Kenny).

Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio. Forthcoming: 2016.

Popular Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean. (with Timothy Robbins).

Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio. 2015.

Venezuela. (with Kimberly J. Morse). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio. 2010

Book Chapters

“100% Chic: Selling Beauty as Identity and Worth in Venezuela.” in Lauren Downing, Ed. *The Body Beautiful? Identity, Performance, Fashion and the Contemporary Female Body*. Oxford: Inter-disciplinary Press, 2015.

“Virgin Venuses: Beauty and Purity for “Public” Women in Venezuela” *Women, in Politics and Media: Perspectives from Nations in Transition*. Eds. Maria Raicheva-Stover and Elza Ibroscheva. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

“Ultra-Feminine Women of Power: Beauty and the State in Argentina” *Women in Politics and Media: Perspectives from Nations in Transition*. Eds. Maria Raicheva-Stover and Elza Ibroscheva. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

“Taking Possession of Public Discourse: Women and the Practice of Political Poetry in Venezuela” in *Bottom Up or Top Down? Participation and Clientelism in Venezuela’s Bolivarian Democracy*. David Smilde and Daniel Hellinger eds. Durham: Duke University Press. 2011.

Articles

“‘Playing’ with Identity: Storytelling, Performance and Feminine Agency in Cosplay” – Accepted for publication with *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*. Forthcoming: 2019.

“Weirdo Barbie and Punk-Rock Daddy’s Girl: Ambiguity, Gendered Identity and Appearance of Eleven in *Stranger Things*” *Refractory: A Journal of Entertainment Media*. Forthcoming: 2019. s

“Decent Girls with Good Hair: Beauty, Morality and Race in Venezuela” *Feminist Theory*. 14:2, (August 2013) 171-186.

“Los pequeños espacios de libertad: Poesía femenina y discurso social.” *Argos: Revista de la División de ciencias Sociales y Humanidades de la Univerisidad Simón Bolívar*. 45 (2006). 7-24.

“The Power of the Pelvic Bone: Breaching the Barriers of Social Class in Venezuela.” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women’s Studies*. 27 (2006) 71-105.

“La insurrección poética: Una revolución contra el arquetipo materno en la poesía contemporánea.” *Argos: Revista de la División de Ciencias Sociales y Humanidades de la Universidad Simón Bolívar*. 38 (2004): 99-112.

“El hueco permanece: Notas sobre la obra poética de María Auxiliadora Alvarez.” *Ateneo: Revista de Literatura y Arte* 21 (2003): 22-25.

“Foregrounding lo cotidiano in Recent Venezuelan Poetry: Everyday Life and the Urban Experience.” *Revista de literatura y artes venezolanas*. Vol. 5, No.1, (2000) 42-53.

“Loss and Abandonment: Rewriting the Myth of the National Romance in Las dos Venecias.” *Osamayor* 10 (1997): 21-30.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Contemporary Women Poets of Venezuela.” In *World Literature in Spanish*. Westwood, Conn: Greenwood. 2011.

“Venezuela: History, Culture and Literature.” In *World Literature in Spanish*. Westwood, Conn: Greenwood. 2011.

“Venezuelan Artistic Groups.” In *World Literature in Spanish*. Westwood, Conn: Greenwood. 2011.

“Venezuelan Writer-Statesmen.” In *World Literature in Spanish*. Westwood, Conn: Greenwood. 2011.

“Enriqueta Arvelo Larriva” in *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Ida Gramcko” in *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Antonia Palacios” in *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Yolanda Pantin” in *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

“Ana Teresa Torres.” in *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Reviews

Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela. by Marcia Ochoa. In *The Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*.

“Venezuela and Colombia.” *HLAS: Handbook of Latin American Studies*. United States Library of Congress. Vol. 70, 2015.

Essays

“Being Seen: Cosplay and Performative Identity.” *In Media Res*. September 2018. <http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/being-seen-cosplay-and-performative-identity>.

“Cosplay, Crossplay and Rule 63.” *The Gingko Tree Review*. February 2017.

Selected Presentations and Professional Activities

“‘Playing’ with Gender: Cosplay and the Creative Performance of Identity.” *Console-ing Passions*. University of East Carolina. Greenville, NC. 2017.

Session Co-Organizer, Session Co-Chair: “Genero, cuerpo y estética: Las tensiones en la construcción de la belleza” Latin American Studies Association Congress. New York, NY. 2016.

“‘Odd and Dark’: Exotic Identities and Practical Interests in Fashion and Pageantry” Latin American Studies Association Congress. New York, NY. 2016.

“The War of Silicon: Aesthetic Surgery, Consumption and Physical Beauty in Venezuela” *The Aesthetics of Politics and the Politics of Aesthetics in Contemporary Venezuela*” 19-20 September, University of Cambridge. 2014

Session Organizer, Session Chair: “Beautiful Bodies: The Role of Beauty Work in Women’s Consumption, Expression and Survival.” Latin American Studies Association Congress. Chicago, IL 2014.

“Chica Cosmo: Cosmetics, Masks and Beauty Armor in Contemporary Venezuelan Literature” Latin American Studies Association Congress, Chicago, IL. 2014.

100% Chic: Selling Beauty as Identity and Worth in Venezuela” *Beauty: Exploring Critical Issues- 3rd Global Conference*. Oxford, UK. 2013

“Decent Girls with Good Hair: Beauty Morality and Race in Venezuela- OR ‘Piranhas, Manes and a Very Blond Jesus- Hair as Identity in Venezuela’s Past, Present and Future.’” International Symposium on ‘Race,’ Beauty and Feminist Theory in Latin America and the Caribbean. Newcastle University, UK 2013

Session Organizer, Session Chair: “Loaded Bodies: Beautiful Women, (Un) Controlled Identities, and Social Scripts” Latin American Studies Association Congress, Washington D.C., 2013.

“Decent Girls with Good Hair: Beauty, Morality and Race in Venezuela”
Latin American Studies Association Congress, Washington D.C., 2013.

“Divisions in el País: Political Tension in the Work of Yolanda Pantin”
Latin American Studies Association Congress, Toronto, Canada, 2010.

"Authors Divided: Politics and Participation in Contemporary Venezuelan Literature" Latin American Studies Association Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2009.

“Setenta años de la escritura femenina.” II Jornada de la Sección de Estudios Venezolanos de LASA. Caracas, Venezuela, 2008.

“El hilo de la comunicación: Seventy Years of Women Writing in Venezuela.”
Latin American Studies Association Congress. Montreal, Canada, 2007.

“Taking Possession of Public Discourse: Women and the Practice of Political Poetry in Venezuela”
Latin American Studies Association Congress. San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2006

Session Organizer, Session Chair

“La mujer venezolana: Un tema, diversas perspectivas”
Latin American Studies Association Congress. Las Vegas, Nevada, 2004

“Confronting Economic Inequity: Gender and Social Class in Contemporary Venezuelan Poetry”
Latin American Studies Association Congress, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2004

Session Organizer, Session Chair

“Representaciones femeninas: Verdad e imagen de la mujer venezolana”
Latin American Studies Association Congress, Dallas, Texas, 2003

“Verse/escribirse: El *cuerpo* de María Auxiliadora Alvarez.”
Latin American Studies Association Annual Congress. Dallas, Texas, 2003

“El terrorismo poético: La insurgencia contra el arquetipo materno en la poesía contemporánea.” XXVIII Simposio de Docentes e Investigadores de la Literatura Venezolana, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela, 2002

Grants Awarded

\$1.94 million CAMP grant from the Migrant Education Program of the U.S. Department of Education (Co-Author with Ann Saunders) 2016

Fulbright Research Award 2012

Courses Taught

Selected Interdisciplinary Courses taught in English

Alpha Seminar: The American Experience
Global Awareness and Cultural Diversity
Global Futures
Global Foundations: Beauty and Image: What is Beautiful?
These Are Not Sweet Girls: Latin American Women's Literature

Selected Courses Taught In Spanish:

Introduction to Hispanic Cultural Studies
These Are Not Sweet Girls: Hispanic Women's Literature
Culture of Spanish America
Culture of Spain
Literature of Spanish America
Service to the Hispanic Community
Senior Seminar: Translation, Theory and Practice
Senior Seminar: The Dirty War
Senior Seminar: Venezuela and Colombia
Senior Seminar: Race and Class in Latin America
Advanced Seminar in Hispanic Cultural Studies: Power Couples
Juan and Eva Perón-Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo

Selected Honors and Awards

2017 Faculty Award for Leadership
2016 Faculty Award for Scholarship
2015 Greenleaf Visiting Library Fellow- University of New Mexico.
2012 Fulbright Teaching and Research Fellowship-Venezuela
(awarded for Caracas, Venezuela: completed in Buenos Aires
Argentina)
2008 Faculty Award for Scholarship
2001 Graduating Class Honor for Service to Students
1999 Graduating Class Honor for Service to Students

Selected Service to the Profession:

Contributing Editor: Venezuela and Colombia- *Handbook
of Latin American Studies*- U. S. Library of Congress 2013-present
Executive Board Member, Latin American Studies Association

Section on Venezuelan Studies	2000-2006, 2010-2013
Co-Secretary, Section on Venezuelan Studies	2007-2010
Manuscript Judge: Award for Distinctive Scholarship on Venezuela	
Professional Scholarly Paper Competition	2006, 2007
Elections Chair/Coordinator Section on Venezuelan Studies	2004, 2006

Selected Service to the University

Founder/Director- "Imagine" Conference for First Generation Students	2018- present
Project Director/PI Somos-CAMP Grant	2015-present
CORE (General Education) council	2015-present
Faculty Advisor- Foreign Languages House	2015-present
Foreign Language Institute Liasion	2012-2017
Fulbright FLTA Liasion	2005-2015
Chair, Languages Department	2005-2015
Member, Director, Honors Project Committees.	1997-2015
Chair- Committee on CORE revision: Global Foundations	2013-2015
President's Council on Inclusion	2009-2012
Advisory Council, Washington Ave. Baptist Church Diversity Center	2001-2012
Latina Girls Camp Organizer/Presenter	2010-2011
Faculty Affairs Committee	2008-2009
-Chair	2009-2010
Reader-Drury Theater Department One-Act Play Competition	2005-2008
Chair, Drury University Diversity Task Force	1999-2002
Drury University Study Abroad Program in Costa Rica, Venezuela	1998-2000
Student Affairs Committee, Secretary	1999-2001
Pew Grant Proposal Committee, Secretary,	1998-2000
Rhodes Consultation on Church-Related Institutions	1998

Selected Community Service

Public Relations Lead: Visioncon: Missouri's Premier Pop Culture Convention	
Faculty Coordinator, Service to the Hispanic Community	1998-2015
Leader, Girl Scout Troop 10250	2007-2012
Ongoing Translation and Interpretation Services for:	
Rainbow Network	
Ozarks United Way	
The Kitchen Free Clinic	

Willard R-II School District

Language Proficiency

Certified OPI Language Evaluator: Spanish

Professional Contract Translator for: United States Department of Justice

Spanish- Reading, Writing, Speaking

Portuguese- Reading, Writing, Speaking

Russian- Reading

French- Reading