The Graduate School: Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese

The graduate program in Spanish and Portuguese at Northwestern focuses on the diverse Latin American, Iberian, and U.S. Latino literary and cultural traditions.

The program seeks to instill in its students a strong knowledge of multiple approaches to research and scholarship both within Latin American and Peninsular literatures and across the humanities.

The Ph.D. program encourages students to engage in research extending across departmental and disciplinary borders and to traverse regional and chronological boundaries. The faculty’s research and teaching interests span diverse times periods, regions, and forms of Latin American, Iberian, and U.S. Latino cultural production.

Current Graduate Research Foci:

Marlon Aquino: Culture as spectacle in Peru in the early decades of the 20th century

Mariana Barreto: Contemporary visual arts and literature in contemporary Peru and Latin America and their role in shaping current democracy

Verónica Dávila: 20th and 21st century Caribbean literature and its relationship to urban popular music along with other cultural manifestations

José Delpino: 20th and 21st century Latin American literature and culture, biopolitics, and critical theory

Lily Frusciante: Forms of narrative, specifically film, novels and testimony, that address questions of memory, identity, and justice during and after Argentina’s Dirty War (1976-1983)


Walther Maradiegue: Identities, politics and performance in the Peruvian Andes, based on modern and contemporary history and ethnography

Minwook Oh: Mexican literature and culture in the late 19th century, with an emphasis on “Modernismo” and gender and sexualities

Ivan Pérez: 20th century and contemporary Latin American fictions and their intersections with U.S. popular culture

Zorimar Rivera Montes: 20th- and 21st Century Puerto Rican literature and cultural production, both from the island and its diaspora.

Pedro Varguillas: Electronic dance music in Venezuela (changa tuki), sonic theory and politics

Cintia Vezzani: Relationships between literature, photography and visual arts from the 19th to the 20th century

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The Fellowships

Students will receive guaranteed Graduate School support for 5 years in the form of two years of fellowships and three years of teaching assistantships during years 1 through 5; students will have an additional fellowship support for four summers. In addition, as a graduate student at Northwestern, you will receive full tuition and will be eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan that is entirely subsidized by The Graduate School.

Study in Chicago and Evanston

In addition to the offerings of Northwestern University, students in the graduate program can draw on the strengths of Evanston’s and Chicago’s vibrant cultural and intellectual communities. Home to large and diverse Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking communities, Chicago also boasts prominent institutions such as the Newberry Library, the National Museum of Mexican Art, the Instituto Cervantes and the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago.

Graduate Faculty

Frances R. Aparicio (Ph.D., Harvard University) U.S. Latina/o literary and cultural studies; popular music and gender; Spanish and bilingualism among Latino/as; transnational identities; MexiRicans and IntraLatino/as; teaching Spanish to heritage language learners; theories of translation

Nathalie Bouzaglo (Ph.D., New York University) Latin American modern literature and culture; Venezuela; gender and sexuality; law and literature

César Braga-Pinto (Ph.D., U.C. Berkeley) Brazilian literature and culture; Lusophone Africa; race, gender and sexuality; postcolonial and Latin American theories; theories of friendship

Jorge Coronado (Ph.D., Columbia University) Andean lettered and visual cultures; Latin American intellectual history; critical theory north and south

Darío Fernández-Morera (Ph.D., Harvard University) Comparative literature; sixteenth and seventeenth century literature and history; medieval literature and history; economics and literature; religion and literature

Lucille Kerr (Ph.D., Yale University) 20thc Latin American literature; boom & post-boom literary culture; Latin American Jewish literature & history; narrative fiction & theory; fiction & film; testimonial theories & texts; close reading

Laura León Llerena (Ph.D., Princeton University) Colonial Latin American literature and culture (particularly of the Andean region); translation studies; postcolonial theory; religion studies; ethnography of writing

Emily A. Maguire (Ph.D., New York University) Caribbean literature and intellectual history; Race in the Americas; Latin American ethnohistory; science fiction and cyberpunk

Graduate Faculty Continued

Elisa Martí-López (Ph.D., New York University) Catalan and Spanish literatures and cultures; translations and appropriations of literary models; nineteenth -century novel; urban studies; death studies

Alejandra Uslenghi (Ph.D., New York University) Latin American modern literature and culture; Southern Cone emphasis; visual culture; comparative modernisms; critical theory

Recent Graduates

Aaron Aguilar-Ramirez (PhD ’17) Assistant Professor of Spanish at Whitman College

Jack Martinez Arias (PhD ’17) Visiting Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies at Hamilton College

For more information, visit: spanish-portuguese.northwestern.edu/graduate

For questions regarding the program, contact:

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