

Sarah H. Beckjord
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
Tel: 617-552-6339
email: beckjord@bc.edu

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY
Ph.D. in Spanish American Literature, 2001.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
B.A. with honors in History and Literature; Certificate in Latin American Studies, 1985.

AWARDS

Research Incentive Grant, Boston College, 2007-2008.
Research Expense Grant, Boston College, Summer 2006.
Faculty Fellowship, Boston College, Spring 2004.
President's Fellowships, Columbia University, Fall 1993; Fall 1994; Spring 1996; and 1996-1997.
University Fellow, Columbia University 1989-90.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Territories of History: Humanism, Rhetoric, and the Historical Imagination in the Early Spanish Chronicles of the Indies. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007.

Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters

"Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y la incipiente conciencia criolla en la historiografía de Indias." Book chapter in *Poéticas de lo criollo: Inestabilidad semántica y heterogeneidad identitaria. La transformación del concepto 'criollo' en las letras hispanoamericanas (siglos XVI-XIX)*, ed. David Solodkow and Juan Vitulli. Rosario, Argentina: Beatriz Viterbo, forthcoming in 2008.

"*Desengaños* and Dialogues of Conquest in the Histories of Fernández de Oviedo."
Submitted for review.

"Respuesta a Hugo en la novela antiesclavista cubana: *Petrona y Rosalía* de Tanco y Bosmeniel." *Tradición y actualidad de la literatura iberoamericana. Actas del XXX Congreso*

Internacional del Instituto de Literatura Iberoamericana. Ed. Pamela Bacarisse. Vol. 1. Pittsburgh: IILI, 1996. 189-96.

“Con sal y ají y tomates: Las redes textuales en la *Historia verdadera* de Bernal Díaz del Castillo.” *Revista iberoamericana* 61.170-171 (Enero-Junio 1995): 147-60.

Exhibition Catalogue

“Totems and Taboos Revisited: Roberto Matta and the New World Tradition.” *Matta: Making the Invisible Visible*. Ed. Elizabeth Goizueta. Chestnut Hill, MA: McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, 2004.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Projects

My current book project, Science, Religion, and Colonial Experience in Early European Accounts of Indigenous Cultures in the Americas, is well under way. I have an interested publisher and expect to submit a formal prospectus in Spring 2008.

I also have planned a study of 19th-century historical fiction tentatively titled Translation and the Tradition: Fictions of Identity and Empire in the Caribbean.

Article in preparation:

“Memory and Forgetting in Colonial 19th-century Cuba: Legends of Identity and Empire in the Works of Ramón de Palma.”

BOOK REVIEWS

Neither Saints nor Sinners: Writing the Lives of Women in Spanish America, by Kathleen Ann Myers. *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 24:1 (January 2005).

Memoria original de Bernal Díaz, by Verónica Cortínez. *Revista Hispánica Moderna* 58 (2005): 211-13.

Gender and Nationalism in Colonial Cuba: The Travels of Santa Cruz y Montalvo, Condesa de Merlin, by Adriana Méndez Rodenas (1998). *Revista Hispánica Moderna* (December 1999).

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

“Signposts of Fiction, Territories of History.” Session organized by the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature. MLA Annual Convention, Chicago, December 29, 2007.

“Fernández de Oviedo and Fragmentary Ethnographic Evidence.” New England Council on Latin American Studies, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, November 10, 2007.

“Heresy and History according to Las Casas.” Questioning Colonialism: The Sixteenth Annual Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Interdisciplinary Symposium. University of Miami, Coral Gables, February 22-24, 2007.

“Bernal Díaz and the Territories of History.” Program arranged by the Division on Colonial Literature, MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 27-30, 2006.

“Race, Culture, and Memory in the Cuban Literary Tradition.” Invited lecture, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Cuba Seminar, March 15, 2006.

“Legends of Identity and Empire in Colonial 19th-century Cuba.” Fifth Latin American Literatures and Cultures Conference.” Colorado Springs, February 23-25, 2006.

“Infidels, Heretics, and History according to Las Casas.” Program arranged by the Division on Colonial Literature, MLA Annual Convention, Washington, DC, December 27-30, 2005.

“Informing ‘Indians’: Science and Religion in the Histories of Fernández de Oviedo.” Colonial Americas Studies Organization, Bogotá, Colombia, August 8-11, 2005.

“Science and Religion in the Early Spanish Historiography of America.” Society of Early Americanists, Old Town Alexandria, VA, March 31-April 2, 2005.

“Discursive Borderlines in the Early Chronicles of the Indies.” Program arranged by the Division on Colonial Latin American Literatures. MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, December, 2004.

“Fictions of Identity and Empire in Colonial 19th-century Cuba.” 2004 Atlantic World Conference, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, September 17-18, 2004.

“Vision and Voice: The Writing of History according to Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo.” Inversions of the New World: 36th Annual Symposium on Comparative Literature. Texas Tech University, March 13-15, 2003.

“(Dis)figuring Traditions: History and Legend in the Prose of Ramón de Palma.” Program arranged by the Division on Latin American Literature from Independence to 1900. MLA Convention, New York, December 29, 2002.

“Soothsayer or Sage? The Historian and Historical Knowledge according to Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo.” Invited lecture, University of California, Los Angeles, February 4, 2002.

“No soy adivino”: Representing History in the *Historia general y natural de las Indias* by Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo.” Invited lecture, University of Toronto, Toronto, February 6, 2001.

“History and Memory in the *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España* by Bernal Díaz del Castillo.” Invited lecture, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, January 31, 2001.

“Autobiografía: Un itinerario en las letras hispanoamericanas.” Invited lecture, Temple University, Philadelphia, January 29, 2001.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

Assistant Professor, Hispanic Studies, 2001-present.

Major courses:

RL 395 Contextos (Introduction to Literary Analysis)

RL 665 Culture and Civilization of Spanish America (1492-1900)

Advanced Undergraduate courses:

RL 614 The Colonial Imagination: History and Identity in Latin America

RL 678 Early Spanish American Women Writers

RL 648 The Literature of Cultural Migration

RL 660/BK 660 Literature of the Hispanic Caribbean

Graduate seminars:

RL 958 Spanish American Writings of the Colonial Period

RL 943 Historiography, Memory, and Autobiography in Colonial Latin American Texts

RL 955 Literary Culture of the Baroque in Spanish America

RL 975 The Dreams of Reason: Literature of the Fantastic in Latin America

RL 901 Advanced Textual Analysis

Columbia University, New York, NY

Preceptor, 1997-1998, 2000-2001. Literature Humanities.

Preceptor, Fall 1996. Latin American Humanities I.

Preceptor, Spring 1996. Assistant for Latin American Humanities II.

Courses in preparation

Undergraduate

Literature and Culture of the Andes

Latino Writers in the United States

Graduate

Seminar on Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Seminar on 19th-century literary societies in Cuba, Mexico, and Peru

SERVICE

Departmental Service

Section Head, Hispanic Studies, Spring 2005, 2006-2008

Departmental committees

Graduate Studies Committee, Spring 2005, 2006-2008

Curriculum Committee, Spring 2005, 2006-2008

Search Committee, position in Contemporary Latin American Literature, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 (steering committee).

Dissertation committees

Director

Alberto Villate Isaza, "Disguise and Writing in Juan Rodríguez Freile's *Conquista y descubrimiento del Nuevo Reino de Granada* (1638)," 2008.

Reader

Spanish American

Eduardo Escallón

Allison Burke

Anne Cantú

Peninsular Medieval and Early Modern

Victoria Gardner

Yon-Soo Kim

Katherine Risse

Patricia Anderson

Undergraduate honors thesis

Director

Jessica Fuller, "Estamos en este país: Motivations for English Acquisition among Adult Latino ESOL Students." May 2008.

College Service

Presidential Scholars Program. Mentor, 2006-2008.

Pre-Major Advising Program. Academic Advisor, 2006-2008.

Latin American Studies Committee. 2001-present. Steering Committee 2006-2007.

Fulbright Interview Committee. 2003-2007.

Romero Scholarship Committee. 2006-2008.

Advisory Group for Spain, Office of International Programs. 2006-2008.

Hispanic Studies Faculty Advisor, Study Abroad Programs in Latin America, 2006-2008.

Border Crossings: International Immersion and Student Formation, Advanced Intersections Seminar, Spring 2008.

University Service

Co-curator. *Matta: Making the Invisible Visible*. Exhibition at the McMullen Museum of Art, Chestnut Hill, MA, February 1- May 24, 2004.

Junior Scholars in Conversation, Jesuit Institute. Participant, 2004-2005; 2007-2008.
Academic Honesty Task Force, Pilot Tutorial Study Group, 2005-2007.

Workshops Attended

Webct Development. Boston College, May 2003.

Academic Advising Orientation. Boston College, May 2006, 2007, 2008.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Luncheon series, Boston College, 2006-2007.

Other Academic Service

Peer Review. Book-length manuscript, for Pennsylvania State University Press, 2007.
Articles for *PMLA* and *The Latin Americanist*, 2007.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant. *Revista Hispánica Moderna*, New York. 1996.

Publications Associate. Contemporary Affairs, The Asia Society, New York. 1988-90.

Features Editor. *Report on the Americas*, New York. 1986-88.

Contributor. *Let's Go: Spain, Portugal and Morocco* and *Let's Go: Europe*. 1986.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana (IILI)

Colonial Americas Studies Organization (CASO)

Society of Early Americanists (SEA)

Latin American Studies Association (LASA)

New England Council on Latin American Studies (NECLAS)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish and English.

Reading and conversational knowledge of French and Portuguese.

Reading knowledge of Latin.