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Education

Ph.D., Comparative Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, May 2011
M.A., Comparative Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2007
M.F.A., Writing (Short Fiction and Poetry), University of San Francisco, 2005
B.A., Magna Cum Laude, English & American Literature, New York University, 2002
Minor: Spanish

Dissertation

Border Encounters: American Cultural Politics and the U.S.-Mexico Border

Border Encounters: American Cultural Politics and the U.S.-Mexico Border is a transnational, interdisciplinary cultural study of the contemporary U.S.-Mexico border that argues for the critical role of the international border in the racial past, present, and future of the Americas. Through critical readings of contemporary photography, music, fiction, and poetry, this dissertation shows how the border is not only a contact zone for Mexican, white, and Native peoples, but also a more heterogeneous geography that includes a fluid set of diverse racialized subjectivities. I bring together a distinct collection of multiracial cultural texts to demonstrate how they interrogate issues of nation, race, and belonging through the representation of certain critical terms and issues related to the U.S.-Mexico border and the borderlands studies (immigration; femicide; trafficking; NAFTA; maquila labor; the structural inequalities between the United States and Mexico, and the trope of boundary crossing, among others). Drawing on Chicano/a studies, *Border Encounters* expands the canon of borderlands culture to include texts by African American, Asian American, and white artists. This comparative work reveals how shared colonial histories and similar negotiations with a globalizing present are represented across racial-ethnic categories, and exposes the limits of 'the nation' as the primary unit of analysis in borderlands studies. By grounding literary, visual, and musical analyses in the material realities of the borderlands, *Border Encounters* engages the U.S.-Mexico border as a complex site of innovative cultural production while simultaneously revealing how global operations of power work through the series of specific geographies we call the borderlands.

Committee: Laura E. Pérez, co-director; José David Saldívar, co-director; Lyn Hejinian; Beth Piatote

Current Position

Assistant Professor, American Culture & Literature Department, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey

Honors and Awards

Summer Faculty Fellow, Franklin College Summer Institute, "Exploring World Citizenship,"
Summer 2014, Lugano, Switzerland

["The Big Indie Books of Fall 2013," *The Rainy Season Diaries* featured in Publisher's Weekly](#)

[\(August 23, 2013\)](#)

Finalist, 2012 Gatewood Prize, Switchback Books

Gloria E. Anzaldúa Award for Independent, Contingent, and Community Scholars, American Studies Association, 2011

Futures of American Studies Institute (selected participant), Dartmouth University, June 2009

Academy of American Poets Award, 1st place, University of California, Berkeley, 2009

Elizabeth Mills Crothers Prize in Literary Composition, Honorable Mention, University of California, Berkeley, 2009

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, 2008—2009

Departmental Qualifying Exam with Distinction, 2008

Honorable Mention for Fiction, Summer Literary Seminars, 2006

Regents Honors Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, 2005-2007

Research Interests

Contemporary American ethnic literature, U.S. -Mexico border studies, American studies (hemispheric/transnational American studies), film and cultural studies, decolonial feminism, migration and diaspora, postcolonial studies, the American West, critical race studies, contemporary poetry and poetics, U.S. immigration history and policy

Scholarly Publications

article: "All the Pretty Mexican Girls: Whiteness and Racial Desire in Cormac McCarthy's *All the Pretty Horses* and *Cities of the Plain*," *Western American Literature* (February 2014)

Scholarly Publications (Forthcoming)

article: "Disordering a Border: Harryette Mullen's Transborder Poetics in *Muse & Drudge*," (accepted for publication and forthcoming in 2014 by *ARIEL-A Review of International English Literature*)

article: "¡Americano! Roger Clyne & the Peacemakers Rock the Borderlands of Transnational America," (accepted for publication by *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*)

Scholarly Publications (Under Review)

article: "Tijuana Transa: Transa as Metaphor and Theoretical Practice for Encountering the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands in Culture" under review with *Cultural Critique*

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, "Race & Ethnicity in America," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Fall 2014

Faculty Fellow, "Writing Citizenship, Writing Self," Franklin University Summer Institute, Franklin University, Lugano (Switzerland), Summer 2014

Assistant Professor, "Creative Writing Workshop," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Spring 2014

Assistant Professor, "Contemporary Native American Writers," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Fall 2013

Assistant Professor, "American Texts and Contexts," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Summer 2013

Assistant Professor, "American Poetry," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Spring 2013 & Spring 2014

Assistant Professor, "Introduction to American Studies II," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Spring 2013 & Spring 2014
Assistant Professor, "Film Studies in American Culture to 1960," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Fall 2012 & Fall 2013
Assistant Professor, "Introduction to American Studies I," American Literature & Culture Department, Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014
Instructor, "Immigrant Women," Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2012
Adjunct Faculty, "Latino/a Thought," Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA, Spring 2012
James R. Gray Lecturer in Chicano/a Studies Reading & Composition, Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2011-2012
Instructor, "Chicano/a Studies Reading & Composition R1A," Chicano/a Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2012
Instructor, "Chicano/a Studies Reading & Composition R1B," Chicano/a Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2012
Instructor, "Native American Studies Reading & Composition R1B," Native American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2011
Instructor, "Native American Studies Reading & Composition R1A," Native American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2011
Instructor, "The U.S.-Mexico Border in Culture," Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2010
Instructor, "Asian American Studies Reading & Composition A," Asian American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2009
Instructor, "Asian American Studies Reading & Composition B," Asian American Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2007, Summer 2008
Instructor, "English 1A: Critical Thinking & Reading," English, Chabot/Las Positas College, Hayward, CA, Summer 2006

Master's Thesis Committee Service

Ahu Burcu Aydemir, Summer 2013 (Bilkent University)

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Service

Göksu Kaymakçioğlu, Fall 2013 (Bilkent University)

Dogus Ozdemir, Fall 2013 (Bilkent University)

Papers and Presentations

Invited Speaker, "Undocumented: Citizenship, Culture, and Community," Turkish American Association, Ankara, Turkey, October 2013

Invited Speaker, "Latin@ Studies Abroad," Invited Speaker, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, May 2013.

"When We Were Latino/a American: Colonial Histories, Contemporary Narratives." *Haciendo Caminos: Mapping the Futures of U.S. Latina/o Literatures*. John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. New York, NY, March 2013

"Hemispheric Latinidades: Latino/a Public Cultures, Public Conflicts." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

Invited speaker, “Transaborder Encounters.” Stanford University TransAmerican Studies Working Group, Palo Alto, CA, May 2010
“TransAmerican Imaginaries: New Paradigms for Hemispheric Studies.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 2010
“The Transaborder Text: Reading Culture in the Contemporary U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, June 2009
“Borders in the Postnational Era—Beyond Hybridity?” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2009
“Modernism and Latino/a Identity.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, Feb 2009
“Harryette Mullen: Language, Identity, and Innovation at the Crossroads of Difference.” Department of American Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Texas, Austin, Oct 2008

Literary Publications

[*The Rainy Season Diaries*, short fiction/prose poetry book, Quale Press \(November 15, 2013\)](#)

two untitled prose poems: *The Rose Red Review*

two untitled prose poems: *Zoland*

two untitled prose poems: *14 Hills*

untitled prose poem: *Weave Magazine*

untitled prose poem: *Puerto del Sol*

three untitled prose poems: *Tinfish 19*

untitled prose poem: *580 Split*

untitled prose poem: *The Chaffey Review*

three untitled prose poems: *Mujeres Poetas en el País de las Nubes Antología*

(poetry anthology published by Centro de Estudios de la Cultura Mixteca/Center for Mixteca Cultural Studies, Mexico)

two untitled prose poems: *The Berkeley Poetry Review*

untitled prose poem: *Denver Quarterly*

“On Earth as it is in Heaven” (short story): *Our Stories*

selections from “Out of Wedlock” (poems, co-authored with Craig Santos Perez): *Sink Review*

selections from “Out of Wedlock” (poems, co-authored with Craig Santos Perez): *Denver Syntax*

“How a city is like a dream” (poem): *Commonweal*

Editorial Experience

Guest Editor, Special Edition of *JAST (Journal of American Studies of Turkey)* on

Transnational American Studies, with Dr. Christopher Rivera, Bilkent University, 2013

Co-Editor, Achiote Press, 2006—present (www.achiotepress.com)

Guest Editor, *Vibrant Gray* online literary journal, 2008

Literary Readings

Guest Poet, Turkish American Association, Ankara, Turkey, March 2014

Story Hour, Doe Library, University of California, Berkeley, May 2009

580 Split issue release party, Oakland, CA, April 2009

Annual Encuentro of Women Poets in País de las Nubes, Mexico City/Oaxaca, Mexico, Nov

2008

Indigenous Writers Series Reading, Native American Studies Program, University of California, Berkeley, Oct 2008

Babylon Salon, San Francisco, CA, June 2007

UC Lunch Poems, Morrison Library, University of California, Berkeley, May 2007

Holloway Reading Series with Jorie Graham, University of California, Berkeley, April 2007

MFA Graduation Reading Series, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, August 2005

Backyard Reading Series with Elizabeth Robinson, Berkeley, CA, June 2004

Related Employment

Research Assistant, Prof. Beth Piatote, Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 2010-2011

Research Assistant, Prof. Lyn Hejinian, English, University of California, Berkeley, 2006

Languages

Spanish: advanced reading, writing, and speaking

Modern Greek: beginning reading and speaking

Turkish: beginning reading, writing, and speaking

Academic and Community Service

Faculty Organizing Committee, 3rd & 4th Annual Undergraduate Literary Conference, Department of English Literature and Department of American Literature and Culture, Bilkent University, Spring 2013 & Spring 2014.

Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Admissions Committee, Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley, Spring 2011

Founding member, Ethnic Studies Graduate Student Committee, Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley
Volunteer, Indigenous Writer's Series, Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley, 2008-2209

Coordinator, Achioté Press Issue Release Party, Ethnic Studies Library, UC Berkeley, 2008

Founding Member, Lyric Women's Group, Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley, 2007—2009

Membership and Professional Activities

Modern Language Association

American Studies Association

Phi Beta Kappa Society

TransAmerican Studies Working Group, Stanford University (2009-2011)

References

Edward Kohn, Chair, American Culture and Literature, Bilkent University kohn@bilkent.edu.tr

José David Saldívar, Comparative Literature, Stanford University jds1@stanford.edu

Laura E. Pérez, Comparative Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley
leperez@berkeley.edu

Lyn Hejinian, English, University of California, Berkeley hejinian@gmail.com

Beth Piatote, Comparative Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley
piatote@berkeley.edu

