

AJ Baginski

Assistant Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Programs and Community Engagement at the
University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
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POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY HELD

- 2022-2024** Postdoctoral Research Associate – Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities
Research at Texas A&M University
- 2023-2024** Lecturer – English Department, Texas State University
- 2021-2022** Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies – Bryn Mawr College
- 2021** Assistant Adjunct Professor – Maine College of Art & Design
- 2018-2021** Teaching Associate – Humanities Core Program, University of California, Irvine

EDUCATION

Dissertation: *Alta and Baja: Environments of Fantasy Along the U.S.-Mexico Border*

Rei Terada, Dissertation Advisor, Professor of Comparative Literature

- 2021** **Doctor of Philosophy**, Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine
- Research Interests: 20th U.S. and Mexican literatures, Critical Theory, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Border Studies, Black Studies, Environmental Humanities in the Americas
 - Languages: Non-native fluency in Spanish, reading and translation proficiency in French, translation capable in Latin
- 2015** **Master of Arts**, Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine
- 2012** **Bachelor of Arts**, English Literature, University of California, Irvine

PUBLICATIONS

- “Freak show,” poem translation into Spanish for publication in *Grin Go Home* by JD Pluecker, Mouthfeel Press, 2025.
- “Multi-modal and Auto-Ethnographic Pedagogy,” co-author with George Villanueva and Regina Mills, in “Landscapes of Belonging.” Special issue of *Latin@ Literatures* co-edited by Baginski, Mills, Villanueva, Alain Lawo-Sukam, Alexa Hurtado and Ivylove Cudjoe. Spring, 2024, latinoliteratures.org.
- “Introduction” author and co-editor of special issue “Landscapes of Belonging” of *Latin@ Literatures* journal, July 2024, latinoliteratures.org.
- Commissioned review of *From Ashes to Text: Andean Literature of Sexual Dissidence in the 20th Century* by Diego Falconí Trávez, *Postmodern Culture*, Fall, 2024.
- “Between Historical Captivity and Mythic Freedom: U.S. and Mexican Exceptionalism’s Place in the Work of Gayl Jones and Carmen Boullosa,” chapter forthcoming in *Transnational Black Studies - Section Two: Spatiality [Imaginative Black Geographies]*, invited edited volume, Liverpool University Press, 2024.
- “From Correlation to Corroboration: When the Weather Makes Sense of Death,” *Culture Machine*, vol 22, December, 2023.
- “Conflicting Frameworks: Race and Experimentation in Contemporary Poetry from the U.S.-Mexico Border Special Issue “Performance in the Wake,” *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, vol. 18, no.3, October 2022.

- “Introduction,” co-author and co-editor of special issue “Environment and Loss” for the *Yearbook of Comparative Literature*, July 2022.
- “Re-expression” as Expression: Race and the Environment in the Work of Mary Hunter Austin” article author and co-editor of special issue “Environment and Loss” for the *Yearbook of Comparative Literature*, July 2022.
- “Transitional Space: Contemporary Border Literature and Historical Representations of Baja California.” *Humanística: Revista de estudios literarios*. March, 2021.
- Commissioned review of *Allegories of the Anthropocene* by Elizabeth M. DeLoughrey for *H-net.org*. September, 2020.
- “Gentrification and the Aesthetics of Dispossession”. *FIELD: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism*, “Art and Activism in Boyle Heights”. October, 2019.
- “Anastasia Baginski reviews Sayak Valencia’s *Gore Capitalism*”. *Chasquí: revista de literatura latinoamericana*. May, 2019.
- Writing Assistant for David Early, *The General Plan of California*, Solano Press Books, 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Weiss High School, Pflugerville Independent School District, Guest Lecturer

AP 2D Art & Design – guest classes “Writing Your Artist Statement” (3 sessions, F 23 & SP 24)

Texas State University, Lecturer in English

ENG 1310 – College Writing 1: Humor, Survivorship and Identity (F 23)

Bryn Mawr College, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities in the Bi-Co Department of Environmental Studies

ENVS 203 – Intro to Environmental Humanities (F 21 & Sp 22, 12 units total)

ENVS 350 – Gender & the Borderlands (F 21 & Sp 22, 12 units total)

ENVS 350 – Race & the Human in Literature & Theory (F 21 & Sp 22, 12 units total)

Maine College of Art & Design, Assistant Adjunct Professor of Academic Studies

EN108 – Research & Inquiry: “Migration and Thresholds,” (Sp 21, 3 units total)

University of California Irvine, Teaching Associate & Supplemental Spanish Language Teaching Associate – Humanities Core

HUM 1A, B, C – “Animals and Culture,” (F 19 – Sp 20, 24 units total, 1 quarter online)

HUM 1A, B, C – “Empire,” (F 18 – Sp 18, 24 units total)

University of California Irvine, Teaching Assistant – Composition and Classics

CLASSICS 45C – “Greek Mythology,” (Sp 20, 4 units total)

WR 39C – Argument & Research, “Climate Change and Crisis,” and “Migration & Immigration” (Sp 15 - Sum 16 & W 21, 20 units total, 2 quarters online)

WR 39B – Critical Reading & Rhetoric, “Narratives of Liberation,”

(F 14 - W 15, F 16 - Sp17, 24 units total, 2 quarters online)

Service and Programming

- 2023** Facilitator of the Humanities Undergraduate Summer Scholars research program through the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at TAMU
- 2022-24** Programming as leader of the “Humanities: Land, Sea, Space” at the Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research at TAMU
- 2022** Artist Talk with José Villalobos and Dialogue with Raquel Gutiérrez, Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges. Virtual.

- 2022** “Teach-In: Designing an Anti-Racist Workplace,” co-organized as part of the Coalition for Anti-Racist Literacy and Action (CARLA) at Bryn Mawr College. Virtual.
- 2020** “Hope as Discipline,” Manifesto-reading and writing workshop for the UCLA New Wight Biennial, Co-organizer and facilitator with artists Silvi Naçi and Gosia Wojas
- 2020** Invited Moderator for “Intimate Borders: Political Spaces and Territories with Minerva Cuevas and Sandra Noeth, “Performance in the Wake: Ibero-American Performance as Theorizations of the Political” Research Group Event, Sponsored by the UCI Center for Latin American Studies and UCHRI
- 2019** *Taking Space/Making Space: How Art Can Serve Community in the Borderlands*, organizer of Speaker Series co-sponsored by the UCI Humanities Center and University & State Research Cluster, invited speakers have included Cog•nate Collective, The Women’s Center for Creative Work, Sylvia Aguilar Zéleny, Itzel Aguilera, Sayak Valencia, Martin de Mauro Rucovsky, Valeria Campos Salvaterra
- 2019** UCI Graduate Student Association Fellowship Recipient, “How We Decorate and Adjust Ourselves: An Interdisciplinary Workshop” co-facilitated with Omar Pimienta
- 2018** *Migratory Poetics: Literature, Theory and Visual Cultures in Translation*, a Humanities Commons Collaborative conference, UC Irvine
Grant-writer and chair of the organizing committee
- 2018** *La mujer y el ensayo*, a presentation by Margo Echenberg (Tecnológico de Monterrey) Seminar organized for a women’s reading group in the Spanish and Portuguese Department at UC, Irvine; Co-organizer
- 2017** *University Reason, State Thought*, a UCHRI research cluster and Humanities Commons research cluster conference
Co-organizer
- 2016** *Abstraction*, annual UC Irvine Comparative Literature graduate conference
Co-organizer
- 2015** *Organizing Life and Matter*, a School of Humanities Collaborative conference, UCI
Co-organizer as part of the EcoMaterialisms collective
- 2013** *Postmodern Culture*, Johns Hopkins University Press
Editorial Staff
- 2011** *M.E.Ch.A. de UCI Annual Raza Youth Conference*
Co-chair, organizer and facilitator

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized & Guest Lectures

“Fictions of Proximity,” roundtable at the *Modern Languages Association* Convention in January, 2024. Organized with Erin Pearson (Elon University), Sharon Kunde (Duke), Jesse Alemán (UNM).

“Femicide and Activism in Northern Mexico,” guest lecture in “Aesthetics of Activism” course in the School of Performance, Visualization and Fine Arts taught by Francesca Marini, Texas A&M University, March, 2024.

“Gender Violence at the Border: Circulation and Commodification in Postmodern Mediaspheres,” invited talk for the School of Performance, Visualization & Fine Art at Texas A&M University, October 19, 2023.

“Black Study and Critical Latin Americanism” Panel, organized for the Annual *Latin American Studies Association* Congress with Rachel O’Toole, May, 2022.

“Empire of the Anthropocene.” Two guest lectures for ENV5 101, “Introduction to Environmental Studies” at Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, September and October 2022, April, 2024.

“Queerness & Landscape in Chicana and Mexican American Art.” Guest lecture for GNST 245/SPAN 240, “Introduction to Latin American, Iberian, and Latina/o Studies,” March 2022.

“Environment and Loss,” Annual Meeting of the *American Comparative Literature Association*, Spring, 2020. Co-organized with Anne-Lise François.

“Environment and Loss,” Annual Meeting of the *American Comparative Literature Association*, Spring 2020.

“A Genealogy of Women’s Writing in Northern Mexico and the United States,” Annual *Latin American Studies Association* Congress, May 2019. Boston.

“Extraction, Violence, and the Border in Mexico” for upper div Environmental Studies Course “Race and Environment,” Guest lecture for upper div Environmental Studies Course “Race and Environment,” April, 2019.

“Persistence and Resistance: Rethinking Uses of the Environment,” *Biennial Meeting of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. June, 2019. UC Davis.

“Environment and Loss,” Annual Meeting of the *American Comparative Literature Association*. March 2019. Georgetown University.

“Bordering Perceptibility,” Annual Meeting of the *American Comparative Literature Association*. July 2017. Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Paper Presentations (selected)

“Accident, Gender Violence, and Exposure: Femicide’s Reflection of Media Environments,” paper to be given in the seminar “The Relational Turn,” at the Annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in Montreal, April, 2024.

“Speculative genders: Trans figures for Transnational Consumption in Border Literature,” paper to be given at the XXVIII Annual Juan Bruce Novoa Mexican Studies Conference, UC Irvine, March 2024.

“Accident, Gender Violence, and Exposure: Femicide’s Reflection of Media Environments,” invited talk for Texas A&M University’s School of Performance, Visualization & Fine Arts

“Del correlacionismo a la corroboración - Cuando el clima da sentido a la muerte” invited lecture at the Second Seminar on Contemporary Thought, “Thinking the Anthropocene”

convened by the Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Francesa y Alemana, University of Vigo, Spain, June, 2023.

“Conflicting Frameworks: Race and Experimentation in Contemporary Border Poetry,” for “Figuring Futures: Futures from/of Latin America,” conference hosted by *Interversar* Journal with respondent Denise Ferreira da Silva, February 2022. Virtual.

“Untranslatable media: Gender Violence and the Media in Contemporary Art from the U.S.-Mexico Border,” “Responding to the Roots of Violence,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, September 2021. Virtual.

“Gender Violence at the Border: Circulation and Commodification in Postmodern Mediaspheres.” *L’Obscène maintenant : nouveaux usages, nouveaux enjeux, nouvelles formes*, Jefferson Fund supported conference, Université Bordeaux Montaigne, 4 novembre 2019.

“Paradoxes of Women’s Representation in Baja Californian Literature,” *XXV Annual Juan Bruce Novoa Mexican Studies Conference*. April 2019. UC Irvine.

“Transfeminismo and the Labor of Representing Femicide.” For panel “Historiographic Theories of the State”, *Annual Congress of the Latin American Studies Association*. May, 2018. Barcelona, Spain.

“Anxiety, Gender, and the Body of the Foreigner in Rosario Castellanos’ *Cartas a Ricardo*.” *XXIV Congreso Anual de Mexicanistas Juan Bruce-Novoa*. April, 2018. UC Irvine.

“Slippages of Simultaneity: *Anti-Humboldt* and Border Poetics.” For panel “Edge Tempos and Anti-Monuments”, *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association*. May, 2017. UCLA.

Fellowships

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| 2019-20 | Michael and Stacy Koehn Endowed Research Award in Critical Theory |
| 2019 | Summer Dissertation Award, School of Humanities, UC Irvine, \$3,000 |
| 2018-19 | Dissertation Year Fellowship, School of Humanities, UC Irvine \$21,000 |
| 2016 | Cornell School of Criticism and Theory Fellowship, UC Irvine, \$2000 |
| 2014 | Summer Fellowship, School of Humanities, UC Irvine \$3000 |
| 2013-14 | Dean’s Fellowship and Recruitment Fellowship, School of Humanities, UCI \$23,000 |

Grants and Scholarships

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| 2019 | Borders & Belonging Event Co-sponsorship Grant, UCI Humanities Center \$500 |
| 2018 | Latin American Studies Association Mexican Section Scholarship \$300 |
| 2017 | Collaborative Conference Grant, Humanities Commons UCI \$2000 |
| 2017 | Travel Grant, Graduate Critical Theory Cluster, Northwestern, \$200 |

Travel and other Awards

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| 2022 | Rice University Center for Environmental Studies and Diluvial Houston Mellon Grant, Gulf Coast Environmental Conference travel award, \$600 |
| 2022 | Sustainability Curriculum Development workshop at Swarthmore College, \$600 |
| 2018 | Comparative Literature Student Research Funds, UC Irvine \$1000 |

2017 Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards, School of Humanities, UCI \$1520

Research Group and Journal Affiliations

2023- *Política Común*, editorial board member
2023 - *Humanities and the Anthropocene*, collaborator, Environmental Humanities Initiative at Texas A&M University
2018-20 *The Politics of Obscenity in the Early modern and Postmodern Mediaspheres*, International Research partnership between the University of California, Irvine and Université de Bordeaux Montaigne, collaborator, sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Fund
2016-20 *University and State in the Americas*, a UCHRI multi-campus graduate working group, collaborator and co-organizer
2018 *University and State*, a UC Irvine Humanities Commons research cluster

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - Leadership and Advocacy

2022-24 **Step In. Stand Up. Against Sexual Violence.** Trauma-informed certified facilitator. Texas A&M University.
2022-24 **PRIDE Mentor, LGBTQ+ Pride Center,** Texas A&M University.
2021- **Member and Organizer of the Coalition for Anti-Racist Literacy and Action**
2022 (CARLA) at Bryn Mawr College
2019 **Elected Comparative Literature Department Steward – UAW 2865, UC Irvine**
2016- **(Dis)Identifications – A UCI Queer Theory Reading Group and Seminar**
2017 Co-founder and facilitator
2014- **Annual Koehn Undergraduate Critical Theory Conference, UC Irvine**
2019 Graduate student mentor
2014- **Comp Lit Creative Writing and English Graduate Student Association**
2017 Elected Co-Chair (16-17), Faculty Representative (15-16), Undergraduate Representative (14-15), UC Irvine

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), Juan Bruce Novoa Mexican Studies Conference, National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND POSITIONS HELD

December 2022 **Language Justice Coordinator and Grant Writer for the Trans Asylum Seeker Support Network**
October 2019 **Language Justice Interpretation between Spanish and English for Bike! Bike! Tijuana**
Fall 2017 **UNAM Los Angeles – Language study for EXELEAA exam**
Fall 2019 **UAW 2865, UC Irvine Department Steward**
Summer 2016 **School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University**
Sponsored representative of the University of California, Irvine