

ELIZABETH SPRAGINS  
Washington and Lee University  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Romance Languages  
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#### EDUCATION

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- 2017      **Ph.D. in Iberian and Latin American Cultures**  
Stanford University. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures.  
Advisor: Lisa Surwillo.  
Dissertation: "Material Remains: Narrating the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir."  
The dissertation examines the role of the corpse in the historical narration of the battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir/Wādī al-Makhāzin (4 August 1578). Within a Western Mediterranean context, it contends that at the heart of the telling of the battle is a renegotiation of the epistemological foundation of how history is written, and that that renegotiation takes place on and through the corpses of those fallen at the battle. It identifies the human body as a connecting thread that weaves together key moments of witnessing, testimony, and reading in historiographical narrative. It shows that through images of corpses, the empathetic reader is drawn into bearing textual witness to the events being told and recruited as an ally to the narrator's cause.
- 2010      **M.A. in Hispanic Studies**  
University of Pennsylvania
- 2008      **M.A. in Spanish**  
Middlebury College
- 2007      **B.A. in Spanish** with highest honors, *cum laude*  
Williams College

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Literary representations of the human body; narrative authority and eyewitness testimony; medieval and early modern Iberian and Transatlantic prose and historiography; Transatlantic Studies; Mediterranean Studies; Arabic historiography from the Maghreb (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries); discourses of tolerance and religious conflict on the Iberian Peninsula; Critical Race Studies

#### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2017–      Washington & Lee University. Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish
- Spanish 161-162: Intermediate Spanish (Fall-Winter 2018-19)
  - Spanish 164: Advanced Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2017, Winter 2018)
  - Spanish 220: Introduction to Spanish Literature (Fall 2017, 2018)
  - Spanish 275: Introduction to Literary Analysis (Winter 2019)
  - Spanish 296: Comparative Critical Race Theory (Spring 2018)

- Spanish 395: Recognizing Difference in Early Modern Iberia (Winter 2018)

2016 University of California: Berkeley. Lecturer in Summer Session

- Spanish 135: Spanish Inquisition and Multicultural Iberia. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

*Bodies of Knowledge: Narrative and the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir*

### REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

under review “*Cuerpos, cuernos, and espadas ceñidas*: Corpses and the Writing of Catalina de Erauso’s Authoritative Body.” *ConSecuencias*. 11,700 words.

under review “Body as Text and Text as Body: Ijāzas and Oral Knowledge Transmission in the *Ta’rikh al-dawla al-sa’diyya*.” *Medieval Encounters*. 9,200 words.

2017 “Embodied Authority: The Virgin, Audience, and the Body of the Devotee in Marian Miracles.” *La corónica*, 45:2, 9-36.

### EDITED VOLUMES

2020 “Podcasting Las Casas and Robert E. Lee: A Case Study in Historicizing Race.” *Teaching Race in the Renaissance*, eds. Anna Wainwright and Matthieu Chapman. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 4,000 words. (Forthcoming September, 2020)

**Comment [LA1]:** Space under this heading but mostly no space elsewhere

### BOOK REVIEWS

2017 Wunder, Amanda. *Baroque Seville: Sacred Art in a Century of Crisis*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017. *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 18:4, 479-81.

2010 Blackmore, Josiah. *Moorings: Portuguese Expansion and the Writing of Africa*. Minneapolis, MN, University of Minneapolis Press, 2008. *Ellipsis: The Journal of the American Portuguese Studies Association* 8: 162-64.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR OF IBERIAN LANGUAGES/LITERATURES

2011–2017 Stanford University

- COMPLIT119: Travel Writing in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean
- Spanish 1: First-Year Spanish Language
- Spanish 5C Intensive First-Year Spanish Language
- Spanish 11C: Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Spanish 12C: Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Catalan 1A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language
- Catalan 2A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language

2009–2010 University of Pennsylvania

- Spanish 110: Elementary Spanish Language
- Spanish 130: Intermediate Spanish Language

## CO-INSTRUCTOR OR TEACHING ASSISTANT

2013–2016 Stanford University

- CompLit 252B: Classical Arabic Prose, Primary Instructor: Alexander Key
- CompLit 252A: Classical Arabic Poetry, Primary Instructor: Alexander Key
- CompLit 332: Transatlantic Renaissances, Co-Instructor: Roland Greene
- ILAC 120: Advanced Critical Reading in Spanish, Co-Instructor: Lisa Surwillo

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

## INVITED TALKS

- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Narrators in Portuguese Accounts of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” Dartmouth College. 5 April, 2017.
- 2017 “The Authority of the Material Body in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” The University of Warwick (U.K.). 29 March, 2017.
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Corporeal Narrators in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Iberian Narrative.” Washington and Lee University. 20 March, 2017.
- 2016 “Juan de Silva, el Corcavado, and the Corpse of Sebastian I.” Colby College. 9 February, 2016.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2019 “‘I swear on the body of...’: Truth and the Dead in early modern Iberia.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Washington, DC). Paper accepted, seminar under consideration.
- 2019 “Don’t Kill the Messenger: Protecting Knowledge from Timbuktu to Madrid.” 54<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2018 “Medical Ventriloquism: Mediating the Dead Across the Mediterranean.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles).
- 2017 “Mediated Witnessing and the Indexing of Portuguese Empire.” Panel organizer. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Renaissance Society of America Meeting (Chicago).
- 2016 “Dead Bodies and the Virgin: Historiography and Authority in Leitão de Andrade’s *Miscellânea*.” 51<sup>st</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2015 “Royal Bodies Beyond the Iberian Peninsula at al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 50<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2014 “Accessing the Dead at the Battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Renaissance Society of America Meeting (New York).

- 2013 “Historiography and the dead in Jerónimo de Mendonça's *Jornada de África* (1607).” Panel organizer. Centro de História d’Além-Mar International Congress (Universidade Nova de Lisboa).
- 2013 “*Aqui foi morto*: Writing the Dead at al-Qasr al-Kabir.” 48<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2012 “*Aqui foi morto*: The Material Problems of Death at the Battle of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” Graduate Student Conference on Latin American and Iberian Cultures (Columbia University).
- 2011 “Revising Race: Recognizing the Exotic in Zurara’s *Crónica do descobrimento da Guiné*.” Forum of African Studies (Stanford University).
- 2011 “‘Aissa and the Skull’: Manuscript Culture and Embodied Muslim Practice in Sixteenth-Century Iberia.” The Crisis of the Confined Body: A Conference in Romance Studies (University of California, Berkeley).
- 2010 “Grey Shades of Blackness in Gomes Eanes de Zurara’s *Crónica da Guiné*.” Renaissance Studies Annual Interdisciplinary Conference (Princeton University).

#### CAMPUS TALKS

- 2018 “Gender and the Dead Body.” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Working Group (Washington and Lee University).
- 2018 “*Cuerpos, cuernos, and espadas ceñidas*: Corpses and the Writing of Catalina de Erauso’s Authoritative Body.” Romance Languages Colloquium (Washington and Lee University).
- 2017 “Narrative Empathy as Embodied Indexicality in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Portuguese Historiography.” Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Stanford University).
- 2015 “Body as Text and Text as Body: Corporeal Custody and *Ijāzas* in the *Ta’rīkh al-dawla al-sa’diyya*.” Center For Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Stanford University).
- 2013 “Corporeal Chroniclers and the Act of Historiography.” Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Stanford University).
- 2009 “Transvestism: Performance, Persona, and Politics.” Graduate Romanic Association Conference (University of Pennsylvania).

#### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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- 2018 Lenfest Summer Research Grant. Washington and Lee University.
- 2018 Lenfest Summer Pedagogy Funding to support ACTFL OPI Certification. Washington and Lee University.
- 2017 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Comparative Literature and Spanish. Dartmouth College (declined).

- 2016 ePortfolio Award. Collaborative Teaching Project. Stanford University.
- 2016 Finalist (one of 15 selected out of more than 900 applicants). Society of Fellows in the Humanities. Columbia University.
- 2016 Department Academic Support Grant. Departments of Comparative Literature and Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to participate in Casa Árabe (Córdoba) Intensive Summer Course on al-Andalus.
- 2015 Division Professional Development Grant. Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Stanford University. Funding to attend MLA Annual Meeting in Austin.
- 2014 Department Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to attend Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo.
- 2014 Department Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures. Stanford University. Funding to attend RSA Meeting in New York.
- 2013 Bolsa de Investigação de Curta Duração. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal and Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento.
- 2013 Division Professional Development Grant. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures and Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. Stanford University. Funding to attend Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo.
- 2012–2014 Grant for Graduate Student and Faculty Collaborative Teaching in the Humanities. Teagle Foundation. Stanford University.
- 2011 Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship. Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies. Stanford University.
- 2010 US Department of Education. Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Arabic).
- 2009 US Department of Education. Foreign Languages and Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Arabic).
- 2008–10 University of Pennsylvania. Benjamin Franklin Fellowship for PhD Study. Department of Romance Languages.
- 2007 Williams College. William W. Kleinhandler Prize for Excellence in Music.
- 2007 Williams College. Garret Wright DeVries, Class of 1932, Memorial Prize in Romance Languages.

**Comment [LA2]:** this is a genuine question: does one list finalist position for this kind of thing? I never have, but maybe worth checking?

#### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2018 ACTFL Spanish Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop. (Washington and Lee University).

- 2016 Intensive Summer Course: Al-Andalus, Problems and Perspectives. (Casa Árabe, Córdoba).
- 2016 ACTFL Crossing Major Borders: Moving Students along the Proficiency Spectrum Workshop. (Stanford University).
- 2012 XXVI Jornades Internacionals per a Professors de Català. Institut Ramon Llull (Universitat de Vic).
- 2012 ACTFL Spanish Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop. (Stanford University).

#### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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##### WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

- 2018– First-Year Faculty Advisor
- 2018– Teacher-Scholar Cohort, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
- 2018– Fulbright Foreign Language Evaluation Interviewer
- 2017– Faculty Major Advisor, Department of Romance Languages
- 2017– Roger Mudd Center for Ethics, Faculty Fellow
- 2017– Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, Affiliated Faculty

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##### STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- 2018 Featured in *Katalonoski*, a TV3 (Barcelona) series on non-native Catalan speakers
- 2010–2017 Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Co-chair of Committee on Gender Problems and the Profession

##### MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association  
 Renaissance Society of America  
 American Comparative Literature Association  
 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
 American Historical Association  
 The Spain and North Africa Project  
 Middle East Studies Association

#### LANGUAGES

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English: Native fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening  
 Spanish: Superior proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening  
 Catalan: Advanced-high proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening  
 Arabic: Advanced-mid proficiency in reading and writing  
 Portuguese: Advanced-low proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening  
 French: Advanced-low proficiency in reading

#### REFERENCES

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Roland Greene, Mark Pigott KBE Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, Iberian and Latin American Cultures by courtesy, Stanford University, [rgreene@stanford.edu](mailto:rgreene@stanford.edu)

Alexander Key, Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature, Stanford University, [akey@stanford.edu](mailto:akey@stanford.edu)  
Ellen Mayock, Ernest Williams II Professor of Spanish and Core Faculty in Women's and Gender Studies,  
Department of Romance Languages, Washington and Lee University, [mayocke@wlu.edu](mailto:mayocke@wlu.edu)  
Leyla Rouhi, Preston S. Parish '41 Third Century Professor of Romance Languages, Director, Oakley  
Center for the Humanities and Sciences, Williams College, [lrouhi@williams.edu](mailto:lrouhi@williams.edu)  
Lisa Surwillo, Associate Professor, Iberian and Latin American Cultures, Stanford University,  
[surwillo@stanford.edu](mailto:surwillo@stanford.edu)