

ELIZABETH SPRAGINS  
College of the Holy Cross  
Curriculum Vitae

Spanish Department  
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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.
- 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

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

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- 2019–        College of the Holy Cross. Assistant Professor of Spanish.
- 2017–2019    Washington & Lee University. Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish.

**PUBLICATIONS**

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BOOK

*A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Fordham University Press, 2023).

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- forthcoming    with Emily Colbert Cairns (Salve Regina University), “Following the Bloodlines in María de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 10,000 words.
- 2023        “Body as Text and Text as Body: Ijāzas and Oral Knowledge Transmission in Sixteenth-Century Morocco.” *Medieval Encounters* 29, 315–39. (Forthcoming)
- 2023        with Emily Colbert Cairns (Salve Regina University), “Female Embodiment: Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.” *La corónica* 51, vol. 1. (Forthcoming)
- 2023        “Skulls, Worms, and Angels: Teaching Ritual through the Grave in an Aljamiado Hadith.” *postmedieval* 13, 533–48.
- 2019        “*Cuerpos, cuernos, and espadas ceñidas*: Corpses and the Writing of Catalina de Erauso’s Authoritative Body.” *ConSecuencias* 1, vol. 1.

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

#### EDITED VOLUMES

In process *Cervantes, Women, and Perversity*, co-edited with Leyla Rouhi (Williams College) and Sonia Pérez Villanueva (Lesley University).

In process *On the Uses and Abuses of Early Modern Spanish Culture*, co-edited with Chad Leahy (Denver University) and Amy Sheeran (Ohio State University). Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Press.

#### CHAPTERS IN PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

In process “Substituting White Bodies for Black in Micomicón: The Perversity of Race in *Don Quijote*.” In *Cervantes, Women, and Perversity*, edited by Leyla Rouhi, Elizabeth Spragins, and Sonia Pérez Villanueva.

2023 “Necropastoral and Conflicting Modes of Testimony in *Don Quixote*’s Tale of Grisóstomo and Marcela.” In *Cervantine Futures: Theorizing Cervantes after the Critical Turn*, edited by Nicholas R. Jones and Paul Johnson. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press. 4,000 words. (Forthcoming)

2023 “American Caste through Iberian Multiculturalism.” In *On the Uses and Abuses of Early Modern Spanish Culture*, ed. Chad Leahy, Amy Sheeran, and Elizabeth Spragins. Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Press. 8,000 words. (Forthcoming).

2023 “Podcasting Las Casas and Robert E. Lee: A Case Study in Historicizing Race.” *Teaching Race in the Renaissance: A Classroom Guide*, eds. Anna Wainwright and Matthieu Chapman, 451–68. Tempe, AZ: ACMRS Press, 2023.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

2021 Gilbert, Claire M. *In Good Faith: Arabic Translation and Translators in Early Modern Spain*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020. *Journal of Arabic Literature*.

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*.

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.

#### OTHER WRITINGS

2023 “Who’s Afraid of al-Andalus?” *Public Books*. Forthcoming.

2020 “On Collaboration: The Future of Mediterranean, Iberian, and Early Modern Studies is Collaborative.” *Iberian Connections: Medieval and Early Modern Studies and Contemporary Critical Thought* 7, no. 1. <https://iberian-connections.yale.edu/articles/on-collaboration/>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Mediterranean Studies; death studies; medieval and early modern Iberian literature and culture; gender, embodiment, and the human body; tolerance, *convivencia*, and religious conflict on the Iberian Peninsula; Critical Race Studies

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

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### INVITED TALKS

- 2024 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Reading the Dead in the Mediterranean.” Tulane University.
- 2024 “*Don Quixote*: Authority in a World in Flux.” Columbia University.
- 2023 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Washington and Lee University.
- 2023 “Muslims in Spain: Jesus and the Skull.” Guest lecture in “Introduction to Islam,” Department of Religion, Washington and Lee University.
- 2023 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” University of Virginia.
- 2020 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Following the Boodlines in Maria de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” *II Early Modern Iberian Studies Symposium of New England* (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2018 “Witnessing Bodies: Teaching and Researching Multicultural Iberia in the 21st Century.” College of the Holy Cross.
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Narrators in Portuguese Accounts of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” Dartmouth College.
- 2017 “The Authority of the Material Body in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” The University of Warwick (U.K.).
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Corporeal Narrators in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Iberian Narrative.” Washington and Lee University.
- 2016 “Juan de Silva, el Corcavado, and the Corpse of Sebastian I.” Colby College.

### CONFERENCE PAPERS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2024 Race in Comparative Context: The Case of Iberia (A Roundtable). 59<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2023 “Clothing and Identity as Rituals of the Body.” American Spanish and Portuguese Historical Society Annual Conference (Boulder, CO).
- 2023 “Approximating Intelligibility: Racialized Language in Early Modern Spain.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL).

- 2023 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Embodied Ritual and Acts of Care: Caregiving in Pre-modern Iberia.” The MLA Annual Convention (San Francisco).
- 2022 “Assemblage: Recovering Diplomatic Power with Corpses.” New England Renaissance Conference (Amherst, MA).
- 2022 “Skulls, Worms, and Angels: Teaching Ritual through the Grave in an Aljamiado Hadith.” 57<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2022 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Feminine Materiality: *Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*.” The MLA Annual Convention (Washington, DC).
- 2021 “American Caste Through Iberian Multiculturalism.” Sixteenth Century Society and Conference (San Diego).
- 2021 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Following the Boodlines in Maria de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” 56<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2020 “The Future of Mediterranean Studies is Collaborative.” The MLA Annual Convention (Seattle, WA).
- 2019 “Necroviolence for Message Discipline.” The Mediterranean Seminar (Toronto, ON).
- 2019 “‘I swear on the body of...’: Truth and the Dead in Early Modern Iberia.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Washington, DC).
- 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

- 2024 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” *Authors on the Hill Series*, Dinand Library (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2022 “Specifications Grading in a Spanish Seminar.” *Curricular Conversations Series*, Spanish Department (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2021 “The Challenges of Virtual Paleography.” *Colleague to Colleague Series*, Center for Writing (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2020 “Necroepistemology: Narrating the Dead in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Early Work Research Group (College of the Holy Cross).
- 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).

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES

- 2020 “*The Disenchantments of Love* by María de Zayas *Decameron in Times of Coronavirus* (YouTube), Center for Medieval Studies (University of Minnesota)

- 2020 Interview on *Jerusalem Afflicted* with Chad Leahy and Ken Tully. New Books Network European Studies Channel.
- 2020 Interview on *The Basque Seroras* with Amanda Scott. New Books Network European Studies Channel.
- 2020 Interview on *Staging Habla de negros* with Nicholas R. Jones. New Books Network European Studies Channel.
- 2020 Interview on *Esther in Early Modern Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora* with Emily Colbert-Cairns. New Books Network European Studies Channel.

## TEACHING

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### COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

- Origins of Race in Iberia (Spring 2023)
- Readings in Spanish Literature (Fall 2022)
- Literature of Multicultural Iberia (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)
- Intermediate Spanish II (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022)
- Intermediate Spanish I (Spring 2020)
- Spanish Composition and Conversation (Fall 2019, Fall 2023)
- *Don Quixote* (Spring 2020, Fall 2023)

### WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

- Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2018, Winter 2019)
- Advanced Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2017, Winter 2018)
- Introduction to Spanish Literature (Fall 2017, 2018)
- Introduction to Literary Analysis (Winter 2019)
- Comparative Critical Race Theory (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
- Recognizing Difference in Early Modern Iberia (Winter 2018)

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA: BERKELEY

- Spanish Inquisition and Multicultural Iberia (Summer 2016)

### STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- First-Year Spanish Language (Fall 2011)
- Intensive First-Year Spanish Language (Summer 2014)
- Second-Year Spanish Language (Spring 2014, Spring 2017)
- Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Catalan 1A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language (Fall 2013)
- Catalan 2A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language (Winter 2014)
- Travel Writing in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean (Fall 2016)
- Advanced Critical Reading in Spanish. Co-Instructor with Lisa Surwillo (Winter 2013)
- Transatlantic Renaissances. Co-Instructor with Roland Greene (Fall 2014)
- Classical Arabic Prose. TA for Alexander Key (Fall 2015)
- Classical Arabic Poetry. TA for Alexander Key (Fall 2016)

### UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Elementary Spanish Language (Fall 2009)
- Intermediate Spanish Language (Spring 2010)

#### GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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2022	Robert L. Ardizzone ('63) Fund for Tenure Track Faculty Excellence. College of the Holy Cross.
2021	Publication Award. Office of Supported Research. College of the Holy Cross.
2021	Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award. American Comparative Literature Association.
2020	Course Development Faculty Fellowship: Comparative Critical Race Theory and the Early Modern Creation of Race. College of the Holy Cross.
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. 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.

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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- 2022 Reading Aljamiado Manuscripts Workshop. (The CU Mediterranean Studies Group and the Mediterranean Seminar).
- 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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#### COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

- 2022–23 Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honors Society Faculty Co-Advisor
- 2023– Spanish Department Faculty Reading Group (organizer)
- 2022–23 Common Requirements Implementation Committee  
(Chair of Sub-Committee on Literature)
- 2022–23 Sigma Delta Pi Renovation Committee
- 2022– Spanish Placement Examination Committee
- 2022 Fall Open House Faculty Representative
- 2020–21 Discrimination Policy Working Group
- 2020– Department Committee to revise SPAN 301: Spanish Composition and Communication.
- 2020– Textbook/Open Source Committee



2020–21, 2022 Spanish 202 Coordinator  
 2019– Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Affiliated Faculty.  
 2019–20 Spanish Club. Faculty Advisor.  
 2019–20 Spanish Department Library Liaison.  
 2019–20 Interviewer for European Studies channel. New Books Network.

#### 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  
 2017–2019 Faculty Major Advisor, Department of Romance Languages  
 2017–2019 Roger Mudd Center for Ethics. Faculty Fellow.  
 2017–2019 Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Affiliated Faculty.

#### 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  
 The Spain and North Africa Project  
 Middle East Studies Association  
 The Mediterranean Seminar

#### EXTERNAL REVIEWER

*Edad de Oro*  
*postmedieval*  
*Hispanófila*  
*La corónica*  
*ConSecuencias*  
*Hispanic Review*

#### 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, Associate 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)