

## ABRAHAM I. ACOSTA

### Curriculum Vitae

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Arizona

Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
Modern Languages 545  
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Tucson AZ 85718  
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### CHRONOLOGY OF EDUCATION

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- 2002-07      Ph.D., Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor  
  
                    Dissertation  
                    “Thresholds of Illiteracy: Orality and Biopolitics in Modern Latin America”  
                    Director, Dr. Gareth Williams
- 2000-02      M.A., Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor  
1999-00      Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
1995-99      B.A., Depts. of Philosophy, Religion, and English, University of Southern  
                    California, Los Angeles
- Major Fields: Latin American Literature, 19-21<sup>st</sup> Century  
                    Critical Theory  
                    Cultural Studies/Cultural Theory  
                    Critical Multilingualism Studies  
                    Comparative Literature

### CHRONOLOGY OF EMPLOYMENT

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- 2007-      Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of  
                    Arizona
- 2001-06      Graduate Student Instructor, Departments of Comparative Literature, English,  
                    and the Spanish Residential College, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

### HONORS AND AWARDS

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- 2010-11      Woodrow Wilson/Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2006 (Fa.)      Horace H. Rackham Dissertation Fellowship (University of Michigan–Ann  
                    Arbor)
- 2006 (Su.)      Sweetland Writing Center Dissertation Fellowship (University of Michigan–Ann  
                    Arbor)
- 2000-06      Horace H. Rackham Merit Fellowship (University of Michigan–Ann Arbor)

1999-00	Advanced Opportunity Fellowship (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
1998-99	Inductee, Wall of Scholars (University of Southern California)
1998-99	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities
1998-99	Ronald E. McNair Scholars Research Fellowship
1998-99	Mexican American Alumni Assoc. Scholarship (University of Southern California)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Scholarly Books and Monographs

- 2014 *Thresholds of Illiteracy: Theory, Latin America, and the Crisis of Resistance*. Just Ideas (Transformative Ideals of Justice in Ethical and Political Thought). Edited by Drucilla Cornell and Roger Berkowitz. New York: Fordham University Press. (278 pages)

### Chapters in Scholarly Books and Monographs

- “Illiteracy”. *Iberian Postcolonialities: A Metahistory of Material Practices of Power, Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies, vol. 3*. Chichester U.K.; Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell. Forthcoming. (11 manuscript pages)
- 2013 “Sign-Cutting: Thresholds, Borders, and Others in the Devil’s Highway”. *The Shade of the Saguaro/La sombra del saguaro*. Gaetano Prampolini and Annamaria Pinazzi eds. Firenze: Firenze University Press. 463-467.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2014 “The Wager of Critical Multilingualism Studies”. *Critical Multilingualism Studies* 2.1: 20-37.
- 2013 “Orality and Politics in Latin America: Thresholds of Illiteracy”. *CR: The Centennial Review* 13.2: 203-222.
- 2012 “Hinging on Exclusion and Exception: Bare Life, The US/Mexico Border, and *Los que nunca llegarán* [those who will never arrive]”. *Social Text* 30.4 (113): 103-123.
- 2010 “Contingencies of Silence: Subalternity, the EZLN, and the Accounting of Speech in Latin America”. *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 19.2: 203-223.
- 2005 “At the Margins of History, the Nation-State and Literature: the Discourse of Comparative Literature and Latin American Subaltern Studies”. *Dispositio/n: American Journal of Cultural Histories and Theories* 25.52: 249-264.

### Book Reviews

- 2013 “Lund, Joshua. *The Mestizo State: Reading Race in Modern Mexico*”. *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*. 70.1: 117-118.
- 2012 “Beverley, John. *Latinamericanism after 9/11.*” *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* 16: 343-344.
- 2011 “Legras, Horacio. *Literature and Subjection: The Economy of Writing and Marginality in Latin America*”. *Studies in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature* 35.1: 166-168.

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

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- 2015 “The Biopolitics of Cultural Difference: Postcoloniality, Decoloniality, and Illiteracy.” “Race, Place & Capital in Postcolonial Studies: An Interdisciplinary Tricontinental Symposium.” Indiana University. April 3-4. (invited).
- 2015 “The Latin American Posthegemonic: Affect, Illiteracy, and the Question of Reading.” Panel “Literary Posthegemony: The Politics of the Affect.” Latin American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 27-30. (invited)
- 2015 ““Migrantes que no importan”: Bare Life, Subalternity, and Border Biopolitics.” Roundtable “Precarious Life/Vida Precaria 2: Borders, Citizenship, Agency, Otherness.” Latin American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 27-30. (submitted)
- 2015 “The Constraints of Freedom: Writing, Illiteracy, and the US/Mexico border”. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Seattle, WA. March 26-29. (upcoming-invited)
- 2015 “Thresholds of Illiteracy: Decoloniality and the Biopolitics of Cultural Difference.” Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. March 3 (invited)
- 2015 “Thresholds of Illiteracy: The Fictions of Sovereignty and Decoloniality.” Department of Spanish and Portuguese. University of Southern California. February 23. (invited)
- 2014 “Thresholds of Illiteracy: Cultural Difference, Subalternity, Infrapolitics”. Symposium on Erin Graff Zivin’s *Figurative Inquisitions* and Abraham Acosta’s *Thresholds of Illiteracy*. Texas Research Group on Luso-Hispanic, Caribbean, and Latino Thought. University of Texas at Dallas. October 24. (invited)
- 2014 ““Doctrina y Enseñanza de los Reyes Incas’: Biopolitics, Illiteracy, and the Latin American Colonial Archive”. Latin American Studies Association Conference, Chicago IL. May 21-24. (invited)
- 2014 “Illiteracy: Remapping Orality, Politics, and Subalternity in Latin America”. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Princeton University, Princeton NJ. April 17. (invited)
- 2014 “The Coloniality of Power and Subalternity: of (De)Colonial Sources, Re-Originalization, and the Critique of Imperialism”. Panel “A Critique of Decolonial Reason: Readings and Interrogations” (Session Organizer and Presenter). American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New York University, New York. March 20-23. (Submitted)
- 2012 “Remapping the US/Mexico Border: Heterogeneity, Itinerancy, Politics”. Symposium “Becoming Mexico: Culture, Politics, and the Imagined Americas,” Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh. September 27. (invited)

- 2012 “Literacy, Subjectivity, and the Crisis of the Novel in Latin America”. Panel “Nation and Its Discontents”. Latin American Studies Association Conference, San Francisco, CA. May 23-26. (submitted)
- 2012 "Deadlocks of the US Mexico Border: Subalternity, Ethnic Hegemonies, and the Lessons of SB1070". Department of Modern Languages, Denison University, Granville OH. April 11 (invited).
- 2012 "Subalternity and Ethnic Hegemonies at the US/Mexico Border". American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Providence, RI. March 29-April 1. (invited)
- 2012 “Deadlocks of the US Mexico Border: Subalternity, Ethnic Hegemonies, and the Lessons of SB1070”. Annual International Forum for the Study of Borderland Cultures, University of Arizona. February 16-17. (invited)
- 2012 “Literacy, Subjectivity and the Crisis of the Novel in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America”. Panel “New Perspectives on Latin American Studies”. MLA Annual Convention, Seattle, WA. January 5-8. (submitted)
- 2011 “Of Failed Retreats: Testimonio, the Mexico/Central American Border, and the Limits of Postcolonial Theory”. Workshop on Central American Literature. Department of Hispanic Studies, Texas A&M University. November 16-18. (invited)
- 2011 “Illiteracy: or the Politics of the Unreadable”. Panel “Subalternity, Resistance, and the Accounting of Speech in Latin America” organized by Abraham Acosta. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Vancouver, Canada. March 31-April 3. (submitted)
- 2011 “Orality/Literacy”. Latin American Postcolonialities Workshop. Department of Hispanic Studies, Texas A&M University. February 10-11. (invited)
- 2010 “Subalternity, Resistance, and the Accounting of Speech in Latin America”. Panel presentation. Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Career Enhancement Retreat, Princeton, NJ. Oct 20-22. (invited)
- 2010 “Illiteracy, or the Absent Cause of the Narratological Subject in Latin America”. Panel “Modes of Knowing: Language and Vision”. Latin American Studies Association Conference, Toronto, CA. October 6-9. (submitted)
- 2010 “Frontiers of Exception: Bare Life and Subalternity at the US/Mexico Border”. Panel “Frontiers of Life: Biopolitical Imaginations in Latin America”. American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New Orleans, LA. April 1-4. (submitted)
- 2009 “Abandoning the Border: Subalternity and the State of Exception in *The Devil’s Highway*”. Panel “Bordering on Exclusion and Exception” organized by Abraham Acosta. American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Harvard University. March 26-29. (submitted)
- 2008 “Listening to Silence: Subalternity, the EZLN, and the Politics of Illiteracy”. Panel “Post-Nationalism in Latin America”. MLA Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA. December 27-30. (submitted)

- 2008 “Abandoning the Border: Homo Sacer and the State of Exception in *The Devil’s Highway*”. Panel “Bio-Ethno-Political and Neo-Nativist Dimensions”. WSSA/ABS 2008 Annual Conference, Denver, CO. April 23-26. (invited)
- 2008 “The Biopolitics of Political Narratology: Narrative, (Il)literacy, and Subjection in Latin America”. 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language and Culture, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. February 7-9. (invited)
- 2007 “Thresholds, Borders and Others: Sign-Cutting in L.A. Urrea’s *The Devil’s Highway*”. 8<sup>th</sup> International Forum for the Study of Literary Cultures of the Southwest, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ. November 15-16. (invited)
- 2007 “Subalternity in Modern Latin America”. Department of Languages and Literatures, University of Denver. February 16, 2007. (invited)
- 2007 “Illiteracy and Orality in Modern Latin America”. Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, California State University, Fresno. February 8, 2007. (invited)
- 2007 “Thresholds of Illiteracy”. Department of Languages and Foreign Studies, American University, Washington D.C.. January 25, 2007 (invited)
- 2006 “Between Vargas Llosa and Cornejo Polar: the Biopolitics of Indigenismo”. Panel presentation. Latin American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. (submitted)
- 2004 “Re-Thinking Political Narratology: the Novel, (il)Literacy and State Formation in Latin America”. Panel presentation. Latin American Studies Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV. (submitted)
- 2002 “Provincializing the Novel: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Novelistic Discourse, Political Narratology, and Latin America in the Modern/Colonial World System”. Panel “Why the Novel (in the Americas)?”, co-organized by Abraham Acosta, Beatriz Ramirez-Betances and Dr. Neil Larsen, and under the auspices of the Division on the Sociological Approaches to the Novel. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New York City. (submitted)
- 2002 “Travel to the ‘third world’: Geo-cultural location, Languages and Temporalities in Alejo Carpentier’s *Los Pasos Perdidos*”. Panel presentation. Seuil et Traverses 3, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France. (submitted)
- 2002 “The Logic of (Dis)Equivalence and the Stakes of the Third Term: Translation, Political Economy, and the Sign”. Panel presentation. American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. (submitted)
- 2000 “The Image in *Imperial Eyes*: fetishism and geo-cultural differentiation in early travel writing,” North Central Council of Latin Americanists Annual Conference, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. (submitted)

**SERVICE/OUTREACH**

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## National/International Outreach

- 2015 Referee, *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group*. (25 pages)
- 2015 Discussant, "Critical Theory and Latin(o) America: precariedades, exclusões, and emergent practices." Latin American Studies Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico. March 27-30. (invited)
- 2015 Session Organizer, "A Critique of Decolonial Reason: Readings and Interrogations". Modern Languages Association Conference, Vancouver, Canada. January 8-11.
- 2014 Referee, *Critical Multilingualism Studies*, article-length manuscript (30 pages)
- 2014 Referee, *Culture, Theory, and Critique*, article-length manuscript (15 pages)
- 2014 Session Organizer, "A Critique of Decolonial Reason: Readings and Interrogations". Latin American Studies Association Conference, Chicago IL. May 21-24.
- 2014 Session Organizer, "A Critique of Decolonial Reason: Readings and Interrogations". American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New York University, New York. March 20-23.
- 2014 Referee, *Cincinnati Romance Review*, article-length manuscript. (21 pages)
- 2012-14 Member, Editorial Board, *Critical Multilingualism Studies*
- 2008-14 Member, Editorial Board, *Cincinnati Romance Review*.
- 2012 Referee, *Cincinnati Romance Review*, article-length manuscript. (18 pages)
- 2012 Referee, *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, article-length manuscript.
- 2011 Session Organizer, "Subalternity, Resistance, and the Accounting of Speech in Latin America". American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Vancouver, Canada. March 31-April 3.
- 2009 Session Organizer, "Bordering on Exclusion and Exception". American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Harvard University. March 26-29.
- 2007 Referee, *Cincinnati Romance Review*, article-length manuscript (25 pages)

## Local/State Outreach

- 2015 Organizer/Moderator, Works in Progress Lecture series. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
- 2014 Organizer/Moderator, "Conversations on the Profession: the Lit Review". Department of Spanish and Portuguese. October 10.
- 2013 Organized, visit and lecture by Samuel Steinberg (University of Southern California). March 26-28.
- 2013 Moderator, "The Subaltern". 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literature, Language and Culture, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ. February 21-23.
- 2011-13 Faculty Advisor, Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, Local Chapter (appointed).
- 2012 Panelist, "Conversations on the Profession: Workshop on Professional Writing". Department of Spanish and Portuguese. April 6.
- 2010-12 Co-Organizer, "Multilingualism 2.0?" International Symposium and Roundtable series, University of Arizona.
- 2010-12 Mentor, Arizona Assurance Scholars Program, University of Arizona
- 2009-12 Faculty Advisor, *Divergencias: Revista de Estudios Lingüísticos y Literarios*, University of Arizona

- 2007-12 Facilitator, Mock Interview Sessions for Job Seekers (appointed)  
 2011 Panelist, "Conversations on the Profession: Getting Ready for the Job Market".  
 Department of Spanish and Portuguese. September 2.  
 2010 Organized visit, roundtable, and lecture by Joshua Lund (University of  
 Pittsburgh). March 24-26.  
 2009 Panelist, "Why Does Racism Persist in the United States?" Unsettling Certainties  
 Lecture Series. College of Humanities, University of Arizona. November 9.  
 2007 Panelist, "Conversations on the Profession: Transitioning from Graduate Student  
 to Faculty". Department of Spanish and Portuguese. April 6.

#### Departmental Committees, Spanish and Portuguese

- 2014-15 Member, Academic Program Review Committee (appointed)  
 2013-15 Member, Committee on Graduate Studies (appointed)  
 2013-14 Member, Search Committee for position in Border Studies/Chicano Studies  
 (appointed)  
 2012-13 Member, Departmental Peer Review Committee. (appointed).  
 2012-13 Member, Search Committee for position in Latin American Cultural Studies  
 (appointed)  
 2010-13 Member, Committee on Undergraduate Studies (appointed)  
 2010-13 Member, Awards Committee (appointed)  
 2009-10 Member, Advisory Committee on Outreach, Community Development, and  
 Publications (appointed)  
 2008-10 Member, Committee on Graduate Studies (appointed)  
 2007-08 Member, Search Committee for position in Latin American Cultural  
 Studies/Border Studies (appointed)  
 2007-08 Member, Committee on Undergraduate Studies (appointed)

#### College Committees

- 2013-15 Member, Committee for the Establishment of a B.A. in World Literature  
 (appointed)

## TEACHING

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### University of Arizona, Dept. Spanish and Portuguese (2007-)

#### Graduate Courses

- "Recent Trends in Latin American Literary/Cultural Studies II" (Sp-2015)  
 "Recent Trends in Latin American Literary/Cultural Studies I" (Sp-2014)  
 "Posthybridity and Subalternity in Modern Latin America" (Fall-2013)  
 "Political Narratology: Imagined Communities, National Allegories, and the Crisis of the  
 Novel in Latin America" (Fall-2011)  
 "Of Subjects, Subjectivity and Subjection" (Fall-2009)  
 "States of Culture: Hegemony and Subalternity in Latin America" (Fall-2008)

#### Undergraduate Courses

- Spanish 449b Topics in Latin American Literature and Cultural Studies  
 Spanish 447 Contemporary Mexican Literature  
 Spanish 403 Mexican/Mexican American Literature  
 Spanish 401 Major Works of Latin American Literature  
 Spanish 352 Reading Culture and Politics in the Hispanic World  
 [course designed and proposed by myself, approved by the College of Humanities, 2009]

## Spanish 350 Reading Literary Genres

**University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2001-06)**

## Undergraduate Courses

Comparative Literature 122. Writing World Literatures

Comparative Literature 241. Topics in Comparative Literature

English 124. Writing &amp; Literature

English 125. College Writing

RC SPAN 324. Residential College Spanish Readings

**DISSERTATION ADVISING**

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**Principal Advisor:**

Ricardo Andrés Guzmán (2013) *From the Politics of Citizenship to Citizenship as Politics: On Universal Citizenship, Nation, and the Figure of the Undocumented Immigrant*.

Current Status: Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University

Castañeda González, Liliana (Active) “Queering el Narco: A Queer Subaltern Critique of Narco-Sphere.” In progress

**Committee Member:**

Woolson, Maria Alessandra (2014) *Space as Cultural Mirror: Ecocritical Reflexions in Latin American Representation at the Turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

Current Status: Visiting Instructor in Spanish, Middlebury College

Rosenthal, Olimpia (2013) *Condemning Mestizaje: Spatial Segregation and the Racialization of Sex in Colonial Latin America*

Current Status: Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University

Eva Karene Romero (2012) *Cine en Emergencia: National Identity in Post-dictatorial Audiovisual Production in Paraguay*.

Current Status: Lecturer, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Arizona

Andrew C. Rajca (2010) *Dynamic Memories and Meanings: Memory Discourses in Postdictatorial Literary and Visual Culture in Brazil and Argentina*.

Current Status: Assistant Professor of Portuguese and Spanish, University of South Carolina

Cortez, José, (Active, Department of English, University of Arizona) “Mediating Peripheries: Mestizaje & Latin American Rhetoric after Disinvention.” In progress

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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2004-15	Latin American Studies Association
2002-15	Modern Language Association
2002-15	American Comparative Literature Association
1998-15	Andrew W. Mellon Minority (Mays) Undergraduate Fellow
1998-15	Ronald E. McNair Scholar