

# **Néfer Muñoz-Solano**

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
University of Dallas, 1845 E Northgate Drive, Irving, TX, 75062  
[nmunozsolano@udallas.edu](mailto:nmunozsolano@udallas.edu)  
(972) 721-5367

## **Education**

- Ph.D., Harvard University, Romance Languages and Literatures. 2013.
- A.M., Harvard University, Hispanic Literatures. 2008.
- M.A., New York University, Latin American Studies and Journalism. 2005.
- Licenciante, University of Costa Rica, Journalism. 2003.
- B.A., University of Costa Rica, Mass Communications. 1997.

## **Academic appointments**

- Associate Professor of Spanish. Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Dallas. April 2021 – Present.
- Assistant Professor of Spanish. Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Dallas. August 2017 – April 2021.
- Profesor en propiedad (professor with a permanent contract position – equivalent to tenure). University of Costa Rica. July 2016 – August 2017.
- Profesor invitado (Visiting Assistant Professor), University of Costa Rica. January 2014 – July 2016.
- David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Graduate Student Associate, Harvard University. Academic years 2008-12.
- Resident Tutor in Spanish at Kirkland House, Harvard University. Academic year 2011-12.
- Teaching Fellow in Spanish and Portuguese, Harvard University. Academic years 2007-12.
- Spanish Instructor, Study Abroad Program in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Harvard Summer School. 2011.
- Language Instructor. Harvard Spanish Summer Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University. 2009.
- Adjunct Spanish Instructor, Hunter College (City University of New York). Spring 2005.
- Adjunct Spanish Instructor, New York University. Fall 2004.

## **Honors Received**

- Modern Language Association. Elected to a five-year term on the executive committee forum, Literatures of the United States in Languages other than English. December 2018-2023.
- Faculty Travel Grant, University of Dallas. February 2020.
- Faculty Travel Grant, University of Dallas. May 2018.
- Anacapa Scholar at The Thacher School. Ojai, California. February 2017.
- Distinction in teaching of Communications, Literatures and Cultures, University of Costa Rica. Academic years 2014 and 2015.
- Department of Romance Languages and Literatures Teaching Prize, Harvard University. 2012.
- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching to Undergraduates, Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University (awarded to Teaching Fellows with average evaluation scores over 4.5/5). Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 (Spanish Teaching); Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 (Portuguese Teaching).
- Inter American Press Association Fellowship (IAPA) Annual Scholarship, 2003. Granted to one Latin American to study for one year in the United States. USD 13,000.
- LASPAU-Organization of American States Scholarship. Granted for completion of a master's program in the United States, covering tuition and monthly stipend for two academic years. 2003-05.
- President of the Association of Foreign Press Correspondents in Costa Rica (APEX). Main organization for the international press corps in Costa Rica. 2001.
- Foundation of New Ibero-American Journalism Fellowship (founded by Gabriel García Márquez). Writing workshop with Alma Guillermoprieto. México City. October, 1997.
- Instituto Oficial de Radio y Televisión Española (IORTV). Fellowship to study radio broadcasting for two months in Madrid, Spain. January-February 1996.

## **Courses Taught:**

### **Courses Taught at University of Dallas:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish-American Novel
- Spanish-American Literary Traditions
- Spanish Film and Conversation
- Advanced Spanish Composition and Grammar
- Second-Year Spanish I and II (intensive)
- Second-Year Spanish II
- Second-Year Spanish I
- First-year Spanish II
- Intensive First-Year Spanish

### **Courses Taught at University of Costa Rica:**

- Literatura centroamericana
- Teoría de la novela
- Coloquio de investigación I (doctoral course in Cultural and Social Studies)
- Teoría Literaria I
- Producción verbal (Spanish Grammar and Writing)
- Periodismo narrativo
- Português Intensivo II (course taught in Portuguese)
- Estética y teoría literaria (course taught in English for the master's in English literature)
- Taller de investigación I (dissertation course)
- Taller de investigación II (dissertation course)
- Técnicas del relato y la narración
- Técnicas de reporteo

### **Courses taught at Harvard University as a Teaching Fellow:**

- Spanish Aa: Spanish for Beginners I
- Spanish Ab: Spanish for Beginners II
- Spanish 70: Introduction to Latin American Studies
- Spanish Aab: Harvard Summer School in Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Spanish Harvard Summer School in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Portuguese 37: Brasil hoje. Contemporary Brazilian Culture Through Media

### **Scholarship: Intellectual and Creative Achievement and Growth**

#### **Publications, Exhibitions, Productions**

“Clamando y (re)clamando: Maurice Echeverría y Miguel Huezo Mixco, dos cronistas de la violencia en Centroamérica”. Peer-reviewed. *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*. Washington University in St. Louis. May 2021.

Muñoz-Solano, Néfer. “House of Cards y su narrativa: la realidad en la ficción o la ficción en la realidad” in *Locos por las series*. Editors Camilo Retana and María Lourdes Cortés. Editorial de la Universidad de Costa Rica. February, 2021. <http://www.editorial.ucr.ac.cr/artef/item/2578-locos-por-las-series.html>

“García Márquez: el periodismo hiperbólico y la invención del diarismo mágico”. Peer-reviewed. *Revista de Filología y Lingüística*. Universidad de Costa Rica. January, 2021.

<https://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/filyling/article/view/44439/44977>

“El espacio de las redacciones: novelando en el periódico y reportando en la novela de América Latina”. Peer-reviewed. *Revista de Lenguas Modernas*. Universidad de Costa Rica. December 2020.

<https://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/rlm/article/view/41829/45074>

“Lima Barreto: la ficción y la no ficción en ‘El subterráneo del Cerro del Castillo’”. Peer-reviewed. *Estudios*. Escuela de Estudios Generales de la Universidad de Costa Rica. December 2020.

<https://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/estudios/article/view/44810/44650>

“Lima Barreto: un escritor brasileño en la favela de la Ciudad Letrada”. *Revista Estudios*. Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. Mexico City. November 2020.

<http://estudios.itam.mx/sites/default/files/estudiositamx/files/134/000299383.pdf>

“Una estética y una historia del sensacionalismo: el caso de José Marín Cañas y las imbricaciones entre el periodismo y la literatura en América Latina” in *Orígenes y consolidación del sensacionalismo periodístico en Iberoamérica: México, Argentina y Costa Rica*. Editor Francesc A. Martínez Gallego, Madrid, Fragua, 2020, pp. 241-257.

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Or%C3%ADgenes\\_y\\_consolidaci%C3%B3n\\_del\\_sensacion.html?id=qORMzQEACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Or%C3%ADgenes_y_consolidaci%C3%B3n_del_sensacion.html?id=qORMzQEACAAJ)

“La lucha (de clases) de la cocina: los alimentos y la dialéctica de la apetencia en la novela *Mamita Yunai* de Carlos Luis Fallas”. Peer-reviewed. October 2018. Published in: *Revista de Filología y Lingüística*. Universidad de Costa Rica. No. 44, Volume 2, Year 2018.

<https://revistas.ucr.ac.cr/index.php/filyling/article/view/34670/34243>

Producer and host of 80 episodes of the radio show, *En la Academia*. July 2015-July 2017. This show is aired nationally by Radio Universidad de Costa Rica. It features professors and visiting scholars at the University of Costa Rica who were interviewed about their research. International guests included Dr. Walter Mignolo (Duke University), Dr. Bradley Epps (University of Cambridge, UK), and Dr. George Yúdice (University of Miami).

“El cuerpo en latinoamérica hace cultura: Ángel ‘Chuco’ Quintero”. Interview. Published in: *Revista Istmo: revista de estudios literarios y culturales centroamericanos*. ISSN: 1535-2315. No. 31, July-December 2015.

<http://istmo.denison.edu/n31/foro/01.html>

“Catastrophe in Latin American Literature: A Review of *Épicas ordinarias*: espacios de catástrofe y discursos intelectuales en México, Puerto Rico y Chile

(1985-2005), by Judith Sierra-Rivera”. Review. Published in: *Dissertation Reviews*, March 30, 2015. <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/11388>

“Historia de una elección con un final inesperado”. Special report. Political analysis about presidential elections in Costa Rica. Published in: *Perspectivas*. Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). Colombia. No. 4, August 2014.

“Las exageraciones en el periodismo de García Márquez”. Published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), BBC Mundo. Special report about García Márquez’s journalism and literature after the author’s passed away. April 17, 2014.

“El país con la menor participación ciudadana de América Latina”. Published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), BBC Mundo. Special report. October 28, 2013.

“Arturo Ripstein: ‘Siempre pretendí filmar como escribía Faulkner’”. Interview with Mexican filmmaker Arturo Ripstein. *Semanario Universidad*. San José Costa Rica. July 31, 2013.

<https://semanariouniversidad.com/suplementos/forja/arturo-ripstein-siempre-pretend-filmar-como-escriba-faulkner/>

Dissertation: “Novelando en el periódico y reportando en la novela de América Latina”. Harvard University, May 2013. 336 pages.

“Faces of Latin America”. Photo essay published in: *Romance Sphere*. Harvard University. November, 2011. This is a photo essay about working class people in Latin America.

“Investigative journalism in Latin America: The Case of Costa Rica” (“Periodismo investigativo en América Latina: el caso de Costa Rica”. Master’s project. New York University. May, 2005.

Thesis: “La historia del reportaje en Costa Rica”. Dissertation for the title of “licenciado en periodismo”. Universidad de Costa Rica. San José, 2003.

“Borges y Afganistán”. Analysis about politics and communications. Published in: *Palabra clave*. Universidad de La Sabana. Volumen 73. No. 5. Colombia. 2001.

*El trópico seco reverdece (The dry tropics greens)*. Special report about poverty in Nicaragua. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-00-8. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Los magos del vetiver (Wizards of vetiver)*. Special report about poverty in Nicaragua. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-01-6. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Cae la tiranía del monocultivo (Monoculture tyranny falls)*. Special report about poverty in Honduras. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-05-9. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Los cafetaleros ecológicos (Ecological coffee planters)*. Special report about poverty in Honduras. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-06-0. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Innovadores del desarrollo (Innovators of development)*. Special report about poverty in Honduras. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-05-2. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Produciendo semillas (Producing seeds)*. Special report about poverty in Guatemala. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-04-4. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*De pastores a empresarios (Shepherds and entrepreneurs)*. Special report about poverty in Guatemala. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-03-06. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

*Agricultores se convierten en empresarios (Peasants and entrepreneurs)*. Special report about poverty in Costa Rica. Booklet edited by RUTA, United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). ISBN: 9968-866-06-7. San José, Costa Rica. 2001.

### **Work submitted for publication**

Article. “García Márquez’s literary smuggling in *The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor*”. In this essay, I show how in *The Story of a Shipwrecked Sailor*, the author challenges and subverts an accepted convention of journalism –its assumed opposition to fiction– but pressured by the weight of journalistic conventions, undertakes an operation of dissimulation in order to appear to abide by them. García Márquez engages in what a call literary smuggling, since he presents his report as a transcript of his conversations with the sailor, when the text was rather a literary experiment with fictional elements, tonalities and nuances. I dialogue with the ideas

of Hayden White, Aníbal González, and Catherine Gallagher to reflect on a phenomenon of two-way flows generated by the figure of the writer/journalist García Márquez, in which he novelizes or employs fiction techniques while writing for newspapers, and utilizes journalistic approaches and resources to write his novels. In this article, I focus specifically on the first component of this phenomenon. Submitted to Latin American Research Review (LARR). Status: In Review.

## Works in Progress

Book project to be completed in spring 2022. *Noveling in Newspapers and Reporting in Novels in Latin America*. This work investigates the imbrications and porosity between journalism and narrative fiction in Latin America. Specifically, it examines how three Latin American journalist-writers, Afonso de Lima Barreto (Brazil), José Marín Cañas (Costa Rica) and Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia) write in a fluid double-sided process of textual creation during the twentieth century. In their journalistic production, these writers include characters or situations that are false or imagined and, at the same time, while working in newspapers, write novels based on their journalistic reports. This discursive dialogism results in works with different degrees of hybridity that relativize the argument of those who see rigid boundaries between journalism and literature in Latin America. The literary figure of the journalist-writer, who produces narrative fiction while simultaneously working for newspapers, magazines and news services, is a deeply rooted tradition in Latin American letters. In this study, special attention is given to the complex deployment of reference, hyperbole, deception and lying. During the twentieth century, when Latin American newspapers strove to appear less politicized and more commercialized to readers, the journalist-writers continually masked their political views under the cloak of fact-oriented journalistic discourse. The book also analyzes genre borders and develops concepts like “favela de las letras” (“favela of letters”) and “diarismo mágico” (“magical journalism”).

Book Project. *Crónicas*. This non-fiction anthology comprises texts I wrote between 1998 and 2014 in San José (Costa Rica), New York, and Rio de Janeiro. Divided into three parts: interviews, profiles, and vignettes, some of these works were originally published by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), *La Nación*, *Semanario Universidad*. Interviewees include Mexican intellectual Carlos Monsiváis, Argentinian songwriter Facundo Cabral, and former Ecuadorian president, Abdalá Bucaram.

Article. “Fragmentos de memoria histórica y literatura en Centroamérica: zigzagueos entre ficción y no ficción”. Following peace agreements of the 1990s, Central America’s presence in the international mass media has faded progressively. Yet, the root causes of armed conflicts remain intact. Additionally, a climate of impunity prevails, as many human rights abusers have been held unaccountable. How is Central America addressing these open wounds? How are

processes of social disruption and healing depicted in literature? One literary technique of mourning is intertwining fiction and non-fiction. Through this lens, I analyze the novels *El material humano* by Rodrigo Rey Rosa, and *300* by Rafael Cuevas Molina.

Article. “Central American Journey to Healing: Movements and Displacements”. In 2012, Guatemalan filmmaker Sergio Ramírez launched *Distancia (Distance)*, which recounts the journey of an indigenous peasant who reunites with his daughter after twenty years. A survivor of Guatemala's civil war, the peasant believed his daughter had died until he learns that she was kidnapped by paramilitary forces. This paper explores the man's journey as an allegory for different aspects of displacement experienced by indigenous Guatemalans in modern history. In particular, it analyzes linguistic, ethnic and emotional forms of distance, both physical and symbolic.

Book project: *Introduction to Central American Literature*

In collaboration with Professor Werner Mackenbach of the University of Costa Rica, I am developing an introductory anthology of Central American literature for American university students. While general books on Latin American literature abound, there is a dearth of books on literature of the Central American isthmus. Thanks to works such as *Popol Vuh*, and core Central American authors such as Rubén Darío and Miguel Ángel Asturias, some Central American works are included in most literary anthologies on Latin America. Nonetheless, mainstream attention to Central American literary production – its history, context, and main authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, is lacking. This project aims to fill that gap. It will contain a selection of major works by Central American authors, a brief biography on each writer with historical, social, and cultural context, a selection of representative texts, and a series of questions and exercises.

## Presentations

“El monstruo y la postmemoria en la película *Nuestras Madres* del director guatemalteco César Díaz”. *International Bicentennial Congress: challenges and prospects for the future of Central America*. “Congreso Internacional del Bicentenario: retos y perspectivas del futuro de Centroamérica”. San José, Costa Rica. September 29, 2021.

“Raíces y rizomas en las literaturas caribeñas”. *Virtual interview with Dr. Werner Mackenbach*. “Connected Worlds: The Caribbean, Origin of the Modern World”. Project of the European Union. Red TransCaribe. CIHAC. February 4, 2021.

“Guerra, violencia y paz en la literatura centroamericana contemporánea”. *Colloquium Representaciones de la violencia en la literatura centroamericana*, University of Costa Rica. Organized by Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de Centroamérica (CIHAC). San José, Costa Rica. June 14, 2019.

“Migrando hacia la memoria histórica: tránsitos y dislocaciones en la película guatemalteca *Distancia* de Sergio Ramírez”. *Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*. Boston, Massachusetts. May 26, 2019.

*Teaching Squares*, University of Dallas. Initiative organized by Dr. John Osoinach, in which faculty from different fields attend colleagues’ classes to learn and share best teaching practices. Irving, Texas. March 2019.

“Cities and Favelas: The Case of Lima Barreto”. *Fourth Annual Colloquium: Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México / University of Dallas*. The City: Ancient Roots and Contemporary Realities. Irving, Texas. November 1-2, 2018.

“La ficción de la historia y la historia de la ficción: una relectura del clásico de la literatura Mamita Yunai de Carlos Luis Fallas”. Guest lecturer at University of Costa Rica. Organized by Casa de las Cátedras Internacionales. San José, Costa Rica. June 15, 2018.

“Memoria histórica y literatura en Centroamérica: zigzagueos entre ficción y no ficción”. Paper presented at the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Barcelona, Spain. May, 23 2018.

“Cicatrices en la Centroamérica del siglo XXI en la prosa de Miguel Huevo Mixco y Maurice Echeverría”. Paper presented at the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). New York. May 27, 2016.

“Violencia y memoria en Centroamérica: la ficción y la no ficción entrelazadas en El material humano de Rodrigo Rey Rosa”. Paper presented at the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Chicago, Illinois. May 22, 2014.

“El diarismo mágico o el uso de la hipérbole en el periodismo de García Márquez”. Presented during the XII Coloquio Literario de la Feria Internacional del Libro de Monterrey on Gabriel García Márquez, Monterrey, Mexico. October 17, 2014.

“El periodismo hiperbólico o el *diarismo mágico* en Gabriel García Márquez (Hyperbolic journalism or magical journalism in Gabriel García Márquez). Guest speaker at the Post-Graduate Seminary organized by King’s College, London, United Kingdom. February 27, 2013.

“Perrozompopo: non-conformist migrant music after the Sandinista Revolution”. Paper presented at the Conference Narratives of Migration and Exile. King’s College, London, United Kingdom. February 21, 2013.

“El contrabando literario entre fronteras nebulosas: periodismo y literatura en América Latina” (“Literary contraband between nebulous frontiers: journalism and literature in Latin America”.) Guest speaker at the Post-Graduate Seminary organized by King’s College, London, United Kingdom. October 24, 2012.

“El surgimiento de un nuevo intelectual: periodismo y literatura en América Latina”. Paper presented at the Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Rio de Janeiro. June 14, 2009.

“El escritor Miguel Ángel Asturias y su hijo el guerrillero Rodrigo Asturias: Hombres de raíz”. Paper presented at 32nd Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association. Bahia, Brazil. May 28, 2007.

### **Research Grants Received**

King/Haggar Scholar Award, University of Dallas. January 2021.

King/Haggar Scholar Award, University of Dallas. January 2020.

King/Haggar Scholar Award, University of Dallas. January 2019.

King/Haggar Scholar Award, University of Dallas. January 2018.

Jorge Paulo Lemann Fellowship for research in Brazil, Harvard University. USD 18,000. Academic year 2009-2010.

David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, Harvard University. Research in Brazil. Summers 2008 and 2010.

Nancy Clark Smith Fund, Harvard University. Research grant in Brazil. Summers 2006, 2007 and 2010.

### **Service**

**Spanish Upper-Division Coordinator:** Academic year 2020-2021. Responsibilities include but are not limited to preparing the Spanish course schedule in collaboration with the Lower-Division Coordinator; scheduling events for concentrators and majors; organizing the Senior Project class; writing, scheduling, and grading comprehensive exams, revising theses drafts, and conducting interviews with the department’s scholarship candidates.

**Spanish Lower-Division Coordinator:** Academic year 2019-2020. Responsibilities included but were not limited to updating all Spanish language syllabi; designing a new syllabus for First-Year Spanish I, due to the adoption of a

new text book; devising course schedules in coordination with the Upper-Division Coordinator; overseeing operations of the Spanish Tutoring Center, including the hiring, training and management of twelve tutors in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources.

**Faculty Mentor:** Mentor to undergraduate residence (Gregory) during academic year 2019-2020. Coordinated campus events with two resident assistants.

**Director of Costa Rica Study Abroad Program:** Liaised with partner institution, Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, to develop and oversee 2019 program operations. In-situ, monitored program operations June 3-19, 2018, and taught UD's intensive course in June 2019. The summer 2020 program was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Faculty Representative:** Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid.

### **Memberships**

- Modern Languages Association. 2014 – Present.
- Latin American Studies Association. 2009 – Present.