

**Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert:
Borderlands Narratives about Identity and Binationalism**

National Endowment for the Humanities and The University of Texas at El Paso
2017 Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers (Grades 6th–12th)

E-Portfolio Project

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Department of English
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction, Bilingual/Multilingual and Bicultural/Biliteracy Studies
University of Connecticut, 2001

M.A., English, American and Ethnic Literatures
The University of Texas at Austin, 1999

B.A., Modern Languages and Literatures (Spanish Area Studies)
Kenyon College, 1997

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

Border Narratives, Socially Responsible Literacy; Teacher Education; Bilingualism and Biliteracy; Mixed-Methods Research; Children's and Young Adult Literatures; Reading/Literacies; Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning; Postsecondary Readiness; Digital Media and Disciplinary Literacies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: TEACHING AND RESEARCH

2013–present

Assistant Professor, Department of English, The University of Texas at El Paso

2010–2013

Lead Research Associate, Learning Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin

2009–2011

Content Specialist and Consultant for Language Arts, Reading, American Council

on Education, General Educational Development (GED®) Testing Service

2010–2013

Lecturer, School of Undergraduate Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

2009–2010

Research Associate and Learning Outcomes Specialist, Accreditation and Assessment Services, Learning Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin

2010–2013

Lecturer, School of Undergraduate Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

2008–2009

Instructional Supervisor, Languages and Test Preparation, Houston Community College System, Southeast College

2006–2008

Instructor, San Jacinto Community College District, Houston and Pasadena, Texas

1999–2009

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Houston

2003

Classroom Teacher, Head Start/Early Head Start, Houston, Texas

2001–2003

Research Specialist, Houston Independent School District, Houston, Texas

1997–1999

Classroom Teacher, High School English, Austin ISD, Austin, Texas

PUBLICATIONS

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

Rodríguez, R. J. (2017). *Enacting adolescent literacies across communities: Latino/a scribes and their rites*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2016). Coming of age in the classroom: Representations of teacher education in short fiction by Toni Cade Bambara and Sandra Cisneros. In M. Schoffner (Ed.), *Exploring teachers in fiction and film: Saviors, scapegoats and schoolmarms*. New York: Routledge.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2016). 'Whose democracy is this, anyway?': Teaching literacies of responsibility and sustainability for democracy, decency, and mindfulness. In P. R. Carr, P. L. Thomas, B. Porfilio, and J. Gorlewski (Eds.) (pp. 149-164), *Democracy and decency: What does education have to do with it?*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2014). 'Locate your body in the world and pay attention': An interview with Chicano poet Rigoberto González. *Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the Center for Latino Research, DePaul University*, 17(2), 87-92.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2014). 'We end our hunger for justice!': Selfhood and social responsibility in the Hunger Games trilogy. In S. P. Connors (Ed.), *The Politics of Panem: Critical perspectives on the Hunger Games, Challenging Authors and Genres Series* (P.L. Thomas, Series Ed.) (pp. 157-165). Amsterdam: Sense Publishers.

Hinton-Johnson, K., & Rodríguez, R. J. (2014). 'I was carrying the burden of my race.': Reading matters of race and hope in YA literature by Walter Dean Myers and Sherman Alexie. In C. A. Hill (Ed.), *The critical merits of young adult literature: Coming of age* (pp. 92-114). New York: Routledge.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2013). 'Muy listo y bien educado': Literacies from home into the classroom. *Impressions, Ruminations, Treatises*. Andover, MA: Institute for Recruitment of Teachers, Phillips Academy, 1(1), 80-88.

Rodríguez, R. J. (2013). Chapter 6, Bullying and harassment prevention in the lives of Latino and Latina students. In s.j. Miller, L. Burns, & T.S. Johnson. (Eds.), *Generation BULLIED 2.0: Prevention and intervention strategies for our most vulnerable students*, Gender and Sexualities Studies Series (D. Carlson and E. Meyer, Eds.) (pp. 85-98). New York: Peter Lang.

DIGITAL LITERACY DIALOGUES AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROJECTS

Codex Journal: Poetry for the 21st Century, National Poetry Month (2015)

Available at: <http://codexjournal.com/national-poetry-month-2015-introduction/>

Colorín Colorado / Reading Rockets: Meet the Experts (2015)

Available at: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/multimedia/experts/video/rodriguez/>

Reading Latino/a Poets at UTEP Project (2015)

Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ9N8KcsV4jxPBxDyUqyeYA>

RECOGNITION: HONORS AND AWARDS

2015 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), College Section Steering Committee, Service Award, 2012–2015

2015 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Conference on College

Composition and Communication (CCCC) Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

External

2016–2017

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Programs in the Humanities for School and College Educators, Division of Education Programs

Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert: Borderlands Narratives about Identity and Binationalism at The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas

2017 Summer Institute for Secondary School Teachers (Grades 6–12), \$132,262

Principal Investigator and Director: R. Joseph Rodríguez (Department of English)

Director: Ignacio Martínez (Department of History)

<http://borderlandsnarratives.utep.edu>

2016

Early Career Faculty Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions, Graduate School of Education, ELEVATE Fellowship Program (Enrich Learning, Enhance Visibility, And Train Educators), Faculty Development Program

<http://www2.gse.upenn.edu/cmsi/ELEVATE>

2016

Teacher Consultant-Fellow, Central Texas Writing Project (National Writing Project),

2016 Invitational Summer Institute, Texas State University, San Marcos

<http://www.education.txstate.edu/ci/ctwp/>

2012–2013

Research Study: *Latino Literacies*. National Council of Teachers of English, Research Foundation, \$2,500. Principal investigator.

Internal

2016

UTEP Library, Information Literacy Course Enhancement Grant (Summer 2016) for ENGL 3306 Young Adult Literature Course. \$3,000. Principal investigator.

2015

UTEP College of Liberal Arts, Grant Proposal Preparation Program (GPPP)

Single-Course Release, Grant Writing

2015

Research Study: *Exploring Students' Conceptions about Engineering Research and Scientific Writing*. UTEP Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, \$1,000. Co-investigator.

2014

Research Study: *U.S.–Latino Adolescents and Their Literacies*. UTEP University Research Institute, \$4,394. Principal investigator.

EDITORIAL REVIEW BOARDS: REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS

2018–2023 Coeditor, *English Journal*

2015–present *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice* (Literacy Research Association)

2015–present *Research in the Teaching of English* (National Council of Teachers of English)

2008–present *English Journal* (National Council of Teachers of English)

2012–2013 *Bilingual Research Journal* (National Association for Bilingual Education)

2007 *English Education* (National Council of Teachers of English)

1999–2004 *MELUS: Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States*

SCHOLARLY AND PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Reaching Every Writer and Keeping Writers in Motion: ‘Yes, You CAN Write!’, chair. National Council of Teachers of English, Annual Convention [Theme: “Teaching Our Students Today, Tomorrow, Forever: Recapturing Our Voices, Our Agency, Our Mission”], St. Louis, Missouri, November 2017. [forthcoming]

Identity Making in Teacher Education: Rethinking Culture, Equity and Literacies, panelist. National Council of Teachers of English, Annual Convention [Theme: “Teaching Our Students Today, Tomorrow, Forever: Recapturing Our Voices, Our Agency, Our Mission”], St. Louis, Missouri, November 2017. [forthcoming]

Shh! We have a plan: Classroom literacies and community advocacy to teach English language arts POWERFULLY, chair. National Council of Teachers of English, Annual Convention [Theme: “The Faces of Advocacy”], Atlanta, Georgia, November 2016.

¡Ojo! Latino characters as advocates: Bilingual, culturally relevant chapter books, respondent. National Council of Teachers of English, Annual Convention [Theme: “Faces of Advocacy”], Atlanta, Georgia, November 2016.

Connecting students to community in first-year composition, chair. NCTE Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) [Theme: “Writing Strategies for Action”], Houston, Texas, April 2016.

Introductory remarks: Author Guadalupe García McCall. Texas Association for Literacy Education, Literacy Summit [Theme: “Literacy Research and Practice 2016: Celebration 20 Years of What’s Hot?”], San Antonio, Texas, February 2016.

Teaching with Guadalupe García McCall's Novels: Under the Mesquite (2012) and *Summer of the Mariposas* (2013). Texas Association for Literacy Education, Literacy Summit [Theme: "Literacy Research and Practice 2016: Celebration 20 Years of What's Hot?"], San Antonio, Texas, February 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (face-to-face, hybrid/blended, and fully-online learning formats)

2013–present

Assistant Professor, College of Liberal Arts, Department of English

Literacy and English Education Program, The University of Texas at El Paso

Undergraduate-Level Courses:

ENGL 3306 Young Adult Literature

ENGL 3350 English Laboratory

ENGL 4033 Undergraduate Research

ENGL 4340 Advanced Literacy Studies

ENGL 4354 Writing Processes of Children

ENGL 4355 Teaching Composition and Literature in the Secondary Schools

Graduate-Level Courses:

ENGL 5340 Literature for Youth

ENGL 5341 English Education in the Borderlands

ENGL 5344 Integrated Teaching Methods

ENGL 5380 Special Topics in English Education: Cultural Studies in English

ENGL 5393 Practicum in English Education

ENGL 5394 MAT Written Examination

ENGL 5399 Thesis

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS: COMMUNITY AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Mining Books Discussion: Enrique's Journey by Sonia Nazario, discussion co-leader, The University of Texas at El Paso, Department of English, April 2015.

'Guides for those who follow us': 7 Practices for growth and leadership, presenter. The University of Texas at El Paso, Division of Student Affairs, Student Engagement and Leadership Center, UTEP L.I.V.E. (Leadership, Innovation, Vision, Engagement) Conference [Theme: "Mining Forward: Believe, Lead, Succeed"], February 2015.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED AND APPROVED

Resolution on Student Data Privacy and Security. Submitted in October 2015 to the Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors of the National Council of Teachers of English, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2015. Ratified by NCTE members in January 2016.

Resolution on the Dignity and Education of Immigrant, Undocumented, and Unaccompanied Youth. Submitted in October 2014. Approved by 2014 Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors of the National Council of Teachers of English, Washington, DC / National Harbor, MD, November 2014. Ratified by NCTE members in January 2015.

Resolution on Need for Diverse Children's and Young Adult Books. Submitted in October 2014. Approved by 2014 Resolutions Committee and Board of Directors of the National Council of Teachers of English, Washington, DC / National Harbor, MD, November 2014. Ratified by NCTE members in January 2015.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Selected Service to the Profession (National and State)

- 2016–present Texas State Teachers Association, Student Program, UTEP Chapter, Advisor
- 2015–2016 Facilitator, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship, Article/Chapter Subcommittee
- 2014–2015 Mentor, NCTE Conference on English Education (CEE), Mentor Program
- 2015 Member, NCTE *College English*, Editor Search Committee
- 2015 Member, NCTE Executive Director Search Committee
- 2014–2015 Member, NCTE Executive Committee, Subcommittee on Government Relations

Selected Service to the Profession (UTEP)

- 2015–present Faculty Senate, Office of the Provost, Senator (2015–2017 term)
- 2013–present Literacy and English Education Committee
- 2013–present Little Free Library Committee, Chair
- 2013–present Texas Examinations of Educator Standards™ (TExES™) and Educator Certification Readiness Committee
- 2013–2015 Center for Arts and Science Education Committee
- 2014 English Education Program, Faculty Search Committee

Selected Service to the Profession (State and Community)

- 2013–present Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS), El Paso ISD, El Paso, Texas
- 2009–present Founder and Chair, Libre con Libros
- 2001–2009 Volunteer in Public Schools (VIPS), Houston ISD, Houston, Texas

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English (ALAN)
- International Literacy Association (ILA), Special Interest Group–Network on Adolescent Literature (SIGNAL)

Literacy Research Association (LRA)
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
NCTE Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)
Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE)
Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE), International Literacy Association (ILA)
Council Affiliate
Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (TCTELA), NCTE Affiliate

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Software and Platform Knowledge

- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Banner
- Eduphoria
- iMovie
- Microsoft Office Suite 2010
 - Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word
- NVivo
- PeopleSoft
- Raptor
- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
- SurveyMonkey

Online Course Management Systems (CMSs)

- Adobe Connect, Blackboard, Blackboard Collaborate, Instructure Canvas

Web Development and Content Management Platforms

- Adobe Dreamweaver Creative Cloud, Drupal, SilverStripe

Languages

- Literary and linguistic studies in English and Spanish; excellent writing command of both languages.
- Proficient in the use of Special English for public broadcasting and writing as used by the U.S. government-sponsored news service Voice of America (VOA).