I specialize in 20th- and 21st-century Mexican and Central American narrative fiction, as well as in broad comparative areas that reach into other disciplines and traditions: Latina/o Studies, critical theory, political philosophy, and border and diaspora studies. My research is animated by questions of political agency, economic precarity, and the violence that obtains throughout waning national modernity, as well as by the ways in which literature shapes, critiques, and leverages burgeoning neoliberal globalization.

My dissertation analyzes the novels of Chilean-Mexican-Catalunyan author Roberto Bolaño and Honduran-Salvadoran-US-Latino author Horacio Castellanos Moya as a means of conceptualizing the rise of what I call post-national literature. By post-national literature, I refer to works that comment upon and critique, both formally and thematically, the shifting dynamics of the nation state as neoliberal globalization becomes the dominant ordering system of world relations. Throughout the dissertation, three overarching themes emerge that relate to the imbrication of politics, economics, and aesthetics in the neoliberal epoch. First, I examine Bolaño’s and Castellanos Moya’s literary rejections of Leftist militant reason and discuss how their novels implicate the Left in the rise of neoliberal globalization. Second, I undertake a sustained examination of Bolaño’s and Castellanos Moya’s engagement with literary and aesthetic traditions, particularly realism and the avant-garde, and I maintain that a dialectic emerges between their works and the literary past that opens a space to interrogate the place of aesthetic praxis as neoliberal globalization becomes ascendant. Third, I argue that their oeuvres constitute a new aesthetic regime of post-national literature.

My current book project draws on the work I began in my dissertation but shifts focus to consider how globalization is being leveraged—even embraced—by Latin American thinkers and artists as a means of critiquing and shaping world relations in the present epoch. Specifically, I examine the narrative fiction of authors Roberto Bolaño, Horacio Castellanos Moya, and Valeria Luiselli, and the work of installation artist Teresa Margolles. My research posits that these artists embrace the commodity status of their work as part of the global art market as a means of critiquing and destabilizing the boundaries between the Global North and South.

I developed this interdisciplinary, theoretically-grounded approach by pursuing a doctoral minor in Comparative Literature and through active participation in weekly reading groups at the Indiana University Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities.

My work examines the intersection of aesthetics, politics, and economics in the epoch of neoliberal globalization, particularly as relates to narrative fiction arising out of Mexico and Central America, as well as the diaspora groups of these regions.