

# DAMIÁN V. SOLANO ESCOLANO

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Indiana University, Bloomington

Doctoral Candidate (ABD)  
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

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Editorial Associate  
*Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures,  
Arts, and Cultures*, Latino Studies

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## Education

Ph.D. Hispanic Literatures, Indiana University, 2022 (Defense on September 22<sup>nd</sup>)  
Minor in Portuguese (Lusophone Literatures)

M.A. Hispanic Literatures, Indiana University, 2017

M.A. Teaching Spanish as a Second Language and other Modern Languages, University of Seville, Spain, 2015

Minor in Teaching English

Thesis: "Usage of Short Movies in Spanish as a Second Language with Communicative Purposes"

Director: Araceli López Serena

M.A. Literature and Theatre in the European Context, The National Distance Education University (UNED), Spain, 2014

Minor in Spanish and Hispanic American Literature

Thesis: "Poetics of the Group 'La otra sentimentalidad (Spain)'"

Director: Vicente Granados Palomares

B.A. Hispanic Philology, Complutense University of Madrid, University of Seville, Spain, 2012

## Dissertation

"Martyrdom and Testimony in Central America during the Cold War: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua (1970-1990)."

Focusing on the highly popular *testimonio* narratives that were key to Central American insurgency movements in the 70s and 80s, I examine recurrent rhetorical devices that weave together discourse, form, and political persuasion. My dissertation breaks new ground, arguing that testimonies engage readers' empathy by recreating scenes of horror, suffering and death that model militants have endured for the cause. Indeed, *testimonio* narrators present themselves not only as witnesses, but as bearers of the martyrs' memory and destiny. Through the analysis of over fifteen testimonies, my research reveals that martyrdom functioned as a meeting point between Liberation Theology and revolutionary Marxism. This middle ground thus appealed to and united heterogeneous groups around utopian nationalist projects. My interdisciplinary approach draws on past and contemporary Transatlantic discursive trends, in which pain and death play a fundamental proselytizing role.

Dissertation Committee: Kathleen Myers (director), Alejandro Mejías-López, Patrick Dove, Luciana Namorato, Carmen de Mora Valcárcel.

## Research and Teaching Areas

Contemporary Hispanic American and Iberian Literatures and Culture, including Portuguese.  
Early Modern Iberian Literature and Culture and Colonial Studies.  
Central American and Caribbean Studies.  
Comparative Cultural Studies, with a special interest in Film Studies.

## Publications

### Peer-reviewed Articles

"En el umbral del horror: Técnicas y funciones del terror en *Autobiografía del esclavo* de Juan Francisco Manzano." *Latin American Research Review*, vol. 56, no. 1, 2021, 113-125.  
"Miguel Mármol, aspirante a mártir marxista: Testimonio y verdad en *Miguel Mármol* (1972), de Roque Dalton." *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*, 2021. In Press.

### Conference Proceedings

"Tres instantáneas de la burguesía española: *Tormenta de verano* (1961), *Los alegres muchachos de Atzavara* (1987) y *Los aires difíciles* (2002)." *La diversidad en la literatura, el cine y la prensa española contemporánea*, edited by Fidel López Criado. Andavira, 2015, 79-86.  
"El movimiento Ultra: Un fracaso necesario." *Literatura, cine y prensa: El canon y su circunstancia*, edited by Fidel López Criado. Andavira, 2014, 69-76.  
"Luis García Montero: La poesía como historia sentimental de la humanidad." *La cuestión social. Literatura, cine y prensa*, edited by Fidel López Criado. Andavira, 2014, 80-87.

### Translations

Myers, Kathleen. *A Country of Shepherds: Cultural Geographies and Pastoralism in Contemporary Andalucía*. In progress.  
Dumas, Alexandre. *Napoleón*. Renacimiento, 2012.

### Reviews

Review of *The Global Spanish Empire: Five Hundred Years of Place Making and Pluralism*, edited by Christine Beaule and John G. Douglass. *Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures*. U of Arizona P, Spring 2021.  
Film review of *Tijuana Bible* (2019), by Jean-Charles Hue. *Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Fall 2020, 164-166.  
Film review of *El proyccionista* (2019), by José María Cabral. *Chasqui, Revista de literatura latinoamericana*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 2019, 102-104.

### Academic Blogs Posts

"Approaching Manzano's Autobiography." *Panoramas: Scholarly Platform*. University of Pittsburgh, April 19, 2021, <https://www.panoramas.pitt.edu/larr/approaching-manzano%E2%80%99s-autobiography>.

### Articles in Preparation

"Paisajes realistas desde el DeLorean: Fantasía y ciencia ficción en *Viaje a la aldea del crimen* (1934), de Ramón J. Sender."

"La llamada de la cruz: Martirio y evangelización en *Historia de Japón* (1601), de Marcelo de Ribadeneira."

"Simulacros de estrés comunicativo en el aula: Una tentativa con estudiantes estadounidenses."

## **University Teaching Experience**

Indiana University, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese (2015-21)

\*Responsible for course development and course materials

Introduction to Hispanic Literature (Hybrid/Spring 2021\*)

Introduction to Hispanic Cultures (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Online Zoom/Summer 2020\*)

Spanish Grammar in Context (Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)

Second-Year Spanish II (Fall 2016)

Second-Year Spanish I (Spring 2016)

First Year Spanish (Fall 2015)

University of Malta, Spanish and Latin American Studies (2012-14)

Responsible for course development and course materials

Spanish Literature II (Siglo de Oro) (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

The Theory and Forms of Literary Works (Spring 2013)

Women's Representation in Spanish Literature (Spring 2014)

A History of the Spanish Language (Fall 2012)

Grammatical Aspects of Spanish Language 2 (Fall 2013)

Grammatical Aspects of Spanish Language 5 (Fall 2012, Fall 2013)

Grammatical Aspects of Spanish Language 6 (Spring 2013)

## **Study Abroad Teaching and Coordination**

Indiana University, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

Responsible for course development and course materials

Introduction to Hispanic Cultures: The Cultural History of the Hispanic Caribbean,  
Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic (Summer 2019)

Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL)

Responsible for logistics, course development, and course materials

Literature Instructor and Finance Coordinator, Oviedo, Spain (Summer 2018)

Literature and Culture Instructor and Public Relations, Merida, Mexico (Summer 2017)

## **Awards, Fellowships and Grants**

Tinker Field Research Grant, "Interrelations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica: Cold War and Memory," Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), Indiana University, \$1,000 (Spring 2021).

Merle E. Simmons Research Fellowship, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University, Teaching Release (Fall 2020).

Dissertation-Year Fellowship, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University, \$18,000 (2019-20).

Research Internship, Prof. Carmen de Mora, University of Seville, Spain (2019-20).

Nominated for Doctoral Student Award for Academic Excellence, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (Spring 2018).

J. M. Hill Award for Outstanding Graduate Research Paper, "Autobiografía de un esclavo por Juan Francisco Manzano: La herida hecha texto," Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University, \$350 (Spring 2017).

Travel Grant, Webster University, Saint Louis, MO, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University, \$200 (Fall 2017).

Erasmus Internship, Dept. of Spanish and Latin American Studies, University of Malta, €15,500 (2012-13).

Summer Internship, Publishing House Renacimiento, Santander Bank, Spain, €3,300 (Summer 2012).

Training in editing academic and literary texts.  
Research Scholarship, “Approach to the poetics of Luis García Montero,” Ministry of Education, Spain, €2,700 (2012).

### **Conference and Workshop Presentations**

- “On Anarchism’s Rhetoric during the Second Spanish Republic: Fantasy and Science Fiction in *Viaje a la aldea del crimen* (1934), by Ramón J. Sender.” Midwest Modern Language Association. Milwaukee, WI (November 2021).
- “Comunidades martiriales en Nicaragua durante la Guerra Fría: Funciones del testimonio en el sandinismo.” Midwest Modern Language Association. Milwaukee, WI (November 2021).
- “Experiencia, discurso y martirio en testimonios de guerrillas en Centroamérica (1970-1990).” Literature and Culture Colloquium Series. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (April 2021).
- “Martyrdom and Testimonies in Central America during the Cold War.” 18th Annual Graduate Student Conference Diálogos. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (February 2021).
- “Arquitectura transtextual de los testimonios centroamericanos durante la Guerra Fría: Análisis de ejemplos y una tentativa de teorización.” I Jornadas Internacionales de Estudios Críticos sobre Literatura Latinoamericana. University of Seville, Spain (November 2019).
- “Creación y percepción de los otros: Una reflexión sobre los estereotipos y sus peligros.” Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra, Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic (July 2019). Workshop on stereotypes with American, Dominican, and Haitian students and faculty members.
- “Miguel Mármol, aspirante a mártir marxista: Testimonio y verdad en Miguel Mármol (1972), de Roque Dalton.” Latin American Studies Association, LASA, University of Pittsburg, Boston, MA (May 2019).
- “(Micro)excepcionalidades en la Globalización: El caso de la autobiografía de Rigoberta Menchú.” KFLC: The Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Conference University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (April 2018).
- “En el umbral del horror: Técnicas de terror en *Autobiografía de un esclavo* de Juan Francisco Manzano.” 67th Annual Conference Midwest Association for Latin American Studies, MALAS. Webster University, Saint Louis, MO (October 2017).
- “Castigo e prisão em *Amor de perdição* de Camilo Castelo Branco.” OSU Annual Symposium 2017. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (March 2017).
- “Una lectura política de *El recurso del método* de Alejo Carpentier: El Primer Magistrado frente al Estudiante.” 13th Annual Graduate Student Conference Diálogos 13. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (February 2016).
- “Tres instantáneas de la burguesía española: *Tormenta de verano* (1961), *Los alegres muchachos de Atzavara* (1987) y *Los aires difíciles* (2002). XVI International Congress of Contemporary Spanish Literature. XVI CILEC. Cambridge University, UK (June 2015).
- “El movimiento Ultra: Un fracaso necesario.” XV International Congress of Contemporary Spanish Literature. XV CILEC. University Complutense of Madrid, Spain (June 2014).
- “Luis García Montero: La poesía como historia sentimental de la humanidad.” XIV International Congress of Contemporary Spanish Literature. XIV CILEC. University of La Coruna, Spain (June 2013).

## **Related Professional Experience**

Editorial Associate, *Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures*, Latino Studies, Indiana University (2021-22).

Pre-review assessments, communication with authors and Editorial Team.

Online logistics and text formatting.

Cultural Unit Designer, Student Teaching Overseas in Avila, Spain, School of Education, Indiana University (Summer 2020).

Research Assistant, Prof. Kathleen Myers, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (2018-21).

Spanish Language and Culture Teacher, Dept. of Gerontology & Dementia Studies, University of Malta (EU), Spanish for beginners, Elderly students (2012-14).

Exam Designer and Grader, The Matriculation and Secondary Education Certificate (MATSEC), University of Malta (2012-14).  
Maltese University Access Tests.

## **Professional Service**

Co-Chair (2021-22), Communications Officer (2020-21), Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC), Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University.

Liaison with graduate students, and advice for Chair, transparency measures.

Graduate Student Research Conference (Diálogos): Keynotes, Panels, Online logistics.

Departmental Conversation Group Coordinator, “Café Hispano”, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (2021-22, 2018-19).

Changed the location to a room at the Department, obtained funding for snacks and drinks.

Graduate Student Mentor, GSAC, Indiana University (2016-17, 2021-22).

Invited Presenter, “The Job Market in Covid's Times”, Professionalization Workshop Series, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (Fall 2021).

Session Organizer (accepted for Special Session), "Anarchism in Hispanic Cultural Production", Midwest Modern Language Association. Milwaukee, WI (November 2021).

Panel Moderator, Transatlantic Readings of Hegemony and Transnationalism, Graduate Student Research Conference, Diálogos 18, Indiana University (Spring 2021).

Workshop Co-organizer, MA Hispanic Literatures Exams, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (Fall 2020).

Panel Moderator, Special Undergraduate Panel, Graduate Student Research Conference, Diálogos 16, Indiana University (Spring 2019).

Radio Host and Discussant, “Los hispanos toman la palabra”, Program *Hola, Bloomington* in WHFB, Bloomington, IN (Fall 2018).

Panel Moderator, *Twentieth Century Politics and Cultural Studies*, Graduate Student Research Conference, Diálogos 15, Indiana University (Spring 2018).

Film Series Co-organizer, “Behind the Scenes: Contemporary Spanish Society on Film” Presentation before the screening”, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Indiana University (Fall 2017).

Film Presenter: *Grupo 7, No habrá paz para los malvados, La comunidad*.

## **Pedagogy**

Translator, Task-based Spanish Specials Program for Southwest Dubois County, Indiana, directed by Prof. Laura Gurzynski-Weiss, Indiana University (Fall 2021).

“Make Them Suffer, Make Them Learn: Rapid Vocabulary Exposure in the News.” IU Foreign/Second Language Share Fair Spring 2019. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (March 2019). Practical Presentation.

B.A. Thesis Advisor, Spanish and Latin American Studies, University of Malta (2012-14).  
Advised three undergraduate students’ theses.

## **Academic Affiliations**

Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), 2021-Present.  
Asociación Canadiense de Hispanistas (ACH), 2020-Present.  
Latin American Studies Association (LASA), 2018–Present.

## **Languages**

Spanish: Native  
English: Near-Native  
Portuguese: Advanced (CAPLE C1)

French: Writing and reading knowledge  
Italian and Catalan: Reading knowledge

## **References**

Katheen Myers (Director), Professor and Director of  
Graduate Studies and Hispanic Literature Program  
355 N. Jordan Ave, GISB 2100  
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Indiana University, Bloomington  
(812) 855-5027, myersk@indiana.edu

Patrick Dove, Professor  
355 N. Jordan Ave, GISB 2171  
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese,  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
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Alejandro Mejías-López, Associate Professor  
355 N. Jordan Ave, GISB 2167  
Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese,  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
(812) 856-1059, amejiasl@indiana.edu