

APPOINTMENTS

- 2015 – present: Associate Professor of History at Boston College
- 2011 - 2015: Assistant Professor of History at Boston College
- 2009-2011: Assistant Professor of History and Affiliate Assistant Professor of Romance Languages and Literature, University of Cincinnati

EDUCATION

- 2009: University of California, Berkeley: Ph.D. in History
- 2000: St. Antony's College, Oxford: M.Phil. Latin American Studies
- 1998: Brown University: B.A. Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

Funding:

- 2018, Spring: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University: Central America Visiting Scholar
- 2103, 2014, and 2016: Boston College Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship (Research Assistantship)
- 2011-2012: Taft Annual Fellowship from the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (declined)
- 2010: Taft Summer Fellowship from the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
- 2008-2009: Mabelle McLeod Lewis Dissertation Fellowship
- 2008-2009: Mellon ACLS Dissertation Fellowship (declined)
- 2006-2007: Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2004-2008: Graduate Diversity Fellowship at UC Berkeley
- 2003-2004: Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies awarded by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation
- 1998-2000: Marshall Scholarship awarded by the Marshall Commission

Awards and Honors:

- 2018: D. Scott Palmer Best Edited Volume Prize by NECLAS – New England Council of Latin American Studies – for Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America
- 2015: Honorable mention, NECLAS Book Prize (for Distance and Documents at the Spanish Empire's Periphery)
- 2008: Julia Ward Howe Book Award (for When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep)
- 2008: Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
- 2003: Robie Macauley Prize (for “A Correspondence”)

PUBLICATIONS

Published Books:

Academic

The Woman on the Windowsill: A Tale of Mystery in Several Parts. Yale University Press, February 2020. *A study of a criminal case from Guatemala in 1800.*

Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America: Synoptic Methods and Practices, University of New Mexico Press, 2017. Co-edited with Karen Melvin. *A collection of essays on methodology and historical practice.*

Distance and Documents at the Spanish Empire's Periphery, Stanford University Press, 2014. *A monograph examining the conception of distance in the Spanish empire. Based on doctoral research.*

Fiction

When the Ground Turns in Its Sleep, Riverhead Books, 2007. *A literary novel focusing on events in the Guatemalan armed conflict.* Please see <http://www.sellersgarcia.com> for reviews.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters:

"Distance, Bureaucracy, and Death: Archival Acts." In *Archives and Information in the Early Modern World*, edited by Liesbeth Corens, Kate Peters, and Alexandra Walsham. Oxford University Press, 2018.

"Writing Style and Audience," in *Imagining Histories of Colonial Latin America*, 2017.

"The Biography of a Colonial Document: Creation, Mobility, Preservation, Politics, Research." *Latin American History Oxford Research Encyclopedia* (December 2016).

"The Mail in Time: Postal Routes and Conceptions of Distance in Colonial Guatemala." *Colonial Latin America Review* 21, no. 1 (Spring 2012): 77-99.

Editorially Reviewed Essays and Articles:

"How Things Disappear," *Sewanee Review* Vol. CXXVIII, no. 2 (Spring 2020). *An essay addressing the national archives crisis in Guatemala.*

"Descripción del Reyno de Guatemala (1818) – A Presidential Primer" *Mesoamerica* 52 (Summer 2012): 94-125. *An introductory essay and transcription of Ramón de Anguiano's description of Guatemala.*

"The Criminal Record," *Virginia Quarterly Review* 85, no. 1 (January 2009). *An essay examining family history and the AHPN (National Police Archive of Guatemala).*

"History into Fiction," *Berkeley Review of Latin American Studies* (Spring, 2008).

"A Correspondence," *Story Quarterly* 39 (2003).

Digital Humanities Projects in Progress:

Reading the Inquisition – an online teaching resource featuring a collection of transcribed and translated documents from the American inquisitions. In collaboration with Karen Melvin.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS: 2010 TO PRESENT

2020, January. "Beyond Imagining: Cases of Uncommon Violence in Colonial Guatemala." Panel paper presented at the *Conference on Latin American History*, New York, NY.

2019, October. "Three Dismemberments." Paper presented at *Horror & Enchantment*, University of Michigan.

2019, May: Co-organizer of *Ghost Writers*, a workshop conference on early modern authorship held Boston College with funding from the Institute from the Liberal Arts.

- 2019, May: "Death of an Idol." Paper presented at *Ghost Writers*, Boston College.
- 2017, November: "Making Paper at the Margins." Invited talk at Lisbon University.
- 2017, September: "The Woman in the Window." Invited talk at the Cornell University Latin American Studies Program: https://youtu.be/_u_2o-brW5E
- 2017, May: "Analysis, Evidence, and Passion: Discovering a Corpse in 1800." Panel paper presented at the *American Association for the History of Medicine*, Nashville, TN.
- 2017, May: Keynote speaker for the *Paper Technologies* conference: <http://papertechnologies.neogranadina.org>
- 2017, January: "Destruction in the Archives." Panel paper presented at the *American Historical Association*, Denver, CO.
- 2016, December: "Finding Windows in the Archive," Invited talk for *Paper in the Early Modern Atlantic World*, held at the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute.
- 2016, May: "Latin American Archive Stories" Roundtable presentation at *Latin American Studies Association*, New York, NY.
- 2016, March-April: "Sanctity, Scandal, and Urban Space." Panel paper presented at the *Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies*, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2015, April: "Distance and the Lives of Documents." Invited talk at Wellesley College.
- 2014: "Bodies and Water Lilies: A Criminal Case from Guatemala City in 1800." Panel paper presented at the *New England Council of Latin American Studies*, Connecticut College, CT.
- 2013: "A State of Violence: Bourbon Justice in Spanish American Cities." Panel paper presented at the *Conference on Latin American History*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2012, March: "Dangerous Distance: Social Crimes and Moral Failings in the Archbishop's Guatemala." Invited talk at Bates College.
- 2010: Roundtable on Central American independence. *American Historical Association/ Conference on Latin American History*, San Diego, CA.

SELECTED SERVICE: 2011 TO PRESENT

Internal at Boston College

- June, 2020 (appointed): University Core Committee
- Fall 2018: Committee chair, Modern Latin America search committee
- Fall 2016 to present: University Council on Teaching
- 2016-2017: Faculty Grievance Committee
- Fall 2016 to 2017: Cultural Diversity Task Force under the direction of Assoc. Dean Julian Bourg
- Fall 2016: Committee chair, Tenure review committee for Dr. Priya Lal
- Spring 2016: Strategic Planning Committee
- Fall 2015: Committee member, Fourth-year review committee for Dr. Thomas Dodman
- Fall 2014 to present: History Department Graduate Committee
- Fall 2014 to 2018: Faculty Advisor for *The Other Americas*
- Spring 2013: History Department Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee
- Fall 2012 to Spring 2014: History Department Core Curriculum Committee

Fall 2012 to 2017: History Department Lecture Committee

Spring 2012 to 2016: Faculty Advisor for the Boston College Brazil Club

Spring 2012 to 2016: Faculty Advisor for the History Department's Gender in the Academic Workplace group

Fall 2012-Spring 2013: Committee member, Eighteenth-century Europe search committee

Fall 2012-2015: Faculty interviewer for the Fulbright Scholarship on behalf of the University Fellowships Committee

Fall 2012: Faculty Advisor for Phi Alpha Theta

Fall 2011 to Spring 2014: History Department Undergraduate Committee

External Service

2013-present: Northeast Region Marshall Scholarship Committee – Selection Committee

Summer 2016: Committee member, NECLAS Marysa Navarro Best Book Prize committee

Fall 2019 to present: Occasional translation and accompaniment for BIJAN (Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network)

SELECTED COURSES: 2009-PRESENT

- *Latin America between Fact and Fiction*: An upper-division mixed lecture/discussion course focusing on the colonial and modern periods and considering questions of method, evidence, and disciplinary boundaries.
- *Memoir of Latin America*: Developed initially as an independent study with three students, this research seminar imagines the history of Latin America, from the fifteenth century to the present, through autobiography and memoir.
- *Truth-telling in History*: Part of the renewed core pilot program and taught in conjunction with Professor Allison Adair's "Truth-telling in Literature," this course for first-year students addresses the core question "is it possible to tell the truth about the past?"
- *Chocolate and Sugar, Silver and Gold -- Latin America and its Commodity Empires*: A senior seminar considering the intertwined histories of empires and the commodities that shaped them: gold, sugar, chocolate, silver, bananas, rubber, and coffee.
- *Archives and Sources*: A graduate course combining methodology and historiography, focusing on the politics, theory, history, and practice of archives.
- *Early Maps and Distant Places*: Part of the "Making History Public" series, this undergraduate course curates a collection of early maps from the Burns Rare Books Library.
- *Writing the Conquest of the Americas*: A research seminar on how the conquest of Latin America has been written and rewritten over the course of two centuries.
- *Travelers in Latin America*: An upper-division course focusing on travelers in Latin America from the colonial period to the present. Readings include novels, travel diaries, and journalistic accounts.
- *The Inquisition in Spain and Spanish America*: An upper-division course focusing on the history of the Inquisition in Spain and the Americas. Primary sources and scholarly works introduce students to the social, political, and cultural history of the period.
- *Latin America in the World*: A History Core class focusing on Latin America and touching upon the related histories of Europe and Africa.

- *Colonial Latin America*: A lecture survey focusing on Latin America from the pre-Columbian period to the early 19th century. With the objective of introducing non-majors to the field, this course is built around primary source readings.
- *Latin America – The Long 19th Century*: The continuation of the survey course focusing on early Latin America, this quarter-long course focuses on the “long” 19th century.
- *The Land of Eternal Spring – Guatemala and the Cold War*: This course introduces students to the practice of history through the study of primary documents and scholarly work that focus on Guatemala during the Cold War.
- *Introduction to the Historiography of Colonial Latin America*: A graduate seminar designed to introduce masters and doctoral students to the field of colonial Latin American history.