

Dr. Cathryn Josefina Merla-Watson

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies
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EDUCATION

PhD, The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011
Major: American Studies

MA, The University of Texas - San Antonio, 2005
Major: English

EMPLOYMENT

Academic - P-12

English Teacher, John Jay High School, Northside Independent School District (December 12, 2001 - May 31, 2002)

Academic - Post-Secondary

Visiting Assistant Professor, UTPA (September 1, 2013 - May 31, 2014)

Lecturer, Texas A&M University, San Antonio (September 1, 2009 - May 31, 2013)

Adjunct, UTSA (September 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012)

Adjunct, Baptist University of the Americas (September 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012)

Instructor of Record and TA, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (September 1, 2005 - May 31, 2009)

Teaching and Research Assistant, UTSA (September 1, 2002 - May 31, 2005)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Cathryn Merla-Watson and Ben Olguín. *Altermundos: Latin@ Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture (Aztlán Anthology)*. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center in conjunction with University of Washington Press, 2017.
https://www.amazon.com/Altermundos-Speculative-Literature-Popular-Anthology/dp/0895511630/ref=sr_1_l1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504657237&sr=8-1&keywords=altermundos

Cathryn Merla-Watson. *The Latinx Gothic and Performing Apocalyptic Affect*.

Book Chapters

Cathryn Merla-Watson and Ben Olguín. "Altermundos: Reassessing the Past, Present, and Future of the Latin@ Speculative Arts." *Book Chapter: Altermundos: Latin@ Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture (Aztlán Anthology)*. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center Press, 2017: 1st th ed., 1-36.
https://www.amazon.com/Altermundos-Speculative-Literature-Popular-Anthology/dp/0895511630/ref=sr_1_l1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504657237&sr=8-1&keywords=altermundos

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "'(Trans)Mission Possible: Project MASA, Chican@futurism, and Hallucinating Altermundos." *Chapter in a book: Altermundos: Latin@ Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture (Aztlán Anthology)*. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) Washington : UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center in conjunction with University of Washington Press, 2017: 1st th ed., 352-370.
https://www.amazon.com/Altermundos-Speculative-Literature-Popular-Anthology/dp/0895511630/ref=sr_1_l1?ie=UTF8&qid=1504657237&sr=8-1&keywords=altermundos

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Actos del Corazón: Las Sabias, Bridging the Digital Divide, and Redefining Historic Preservation." *Chapter in a book*. Andrew Jolivet (Ed.) Bristol: Policy Press, 2015: 1st th ed., 240. <https://policypress.co.uk/research-justice>

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Revolutionary Love: Bridging Differential Terrains of Empire." *The Un/Making of Americans: Citizenship, Cultural Politics, and The Neoliberal State*. 2014:

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "haunted by voices: Historical Im/Materialism and Anzaldúa's Mestiza Consciousness." *El Mundo Zurdo* 3. 2013:

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Hacienda Caras: The Alter-Native Illuminations of Laura Varela and Vaago Weiland's Enlight-Tent." *Latina Outsiders: Remaking Latina Identity*. Routledge,

Journal Articles

Cathryn Merla-Watson. The Altermundos of Latin@ Speculative Fiction. *Alluvium*: 21st Century Writing, 21st Century Approaches: *Alluvium*. (March 2017)
<https://www.alluvium-journal.org/2017/03/15/the-altermundos-of-latinfuturism/>

Cathryn Merla-Watson and Ben Olguín. Aztlán Thematic Dossier: Latin@ Speculative Aesthetics. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) *AZTLÁN: A JOURNAL OF CHICANO STUDIES*. 40, no. 2 (March 2016): 143-268. <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/aztlán-journal-chicano-studies-0>

Cathryn Merla-Watson and Ben Olguín. From the Horrific to the Utopic: Pan-Latin@ Speculative Poetics and Politics. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) *AZTLÁN: A JOURNAL OF CHICANO STUDIES*. 41, no. 1 (March 2016): 143-154. <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/aztlán-journal-chicano-studies-0>

Cathryn Merla-Watson. Staging Darker Desires: BDSM and the Coloniality of Affect in Lorna Dee Cervantes's *Ciento*. Gary Totten (Ed.) Las Vegas, Nevada: *MELUS*. 41, no. 1 (February 2016): 193-217. <http://www.melus.org/journal/>

Cathryn Merla-Watson, Ben Olguín, Two-part thematic dossier on Latin@ Speculative Aesthetics. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) *AZTLÁN: A JOURNAL OF CHICANO STUDIES*. 40, no. 2 (September 2015): 127-257. <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/aztlán-journal-chicano-studies-0>

Cathryn Merla-Watson and Ben Olguín. ¡Latin@futurism Ahora!: Recovering, Remapping, and Recentring the Chican@ and Latin@ Speculative Arts. Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) LA, California: *AZTLÁN: A JOURNAL OF CHICANO STUDIES*. 40, no. 2 (September 2015)
<http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/aztlán-journal-chicano-studies-0>

Cathryn Merla-Watson. Bridging Common Grounds: Metaphor, Multitude, and Chicana Third Space Feminism. Special Issue of ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies. 11, no. 3 (November 2012): 492-511. <http://acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/943/797>

Cathryn Merla-Watson. Beyond Optimism and Pessimism: Coyolxauhqui as Apocalyptic Affect in Virginia Grise's *blu*. *The Latinx Gothic and Performing Apocalyptic Affect*. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Other

Cathryn Merla-Watson. Review essay of *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings*. By Juana María Rodríguez. San Antonio, Texas: *The Bilingual Review/La Revisita Bilingüe*. 33, no. 4 (January (1st Quarter/Winter) 2017): 95-98. <http://bilingualreview.utsa.edu/index.php/br>

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "(Trans)Mission Possible: Project MASA, Chican@futurism, and Hallucinating Altermundos." Cathryn J. Merla-Watson and BV Olguín (Ed.) *LA, California: AZTLÁN: A JOURNAL OF CHICANO STUDIES*. 40, no. 2 (September 2015): 239-257. <http://www.chicano.ucla.edu/publications/aztlán-journal-chicano-studies-0>

Bill Mullen. *Crossing the World Color Line: W.E.B Du Bois's Writings on Asia*. University Press of Mississippi. (2005)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. *Latinfuturism*. The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latina/o Literature. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Media Contributions

Internet

Glasstire: Texas Visual Art. (March 26, 2018)

EdSurge. (October 04, 2017)

AWARDS AND HONORS

MLA Forum Executive Committee Nomination--Speculative Fiction, Modern Language Association (April 4, 2018)

Distinguished Faculty Colloquium Speaker, Office for the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity and University Library (February 22, 2018)

Faculty Travel Grant, Office of Global Engagement (March 14, 2017)

Faculty Travel Support Program Award, Office of the Vice Provost (March 3, 2017)

UTRGV New Faculty Funding Summer Travel Award, UTRGV (June 1, 2016)

Nominee for 2015 Article Award, Latin American Studies Association (July 15, 2015)

MELUS President's Contingent Faculty Award, Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the US Conference/Association (May 5, 2014)

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Diversity Fellow, Ford Foundation (April 15, 2007)

PRESENTATIONS

Marisa Knox, Friederike Bruehoefener, Linda English, Cathryn Merla-Watson, and Ernesto Ramirez. "Teaching Gender: Incorporating a Gendered Lens into the Classroom," NEXUS - THE CLA's RESEARCH, TEACHING, & SERVICE SYMPOSIUM, College of Liberal Arts, Brownsville, TX. (April 24, 2018)

Cathryn Watson. "Interpreting Hamlet in the Borderlands," Latinx Shakespeare, UTRGV and Texas A&M-San Antonio, Texas A&M-San Antonio. (April 6, 2018)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "The Altermundos of Latin@futurism," Distinguished Faculty Colloquium, Office for the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Diversity and University Library, UTRGV Library-Edinburg. (February 22, 2018)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Chicanx Goth in the Age of Trump: The Perform-Antics of Prayers and Zombie Bazaar," Pedagogies of Dissent, American Studies Association, Chicago. (November 9, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "en ese terrible día...: Performing the Trans-American Gothic in Carlos Motta's Réquiem," U.S. COLOMBIANIDADES AND THE FUTURE OF LATINX STUDIES, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. (October 21, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Altermundos: Latin@ Speculative Aesthetics," Hispanic Heritage Month Speaker Series, The Center for Mexican American Studies and South Texas College Library, South Texas College. (September 27, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Queer Assembly, Perform-Antics, and The Gothic Gestures of Zombie Bazaar," Gothic Traditions & Departures, International Gothic Association, (UDLAP) Cholula, Mexico. (July 20, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Latinx Sci-Fi and Decoloniality," "Decolonizing/Deconstructing the walls/borders/spaces/bodies, Indigenous Research Symposium, UTRGV. (May 26, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Apocalyptic Affect and Perform-Antics in Recent Queer Latinx Literature and Performance," Latinx Lives, Matters, and Imaginaries, 3rd Biennial Latina/o Literary Theory & Criticism Conference, John Jay School of Criminal Justice. (April 15, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Beyond Blood: 'Chromo-sovereignty' in Purple Eyes," Relational Histories, Inter-Ethnic Alliances: Chican@/x Coalition Politics in Tejas, NACCS TEJAS FOCO, Texas A&M University, College Station. (February 24, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Beyond Blood: 'Chromo-sovereignty' in Purple Eyes," Relational Histories, Inter-Ethnic Alliances: Chican@/x Coalition Politics in Tejas, NACCS TEJAS FOCO, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. (February 24, 2017)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Cholo Goth: Discordance, Queer Carnalismo, and the Perform-antics of Prayers," Deliberating Latina/o Studies: Promiscuity, (In)civility, and (Un)Disciplinarity, Latina/o Studies Association, Pasadena, CA. (July 7, 2016)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Chican@ Speculative Aesthetics," Frontiers and Borders in American Literature, American Literature Association, San Antonio, TX. (February 27, 2016)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Unnatural Disaster: Restaging Ecoterrorism and Apocalyptic Affect in Cherrie Moraga's Heroes and Saints," Frontiers and Borders in American Literature, American Literature Association, San Antonio, TX. (February 26, 2016)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "The Politics of Difference in Latin@ Folktale and Literary Productions," Preserving Traditions, Customs, and Values of the Mexican and Mexican American Community, NACCS Tejas Foco, Lone Star College, Kingwood, TX. (February 19, 2016)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Queer Constellations: Intimate Terrorism, Urban Space, and Coyolxahqui in Virginia Grise's blu," Chicana/o In/Civilities, National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies, San Francisco, CA. (April 16, 2015)

Cathryn Merla-Watson. "Engendering Queer Tejan@ Spaces in Performance and Literature," NACCS Tejas Foco, Lone Star College, Houston, Texas. (February 26, 2015)

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Adv Top:Chicana/o Sci Fiction

Adv Topics Comptemp Poetry

Black & Brown Futures

Independent Study

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Intro Mexican American Studies
 Intro to Literature
 Intro to Mex Am Studies
 Intro to Mexican American Lit
 Intro to World Lit
 Lantix Gothic
 Latinx Gothic
 Mex/Amer Lit, Lang, Culture
 Mexican American Literature
 Mexican-American Literature
 Sp Top-Intro Mexican Amer Lit
 Sp Top:Latin@Love Lit&Perf
 Special Topics in Chicana/o St
 Special Topics: Chican Sci Fi
 Studies in Ethnic Lit
 Studies in Lit of the Americas
 Survey of World Literature
 Thesis I
 Thesis II
 Top: Int Mex Am Lit,Lng, Cultr
 Top:Mexican American Literatur
 Topics in Border Studies
 Writing Cultural Studies

Directed Student Learning

Master's Thesis Committee Member. Delilah Farias , , Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies. (October 12, 2017 - May 5, 2018)
 Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee Member. Christopher Scott , , Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies. (October 15, 2017 - May 4, 2018)
 Master's Thesis Committee Chair. Cesar De Leon , "Quetzalcoatl in Aisle 5 and Other Poemas" , Creative Writing Program. (April 24, 2018)
 Master's Thesis Committee Member. Jiovanna Perez, "Poison and Monsters " , Creative Writing Program. (January 31, 2017 - April 20, 2018)
 Master's Thesis Committee Member. Pepe Gilling, (January 31, 2017 - December 1, 2017)
 Master's Thesis Committee Member. Veronica Solis, "The Gloria E. Anzaldúa Journey: Path to Conocimiento, A Testimonio of Queer Heroics" , Creative Writing Program. (May 15, 2017)
 Master's Thesis Committee Chair. Cynthia Saldivar, "Rewriting Horror in Chican@ Literary Productions" , English (UTPA). (May 20, 2016)

SERVICE

Department Service

Committee Member, Core Assessment Committee. (September 2017)
 Committee Member, Curriculum Committee . (September 2017)
 Committee Member, Recruitment Committee . (September 2017)
 Committee Member, Latinx Shakespeares Symposium Committee. (May 2017)
 Committee Member, English Literature Committee. (September 2016)
 Committee Member, Gender and Women Studies Program Development Committee . (September 2016)
 Committee Member, Literatures and Cultural Studies Recruitment Committee . (September 2016)
 Attendee, Meeting, Cultural Studies Committee . (May 2016)
 Participant, ENGL 4390 Forum on the English Major. (April 18, 2018)
 Other, Presentation to Dr. Randal Monty's English Capstone 4390. (October 25, 2017)
 Other, Coordinator for TTL. (September 1, 2015 - May 28, 2016)
 Committee Member, Mexican American Studies Curriculum Committee . (September 1, 2015 - May 20, 2016)

College Service

Committee Member, CLA Student Success Committee . (May 2017)
 Participant, Presentation at GWSP Faculty Retreat: Feminist Approaches to Literature. (August 20, 2018)
 Participant, NEXUS: Teaching Gender: Incorporating a Gendered Lens into the Classroom . (April 24, 2018)
 Other, Teaching Observation . (April 10, 2018)

University Service

Committee Member, Engaged Scholar Review Committee . (February 2018)
 Committee Member, Student Success Team Committee. (May 2017)

Guest Speaker, Women's Activism: Past and Present. (March 2017)
Faculty Advisor, Faculty Advisor for Feminist Club. (May 2016)
Committee Member, Women's History Month Film and Consent Event Planning Committee. (February 1, 2018 - March 31, 2018)
Committee Member, Planning Committee and Presenter for FOLD Panel. (May 20, 2017 - February 27, 2018)
Guest Speaker, UTRGV First Year Experience Podcast: "What Do I Fear?". (August 16, 2017)
Workshop Organizer, Ph.D./Applying to Graduate School Workshop. (September 29, 2016)
Committee Member, UTRGV Undergraduate Research Initiative Evaluation Committee. (October 15, 2015 - November 15, 2015)

Development Activities Attended

Workshop, "FLC: Community-Engaged Scholarship Sesssion IV," CTE. (April 2018)
Workshop, "FLC: Community-Engaged Scholarship Sesssion I," CTE. (February 2018)
Workshop, "FLC: Community-Engaged Scholarship Sesssion V," CTE. (May 4, 2018)
Workshop, "FLC: Community-Engaged Scholarship Sesssion II," CTE. (February 23, 2018)
Workshop, "Excellence in Online Learning Workshop Innovations in Online and Hybrid," (October 6, 2017)
• "Summer Writing Program," CTE. (May 30, 2017 - August 31, 2017)
Workshop, "Online Learning Faculty Roundtable," COLTT. (August 18, 2017)
Workshop, "Summer Writing Kickoff," CTE. (May 30, 2017)
Workshop, "GDF: Successfully Delivering a Summer Course," CTE. (May 16, 2017)
Workshop, "ITV Session 2," CTE. (March 31, 2017)
"GFD: Distance Teaching & Learning (CTE & COLTT)," CTE. (November 17, 2016)
Webinar, "Quality Matters: "Independent Applying the QM Rubric" Online Training Workshop," Quality Matters. (August 12, 2016 - August 22, 2016)
Workshop, "National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Regional Arts Training Workshop," NALAC. (April 28, 2016 - April 30, 2016)
Workshop, "Course Re-design for Flipped Classroom with Hybrid," CTE. (April 5, 2016)
Workshop, "Teaching Online--Blackboard Learn," Center for Online Learning, Teaching, & Technology UTPA. (December 2, 2014)

Professional Service

Reviewer, Journal Article, Utopian Studies Journal (May 14, 2018 - July 7, 2018)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Multi-ethnic Literatures of the U.S. (April 14, 2018 - May 16, 2018)
Committee Member, Planning Committee for Latinx Shakespeare: A Borderlands Drama Symposium, San Antonio, (July 15, 2017 - April 6, 2018)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (January 31, 2018 - March 14, 2018)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Latino Studies (November 6, 2017 - December 18, 2017)
Program Organizer, Speculative Vision(s): Reimagining Sci-Fi, Horror, and Fantasy (November 3, 2017)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Peer Reviewer, Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS), Spring 2017 (May 17, 2017)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. (May 3, 2017)
Committee Member, NACCS (National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies) Program Review Committee (September 15, 2015 - October 19, 2015)
Reviewer, Journal Article, Environment and Planning D: Society and Space (April 15, 2015)

Professional Memberships

International Gothic Association (IGA) (May 2017)
Latina/o Studies Association (LSA) (March 2015)
Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. (MELUS) (April 2013)
Modern Language Association (MLA) (January 2011)
American Studies Association (ASA) (March 2007)
National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco (NACCS TEJAS FOCO) (January 2007)
National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) (January 2005)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA) (February 17, 2015 - February 17, 2016)

Public Service

- Guest Speaker, Invited Presentation "Latinx Speculative Fictions and Futurism" for Hacemos La Ciudad, Las Imaginista, Brownsville Public Library, Brownsville, (July 28, 2018)
- Committee Member, GWS Speaker Series Planning Committee for Emma Perez. (February 8, 2018 - April 27, 2018)
- Discussant, "Latinas in the Borderlands: From the Horrific to the Utopic," McAllen Public Library, McAllen, (March 27, 2018)
- Guest Speaker, FOLD: Art, Metaphor, Practice, Edinburg. (February 27, 2018)
- Committee Member, Lavender Literary League, McAllen Public Library. (May 12, 2016 - December 15, 2017)
- Guest Speaker, 6th Annual San Antonio Book Festival, San Antonio Public Library. (April 8, 2017)
- Guest Speaker, McAllen Public Library. (June 30, 2016)
- Guest Speaker, Esperanza Peace & Justice Center, San Antonio, (May 7, 2016)
- Guest Speaker, CineSol Film Festival, McAllen, (November 22, 2015)

- Guest Speaker , Sekula Public Library , Edinburg , (October 22, 2015)
- Guest Speaker , Aquí Estamo RGV , McAllen , (August 8, 2015)
- Program Organizer , Cine El Rey , McAllen , (March 15, 2015)