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**PROFILE:** My deep commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) impacts my teaching, leadership service, and research. I am a collaborative academic and innovative creator/leader able to build effective coalitions across the college and in partnership with the community. I am a strong student advocate particularly for LGBTQIA+, LatinX and LABIPOC (Latin American, Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color), women, and First-Generation students. I have strong international experience in crafting relationships, teaching, and research in collaborative community. I am committed to partnerships and ideals of accompaniment within the framework of JEDI. My bilingual fluency in Spanish and English (written/oral), facilitates relationship building and collaborative dialogue across diverse communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

### Education:

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2007. Washington University, St. Louis, MO.  
Dissertation: *Race and Homosexuality on the Plantation: Deconstructing Myths of National Identity in the American South, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.*
- M.A. Comparative Literature, 1992. Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN
- B.A. English, 1989. Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

### Recent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Leadership/Administrative Experience:

Canisius College:

- Faculty Associate Dean for Inclusion and Engagement (2022- ). Organize faculty professional development events to build community, with an emphasis on diversity.
- Co-director of [ULLC \(Urban Leadership Learning Community\)](#) (since 2021), a program targeting Buffalo area students of academic quality with leadership potential who have been historically underrepresented at Canisius (each class is limited to 11 students, almost exclusively first generation, LABIPOC, and/or immigrant).
- Founder and Director of [Borders & Migrations Initiative](#) (since 2018). An interdisciplinary program educating our community around issues of immigration.
- Founder and continuing director of [LGBTQIA+ Speakers' Series \(since 2011\)](#) and [LatinX Speakers' Series](#). Fundraising, budgeting, contracting, promotion, hosting. Featuring award winning writers, artists, activists, filmmakers from across the US and abroad.
- Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (2015-2022).
  - Responsibilities: Founder of [short-term study abroad programs](#) in Mexico and Cuba. Curriculum management. Student recruitment and retention. [Create website content](#). Student advising of majors/minors. Oversee faculty, including

hiring of adjuncts in languages and Classics (as of 2021). Manage (decreasing) operating budget. Fundraising (recent success: securing a \$10,000 per annum scholarship for majors). Departmental assessments.

- Three-year term on campus-wide committees: Faculty Status (evaluating faculty for tenure and promotion) and Academic Program Board (reviewing academic programs and approving new majors and hires).

### **DEI Portfolio, Additional Achievements:**

- As founder and director of [Borders & Migrations Initiative](#) since 2018, I have achieved the following:
  - Secured funds through grants and fundraising. This initiative was founded initially without any funding but has since developed a modest budget and gained some small financial support from the college.
  - Created (with the assistance of student researchers) a [BMI website](#), a [YouTube Channel](#), and a [Teaching Toolkit](#).
  - Organize a series of speakers and events each semester. Speakers include award-winning writers, artists, filmmakers, and activists. Some recent highlights have included a series of talks with [UNHCR Archivist Monserrat Canela Garayoa](#) and [KBI \(Kino Border Initiative\) Director Joanna Williams](#).
  - Established an ongoing relationship with Jesuit partners at KBI forming a hybrid internship/service-learning/study abroad experience in Dos Nogales Arizona/Sonora.
  - Developed strong community relationships for intentional service learning with the Spanish speaking immigrant community in Buffalo which has included accompaniment of detained migrants in the Federal Detention Center, court support, and assisting in managing a food bank for families, and helping run a phone bank for detainee support.
  - Crafted an RPG (Role Playing Game), an immigration simulation experience which we have adapted for both English and Spanish, and both in person and virtual participation. I conducted a [workshop in Spanish](#) for AUSJAL/AJCU through the [Jesuit Network to Accompany Migrants based in Central America](#) during a [conference based in Nicaragua](#).
- Founder of [short-term study abroad programs](#) in Mexico and Cuba, with a focus on syncretic identities and diversity in mestizo and Indigenous cultures in Mexico and Afro-Caribbean culture in Cuba. Responsibilities: Program development, protocols, training, recruitment, assessment budgets. I also led programs in Argentina and Costa Rica and have co-led programs for the Camino de Santiago and an historical tour of Roman-Arab Spain.
- Immersion Leader to El Salvador and Kino Border Initiative, serving as translator and group leader for Campus Ministry organized trips with students on short term immersion experiences exploring the root causes of migration.
- Mural development. Canisius has two murals on campus, both executed under my leadership. One created by [an artist of Moriviví](#), a feminist artist collaborative in Puerto Rico, the other by a [local Black artist Edrys Wajed](#) in celebration of our sesquicentennial. Both murals center experiences of diversity.

- Faculty advisor to Canisius Colleges' gay straight alliance: Unity (2014-2022). Achievements: getting the club an office space (previously had a storage closet), increasing budget, establishing Lavender Graduation, improving alumni outreach, community engagement, and scholarship. Also assisted in various leadership or participatory roles for Always Our Children a Campus Ministry retreat for LGBTQIA+ students and allies. Also led students to several IgnationQ/IggyQ retreats to sister Jesuit Schools.
- Faculty advisor to LASAF, Latin American Students and Friends, a club for LatinX individuals. Achievements: securing a club room, organizing excursions to Buffalo's LatinX neighborhoods, and a LatinX graduation modeled on Lavender Graduation.
- I have also participated in various JEDI focused ad-hoc committees throughout my tenure at Canisius College.

### **Teaching:**

#### Academic Appointments:

##### Canisius College

- Associate Professor of Spanish (2015- )
- Assistant Professor of Spanish (2011-2015)
  - The bulk of my teaching is in Spanish, with 1-2 courses per year in English for the Honors College. These courses are generally focused on Latin America and its Diaspora. Some have designation for the Justice component of the core, others for Global Awareness or Diversity. My courses include: Sexuality and Political Discourse; Detective Fiction; Magical Realism; Migration; LatinX Experiences in Literature and Film; Cuban Cinema of the Revolution, Pedro Almodóvar: Filming Desire, Contemporary Literary Moments, among others. Courses routinely include virtual or in person guest lectures, service learning, and community engagement projects. I established a [YouTube channel](#) for guest lectures and student content creation.
  - I also direct various Honors Theses generally focused on issues concerning LGBTQIA+, LatinX/Latin America, and Migration.
  - In addition to teaching undergraduate courses at Canisius I also teach every other year a [graduate course](#) in Spanish at the Ibero-Puebla University's Master's program in Applied Literature on writing, reading, and narrative strategies in contemporary literature. I will also be teaching a masters course (in English) on LatinX in the US for the Master's in American Studies at the University of Warsaw.

##### Non-tenured positions:

- Adjunct Asst Professor Latin American Studies, Johns Hopkins University (2009-10)
- Visiting Asst Professor Latin American Studies/Spanish, Gettysburg College (2007-10)
- Visiting Assistant Professor Literature, Instructor of Spanish, Goucher College (2005-07)
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish Bridgewater College (2002-2005)
- Visiting Instructor of English & Spanish, The College of William and Mary (1998-2002)

**Research:**Selected Publications:

My publications, invited lectures, and presentations are focused primarily on issues of DEI, particularly around LGBTQIA+ and LatinX issues. Below is a selection. In addition, I am an on-call peer reviewer for *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*.

- “Teaching Spanish Conversation Through the UAPs: A Pedagogy of Jesuit Values and Mission.” Forthcoming in *Jesuit Higher Education*. Spring 2022.
- [“Embracing Diversity Through Mission and Identity at Canisius College”](#) AJCUNET October 2021.
- [“Going Beyond Tolerance and Acceptance.”](#) *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*. No. 59. Spring 2021. 18-19.
- [“Interviewing While LBGTO: The Questions and Issues You Should Think About on the Academic Job Market.”](#) *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. 61.30 6 April 2015.
- “Literature, Gay Men’s.” *International Encyclopedia of Human Sexuality*, Eds. Patricia Whelhan and Anne Bolin. Malden, Oxford: John Wiley and Sons, Ltd. 2015. 700-705.
- “The Last Days of the Victim/Los últimos días de la víctima.” *World Film Locations: Havana*: Ed. Ann Marie Stock. Bristol, UK: Intellect Books. 2014. 66-67.
- “Before Night Falls/Antes que anochezca.” *World Film Locations: Havana*: Ed. Ann Marie Stock. Bristol, UK: Intellect Books. 2014. 70-71.
- “Honey for Oshun/Miel para Oshun.” *World Film Locations: Havana*: Ed. Ann Marie Stock. Bristol, UK: Intellect Books. 2014. 72-73.
- “Queer (In)Tolerance in Children’s Animated Film.” *Queer Love in Film and Television, Critical Essays*. Eds. Pamela Demory and Christopher Pullen. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 2013. 129-138.
- “Quo vadis, queer vato? Queer and Loathing in Latino Cinema.” *LGBT Transnational Identity and the Media*. Ed. Chris Pullen. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. 231-241.

Selected Conference Presentations:

- [“At the interstices of experiential learning, theory, and praxis: Using the UAP to guide pedagogy, research, and service in the context of Migration Studies”](#) presented as part of a roundtable I organized, chaired, and translated for: Roundtable: Theory and Praxis of Community based Pedagogy, Research, and Ministry (in Spanish and English) at University of San Francisco International Conference on Critical Migration Studies. Panelists included: Dr. Ertorer, Dr. Butera, K. Buehlmann, G. Quiroz. Nov 2, 2021.
- “Training Culturally Competent Student Leaders” with my CEEP student Cory Cherven. Co-presented a workshop on online *tertulias* with UCC Universidad Católica de Córdoba, Argentina in collaboration with the AUSJAL/AJCU Virtual Dual Immersion Program. Sept. 20, 2021.
- “Teaching Utopia/Dystopia in the Context of Migration” presented as part of a panel I chaired and organized on “The Search for (N)Everland: Migration, Utopia/Dystopia” as part of the Buffalo Humanities Institute: Teaching Utopia/Dystopia. Other panelists: Dr. Secil Ertorer & Dr. Anita Butera. Fall 2021 (Sept 19).

- Pedro Almodóvar’s *Gay Aesthetic: Hollywood and the Southern Belle* for PCA/ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association) 2021 Conference June 2-5, 2021. I also served as Session Chair for the panel: *Film XIII–Women in Film: Southern Belles, Female Friendships, Psychedelic Witches, & Motherhood*.
- “Narrativas Latinas/Chicanas LGBTQ en el cine y la literatura” / LGBTQ Latinx & Chicax Narratives in Film and Literature. Keynote Speaker. Coloquio de Literatura Aplicada / Masters Colloquium in Applied Literature. 8 November 2019.
- “The Unique Strengths and Benefits of Working in Collaboration within the Jesuit Network’ for Teaching, Research, and Service.” Breakout panel presentation for International Education Conference of Jesuit Higher Education Institutions, Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla, Mexico. 4 November 2019.
- "Lessons from Cuba: On Revolution, LGBTQ Rights, and Community Engagement" for Gay, Lesbian, and Queer Studies Area of the 2019 PCA/ ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association) Conference in Washington, DC. April 2019.
- “Lessons on Service Learning and Community Partners: A Jesuit Perspective” at the “Unlocking Impact: Keys to Successful Partnerships” Conference. Hilbert College. 1 March 2019. Panel participant, panel organized by Dr. Secil Ertorer of Sociology along with other Canisius colleagues and students.
- “The Body Erotic/The Body Politic: Queer(s) & Statehood in Cuba.” VI Coloquio ¿Del Otro La’o?: Perspectivas sobre sexualidades Queer.” University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. March 1-6, 2016.
- “Precarious Masculinity / Precarious Statehood in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.” October 7, 2015. Niagara University. Lecture as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. This talk was significantly updated from the one listed just below, following the change in federal law in the U.S. and Puerto Rico after the Supreme Court Decision, and after the Pope’s visit to Cuba in September.
- “Homosexuality and the State: Social and Governmental Responses to Precarious Masculinity and Precarious Statehood in Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba.” Dean’s Colloquium. Canisius College. March 11, 2015.
- “Teaching Inclusion through Gender Based Languages: Teaching LGBTQ Issues in the Foreign Language Classroom: Gender Diversity in ‘If Clauses’ of Hypothetical Situations.” NYSAFLT (New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers) Fall Conference. Buffalo, NY. October 11-12, 2013
- “‘Working’ For a Living: Pingueros and the Economics of Desire in Contemporary Cuba.” PCA/ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association) Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. March 2013
- “Lethal Latin Lovers: Gay Male Love in Latin American Film and Television.” SCOLAS (Southern Council of Latin American Studies). Miami. March 2011
- “The New Jerusalem: Atlanta as City of Refuge for the New South and Gay South.” Southern American Studies Association Conference: Peoples, Publics, and Places of the Souths. Atlanta, GA (2011)
- “Queer and Loathing in California: ‘Stay Brown’ versus ‘Go Gay’: You better pick one, because you can’t be both.” Film and History Conference. Milwaukee, WI (2010)
- “It’s Just a Phase: Queer (In)tolerance in Children’s Animated Films.” Masculinities, Femininities, and More: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender in the Humanities. University of W. Georgia, Carrollton, GA (2008)

- “Whoring for a Living: Caliban in Exile: An exploration of Cubans in Spain in the Spanish Film *Things I Left in Havana*.” European Film Conference, UTSA, San Antonio, Texas (2008)
- “‘Queer Tolerance?’ in Children’s Animated Films.” Faculty Research Presentation, Gettysburg College, PA (2007)
- “A Queen’s Tale: Eraceing Queer Sexuality in *The Lion King 1.5* and *Shark Tale*.” Twelfth Annual Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference, American U., Washington, D.C. (2005)
- “Bringing Down the House: The Sexile’s Return. Deconstructing National Rhetoric in the U.S. South, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.” Eighth Annual Conference on the Americas, Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, GA (2005)

#### Selected Invited Talks, Lectures, Interviews:

- “Refugees, Racism, and Immigration Policies in Europe and US through Political Cartoons: Comparing Ukrainians and Non-White Migrants.” Panel What the Ukraine Crisis Reveals. Canisius College. 11 April 2022.
- Pedagogy Primer Podcast (Spring 2021): [Borders, Migrations, Jesuit Pedagogy](#).
- Magis Podcast 1: [Diversity in the Classroom](#). Fall 2021.
- [Literatura Cuir: Un breve recorrido panorámico del mundo hispanohablante y su diáspora](#) with authors and Professors: Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro (Puerto Rico) and Fabián O Iriarte (Argentina) as part of a government series encouraging reading in Puebla, Mexico hosted by the Secretaría de Cultura de Puebla, en el área de Fomento a la lectura; co-hosted by Casa de Palabras/Sala de Lectura y Ciencia to commemorate “En el marco del Día Mundial del Libro de los Derechos de Autor” April 14 2021. (796+ views)
- Guest at SUNY Fredonia for SPA 423: Latin American Dialectology. 24 September 2020. Host: Dr. Brian Boisvert.
- [“Temas Contemporáneas de la Literatura Latina LGBT/Queer en EEUU / Contemporary Themes in Queer LatinX Literature in the US”](#) for Ibero Puebla lecture series in the MA program of Literatura Aplicada. Available: 16 June 2020. (500+ views).
- Diálogo sobre la Literatura, la Investigación, y los Derechos Humanos de las Minorías LGBTQ & Migrante / Dialogue on Literature, Research, and Minority Advocacy (LGBTQ & Migrant). Preparatoria Ibero Puebla. 5 November 2019.
- [“Respuestas locales y jesuitas a la crisis migratoria en EEUU”](#) / Local & Jesuit Responses to the Immigration “Crisis” in the US: Buffalo/Canisius. 24 June 2019.
- “El desarrollo de los derechos LGBTQ en Cuba al partir de la Revolución hasta hoy / LGBTQ Rights in Cuba since the Revolution” (in Spanish). Análisis de la Realidad Política y Social 2019 / Political & Social Reality in 2019, part of a series of lectures by the Instituto de Derechos Humanos Ignacio Ellacuría (IDHIE) / Ignacio Ellacuría Institute for Human Rights whose focus was on Diversidades, Género y Derechos Humanos / Diversity, Gender and Human Rights. 14 June 2019.
- “Borders/Immigration Panel” Chair. Panel Organizer/Speaker/Moderator for the Riverrun Film Festival: Mexican Cinema & Culture: Bending Borders (SUNY Buffalo). 12 October 2018. This year’s theme was Mexico, and my panel and talk focused on Immigration. I also participated in film discussion and selection for the LGBTQ segment of the festival.

- “Experiences and Best Practices with Dual Immersion” AUSJAL/AJCU Conference: Virtual Dual Immersion (VDI) conference at Alberto Hurtado University, Santiago, Chile, 4-6 November 2017.
- Introduction to “Old Cuba/New Cuba Shorts” for the Riverrun Global Film Series: Cuba. SUNY Buffalo. 14 October 2017.
- “The Beatification of Oscar Romero and his Legacy.” Round table discussion with Religious Studies Department, Canisius College. Org. Nancy Rourke. 27 October 2015.
- “*Fresa y Chocolate*: Masculinity, Homosexuality, and the Evolution of the New Man in the context of Gay Rights in Cuba.” A roundtable discussion at the CMMLK (Centro Memorial Martin Luther King), Havana, Cuba. 24 June 2015.

#### Selected Awards and Grants/Funding:

- Awards:
  - Canisius College of Arts & Sciences Service Award Winner (2019-2020)
  - Di Gamma Jesuit Honors Society (February 28, 2020)
  - Recipient of the Dr. I. Joan Lorch Canisius College Colleague Award from the Women and Gender Studies Program (March 2014)
- Grants/Funding:
  - Gloria and Andrew Wise Grant to organize a series of events via Borders & Migrations focused on AAPI issues, with a specific focus on Filipino Health Care Workers (\$3,500) (2021)
  - Summer Research Grant (\$2,500) (2020)
  - *embraceWesternNewYork* grant for Borders & Migrations (\$1,000) (Spring 2020)
  - VPAA/Dean A&S Grant (\$5,000 per annum) for Borders & Migrations. (2020-2022)
  - Mission & Identity Grant (with Dr. Secil Ertorer) for Borders & Migration Initiative, Research Travel, Workshops, and Toolkit (shared total award of \$5,000) (2019)
  - Fitzpatrick Grant for Cuba and Speakers Series (\$13,000) (AY 17-18)
  - Dean’s Summer Research Grant (\$2,500) (2017)
  - Grant from Fitzpatrick Institute for Cuba (\$6,000) (Spring 16)
  - Grant from Fitzpatrick Institute (\$12,500) (Fall 2015)
  - Grant from *embraceWNY* (\$2,500) (Fall 2015)
  - Fitzpatrick Institute (\$9,000) (Summer 2014)

#### Selected Memberships in Professional Organizations:

- PCA/ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association)
- Queer Studies Network
- AJCU Network on Migration and Refugee Research