

ELIZABETH SPRAGINS  
College of the Holy Cross  
Curriculum Vitae

Spanish Department  
1 College St.  
Worcester, MA 01610

Cell: 773-573-9459  
Office: 508-793-3961  
Email: [espragin@holycross.edu](mailto:espragin@holycross.edu)

EDUCATION

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- 2017      **Ph.D. in Iberian and Latin American Cultures**  
Stanford University. Department of Iberian and Latin American Cultures.
- 2010      **M.A. in Hispanic Studies**  
University of Pennsylvania
- 2008      **M.A. in Spanish**  
Middlebury College
- 2007      **B.A. in Spanish** with highest honors, *cum laude*  
Williams College

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2019–      College of the Holy Cross. Assistant Professor of Spanish.
- 2017–2019      Washington & Lee University. Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish.

PUBLICATIONS

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BOOK

- A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean* (Fordham University Press, 2023).  
Winner of 2021 Helen Tartar First Book Subvention (American Comparative Literature Association)  
Winner of 2024 Roland H. Bainton Prize in Literature (Sixteenth Century Society)  
Reviewed in: *Hispania*

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2025      with Emily Colbert Cairns (Salve Regina University), “Following the Bloodlines in María de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 19, no. 2.
- 2023      “Body as Text and Text as Body: Ijāzas and Oral Knowledge Transmission in Sixteenth-Century Morocco.” *Medieval Encounters* 29, 315–39.
- 2023      “Skulls, Worms, and Angels: Teaching Ritual through the Grave in an Aljamiado Hadith.” *postmedieval* 13, 533–48.

- 2022 with Emily Colbert Cairns (Salve Regina University), “Female Embodiment: Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.” *La corónica* 51, vol. 1.
- 2019 “*Cuerpos, cuernos, and espadas ceñidas*: Corpses and the Writing of Catalina de Erauso’s Authoritative Body.” *ConSecuencias* 1, vol. 1.
- 2017 “Embodied Authority: The Virgin, Audience, and the Body of the Devotee in Marian Miracles.” *La corónica* 45, vol. 2, 9–36.

## EDITED VOLUMES

- In process *Cervantes, Women, and Perversity*, co-edited with Leyla Rouhi (Williams College) and Sonia Pérez Villanueva (Lesley University). (Full volume to be submitted to Palgrave Macmillan in April 2025)

## CHAPTERS IN PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

- Abstract submitted 1/7/25 “Scripting a New Arabic Canon: The Lead Books and Morisco Raciolinguistic Identity.” In “*Counteracting Forces*”: *Global Imaginaries of Race and Caste*, edited by Laura Brueck, Emily Maguire, and Ivy Wilson.
- Submitted 3/18/25 “The Truly Invented Recuperation of Islamic Xpaña.” In *The Kingdom of Xpaña*, edited by Claudia Milian and Ana Ugarte.
- Submitted 1/7/25 “Believe Dorotea: Intersectional Sexual Violence in *Don Quixote*.” In *Cervantes, Women, and Perversity*, edited by Leyla Rouhi, Elizabeth Spragins, and Sonia Pérez Villanueva. (Full volume to be submitted to Palgrave Macmillan in February 2025)
- Submitted 1/6/25 “Intersectional Racecraft in *La Conquista de Jerusalén*: Clorinda and the Trope of the Cervantine White African Maiden.” In *Cervantes in Transit*, edited by Paul Michael Johnson, Chad Leahy, and Elizabeth Neary.
- Submitted 8/19/24 “Approximating Intelligibility: Early Modern Raciolinguistics.” In *Language Fusion and Contact in Medieval and Early Modern Spanish-Speaking Worlds*, edited by Veronica Menaldi et al (Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols). (Forthcoming)
- Submitted 7/8/24 “American Caste through Iberian Multiculturalism.” In *On the Uses and Abuses of Early Modern Spanish Culture*, ed. Chad Leahy and Elizabeth Spragins. Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam Press. 8,000 words. (Under contract).
- Submitted 12/4/23 “Necropastoral and Conflicting Modes of Testimony in *Don Quixote*’s Tale of Grisóstomo and Marcela.” In *Cervantine Futures: Theorizing Cervantes after the Critical Turn*, edited by Nicholas R. Jones and Paul Johnson. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press. (Forthcoming)
- 2023 “Podcasting Las Casas and Robert E. Lee: A Case Study in Historicizing Race.” *Teaching Race in the Renaissance: A Classroom Guide*, eds. Anna Wainwright and Matthieu Chapman, 451–68. Tempe, AZ: ACMRS Press.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2025 Kimmel, Seth. *The Librarian’s Atlas: The Shape of Knowledge in Early Modern Spain*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024. *Bulletin of the Comediantes*.

- 2025 Segev, Ran. *Sacred Habitat: Nature and Catholicism in the Early Modern Spanish Transatlantic*. University Park, PA, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2023. *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*.
- 2021 Gilbert, Claire M. *In Good Faith: Arabic Translation and Translators in Early Modern Spain*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020. *Journal of Arabic Literature*.
- 2017 Wunder, Amanda. *Baroque Seville: Sacred Art in a Century of Crisis*. University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2017. *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*.
- 2010 Blackmore, Josiah. *Moorings: Portuguese Expansion and the Writing of Africa*, Minneapolis, MN, University of Minneapolis Press, 2008. *Ellipsis: The Journal of the American Portuguese Studies Association* 8: 162–64.

## PUBLIC WRITING

- 2023 “Who’s Afraid of al-Andalus?” *Public Books*. November 29, 2023. <https://www.publicbooks.org/whos-afraid-of-al-andalus/>
- 2020 “On Collaboration: The Future of Mediterranean, Iberian, and Early Modern Studies is Collaborative.” *Iberian Connections: Medieval and Early Modern Studies and Contemporary Critical Thought* 7, no. 1. <https://iberian-connections.yale.edu/articles/on-collaboration/>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Mediterranean Studies; death studies; embodiment and the material body; tolerance, *convivencia*, and religious conflict on the Iberian Peninsula; Premodern Critical Race Studies

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

## INVITED TALKS

- 2025 “The Truly Invented Recuperation of Islamic Xpaña.” Symposium on *The Kingdom of Xpaña*. Duke University.
- 2024 “Purifying Identity: Islamicizing Syncretism in the *Lead Books* of the Sacromonte.” Department of Hispanic Studies. Brown University.
- 2024 “La Monja Alférez: Gender and Violence.” Department of Romance Languages. Washington and Lee University.
- 2024 “Present Corpses at the Crossroads: Necroepistemology and *Don Quixote*.” University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- 2024 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Reading the Dead in the Mediterranean.” Tulane University.
- 2024 “Mediterranean Connections: Exploring Islam and Iberia across the Strait of Gibraltar.” Aljamiado Workshop. Tulane University.

- 2024 “The Major and Minor Strategies of the Baroque in Cervantes’s *Don Quixote*.” Columbia University.
- 2023 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Washington and Lee University.
- 2023 “Muslims in Spain: Jesus and the Skull.” Guest lecture in “Introduction to Islam,” Department of Religion, Washington and Lee University.
- 2023 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” University of Virginia.
- 2020 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Following the Boodlines in Maria de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” *II Early Modern Iberian Studies Symposium of New England* (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2018 “Witnessing Bodies: Teaching and Researching Multicultural Iberia in the 21st Century.” College of the Holy Cross.
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Narrators in Portuguese Accounts of al-Qasr al-Kabir.” Dartmouth College.
- 2017 “The Authority of the Material Body in the Early Modern Western Mediterranean.” The University of Warwick (U.K.).
- 2017 “Embodied Indexicality and Corporeal Narrators in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Iberian Narrative.” Washington and Lee University.
- 2016 “Juan de Silva, el Corcavado, and the Corpse of Sebastian I.” Colby College.

#### CONFERENCE PAPERS AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2025 “Believe Dorotea: Intersectional Sexual Violence in *Don Quixote*.” Renaissance Society of America (Boston).
- 2025 “Communities in the Writing Process.” The MLA Annual Convention (New Orleans).
- 2024 “Clothing and Identity as Rituals of the Body.” 17<sup>th</sup> Biannual Symposium of the Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (pre-1800) (GEMELA). Puebla, Mexico.
- 2024 Race in Comparative Context: The Case of Iberia (A Roundtable). 59<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2023 “Clothing and Identity as Rituals of the Body.” American Spanish and Portuguese Historical Society Annual Conference (Boulder, CO).
- 2023 “Approximating Intelligibility: Racialized Language in Early Modern Spain.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL).
- 2023 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Embodied Ritual and Acts of Care: Caregiving in Pre-modern Iberia.” The MLA Annual Convention (San Francisco).

- 2022 “Assemblage: Recovering Diplomatic Power with Corpses.” New England Renaissance Conference (Amherst, MA).
- 2022 “Skulls, Worms, and Angels: Teaching Ritual through the Grave in an Aljamiado Hadith.” 57<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2022 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Feminine Materiality: *Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose*.” The MLA Annual Convention (Washington, DC).
- 2021 “American Caste Through Iberian Multiculturalism.” Sixteenth Century Society and Conference (San Diego).
- 2021 with Emily Colbert-Cairns (Salve Regina University). “Following the Boodlines in Maria de Zayas’s *El traidor contra su sangre*.” 56<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2020 “The Future of Mediterranean Studies is Collaborative.” The MLA Annual Convention (Seattle, WA).
- 2019 “Necroviolence for Message Discipline.” The Mediterranean Seminar (Toronto, ON).
- 2019 “‘I swear on the body of...’: Truth and the Dead in Early Modern Iberia.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Washington, DC).
- 2019 “Don’t Kill the Messenger: Protecting Knowledge from Timbuktu to Madrid.” 54<sup>th</sup> Congress of Medieval Studies (Western Michigan University).
- 2018 “Medical Ventriloquism: Mediating the Dead Across the Mediterranean.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles).
- 2017 “Mediated Witnessing and the Indexing of Portuguese Empire.” Panel organizer. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Renaissance Society of America Meeting (Chicago).

## CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 “A Grammar of the Corpse: Necroepistemology in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” *Authors on the Hill Series*, Dinand Library (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2022 “Specifications Grading in a Spanish Seminar.” *Curricular Conversations Series*, Spanish Department (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2021 “The Challenges of Virtual Paleography.” *Colleague to Colleague Series*, Center for Writing (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2020 “Necroepistemology: Narrating the Dead in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Early Work Research Group (College of the Holy Cross).
- 2018 “Gender and the Dead Body.” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Working Group (Washington and Lee University).

- 2018 “*Cuerpos, cuernos, and espadas ceñidas*: Corpses and the Writing of Catalina de Erauso’s Authoritative Body.” Romance Languages Colloquium (Washington and Lee University).
- 2017 “Narrative Empathy as Embodied Indexicality in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Portuguese Historiography.” Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (Stanford University).

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES

- 2020 “*The Disenchantments of Love* by María de Zayas *Decameron in Times of Coronavirus* (YouTube), Center for Medieval Studies (University of Minnesota)
- 2020 Interview on *Jerusalem Afflicted* with Chad Leahy and Ken Tully. New Books Network European Studies Channel. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/jerusalem-afflicted>
- 2020 Interview on *The Basque Seroras* with Amanda Scott. New Books Network European Studies Channel. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/amanda-l-scott-the-basque-seroras-local-religion-gender-and-power-in-northern-iberia-1550-1800-cornell-up-2020>
- 2020 Interview on *Staging Habla de negros* with Nicholas R. Jones. New Books Network European Studies Channel. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/nicholas-r-jones-staging-habla-de-negros-radical-performance-of-the-african-diaspora-in-early-modern-spain-penn-state-up-2019>
- 2020 Interview on *Esther in Early Modern Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora* with Emily Colbert-Cairns. New Books Network European Studies Channel. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/emily-colbert-cairns-esther-in-early-modern-iberia-and-the-sephardic-diaspora-queen-of-the-conversas-palgrave-macmillan-2017>

TEACHING

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## COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

- Honors College: Framing the Mediterranean (Spring 2025)
- Aspects of Spanish Culture (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- Origins of Race in Iberia (Spring 2023)
- Readings in Spanish Literature (Fall 2022)
- Literature of Multicultural Iberia (Fall 2020, Spring 2021)
- Intermediate Spanish II (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022)
- Intermediate Spanish I (Spring 2020)
- Spanish Composition and Conversation (Fall 2019, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
- *Don Quixote* (Spring 2020, Fall 2023)

## WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

- Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2018, Winter 2019)
- Advanced Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2017, Winter 2018)
- Introduction to Spanish Literature (Fall 2017, 2018)
- Introduction to Literary Analysis (Winter 2019)
- Comparative Critical Race Theory (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
- Recognizing Difference in Early Modern Iberia (Winter 2018)

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA: BERKELEY

- Spanish Inquisition and Multicultural Iberia (Summer 2016)

## STANFORD UNIVERSITY

- First-Year Spanish Language (Fall 2011)
- Intensive First-Year Spanish Language (Summer 2014)
- Second-Year Spanish Language (Spring 2014, Spring 2017)
- Second-Year Spanish Language (Cultural Emphasis)
- Catalan 1A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language (Fall 2013)
- Catalan 2A: Accelerated First-Year Catalan Language (Winter 2014)
- Travel Writing in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean (Fall 2016)
- Advanced Critical Reading in Spanish. Co-Instructor with Lisa Surwillo (Winter 2013)
- Transatlantic Renaissances. Co-Instructor with Roland Greene (Fall 2014)
- Classical Arabic Prose. TA for Alexander Key (Fall 2015)
- Classical Arabic Poetry. TA for Alexander Key (Fall 2016)

## UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

- Elementary Spanish Language (Fall 2009)
- Intermediate Spanish Language (Spring 2010)

**GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS**


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2024	Roland H. Bainton Prize in Literature. Sixteenth Century Society.
2024	Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies RaceB4Race Second Book Institute.
2022	Robert L. Ardizzone ('63) Fund for Tenure Track Faculty Excellence. College of the Holy Cross.
2021	Publication Award. Office of Supported Research. College of the Holy Cross.
2021	Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award. American Comparative Literature Association.
2020	Course Development Faculty Fellowship: Comparative Critical Race Theory and the Early Modern Creation of Race. College of the Holy Cross.
2018	Lenfest Summer Research Grant. Washington and Lee University.
2018	Lenfest Summer Pedagogy Funding to support ACTFL OPI Certification. Washington and Lee University.
2017	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship. Dartmouth College. (declined)

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**


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2022	Reading Aljamiado Manuscripts Workshop. (The CU Mediterranean Studies Group and the Mediterranean Seminar).
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- 2018 ACTFL Spanish Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop. (Washington and Lee University).
- 2016 Intensive Summer Course: Al-Andalus, Problems and Perspectives. (Casa Árabe, Córdoba)
- 2016 ACTFL Crossing Major Borders: Moving Students along the Proficiency Spectrum Workshop. (Stanford University).
- 2012 XXVI Jornades Internacionals per a Professors de Català. Institut Ramon Llull (Universitat de Vic).
- 2012 ACTFL Spanish Modified Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) Training Workshop. (Stanford University).

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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#### COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

- 2024 External Reviewer. Department of Global Languages and Cultures. Hood College (Maryland)
- 2023– Affiliate Faculty Member. Department of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies.
- 2023–24 Committee on Faculty Affairs
- 2023–24 Spanish Honors Committee
- 2023–24 Language Requirement Working Group (Spanish Department)
- 2023–24 Spanish 301 Coordinator
- 2022–23 Sigma Delta Pi Spanish Honors Society Faculty Co-Advisor
- 2023– Spanish Department Faculty Reading Group (organizer)
- 2022–23 Common Requirements Implementation Committee  
(Chair of Sub-Committee on Literature)
- 2022–23 Sigma Delta Pi Renovation Committee
- 2022– Spanish Placement Examination Committee
- 2022 Fall Open House Faculty Representative
- 2020–21 Discrimination Policy Working Group
- 2020–21 Department Committee to revise SPAN 301: Spanish Composition and Communication.
- 2020–21 Textbook/Open-Source Committee
- 2020–21, 2022 Spanish 202 Coordinator
- 2019– Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Affiliated Faculty.
- 2019–20 Spanish Club. Faculty Advisor.
- 2019–20 Spanish Department Library Liaison.
- 2019–20 Interviewer for European Studies channel. New Books Network.

#### MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Modern Language Association
- Renaissance Society of America
- American Comparative Literature Association
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
- The Spain and North Africa Project
- Middle East Studies Association
- The Mediterranean Seminar
- Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Américas (GEMELA)



#MeToo Academia

EXTERNAL REVIEWER

*Edad de Oro*

*postmedieval*

*Hispanófila*

*La corónica*

*ConSecuencias*

*Hispanic Review*

*Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos*

## LANGUAGES

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English: Native fluency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Spanish: Superior proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Catalan: Advanced-high proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening

Arabic: Advanced-mid proficiency in reading and writing

Portuguese: Superior proficiency in reading, Advanced-low in writing, speaking, and listening

French: Advanced-low proficiency in reading