

# MAGALÍ ARMILLAS-TISEYRA

Department of Comparative Literature | The Pennsylvania State University | 442 Burrowes Building  
University Park, PA 16802 | marmillas@psu.edu | www.magaliarmillastiseyra.com

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2017 - Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature and Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, The Pennsylvania State University  
2015 - 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State  
2012 - 2015 Assistant Professor of World Literature, Department of English, University of Mississippi

## EDUCATION

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- 2012 Ph.D. Comparative Literature, New York University (with honors)  
2007 MA Comparative Literature, New York University  
2005 BA English and Creative Writing, *summa cum laude*, The George Washington University  
Phi Beta Kappa (2004); departmental honors

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

“The Global African Novel: Genre and the Making of Contemporary Literature,” in progress

This project examines recent work by diasporic African writers, who either live or publish widely outside of the continent. I argue that genre and, specifically, genre fiction have been central to the making-global of contemporary African writing. In taking up generic formulae, African writers have facilitated the circulation of their work. At the same time, in disturbing or interfering with these same formulae, African writers use the modalities of genre to provide an alternate—and critical—perspective on the global dynamics that shape the present.

*The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South*, forthcoming (Northwestern UP; July 2019)

This book-length study maps the emergence and evolutions of the dictator-novel in the literatures of the Global South, with particular attention to Latin American and African literatures. In taking a comparative perspective, it shifts emphasis from the possible historical referents of a given text to the constitutive features of the genre. More than a vehicle for critique of the dictator, the dictator-novel is a site for the critical mediation on and theorization of the relationship between politics and literature.

This project received a 2018 Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award from the American Comparative Literature Association

### Journal Articles

- 2016 “Afronauts: On Science Fiction and the Crisis of Possibility.” Special Issue on African Science Fiction. *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 3.3: 273-290
- 2013 “Beyond Metaphor: Juana Manuela Gorriti and Discourses of the Nation Under Juan Manuel de Rosas.” *Latin American Literary Review* 82.42: 26-46
- 2008 “Un Texto (Ex)Céntrico: Nation, Narrative, and Archive in Lucio V. Mansilla’s *Una excursión a los indios ranqueles*.” *Latin American Literary Review* 37.72: 52-82

**Book Chapters**

- 2018 “Marvelous Autocrats: Disrupted Realisms in the Dictator-Novel of the South Atlantic.” In *The Global South Atlantic: Region, Vision, Method*. Ed. Joseph R. Slaughter and Kerry Bystrom. New York: Fordham UP. pp. 186-204
- 2014 “The Dictator and his Objects: The Status of the Fetish in the African Dictator-Novel.” In *Unmasking the African Dictator: Essays on Postcolonial African Literature*. Ed. Gichingiri Ndigirigi. Knoxville: U of Tennessee P. pp. 186-209
- “The Unfaithful Chronicler: On Writing about the Dictator in Henri Lopès’s *Le Pleurer-rire*.” In *Unmasking the African Dictator: Essays on Postcolonial African Literature*. pp. 70-94

**Editorial Projects**

- 2017- Co-Director, *Global South Studies: A Collective Publication with The Global South* (journal)  
<http://globalsouthstudies.as.virginia.edu/>
- 2013 Guest Editor. *The Global South* 7.2: “Dislocations”

**Translations**

- 2016 Translation and Introduction (peer-reviewed): “On Language and Empire: Antonio de Nebrija’s Prologue to *Grammar of the Castilian Language* (1492).” *PMLA* 131.1 (January): 197-208

**Reviews and Other Publications**

- 2014 Review Essay: *In the Name of the Mother: Reflections on Writers and Empire* and *Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing* by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o. *e-misférica* 11.1: “The Decolonial Gesture”  
<http://hemisphericinstitute.org/hemi/en/emisferica-111-decolonialgesture/armillastiseyra>
- 2013 Introduction: “Dislocations.” *The Global South* 7.2: 1-10
- Book Review: *The Nation Writ Small: African Fictions and Feminisms 1958-1988* by Susan Z. Andrade. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 33.1: 125-126
- 2011 Co-Authored Essay: “Building Bridges,” with Shira Klein and Alexis Kuerbis. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* (March/April): 57-58

**Forthcoming**

- 2018 “Tales from the Corpolony: Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o’s *Wizard of the Crow* and the Dictator-Novel in the Time of Transition.” Special Issue on Performances of Sovereignty and the African Novel. *Research in African Literatures* 49.3 (Fall 2018)
- 2019 Book Review, *From the Tricontinental to the Global South: Race, Radicalism, and Transnational Solidarity* by Anne Garland Mahler (Duke UP, 2018), *Chasqui*

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

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- 2018 Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award, ACLA
- 2018 Resident Scholar, Penn State Humanities Institute (Fall)
- 2017-2020 Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State

2017	Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State
2014-2015	Humanities Center Early Career Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh
2013, 2014	College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi
2011	Mellon Summer Dissertation Seminar: "The Problem of Translation," NYU
2010-2011	Graduate School of Arts and Science Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, NYU
2009, 2010	Department of Comparative Literature Summer Fellowship, NYU
2009	Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Summer Field Research Grant, NYU
2008-2011	Graduate Forum: an interdisciplinary working group, NYU
2007	NYU-University of Cambridge Mainzer Visiting Fellowship, Gender Studies, NYU
2005-2010	Henry Mitchell MacCracken Fellowship, NYU

### **RECENT AND UPCOMING TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND ROUNDTABLES**

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- 2018 "Present Futures and the Legacies of Afrofuturism: Speculative Fiction, Globality, Utopia." Humanities Institute, Penn State. October 16 (with Matt Tierney)
- "The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South." Arts & Sciences Workshop, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University. September 27 (invited)
- "Magical Realism, Dictator Novels, and "Booms": Comparison with and through Latin America." Department of Hispanic Studies, Brown University. September 25 (invited)
- "The Global South Novel: Before and After." The Global South Novel. Society for Novel Studies 2018 Conference ("Novel Theory"). Cornell University. May 31-June 1
- "Art Forms of Dimensions Tomorrow: The Aesthetics of Futurity in the Wake of Neoliberal Globalization." The Crisis of the Future/The Future in Crisis: The Aesthetics of Futurity in the Post-Global Present. ACLA. Los Angeles, CA. March 29-April 1
- "Academic Communities Beyond Campus: Collaborating, Networking, Connecting" (workshop). ACLA. Los Angeles, CA. March 29-April 1
- "The African Dictator in the 1990s: Post-Cold War Transitions and/as Permanent Crisis." Dictatorship, Authoritarianism, and the Conceptual Mapping of the Global South. Thinking the Global South: A Critical Vocabulary for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Penn State. March 16-17
- "*Mésaventures*: The Politics and Poetics of the Dictator-Novel in the African Postcolony." Department of Comparative Literature Luncheon. Penn State. February 26
- "Homegoing: Reading the 'Global' African Novel in the Twenty-First Century." Twenty-First Century African Writers. (Forum LLC African since 1990). MLA. New York, NY. January 4-7
- "From Atlantic to Global" (roundtable). MLA. New York, NY. January 4-7 (Invited)
- 2017 "Between the Archive and the Text: 'Fathers of the Fatherlands,' the Latin American 'boom,' and the Dictator-Novel in the Global South." Penn State Modernist Studies Workshop. December 4 (Invited)

- “Global’ African Literature and Contemporary African Literary Criticism” (roundtable). African Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 16-18 (Invited)
- “Fathers of the Fatherlands: Writing, Politics, and Literary Form in the Latin American Boom.” Ithaca College. October 9 (Invited)
- “At the Fulcrum of Empire: Laila Lalami’s *The Moor’s Account* as a Novel of the Global South.” The Global South and the Question of Method. ACLA. Utrecht, the Netherlands. July 6-9
- “Planetary Detectives: On Genre and the (Post-) Global Circulations of African Literature.” After Continental Coherence: Reading African Literature in the Era of World Literature. African Literature Association. Yale University. June 14-17
- “Secret Histories: Detective Fiction and the Global African Novel in the Twenty-First Century.” Modern and Contemporary Studies Initiative (MCSI) Summer Institute. Penn State. June 12-17
- 2016 “From Below: Insurgent Globalism(s) at the Start of the Twenty-First Century.” Red on Red: A Symposium on Post-Socialist Art and Critical Theory. Yale University. April 8-9 (Invited)
- “Secret Histories: Detective Fiction and the Global African Novel in the Twenty-First Century.” The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Novel at the Limit. ACLA. Boston, MA. March 17-20
- “The Dictator-Novel Beyond the Dictator: The ‘Corpolony’ and the Global South.” The Dictator Novel International: Classical Works from Latin America and Africa (Forum LLC 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century Latin America and Forum LLC African to 1990). MLA. Austin, TX. January 7-10
- 2015 “Tales from the Corpolony: The Emergent Global South Imaginary in Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s *Wizard of the Crow* (2004-2007; 2006).” Writing for Liberty. Center for Transcultural Writing and Research, Lancaster University. April 17-18
- “Afronauts, Mutants, and Nuclear Destruction: Technological Speculations as Alternate Histories for the Present.” African Sci-Fi and Horror (Division on African Literature). MLA. Vancouver, BC. January 8-11
- “Sounding the Limits of the ‘South’: Non-Locational Geographies at the Limit of a Concept.” The Global South Imaginary: A Critical Reflection (Special Session). MLA. Vancouver, BC. January 8-11
- 2014 “We Have Never Been Magical: Rethinking Magical Realism in a (Global) Modernist Framework.” Global Modernisms in Ascent/Dissent. Modernist Studies Association Conference (MSA 16). Pittsburgh, PA. November 6-9
- “Adulterated Realisms: Narrative Deformations in the Dictator-Novel of the South Atlantic.” Humanities Center Colloquium. University of Pittsburgh. October 9
- “Fathers of the Fatherlands: On Writing the Dictator.” Humanities Center. University of Pittsburgh. September 16

“The Ends of Realism: On Literary Technics and Writing the Dictator.” Fictions of Authoritarianism and the (Re)Turns of Modernism. Global Modernisms Symposium. Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. April 3-4

“Mourning and the ‘Big Man’: Toward a Cryptonomy of the Dictator in Narratives of Transnational Migration.” Dictator Capital: Authoritarianism, Capitalism, and the Circulation of an Aesthetic. ACLA. New York, NY. March 20-23

### **Conferences, Talks, and Panels Organized (selected)**

2018 Co-organizer. “The Crisis of the Future/The Future in Crisis: The Aesthetics of Futurity in the Post-Global Present.” ACLA. Los Angeles, CA. March 29-April 1

Conference Organizer. “Thinking the Global South: A Critical Vocabulary for the Twenty-First Century.” Penn State. March 16-17

<https://sites.psu.edu/thinkingtheglobalsouth/>

2017 Co-organizer. “The Global South and the Question of Method.” ACLA. Utrecht, the Netherlands. July 6-9

2016 Co-Organizer. “Globe, Planet, World: Comparison and the Problem of Disciplinary Scale.” ACL(x) (“Extra-Disciplinarity”). Penn State. September 22-24

Organizer. “African Writing, the ‘Global Novel,’ and the Question of World Literature.” Society for Novel Studies 2016 Conference (“The Novel in or against World Literature”). University of Pittsburgh. May 13-14

2015 Co-organizer. “Mere Comparisons”: A Symposium on Comparison. University of Pittsburgh Humanities Center. February 9

2014 Organizer. “Fictions of Authoritarianism and the (Re)Turns of Modernism.” Global Modernisms Symposium. Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. April 3

Organizer. “Futures of South-South Comparison: Theorizing Emergent Zones of Exchange.” Special Session: Roundtable. MLA. Chicago, IL. January 9-12

## **TEACHING**

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### **Penn State**

2018 Advanced Seminar: “City: Form and Function” (GLIS 400) (Spring)

Introductory Course: “Human Rights and World Literatures” (CMLIT 143) (Spring)

2017 Honors Seminar: “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (CMLIT 010H) (Fall)

Introductory Course: “Crime and Detection in World Literature” (CMLIT 131) (Fall)

Graduate Seminar: “The Global South: History, Politics, and Method” (CMLIT 543) (Spring)

Advanced Seminar: “City: Form and Function” (GLIS 400) (Spring)

2016 Advanced Seminar: “City: Form and Function” (INTST 400/GLIS 400) (Spring)

Introductory Course: “Human Rights and World Literatures” (CMLIT 143) (Spring)

2015 Introductory Course: “Globalization” (GLIS 101/INTST 100) (Fall)

### University of Mississippi

- 2014 Graduate Seminar: “Narrative Ontologies in World Literature: The Limits of Realism” (Spring)  
Introductory Seminar: “The Short Story” (Spring)
- 2013 Honors Seminar: “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (Fall)  
Survey (lecture): “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (Fall)  
Introductory Seminar: “Transnational Approaches to the Short Story” (Fall)  
Advanced Seminar: “The Idea of the Postcolonial: Place, Time, and the Postcolony” (Spring)  
Introductory Seminar: “Borges and Coetzee” (Spring)
- 2012 Advanced Seminar: “Magical Realism: Narrating the ‘Third World’” (Fall)  
Survey (lecture): “Reading in Global Contexts: Resonances in World Literature” (Fall)

### SERVICE

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2015-2020 Executive Committee. Comparative Literary and Culture Studies forum on the Global South, Modern Language Association  
Committee Chair: 2019-2020

**Referee:** Bloomsbury; *ASAP*; Peter Lang (UK); *PMLA*; Cambridge University Press

### Penn State

#### Department

- 2019- Co-coordinator, Comparative Literature Luncheon series  
2016- Undergraduate Studies Committee  
2016- Graduate Teaching Mentor (Fall 2016) (Spring 2018)  
2015-2017 Graduate Placement Committee

### College of Liberal Arts

- 2017- Global and International Studies (GLIS) (Advisory Board member)  
2016- Modern and Contemporary Studies Initiative (Advisory Board member)  
2015- Latin American Studies Standing Committee

### LANGUAGES

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English (native); Spanish (native); French (research language); Portuguese (beginner); Italian (beginner); German (beginner)

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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African Literature Association; African Studies Association; American Comparative Literature Association; Modern Language Association; Society for Novel Studies