

# MAGALÍ ARMILLAS-TISEYRA

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2020 - Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, The Pennsylvania State University  
2017 - 2020 Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State  
2015 - 2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State  
2014 - 2015 Early Career Fellow, Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh  
2012 - 2015 Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Mississippi

## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

- 2019 *The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South* (Northwestern University Press)  
Recipient of a Helen Tartar First Book Subvention award from the American Comparative Literature Association (2018)

This study brings together for the first time an archive of Latin American and African dictator novels, spanning the period from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first. In taking a comparative perspective, it shifts emphasis from the possible historical referents of a given work to the constitutive features of the genre across time and place, positioning the dictator novel as a vital genre in the literatures of the Global South. More than a vehicle for critique of the dictator, I argue, the dictator novel has become a space for writers to address issues such as the difficulties of nation-building and the legacies of colonialism, as well as question the relationship between politics and literature.

### Articles in Refereed Journals

- 2018 "Tales from the Corpolony: Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Wizard of the Crow* and the Dictator Novel in the Time of Transition." Special Issue: Performances of Sovereignty in African Dictator-Fiction. *Research in African Literatures* 49.3: 223-240
- 2016 "Afronauts: On Science Fiction and the Crisis of Possibility." Special Issue: 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*. Ed. Kerry Bystrom and Joseph R. Slaughter. 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* (see above). pp. 70-94

**Translation**

- 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

**Book Reviews, Essays, and Other Publications**

- 2019 Book Review: *The Global South and Literature*, ed. Russel West-Pavlov (Cambridge UP, 2018), *Comparative Literature Studies* 56.3: 609-612 (Invited)
- Essay: “Representing Dictatorship in the Global South,” *Global South Studies: A Collective Publication with The Global South*.  
<https://globalsouthstudies.as.virginia.edu/key-issues/representing-dictatorship-global-south>
- 2018 Book Review: *From the Tricontinental to the Global South: Race, Radicalism, and Transnational Solidarity* by Anne Garland Mahler (Duke UP, 2018). *Chasqui* 47.2: R43-45 (Invited)
- 2014 Review Essay: *In the Name of the Mother: Reflections on Writers and Empire* and *Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing* by Ngugi wa Thiong’o. *e-misférica* 11.1: “The Decolonial Gesture.”  
<https://hemisphericinstitute.org/en/emisferica-11-1-decolonial-gesture/11-1-review-essays/globalectics-theory-and-the-politics-of-knowing.html>
- 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 (Invited)
- 2011 Co-Authored Essay: “Building Bridges,” with Shira Klein and Alexis Kuerbis. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* (March/April): 57-58

**Editorial Projects**

- 2021 Guest Editor, with Anne Garland Mahler. Special Issue: “New Directions in Global South Studies.” *CLS: Comparative Literature Studies* (est. publication in 2021 and 2022)
- 2017- Co-Director, *Global South Studies: A Collective Publication with The Global South*  
<https://globalsouthstudies.as.virginia.edu/>
- 2013 Guest Editor. Special Issue: “Dislocations.” *The Global South* 7.2

**Forthcoming**

Essay: “The Dictator as Heuristic: Trump, Zuma, and the Hazards of Comparison.” Special Issue: Trump, Zuma, and the Grounds of US-South African Comparison. *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* (late 2020)

Article: “The Contemporary Novel and the Global South: Relation, Recognition, and the Utopian Impulse.” *Studies in the Novel* 53.2 (Summer 2021)

Chapter: “García Márquez and the Global South,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Gabriel García Márquez*, ed. Ignacio López-Calvo and Gene Bell-Villanda (est. publication in 2021)

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

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**Research Funding**

2017-2020 Caroline D. Eckhardt Early Career Professor of Comparative Literature, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State

2018 Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award, American Comparative Literature Association

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

2009, 2010 Department of Comparative Literature Summer Fellowship, NYU

2009 Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies Summer Field Research Grant, NYU

**Fellowships**

2018 Resident Scholar, Penn State Humanities Institute

2010-2011 Graduate School of Arts and Science Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, NYU

2007 NYU-University of Cambridge Mainzer Visiting Fellowship, Gender Studies, NYU

2005-2010 Henry Mitchell MacCracken Fellowship, NYU (funding and stipend for doctoral study)

**Other Awards**

2020-2022 Future Funded Faculty program, College of the Liberal Arts, Penn State

2017 Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, Department of Comparative Literature, Penn State

2008-2011 Graduate Forum: an interdisciplinary working group, NYU

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

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**Invited Talks**

2020 “The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South” (book presentation). Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh. October 1 (virtual)

“The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South.” University of Bristol (UK). May 7 (Cancelled/COVID)

“The Dictator Novel: From ‘Fathers of the Fatherlands’ to the Corpolony.” Queen Mary University of London (UK). May 4 (Cancelled/COVID)

2018 “The Dictator Novel: Writers and Politics in the Global South.” Arts & Sciences Workshop, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University. September 27

“Magical Realism, Dictator Novels, and ‘Booms’: Comparison with and through Latin America.” Department of Hispanic Studies, Brown University. September 25

2017 “Fathers of the Fatherlands: Writing, Politics, and Literary Form in the Latin American Boom.” Ithaca College. October 9

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

### Conference Papers

2020 “Terms of Engagement: World Literature, the Contemporary African Novel, and the ‘Shadow’ of the Latin American Boom.” The Fate of the Novel in the State of the Field. African Literature Association. Washington, DC. May 27-31 (Cancelled/COVID)

“Resituating South-South Comparisons: Contemporary African Literature and the Legacies of the Latin American ‘Boom.’” Eccentric Comparatists, Worlds Otherwise: South-South Exchanges, Alternative Orientalisms, Strategic Occidentalisms. American Comparative Literature Association. Chicago, IL. March 19-22 (Cancelled/COVID)

2019 “Returns of the Post-Global: Migration, Circulation, and the Dislocations of Literature.” Global South Studies: A Symposium and Workshop. University of Virginia. March 29-30 (Invited)

“The Historical Novel and Global-Knowing: Booms, Genre, and the Uses of Comparison.” Properties of the ‘Global’ Novel: Comparative and Otherwise. American Comparative Literature Association. Washington, DC. March 7-10

2018 “The Global South Novel: Before and After.” The Global South Novel. Society for Novel Studies. Cornell University. May 31-June 1 (Invited)

“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. American Comparative Literature Association. Los Angeles, CA. March 29-April 1

“Homegoing: Reading the ‘Global’ African Novel in the Twenty-First Century.” Twenty-First Century African Writers (Forum LLC African since 1990). Modern Language Association. New York, NY. January 4-7

2017 “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. American Comparative Literature Association. 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

2016 “Secret Histories: Detective Fiction and the Global African Novel in the Twenty-First Century.” The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Novel at the Limit. American Comparative Literature Association. 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). Modern Language Association. 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 Conference. Center for Transcultural Writing and Research, Lancaster University. April 17-18 (Invited)

“Afronauts, Mutants, and Nuclear Destruction: Technological Speculations as Alternate Histories for the Present.” African Sci-Fi and Horror (Division on African Literature). Modern Language Association. 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). Modern Language Association. Vancouver, BC. January 8-11

### **Roundtables and Workshops**

- 2020 “Anthropocene Storytelling.” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians. Baltimore, MD. May 28-31 (Moderator; Invited) (Cancelled/COVID)

- 2019 “Research Methods in African Literary Studies.” African Literature Association. Columbus, Ohio. May 15-18

- 2018 “Academic Communities Beyond Campus: Collaborating, Networking, Connecting.” American Comparative Literature Association. Los Angeles, CA. March 29-April 1

“From Atlantic to Global.” Modern Language Association. New York, NY. January 4-7

- 2017 “States of African Literary Criticism.” African Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 16-18

### **Local Presentations**

- 2020 Faculty Breakfast (graduate student workshop). Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, Penn State. April 13 (Cancelled/COVID)

- 2019 Latin American Studies New Books Colloquium, Penn State. November 15 (with Amara Solari and Rebecca Tarlau)

- 2018 “Present Futures and the Legacies of Afrofuturism: Speculative Fiction, Globality, Utopia.” Humanities Institute, Penn State. October 16 (with Matt Tierney)

“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 Twenty-First 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

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

“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

### **Conferences, Talks, and Panels Organized (2012-present)**

2020 Seminar co-organizer. “Eccentric Comparativisms, Worlds Otherwise: South-South Exchanges, Alternative Orientalisms, Strategic Occidentalisms.” American Comparative Literature Association. Chicago, IL. March 19-22 (Cancelled/COVID)

Panel organizer. “Race, Indigeneity, and Articulations of Sovereignty across the Global South.” (Forum CLCS Global South). Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. January 9-12

2019 Series co-organizer. “Anthropocene Storytelling: Ecological Writing and Pedagogies of Planetary Change.” Penn State. April 18-19  
<https://sites.psu.edu/anthropocenestorytelling/>

2018 Seminar co-organizer. “The Crisis of the Future/The Future in Crisis: The Aesthetics of Futurity in the Post-Global Present.” American Comparative Literature Association. 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/>

Panel co-organizer. “South-South Translation and the Geopoetics of Circulation” (Forum CLCS Global South). Modern Language Association. New York, NY. January 4-7

2017 Seminar co-organizer. “The Global South and the Question of Method.” American Comparative Literature Association. Utrecht, the Netherlands. July 6-9

Panel organizer. “The Planet in Ruins: The Anthropocene from Below” (Forum CLCS Global South). Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. January 5-8

2016 Panel co-organizer. “Globe, Planet, World: Comparison and the Problem of Disciplinary Scale.” ACL(x): American Comparative Literature Association. Penn State. September 22-24

Panel organizer. “African Writing, the ‘Global Novel,’ and the Question of World Literature.” Society for Novel Studies. University of Pittsburgh. May 13-14

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

## TEACHING

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### **Penn State, Department of Comparative Literature**

#### **Undergraduate**

Survey course: “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (CMLIT 010H) (FAI 2017; FA 2019)

Survey course: “Crime and Detection in World Literature” (CMLIT 131) (FA 2017)

Survey course: “Human Rights and World Literatures” (CMLIT 143) (SP 2016; SP 2018; SP 2020)  
(large lecture: FA 2019; FA 2020)

Advanced seminar: “Ethics, Justice, and Rights in World Literature” (CMLIT 455) (SP 2019; FA 2020)

Advanced seminar: “Writing the Twenty-First Century: Past, Present, and (Speculative) Futures” (CMLIT 489) (SP 2020)

#### **Graduate**

Seminar: “Narrative Ontologies: Magical Realism, World Literature, and the Limits of Literary-Critical Category” (CMLIT 543) (SP 2019)

Seminar: “The Global South: History, Politics, and Method” (CMLIT 543) (SP 2017)

**Graduate Independent Studies (Comparative Literature):** Qiyu Chen (“African Literature and the Cold War,” FA 2020); Elizabeth Schoppelrei (Comprehensive Exam Preparation, SP 2019); Ivana Ancic (Comprehensive Exam Preparation, FA 2017); Irenae Aigbedion (Comprehensive Exam Preparation, FA 2017)

### **Penn State, Global and International Studies Program (Undergraduate)**

Capstone Seminar: “City: Form and Function” (INTST 400/GLIS 400) (SP 2016; SP 2017; SP 2018)

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

### **University of Mississippi, Department of English**

Graduate Seminar: “Narrative Ontologies in World Literature: The Limits of Realism” (SP 2014)

Introductory Seminar: “The Short Story” (FA 2013; SP 2014)

Honors Seminar: “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (FA 2013)

Survey (lecture): “Cannibals! Encounters in World Literature” (FA 2013)

Advanced Seminar: “The Idea of the Postcolonial: Place, Time, and the Postcolony” (SP 2013)

Introductory Seminar: “Borges and Coetzee” (SP 2013)

Advanced Seminar: “Magical Realism: Narrating the ‘Third World’” (FA 2012)

Survey (lecture): “Reading in Global Contexts: Resonances in World Literature” (FA 2012)

### **Class Visits at Other Institutions**

2020 “What is World Literature?” (ESH7079; MA seminar), Prof. Andrew van der Vleis. Queen Mary University of London (UK) (March) (in person) (cancelled)

2018 “Authoritarianism in Literature” (Honors 200-42; undergraduate seminar), Prof. Jonathan Ablard. Ithaca College. April 6 (virtual visit)

2017 “Authoritarianism in Literature” (Honors 200-42; undergraduate seminar), Prof. Jonathan Ablard. Ithaca College. October 9 (in person)

### **Pedagogical Training**

2015 New Instructor Orientation. Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, Penn State

2010 Graduate School of Arts and Science Teaching and Learning Certificate, NYU

2008 Methodology of Language Teaching. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, NYU

## Curriculum Development

2020 “Redesigning Modernities: Why Does the Modern World Look So Different in Various Places Around the Globe?” funded by the University Strategic Plan, 2016-2025, Office of the Provost, Advancing the Arts and Humanities Initiative, Penn State

## SERVICE

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2020- Associate Editor, *CLS: Comparative Literature Studies*

2015-2020 Executive Committee (founding member). CLCS Forum on the Global South, Modern Language Association  
Committee chair: 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

**Referee:** *Research in African Literatures; African Literature Today; Journal of African Cultural Studies; ASAP/Journal; PMLA*

Routledge; Liverpool University Press; Bloomsbury; Peter Lang; Cambridge University Press

## Penn State

### Graduate Student Committees

#### Chair

2020- Qiyu Chen, Comparative Literature and African Studies (co-chair, MA-PhD)

2017- Elizabeth Schoppelrei, Comparative Literature and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (co-chair; MA-PhD)

#### Member

2020- Irene Momanyi, Department of French and Francophone Studies and African Studies (PhD)

Gustavo Herrera Díaz, Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese (PhD)

2019- Michelle McGowan, Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese (PhD)

Wayne Yeung, Comparative Literature and Asian Studies (PhD)

2017- Irenae Aigbedion, Comparative Literature (PhD)

Derek Gideon, Comparative Literature and African Studies (MA-PhD)

Marie Paillard, Department of French and Francophone Studies (PhD)

Sean Weideman, Department of English (PhD)

2015- Ivana Ancic, Comparative Literature (MA-PhD)

2017-2019 Alex Fyfe, Comparative Literature and African Studies (PhD)

2015-2020 Victoria Lapascu, Comparative Literature and Asian Studies (PhD)

### Other Graduate Advising

2019-2020 Andrea Martínez Teruel (MA)

2018-2019 Madeline Hughes (BA-MA)

2017-2018 Deena Al-Halabieh (MA)

### Department

2020- Working group on *CLS: Comparative Literature Studies*

2016- Undergraduate Studies Committee

2016- Graduate Teaching Mentor



2019-2020 Search Committee: Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Arabic  
 2019 Co-coordinator, Comparative Literature Luncheon series (SP)  
 2015-2017 Graduate Placement Committee

**College of Liberal Arts**

2020- Steering committee member: “Moments of Change: A century of Women’s Activism”  
 2017- Advisory board member: Global and International Studies (GLIS)  
 2016-2018 Advisory board member: Modern and Contemporary Studies  
 2015- Member: Latin American Studies Standing Committee

**LANGUAGES**

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

**CURRENT PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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