

Elaine A. Peña
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Washington D.C. 20052
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ritual, Border Studies, Anthropology of Religion, Space and Place Theory, Performance Theory and Method, Latinx and Latin American Studies

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2013- | Associate Professor, George Washington University
Department of American Studies |
| 2018-2019 | Visiting Scholar, University of Edinburgh
Social Anthropology, School of Social and Political Science |
| 2009-2010 | Principal Investigator, Smithsonian Institution
Latino D.C. History Project |
| 2007-2013 | Assistant Professor, George Washington University
Department of American Studies |
| 2007-2008 | Postdoctoral Associate & Lecturer, Yale University
Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Program
Department of Religious Studies |
| 2006-2007 | Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign Latina/o Studies Program |

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois U.S.A.

Ph.D. Performance Studies, June 2006

Cognate: Cultural Anthropology

Gender Studies Certificate

M.A. Performance Studies, June 2002

Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas U.S.A.

B.A. English & Drama (double major), cum laude, May 2001

BOOKS

¡Viva George! Celebrating Washington's Birthday at the U.S.-Mexico Border. Austin: University of Texas Press (expected publication date: October 2020)

2011. *Performing Piety: Making Space Sacred with the Virgin of Guadalupe*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

*Honorable Mention, Best Book in Latino/a Anthropology, Association of Latina & Latino Anthropologists (ALLA), American Anthropological Association, 2012.

Reviews: *American Ethnologist* 39.4; *The Americas* 70.2; *Religious Studies Review* 38.2; *Hispanic American Historical Review* 92.3; *American Catholic Studies* 123.2; *e-misférica* 8.2; *Journal of Hispanic and Latino Theology* 19.1; *Not Even Past* January 2013

2005. Editor, with Guillermo Gómez-Peña. *Ethno-techno: Writings on performance, activism, and pedagogy*. New York: Routledge.

Reviews: *Theatre Journal* 59.3; *Contemporary Theatre Review* 17.1; *Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology* 6.3; *Australasian Drama Studies* 50; *Feminist Media Studies* 6.3; *alt.theatre – Cultural Diversity and the Stage* 5.3

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2017. "Paso Libre (Open Border): Border Enactment, Infrastructure, and Crisis Resolution at the Port of Laredo (1954-1957)." *The Drama Review*. 61(2): 11-31.

2017. "Time to Pray: Devotional Rhythms and Space Sacralization Processes at the Mexico-U.S. Border." *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief* 13(4): 461-48.

2014. "More than a dead American hero: Washington, the Improved Order of Red Men, and the Limits of Civil Religion," *American Literary History* 26(1): 61-82.

2008. "Beyond México: Guadalupan Sacred Space Production and Mobilization in a Chicago suburb," *American Quarterly* 60(3): 721-747.

2006. "De-politicizing border space," *e-misférica* 3(2). New York: New York University, Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics.

BOOK CHAPTERS

In Press. "Geopolitics, Space Sacralization, and Devotional Labor on the U.S.-Mexico Border." In *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Material Religion*. Editors. Manuel A. Vásquez and Vasudha Narayanan. New York. John Wiley & Sons.

2013. "Reveling in Patriotism: Celebrating America on the U.S.-Mexico border during the Mexican Revolution," In *Open Borders to a Revolution: Culture, Politics and Migration*. Editors: Jaime Marroquín, Adela Pineda and Magdalena Mieri. Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Scholarly Press. Pp. 191-212.

BOOK REVIEWS

2018. *The U.S.-Mexico Transborder Region: Cultural Dynamics and Historical Interactions*. Carlos G. Vélez-Ibañez and Josiah Heyman, eds. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2017. *American Ethnologist* 45(3): 426-427.

PUBLIC HISTORY REPORTS

2010. "Latino D.C. History Project: The National Is International." Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Latino Center.

2010. "Latino D.C. History Project: The Afro-Cuban Presence in Washington D.C." Washington D.C.: Smithsonian Latino Center.

IN PROCESS

n.d. "George Washington and Miguel Hidalgo Embrace at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Prospective Thinking about Transnational Civil Religion. In *Beyond Bellah: Toward a New Understanding of Civil Religion*, Editors: Philip Goff, Raymond J. Haberski, and Rhys Williams. Under review with Cambridge University Press.

n.d. *Gómez-Peña Unplugged: Texts on Live Art, Social Practice and Imaginative Activism (2008-2018)*, Editors: B. Gómez, E. Tramosch, E. A. Peña. Under review with Routledge.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019-2021 Research Grant, The British Academy
The Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling the UK's International Challenges Program
Project: *Border Festivals, Partitioned Communities and Practical Governance in West Africa*
- 2015-2016 George Washington University, University Facilitating Fund Research Grant
- 2013 National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipends Award
- 2012-2013 George Washington University, Columbian College Facilitating Fund, Research Grant
- 2010 Research Grant, Washington D.C. Humanities Council
Project: *Stories of Spanish Speaking Washington*
- 2010 Texas Red Men Foundation, Research Grant
- 2007-2009 Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University
- 2007-2008 Ford Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
- 2006-2007 Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of Latina/Latino Studies, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign
- 2006 Mellon Research Grant, Alice Kaplan Humanities Center, Northwestern University
- 2005-2006 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2003 Research Grant, Center for International and Comparative Studies, Northwestern University

2003 Research Grant, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, Northwestern University

1999-2000 Summer Research Grant, Ronald E. McNair Program
Project: *Ezra Pound and the Economics of Poetry*

HONORS

2019 National Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

2012 Honorable Mention, *Performing Piety: Making Space Sacred with the Virgin of Guadalupe* Best Book in Latina/o Anthropology, American Anthropological Association

2010-2012 Young Scholars of American Religion, Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis

2006 Finalist, C.W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship

2006 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

2005 Alternate Candidate, Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Fellowship

2005 Alternate Candidate, Mexico-North Transnational Research Fellowship

2001 Marguerite Davenport Humanities Award, Our Lady of the Lake University

1999-2001 McNair Scholar, The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, U.S. Department of Education

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, and COLLOQUIA (selection)

Paper. Theologically Engaged Anthropology II. Project: Rapid Religious Change Colloquium, Victoria College/ University of Toronto, May 2019.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Religion, Emory University, March 2019.

Guest Lecture. *Performing Piety: Making Space Sacred with the Virgin of Guadalupe*. HDS 3223/REL 1009 "Religion, Gender and Politics in Transnational Perspective." Professors Leila Ahmed and Ann Braude. Harvard Divinity School (U.S.A.), November 2018.

Paper. "Ritual and Infrastructure at the U.S.-Mexico Border," Politics & International Studies Research Seminar Series. Queen's University Belfast (U.K.), November 2018.

Paper. "Time to Pray: Devotional Rhythms at the Mexico-U.S. Border," Religious Studies Research Seminar Series. School of Divinity. University of Edinburgh (U.K.), October 2018.

Paper. Religious Movement(s): Migration and Belief in the Americas. Centro de las Américas/Americas Center. University of Virginia (U.S.A.), Apr. 2018.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Social Anthropology, University of St. Andrews (U.K.), May 2017.

Paper. Religion in the Americas Workshop, Princeton University (U.S.A.), Apr. 2017.

Paper. "Paso Libre (Open Border): Ritual as Crisis Resolution at the Port of Laredo (1954-1957)," Institute of Sacred Music Colloquium, Yale University (U.S.A.), Mar. 2017.

Research Profile Presentation. The School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Arizona State University (U.S.A.), Dec. 2016.

Participant. Religion and the Ethics of Forced Migration. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of International Migration, the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity, Georgetown University (U.S.A.), Oct. 2015.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of American Studies, University of Manchester (U.K.), Jul. 2015.

Presentation. Interdisciplinary Ethnography Workshop: Blurring the Boundaries of Practice. Department of Religion. Princeton University (U.S.A.), Mar. 2015.

Presentation. Space/Place Session. Biennial Conference on Religion and American Culture. The Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University (U.S.A.), June 2013.

Paper. "La Plaza Mariana: Urban development and sacred space production at la Virgen de Guadalupe's shrine in Mexico City," University of California Riverside (U.S.A.), Mar. 2013.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Religious Studies and the Center for Comparative Studies in Race & Ethnicity, Stanford University (U.S.A.), Feb. 2013.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Religious Studies, University of Texas (U.S.A.), Jan. 2013.

Paper. American Literatures/American Religions. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (U.S.A.), Oct. 2012.

Keynote Speaker. National Council for the Arts & National Council for Media and Public Affairs annual meeting, The George Washington University (U.S.A.), Nov. 2011.

Participant. "Making Community: Sharing experiences and knowledge." Sponsored by the Program in Latin American Studies, the Baltimore Mayor's Office, and *la Organización Latina Estudiantil*, The Johns Hopkins University (U.S.A.), Oct. 2010.

Paper. Mexican Revolution Centennial Symposium. Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington D.C. (U.S.A.), Sept. 2010.

Presentation. Traveling Politics Workshop. Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University (U.S.A.), Mar. 2010.

Research Profile Presentation. American Studies Program, Yale University (U.S.A.), Feb. 2010.

Paper. The Americas in America: New Developments in US Latino/Latina Studies Scholarship. Georgetown University (U.S.A.), Apr. 2009.

Keynote Speaker. Latino Studies Inaugural Symposium. Northwestern University (U.S.A.), Apr. 2009.

Paper. "Las Guadalupanas de Querétaro," Women, Religion, and Globalization Program, Yale University (U.S.A.), Dec. 2008.

Paper. American Catholic Studies Seminar, CUSHWA Center for the Study of American Catholicism, University of Notre Dame (U.S.A.), May 2007.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of American Studies. George Washington University (U.S.A.), Jan. 2007.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Wellesley College (U.S.A.), Jan. 2007.

Research Profile Presentation. Department of Performance Studies. Texas A&M University (U.S.A.), Oct. 2006.

Keynote Speaker. 11th Annual Ronald E. McNair Scholars Banquet. Our Lady of the Lake University (U.S.A.), Sept. 29, 2006.

Research Presentation. Centro de Estudios Antropológicos. El Colegio de Michoacán (Mexico), Jul. 2004.

CONFERENCES (selection)

Discussant. Author-meets-Critics session on "Savages, Romans, and Despots: Thinking about Others from Montaigne to Herder" by Robert Launay. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Vancouver, BC. November 2019.

Workgroup Participant. El mundo al revés: Humor, ruido y performance. Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México. June 2019.

Discussant. Geertz Prize Panel: A Discussion of N. Fadeke Castor's *Spiritual Citizenship: Transnational Pathways from Black Power to Ifá in Trinidad*. 'Politics of Religious Knowledge and

Ignorance.' Society for the Anthropology of Religion (SAR) Conference, Victoria College, University of Toronto, May 2019.

Paper. Association of Borderlands Studies World Conference, Universität Wien (Austria) and Central European University (Hungary), Jul. 2018.

Discussant. Materiality and Immateriality in the Reproduction of African Borders. African Borderlands Research Network Workshop, Cagliari (Italy), Apr. 2018.

Paper. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington D.C. (U.S.A.), Dec. 2014.

Paper. American Academy of Religion Meeting. San Antonio, Texas (U.S.A.), Nov. 2016.

Workgroup Participant. Excéntrico: disidencia, soberanías, performance. Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro. University of Chile-Santiago (Chile), Jul. 2016.

Paper. Borderlands and Latina/o Studies Seminar. Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (U.S.A.), Sept. 2015.

Paper. American Anthropological Association Meeting. Washington D.C. (U.S.A.), Dec. 2014.

Discussant. Material Religion and Pilgrimage in Mexico: Mary, Matter, Meaning and The Road to Tepeyac. American Academy of Religion Meeting. San Diego, CA (U.S.A.), Nov. 2014.

Paper. Practicing Borders: Interdisciplinary Perspectives. Organized by the Dipartimento di scienze sociali e delle istituzioni, Università di Cagliari (Italy), May 2014.

Paper. Borders, Walls, and Security Conference. Raoul Dandurand Chair of Strategic and Diplomatic Studies, Université du Québec à Montreal (Canada), Oct. 2013.

Discussant. Exceeding Boundaries: Approaches to Transnationalism in North American Religions. American Academy of Religion Meeting. Chicago, Illinois (U.S.A.), Nov. 2012.

Paper. American Studies Association Meeting. San Juan, Puerto Rico (U.S.A.), Nov. 2012.

Discussant. "Critical Applications of *More than Belief: A Materialist Theory of Religion*," American Academy of Religion Meeting. San Francisco, California (U.S.A.), Nov. 2011.

Discussant. *American Quarterly* Roundtable I: Nation and Migration. American Studies Association Meeting. San Antonio, Texas (U.S.A.), Nov. 2010.

Paper. 18th Annual Conference: Women, Gender and Political Spaces, Historical Perspectives." St. Hilda's College, University of Oxford (U.K.), Sept. 2009.

Workgroup Participant. Staging Citizenship: Cultural Rights in the Americas. Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro. National University of Colombia-Bogotá (Colombia), Aug. 2009.

Panel Chair. "Visible/Invisible: Women's work, pain and pleasure in public and private." American Anthropological Association Meeting. San José, California (U.S.A.), Nov. 2006.

Paper. Association for Theatre in Higher Education Conference, Inaugural Latino/a Focus Group. New York, NY (U.S.A.) Aug. 2003.

Workgroup Participant. Spectacles of Religiosity. Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics Encuentro. New York University (U.S.A.), Jul. 2003.

COURSES TAUGHT

George Washington University

Department of American Studies

Department of Anthropology

Elliot School of International and Area Studies

Latinos in the U.S.
Borders and Boundaries
Nationalism, Immigration, and Walls
Examining America
Diasporic Religion
Transnational Theory and Method
Field Methods-Ethnography, Place & Performance
Performance as Object and Method

Yale University

Ethnicity, Race, & Migration Program

Department of Religious Studies

Diasporic Religion/Devotion in Performance

University of Illinois

Latina/Latino Studies Program

Claiming Space: Ethnography, Geography & Performance

Northwestern University

School of Communication

Analysis of Literature for Performance

ACADEMIC SERVICE – UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE

- 2015-2016 Member, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Research Advisory Committee
- 2015 Member, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Arbitrary and Capricious Grievance Review Committee
- 2012-2013 Member, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences First Generation Student Pilot Program Committee
- 2010-2012 Member, University-Wide Arts Initiative Steering Committee
- 2009-2013 Board Member, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Center for Public History

ACADEMIC SERVICE-DEPARTMENT

2020 (Spring) M.A. Advisor
2016-2017 Director of Graduate Studies
2014-2017 Member, PhD Admission Committee
2012-2013 Member, Academic Program Review (undergraduate assessment committee)
2012-2013 Member, Academic Program Review (graduate program assessment committee)
2011-2012 Member, Science, Technology, & Culture Faculty Job Search Committee
2009-2010 Member, African American/Africana Studies Faculty Search Committee
2009-2010 Member, AMST undergraduate curriculum committee

SUPERVISION & MENTORSHIP

Mentor, Anayeli Nuñez, undergraduate student (History and AMST)
**Recipient of a 2018-2019 Luther Rice Fellowship (GWU)*

Mentor, George Ramírez (AMST)

Dissertation Committee Member, Sara Awartani (AMST)

Dissertation Committee Member, Julie Chamberlain (AMST)

External Examiner, Rebecca Bartel, Department for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto (PhD 2016)

Thesis Committee Member, Alicia Díaz (Department of Theatre and Dance, M.F.A. 2015)

Senior Thesis Director, Brooke Marchewka (Elliot School of International and Area Studies, B.A. 2015)

Senior Thesis Director, Adam Frankel (Elliot School of International and Area Studies, B.A. 2013)

Dissertation Committee Member, Bess Matassa (AMST, PhD 2013)

Mentor, Kevin Kelly (American Studies and English, B.A. 2013)
**Recipient of a 2012-2013 Luther Rice Fellowship (GWU)*

Senior Thesis Director, Jack Van Paeppegem (Anthropology, B.A. 2011)
**Winner of the Jane B. Hart Best Undergraduate Thesis Award (GWU)*

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES & PARTNERSHIPS (selection)

2019- Editorial Board Member, *American Religion*
2019 Grant Application Reviewer, Mellon/ ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program
2018-2010 Board Member, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association

- 2018 Member, Best Book Selection Committee, Association of Latina & Latino Anthropologists, American Anthropological Association
- 2017-2018 Site Committee Member, Latino Studies Biennial Conference, Washington D.C.
- 2016 Grant Application Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities
- 2015-2020 Steering Committee Member, Religion in the Latino/a Americas Unit, American Academy of Religion
- 2011-2012 Scholarly Advisory Team, *Our American Journey Project*, Smithsonian National Museum of American History
- 2009 Acquisitions Team Member, *Latino Clothing and Identity Project*, Smithsonian National Museum of American History

MEDIA

“Descifra Tradición” *El Mañana*, October 27, 2019.

<https://elmanana.com.mx/eimpres/imgs/edimpres/20191027/20191027-E-06-C.PDF>

“The Border Ball” *GW Magazine*, Summer 2019. <http://magazine.gwu.edu/the-border-ball>

“Latinos in Washington D.C.,” *NBC4*, Washington D.C. Oct. 4, 2014.

“Guadalupanos en Chicago, IL EE.UU.,” *Espacio Alternativo*, XHNOE-FM 91.3, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas (Mexico), Sept. 28, 2013.

“Debates on Immigration and Latino Identity.” Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Nov. 2011. <https://youtu.be/dcen34lBduY>

“Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe” *Texas Public Radio*, Dec.11, 2011.

“Santería and Curandismo in Washington DC.” *Washington Post*, Jul. 2010.

“Reforma inmigratoria en EE.UU.” *CNN en Español*, Mar. 2010.

“Latinas in Higher Education.” *Texas Public Radio*, Sept. 29, 2006.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (rotating basis)

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Latina/o Studies Association (LSA)

Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS)

American Studies Association (ASA)

African Borderlands Research Network (ABORNE)

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker), Spanish (fluent), French (intermediate)