

## **Christian Kroll**

Associate Professor of Spanish and Humanities  
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### **Professional Appointments**

Associate Professor of Spanish and Humanities. Spanish Department, Reed College. 2019 – present.  
Assistant Professor of Spanish and Humanities. Spanish Department, Reed College. 2014 – 2019.  
Assistant Professor of Spanish. Spanish Department, Sewanee: The University of the South. 2012 – 2014.

### **Research Interests**

20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Latin American literature and cultural studies with an emphasis on contemporary Central America, Mexico and Peru; critical, political, spatial and posthumanist theory; state violence and the languages of resistance; relation between culture, politics and the production of space in post-independence Latin America.

### **Education**

Ph.D. Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish), University of Michigan, 2012.  
Dissertation: *Writing beyond Reason: Literature, Counterinsurgency and Sovereignty in Contemporary Latin America* (Chair: Gareth Williams).

M.A. Urban and Regional Planning, University of Michigan, 2006.  
Focus: urban and spatial theory, planning in developing countries.  
Master's Thesis: *The Production of Exclusion: Avenida Reforma and Guatemala's Liberal Regime*

B.A. Architecture (*Licenciatura en Arquitectura*), 2000. Universidad Francisco Marroquín, Guatemala.

### **Publications**

*Work in Progress*

*Decentering the Human* (book manuscript)

You shall not care! Horrorism, Neoliberal Rationality and the Production of Collective Helplessness (article).

Detectives del olvido: memoria monológica y racionalidad neoliberal en *Puente adentro*, de Arnoldo Gálvez Suárez (article).

### Peer-reviewed Articles

The Inconvenience of Revolution: Zapatismo, Cynicism and Memory. *A Contracorriente*, 15.1 (Fall 2017), 216-239.

Nómadas, desempleados y suicidas: racionalidad neoliberal y subjetividades alternas en la literatura centroamericana de postguerra [Nomads, Suicides and the Unemployed: Neoliberal Rationality and Alternate Subjectivities in Central American Postwar Literature]. *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, 50:3 (October 2016), 604-27. <http://muse.jhu.edu/article/638396>

A Reasonable Senselessness: Madness, Sovereignty and Neoliberal Reason in Horacio Castellanos Moya's *Insensatez*. *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, 23:4 (2014), 381-399. (DOI: 10.1080/13569325.2014.958140).

### Other Academic Publications

Review of Horacio Castellanos Moya: *El diablo en el espejo*. Ed. by María del Carmen Caña Jiménez and Vinodh Venkatesh, eds. Valencia: Albatros, 2016. *Chasqui* 46.2 (November 2017), R21-23.

Guerrillas in Latin America. In *Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies: A Metahistory of Material Practices of Power*. Ed. Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz. London: Wiley-Blackwell. 2016. [Forthcoming in Spanish as: *Las guerrillas latinoamericanas*. In *Conceptos Fundamentales de la Poscolonialidad Latinoamericana*. Ed. Alberto Moreiras and José Luis Villacanas].

Guatemala, 2015: (Pre)sintiendo el futuro [dossier on Guatemala's 2015 political crisis]. *Istmo: Revista virtual de estudios literarios y culturales centroamericanos*, No 31 (2016). Editor and Coordinator (with Karen Ponciano). <http://istmo.denison.edu/n31/index.html>.

### Other Publications

Javier Payeras o la precariedad del narrador [Javier Payeras or the narrator's precarity]. Published jointly by the on-line magazines *Plaza Pública* (Guatemala) and *Literofilia* (Costa Rica) in August 2015, and by *Revista Cronopio* (Bogota, Colombia) in November 2015.

Esta boca no es mía [This mouth is not mine]. *La Cuerda: miradas feministas de la realidad* 15.175 (febrero 2015): 10.

Entre la *Insensatez* y el *Ruido de fondo*: el doble trauma de la Guatemala de posguerra. [Between *Senselessness* and *Background Noise*: The Double Trauma of Postwar Guatemala]. *Revista Cultura* 111 (septiembre-diciembre 2013): 105-114.

Las luchas del D.F.: Crónica enmascarada. [The Struggles of Mexico City: a Masked Chronicle]. *Rara* 7 (Abril-Junio 2012): 44-9.

Leyendo a Borges en McDonalds: el no-lugar del capitalismo globalizado y globalizante. [Reading Borges in McDonalds: The No-Place of Globalized and Globalizing Capitalism]. *Revista Cultural de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala* 17 (Julio-Septiembre 2010): 46-52.

Peces, iguanas, centavos y balas: los noventa y el rock en Guatemala. [Fish, Iguanas, Cents and Bullets: The 1990s and Guatemalan Rock]. *Revista Cultural de la Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala* 12 (Abril-Junio 2009): 27-36.

## Invited Talks & Conference Papers

You Shall Not Care! Drug-Related Violence and Collective Helplessness. *XXV Congreso Anual de Mexicanistas Juan Bruce-Novoa*, UC Irvine, May 2019.

Caring and Violence at the Border. *Cine-Lit IX*, Portland, March 2019.

The Nomad, the Suicide and the Unemployed: Disaccumulation by Repossession in Post War Central American Literature. *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*, Utrecht (Neatherlands), July 2017.

Detectives del olvido: memoria y racionalidad neoliberal en la literatura centroamericana de posguerra [Detectives of Forgetfulness: Neoliberal Memory and Rationality in Central American Postwar Literature]. *XXXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA)*, Lima (Peru), May 2017.

Architecture, Memory and Meaning: The Parthenon and Beyond (Humanities 110 lecture). Reed College, November 2016.

Time to Care: Precarity and the Political in Drug-related Violence. *First Congress of Latin American, Latino, and Iberian Studies Association of the Pacific Northwest (LALISA)*, Portland, April 2016.

You shall not care! Horrorism and the Production of Collective Helplessness in Gang and Narco Violence (invited). *65th Annual Conference of the Center for Latin American Studies (University of Florida): CRIMESCAPES: Space, Law and the Making of Illegality in the Americas*, March 2016.

You shall not care! Horrorism and Precarious Life in Gang and Narco Violence. *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*, Boston, March 2016.

Horrorismo y abyección en Centroamérica. O cómo cuidar del otro (sin morir en el intento). [Horrorism and abjection in Central America. Or how to care for the other (without dying trying)]. *XXIII Congreso de Literaturas y Cultura Centroamericanas (CILCA)*. New Orleans, March 2015.

You shall not care! Horrorism and the Production of Collective Helplessness in Gang and Narco Violence. *Cine-Lit VIII*, Portland, February 2015.

Nómadas y desempleados: literatura y razón neoliberal en la Centroamérica de posguerra. [Nomads and the Unemployed: Literature and Neoliberal Reason in Post-War Central America]. *XL Congreso del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana (ILLI)* Mexico City, 2014.

Spaces of Insurgency: the New Man Goes to the Jungle. *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association*, New York, 2014.

The Inconvenience of Revolution: Zapatismo, Cynicism and a Shifting Sovereignty. Invited Talk. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Florida, 2014.

Culture and Politics in Mexican Cinema. Guest Lecture for *Introduction to World Cinema* (Film 105), Sewanee: The University of the South, 2013.

“I’m not complete in the mind”: Senselessness and Sovereign Reason in Guatemala. *66<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*, University of Kentucky (Lexington), 2013.

Madness and War in Contemporary Guatemala. Invited Talk. Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UC Berkeley, 2013.

Insurgent Literature: Ethics, Justice, Representation. *Kaleidoscope: The Ethics of Representation and the Representation of Ethics*. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011.

“No me tapes el sol”: ¡Ya Basta! de cinismo. 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the South Eastern Council of Latin American Studies (SECOLAS), Instituto Mora, Mexico City, 2010

Reflections on the Concept of Justice in Derrida. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Comparative Literature Intra-student Faculty Forum. University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 2008

## Teaching at Reed College

Humanities 110: Introduction to the Humanities

Lits/Spanish 361: Decentering the Human

*Class description:* This course provides an introduction to what has been called the Non-Human Turn, an umbrella term that refers to various schools of thought (such as posthumanism, transhumanism, animal studies, new and vital materialism, object oriented ontology and affect theory) that call for an integral redefinition of the human and thus question, critique and/or move beyond human exceptionalism and the ontological dualities (nature/culture, human/non-human, mind/body, self/other, subject/object, etc.) that constitute it. The course combines interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives with a focus on how the relation between humans, non-humans and the environment has been represented, questioned and problematized in cultural productions from the Hispanic world. The course ultimately asks students to think critically about what it means to be human today if, that is, we have indeed ever been human.

Spanish 380: Drugs, Gangs & Aliens

*Class description:* In this course, we will address and think critically about the interrelated nature of irregular immigration to the U.S., the drug trade and the “War on Drugs,” and the expansion and criminalization of gangs throughout the Americas. We will examine how cornerstones of state sovereignty such as the rule of law, the care and control of space and population, and the monopoly on violence are being challenged by these phenomena, as well as analyze, question and discuss their representation and problematization in Latin and North American literary works, essays, chronicles and films in relation to theoretical concepts and processes such as sovereignty, violence, neoliberalism, border, immunity/community and globalization.

Lit/Spanish 378: Space & Power

*Class description:* What is space? How is it perceived, experienced, produced and reproduced? And what is its connection with power and relations of domination/emancipation? Drawing from spatial, urban, political and feminist theory, this course aims to explore and analyze these questions in relation to the representation and problematization of domestic, urban, national and border spaces in, mostly, Latin American novels and films. Class taught in English.

Lit/Spanish 384: Latin America’s Revolutionary Century

*Class description:* Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Latin America was one of the epicenters of insurgent and revolutionary struggles in the world. These represented, regardless of their ideological differences, the entry of the equality principle in national-spaces that had mostly imagined and structured themselves as two-tiered societies in which a large segment of the population—Indians, minorities and even women—had been, for all practical purposes, systematically excluded. By focusing on the cultural production (novels, films, essays, etc.) related to four revolutionary constellations—the Mexican and Cuban Revolutions, the Guatemalan guerrillas, and the Mexican

Zapatistas—this course aims to explore and analyze the languages of insurgency and counterinsurgency, the figure of the revolutionary and guerrilla fighter as a political subjectivity, and the relation between politics and aesthetics. Class taught in English.

Spanish 311: Advance Grammar and Culture: The Contemporary Latin American Chronicle

*Class description:* Somewhere between literature and journalism, the chronicle has been a staple genre in Latin America since colonial times that aims to combine literary aestheticism with the responsibility to inform. In this course, we will focus on the contemporary Latin American chronicle, which is, according to some critics, experiencing a new golden age. A flexible, malleable and mixed genre by definition, the chronicle will allow us to discuss and reflect upon various current issues such as city life and urban practices, alternative sexualities, drug trafficking, poverty and migration, as well as analyze and interrogate the ethics of writing and informing.

Spanish 210: Second-Year Spanish

Spanish 110: First-Year Spanish

### Thesis Advising at Reed College

Albertini, Luna. *Refracted Bodies: Doubling and Redoubling the Self in L'enfant de sable and La mucama de Omicunlé* (Comparative Literature, 05/2020)

De la Torre, Jillian. *"I Felt Myself a Phantom": Spacemaking and Radical Self-Representation in the Literature and Filmmaking of Homeless Bay Areaans* (English, 05/2020).

Vergara-Grindell, Ruby. *"As If We Were Holy": Latinx Responses to Crimmigration Through Music and Poetry* (Spanish, 05/2019)

Harris, Nevada. *Returning from Beyond the Pale: Critical Reflections on Violence in Salvadoran Street Gangs* (History-Literature, 05/2018).

Ceballos, Michelle. *Language, gender, and Revolutionary Commitment: Woman Subjectivities in Central American Testimonial Narratives* (History, 12/2016).

Wilwol, Clay. *Acerca de lo fronterizo: Reflexiones sobre la obra de Yuri Herrera* (Spanish, 12/2016).

Copley, Fedora. *Indigenous Hip-Hop: Transnational Identificatin and Resistance to Coloniality* (Spanish, 05/2015).

### Departmental and Institutional Service at Reed College

#### Committees

Committee on Academic Policy and Planning (2021-2023)

Ad-Hoc Committee for Strategic Planning (2021-2022)

Committee on Diversity, Chair (2019-2020)

Legislative Committee (2018-19)

Community Affairs Committee (2018-19)

Graduate Studies (MALS) Committee (2016-17)

Off-Campus Study Programs (OCSC) Committee (2016-17)

Undergraduate Research Committee (2014-16)

Gray Fund Committee (2015-16)  
Film Studies Committee (2014-16)

*Other*

Organized the Literature & Languages Divisional Speaker Lecture by Prof. Gareth Williams (April 2022)  
Organized visit of Argentinian writer Andrés Neuman to Reed (November 2016)  
Humanities 110 “6x6 Committee” (2016-17)  
Parents Humanities Conference (August 2016 & August 2017)  
Junior Faculty Panel during new faculty orientation (August 2016)  
Humanities 110 – Opening Panel Participant (August 2016 & August 2017)  
Humanities Panel for prospective students (April 2016)  
Language Programs Panel for prospective students (April 2016)

**Other Academic Activities & Service to the Profession**

Reviewer for Faculty promotion at Texas Christian University (Summer 2022) & Bennington College (Fall 2014)  
Reviewer for the *Journal of Latin American Studies* (two articles), *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* (one article + one dossier comprising five articles & introduction), *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* (one articles), *Península*, *Revista de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México* (one article) & *Label Me Latino/a* (one article)  
Co-founder, editor and reviewer of *Tiresias* (the graduate students’ on-line journal of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures), University of Michigan. Fall 2006 – April 2011.  
Teaching Writing in the Disciplines (Workshop for Graduate Student Instructors). Sweetland Writing Center, University of Michigan. Fall 2009.  
Collaborator for *Creating Media-Rich Listening Comprehension Activities for Spanish 232*. Project directors: Andy Noverr (Romance Languages and Literatures) and Rob DeMilner (Learning Resource Center). Project funded by the Center for Research in Learning and Teaching, Multimedia Teaching Fund Grant, University of Michigan. 2008.  
Research Assistant to Professor Gavin Shatkin. Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 2005–2006.