

## Nicole L. Sparling, Ph.D.

Interim Director, Women and Gender Studies Program  
 Assistant Professor of World Literature  
 Department of English Language and Literature  
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### Education

#### Pennsylvania State University

- **Ph.D. Comparative Literature with a Graduate Minor in Women's Studies.**  
 Dissertation: "Womb Genealogies: Conceiving the New World" (August 2009)  
 Committee Members: Sophia A. McClennen (Chair), Djelal Kadir, Laurence Prescott, Susan M. Squier, Lorraine Dowler
- **M.A. Comparative Literature**  
 Thesis: "When the Grotesque Touch and the Thorn Pricks: Progressive Visions of Sherwood Anderson and Mary Hunter Austin" (May 2004)

#### Nazareth College of Rochester

- **B.S. Spanish Language and Literature & Accounting, *summa cum laude*** (May 2001)

### Areas of Research and Teaching

- Comparative Literature
- Twentieth Century Literature of the Americas
- Gender Studies and Feminist Theory
- Critical Race Theory
- Science Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Genre Studies

### Publications

#### Journal Articles

- "Mothers of *Afrolatinidad*: Dislocating New World Identities in Latino/a Studies and African American Studies." *Expanding Latinidad: An Inter-American Perspective*. Inter-American Studies/Estudios Interamericanos Series. 5 (April 2012): 153-176. Print.
- "Deauthorizing Anthropologies and 'Authenticating' Landscapes in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Diamela Eltit's *El cuarto mundo*." *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* 38.3 (September 2011): 1-25. Print.
- "Entre lo físico y lo metafísico: una interpretación alquímica de *Cien años de soledad* de Gabriel García Márquez." ["Between the physical and the metaphysical: an alchemical

interpretation of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez”] *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* [*Journal of Hispanic Studies*] 44.1 (Marzo 2010): 169-191. Print.

- “Without a Conceivable Future: Figuring the Mother in *Children of Men*.” Accepted pending revisions for a special issue on Reproductive Technologies and Reproductive Justice for *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*

### Book Reviews

- A Review of *Transatlantic Literary Studies: A Reader*, edited by Susan Manning and Andrew Taylor. *Comparative Literature Studies* 47.2 (2010): 231-233. Print.
- “The Race/Reproduction Bind in Modern Transatlantic Thought.” A Review of Alys Eve Weinbaum’s *Wayward Reproductions: Genealogies of Race and Nation in Transatlantic Modern Thought*. *Twentieth Century Literature* 53.1 (Spring 2007): 88-92. Print.

### Encyclopedia Entries

- “Feminism in Spanish America,” *World Literature in Spanish: An Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1. Eds. Maureen Ihrie and Salvador Oropesa. Santa Barbara, CA; Denver, Co; Oxford, England: ABC-CLIO, 2011. II: 383-386. Print.
- “Candomblé” and (with María Luján Tubio) “Christopher Columbus.” *Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History*. Eds. Richard M. Juang and Noelle Morrisette. 3 vols. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2008. I: 231; 303-304.

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## Conferences

### Conference Presentations:

- Roundtable Participant. “Movements, Migrations, and Mobilities: A Literary Conference.” Sigma Tau Delta Conference, Central Michigan University, April 26, 2013.
- “The Aftermath of Negative Eugenics in Late Twentieth Century American Science Fiction.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Brown University, March 29-April 1, 2012.
- Roundtable Participant. “Necro-Americas: Borders, Biopolitics, and Civic Subjectivities since 9/11.” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, October 20-23, 2011.
- “Octavia Butler’s *Fledgling*: Fantasy as an “Other” Pedagogy in *Lessons on Gender, Race, and Sexuality*.” Celebrating African American Literature: Race, Sexuality, and African American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, September 30-October 1, 2011.
- “The Science of Gender and Genre in Angélica Gorodischer’s ‘Embriones del violeta’” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, October 6-9, 2010.

- “Figures of the National Imagination: The Art and Science of Bodily Metaphors.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 1-4, 2010.
- Roundtable Participant, “Hope, Fate, and Foreclosure: Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* and The Emergence of Inter-disciplinary Knowledges in a Women's (Academic) Book Club.” Celebrating Contemporary African American Literature: The Novel since 1988. Pennsylvania State University, October 23-24, 2009.
- “Revolutionary Wombs and the Body Politic.” International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. June 11-14, 2009.
- “Entre lo físico y lo metafísico: una interpretación alquímica de *Cien años de soledad*.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Puebla, Mexico, April 19-22, 2007.
- “Deauthorizing Anthropologies and ‘Authenticating’ Landscapes.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Princeton University, March 23-26, 2006.
- “When the Grotesque Touch and the Thorn Pricks: Progressive Visions of Sherwood Anderson and Mary Hunter Austin.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Pennsylvania State University, March 11-13, 2005.
- “Revolutionary Spaces: Ordering Chaos and Rationalizing Spirit in Alejo Carpentier’s *Explosion in a Cathedral (El siglo de las luces)*.” Art, Nature, Hill: Engaging Jean-Jacques Rousseau. PSU Graduate Student Conference, February 13-14, 2004.

## Teaching Experience

### Central Michigan University:

#### English Courses Taught

- 656D: Graduate Seminar in American Literature: “Figures of the Imagination: Science, Gender, & Nation in Twentieth Century Literature of the Americas” (Spring 2011)
- 435: World Detective Fiction (Spring 2013)
- 454: Contemporary American Prose: Other Genres: Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Magical Realism (Spring 2012)
- 333: Introduction to Non-Western Literature (Fall 2009; “Fantasizing the Other” Fall 2010; “Twentieth Century Latin American Literature” Fall 2011)
- 329: African American Literature (Spring 2010; Fall 2010; Spring 2011; Fall 2011; Fall 2012)
- 327: Women Writers: Postcolonial Women’s Writing (Spring 2013)
- 326: Literary Dimensions of Film: World Cinema (Spring 2012; Fall 2012)
- 323: Science Fiction and Fantasy (Spring 2010; Fall 2012)
- 252: American Literature Survey from Realism to the Present (Summer 2010; Summer 2011)
- 201: Intermediate Composition (Fall 2009; Fall 2010)

#### Honors Program Courses Taught

- Hon 321B: Representing Human Rights in Art, Literature, and Cinema (Spring 2011)

- 201H: Intermediate Composition - Honor's section (Spring 2010)

### **Penn State University Courses Taught:**

#### **Comparative Literature**

- 101: Identity in World Literature: Race, Gender, and Other Aspects of Identity (Spring 2008)
- 153: International Cultures Through Literature and Film (Summer 2006, online course)
- 005: Introduction to Literature of the Americas (Fall 2005)
- 002: Introduction to Western Literature Since the Renaissance (Spring 2004)

#### **English Composition**

- 015: Rhetoric and Composition (Spring 2006, Spring 2003)

#### **Spanish Language**

- 003: Intermediate Spanish Language (Fall 2003, Summer 2003, Fall 2002)

#### **Women's Studies**

- 003: Introduction to Women's Studies for the Arts & Humanities (Fall 2006)

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## **Advising, Supervising, and Mentoring Students**

### **Graduate Advising**

- Graduate Thesis Committee Chair: Sarah Goldbort, Michelle Campbell
- Graduate Thesis Committee Member: Brandon Burford
- Graduate Plan B Advisor: Allison Jordan; Elizabeth Podufaly Bauer
- Graduate Plan B Reader: Imene Moulati; Emmanuel E. Akanwa
- Graduate Program Advisor: Emily Barr; Allison Jordan; Danielle Courier; Angela Reid
- Mentor/Informal Graduate Advising: Leigh Gardner; Sandra Joy Russell; Hasnul Djohar; Elyse Nelmark

### **Undergraduate Advising**

- Undergraduate Advisor for World Literature Concentration
- Honors Program Mentor
- McNair Scholars Program Mentor
- CMU Chapter Sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honors Society)
- Faculty Advisor for Invisible Children (Student Organization at CMU)

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## **Service to the Department, College, and University**

### **Department of English Language and Literature Committees**

- Curriculum Reform Subcommittee (Spring 2013-present)
- Policy Committee (Spring 2012)

- Curriculum Committee (August 2011-present)
- Composition Committee (August 2010-August 2012)
- Honors and Scholarships Committee (August 2010-present; re-elected for August 2012-August 2014)
- Composition and Rhetoric Search Committee Member (August 2009-March 2010)
- Personnel Ad-Hoc Committee – Temporary Hiring (Spring 2011)
- Program Review Committee on World Literature (August 2009-2010)

### **Department of English Language and Literature Other Service**

- English Department Hullabaloo Closing Speaker (April 18, 2013)
- Attended Sigma Tau Delta International English Honors Society Convention as CMU's Chapter Sponsor with 14 English undergraduate students (March 20-23, 2013)
- English Major Advising Night (March 19, 2013)
- NPR fundraising volunteer for M.A. program in English (Spring 2011)
- World Literature Concentration Prioritization Narrative Writer (Spring 2011)
- Presenter, "Mother Figures: Biopolitics, Bare Life, and Fetal Citizenship" Great Lakes Faculty Forum (March 23, 2010)
- Humanities Program Information Night (September 29, 2010)
- Major Night (October 14, 2009)

### **College of Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences Committees & Other Service**

- Interim Director, Women and Gender Studies Program (January 2013-present)
- Women and Gender Studies Governance Council Member (August 2009-present)
- Women and Gender Studies Curricular Committee (August 2010-May 2011; January 2013-present)
- Represented the Women and Gender Studies Program's Curricular Committee at the National Women's Studies Association Conference (November 11-14, 2010)
- Women's Studies Paper Prize Judge (May 2010)
- Homecoming Volunteer (October 10, 2009; October 16, 2010)

### **University Committees**

- International Education Council Secretary (Secretary, Fall 2012; member, August 2012-present)
- Co-Facilitator of Faculty Learning Community: Teaching Honors Faculty-Led Study Abroad (2011-2012)
- Library Committee (August 2010-present)

### **Event Organization & Participation for the University**

- Piece of the Palace Organizing Committee (Spring 2013-present)
- Organizer of Coffee Talk Brown Bag Lunch Series for the Women and Gender Studies Program (Spring 2013)
- Co-organizer of Great Lakes Faculty Forum Brown Bag Series: "Why Women's Writing Matters?" (March 15, 2013)
- Organizer of Film Screening for Black History Month and Women's Herstory Month: *The Life and Times of Sara Baartman* (February 27, 2013)

- Organizer of Student Art Exhibit for Black History Month (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)
- Organizer of campus visit by Mat Johnson, creative writer (February 15, 2012)
- Conference Committee Member for the Human Rights, Literature, the Arts, and Social Sciences International Conference, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI (November 10-13, 2011)
- Co-organizer of Interdisciplinary Roundtable in Honor of Women's Herstory Month (March 15, 2010)
- Invited Guest at Pizza with the Professionals for Leadership Safari (August 16, 2011; August 21, 2012)

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## Service to the Profession

### Invited Speaker

- "Representing Gender: The Role of Language and Images" Live streaming videoconference, *Universidad EAN*, Bogotá, Colombia. November 21, 2010.
- Invited Roundtable Participant on the topic of "Navigating the Current Job Market." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 1-4, 2010.

### Seminar Organizer

- (with Luz Angélica Kirchner) "Telling Catastrophes and The Business of Human Rights in the Americas." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Providence, Rhode Island, March 29-April 4, 2012.
- "Necro-Americas: Borders, Biopolitics, and Civic Subjectivities since 9/11." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, October 20-23, 2011.
- "Sex Scandals and Race-y Pedagogies." Celebrating African American Literature: Race, Sexuality, and African American Literature, Pennsylvania State University, September 30-October 1, 2011.
- (with Atia Sattar) "Figurative Imaginings in Art, Science, and Politics." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2010.
- (with María L. Tubio) "American Fronteras: Actual, Imagined, and Metaphorical." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Puebla, Mexico, April 2007.
- (with Luz Angélica Kirchner) "Inter-American Studies: Interventions and/or Retrenchments in Dominant Discourse?" American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, The Pennsylvania State University, March 2005.

### Peer Reviewer

- *Comparative Literature Studies*
- *Pedagogy*
- *Revista Canadiense de Estudios Hispánicos* [*Canadian Review of Hispanic Studies*]
- National Endowment for the Humanities Bridging Cultures Initiative Grant (2012)

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## Scholarships, Grants, Honors, & Awards

### National Endowment for the Humanities

- Summer Institute Scholar on Contemporary African American Literature (July 8—July 28, 2012)

### Central Michigan University

- Nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award (CMU) (2012)
- Nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award (CHSBS) (2012)
- Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors Premier Display Grant (2012)
- Alternative Assignment for Curricular Development (English) (2012)
- Summer Stipend for Curricular Development (Women's Studies) (2011)
- Teaching Development Award (CHSBS) (2011)
- Alternative Assignment for Research (CHSBS) (2011)
- Summer Faculty Scholar Award (CHSBS) (2010)
- Faculty Research and Creative Endeavors Premier Display Grant (2010)

### Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society (CMU Chapter)

- Great Expectations Award (2012)
- Nominated for the Chip Off the Ol' Block Award (2011)
- Nominated for the Great Expectations Award (2010; 2011)

### Penn State University

- Crawford Family Fellowship for Ethical Inquiry (2008-2009)
- Samuel P. Bayard Award in the Department of Comparative Literature for outstanding performance as a graduate student (2008)
- Institute for Arts & Humanities Graduate Student Summer Residency (2008)
- Research and Graduate Studies Office Dissertation Research Grant for Study Abroad in Chile (2007)

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## Languages

- English (native)
- Spanish (near native)
- Portuguese (advanced)
- German (intermediate)
- French (reading knowledge)

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## Research and Study Abroad

- **Teaching Development Seminar, Havana, CUBA** (Spring 2012)  
Attended Seminar on Cuban Culture: People and Politics

- **Research, Bogotá, COLOMBIA** (Summer 2010)  
Conducted Research on Colombian and Latin American Literature and Culture
- **Dissertation Research, Santiago, CHILE** (Summer 2007)  
Conducted Research on Chilean Literature and Culture
- **Penn State Brazil Study Abroad Program, Salvador, Bahia, BRAZIL** (Summer 2005)  
Studied Brazilian Portuguese, Literature, Civilization, and Culture
- **Goethe Institut, Bonn, GERMANY** (Summer 2001)  
Studied German Language and Culture; Certificate of Completion, Grundstufe Drei
- **Institute of Spanish Studies, Valencia, SPAIN** (Spring 2000)  
Studied Spanish Language, Literature, and Culture

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### Professional Memberships

- American Comparative Literature Association
- Latin American Studies Association
- Modern Language Association

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### Related Graduate Service and Professional Experience

**Editorial Assistant** for *Comparative Literature Studies* (2006-2007; 2004-2005)

- Responsibilities included copyediting, compiling issues, proofreading, and preparing documents for publication; maintaining correspondence with contributors, readers, book reviewers, and editors; and ensuring that *CLS* is on schedule and in conformance with Press regulations and training and managing work-study interns.

Last updated 4/3/13 NLS