

MARIA ALESSANDRA WOOLSON
Department of Romance Languages and Cultures;
College of Arts & Sciences, Honors College
GUND Institute for Environment
The University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405
Email: mwoolson@uvm.edu

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Twentieth and Twenty-first century Hispanic Literatures and Cultures/ Latin America
Environmental Humanities / Ecocriticism / Biocultural Diversity and Conservation
Ethnicity & Identity / Sustainability & Globalization / Cultural Geography of Water
Postcolonial Theory / Performance Studies / Critical Theory/ Digital Humanities

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Spanish, minors in Geography and Border Studies, The University of Arizona, 2010-2014.
Dissertation: *Space as a Cultural Mirror. Ecocritical Reflections in Latin American Representation at the Turn of the 21st Century*
Fields: Lit. & Cultural Studies; Postcolonial Studies; Performance Studies; Political Ecology.
Advisors: Laura Gutierrez (U.T. Austin); Malcolm Compitello & Carl Bauer (U. Arizona).
- M.A. Spanish, Hispanic Literature and Linguistics, Middlebury College, 2000.
- B.S. Zoology, minor in Spanish (High Honors), University of Vermont, 1992
Honors Thesis: Experimental writing in post-civil war Spain. Gayle Nunley, advisor.
Research Thesis (Cell Bio.): *Screening for Insect Specific Proteins*. George Happ, advisor
- Licenciatura en Biología coursework. Univ. of Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Naturales.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- University of Vermont. Lecturer, Honors College and College of Arts & Sciences, Dpt. Romance Languages; Affiliate Gund Institute for Environment; since 2015
- Middlebury College. Visiting Instructor and Visiting Lecturer, Spanish & Portuguese, affiliated with Environmental Studies & International and Global Studies; 2012-13 and 2003-10.
- University of Vermont. Lecturer, Department of Romance Language; 2001-03, 2005-06
- University of Vermont, Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department. of Zoology, 1992-93
- University of Vermont. Research Assistant, Department of Zoology, 1990-92.

HONORS, AND AWARDS

- UVM's College of Arts & Sciences Small Research Grant, Rapa Nui, Chile, 2019-2020.
- UVM's Humanities Ctr., Lattie F. Coor Programming Grants in Humanities & Arts, 2018.
- UVM's College of Arts & Sciences Int. Travel Award: Chile 2018; Uruguay 2017; Italy 2016.
- Assoc. of Borderland Studies Runner-up Graduate Award 2014 for "Transforming the Border, Transforming the Migrant: Biometrics and the Borderization of the Imagination."
- College of Humanities Spanish Dpt. Finalist, ABOR Doctoral Dissertation Award 2012.
- Tinker Foundation Pre-Dissertation Research Grant in Latin American Studies (Chile), 2012.
- Travel & Research Grant. Middlebury College (Mexico), 2012 & 2010; (Chile), 2010.
- College of Humanities Graduate Scholarship and Dissertation Award. U of A, 2010-2013.
- Graduate College Doctoral Fellowship. The U of A, 2010-2013 (each semester).
- Graduate Diversity Fellowship. The University of Arizona 2010-2011.
- Department of Spanish & Portuguese Travel Grant, The University of Arizona (Spain), 2011.
- Institute of the Environment Travel Grant, The University of Arizona (Ireland), 2011.
- Faculty Development Grant. Digital humanities. Middlebury College, 2009.
- Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, College High Honors.

SELECTED REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Edited Volumes

- 2020 “A Sustainable Future for Latin America?” Special issue of *A Contracorriente* Edited by M.A. Woolson, No 17 No.2 <https://acontracorriente.chass.ncsu.edu/index.php/acontracorriente>
- 2013 *Re-engraving Assayer’s Initials in Potosi Cobs*. English-Spanish edition. Co-authored with Emilio Paoletti. Buenos Aires: Editorial Dunken. Print.

Chapters in Scholarly Books and Monographs

- 2018 “The Gift of a Different Gaze: A Social-Environmental Imagination of Collective Meaning in Helen Escobedo’s Installations, 1997-2010.” *RCEI Special Issue Natura Loquens/Natura Agens: In Dialogue and Interaction with the Environment*. Carmen Flys & Juan I. Oliva, Eds. Universidad de La Laguna Press.
2016. “From Management to Governance: Rethinking Water Policy and Privatization on Easter Island.” *The Politics of Freshwater. Access, Conflict and Identity*. Tamar Mayer & Catherine Ashcraft, Eds. Abingdon: Rutledge. Print.

Journal Articles

- 2019 “Teaching Ecocriticism And The Global South. A View of Latin American Environmental Thinking through the Environmental Humanities.” *ESLA A Journal of Cultural and Literary Criticism*. No 17 <http://esla.letras.uc.cl/index.php/genres/articles/447-issue17-woolson>
- 2018 “The Melting of Humankind. How Art Deepens our Dialogue about Climate Change.” *ReVista. Harvard Review of Latin America*. Spring-summer: 26-29. Web. <https://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/book/melting-humankind>
- 2015 “Sustainability as a Pedagogical Principle in Liberal Arts Education: Explorations from the Foreign Language classroom.” *International Journal of Sustainability Education*. 11 3: 23-34. Web <http://ijsed.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.275/prod.74>
- 2013 “Resignifying Environmental Epistemology through Latin America’s Artistic Representation: A Sustainability Perspective from the Humanities.” *The International Journal of Sustainability in Economic, Social & Cultural Context*, 8. 3: 175-188. Web. <http://ijseec.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.273/prod.41>
- 2012 “Designing a Virtual Social Space for Language Acquisition.” *International Journal of Virtual and Personal Learning Environments (IJVPLE)* 3. 3: 21-42. Web. <http://www.igi-global.com/article/designing-virtual-social-space-language/70397>
- 2012 “Articulación del mito Eva Perón en la narrativa de Tomás Eloy Martínez: un performance político materializado en el cuerpo.” *Divergencias, Revista de estudios lingüísticos y literarios*, 10. 2: 20-29. Web. <http://divergencias.arizona.edu>

Translations and Book Reviews

- 2011 *Security, Risk and the Biometric State. Governing Borders and Bodies*, by Benjamin Muller. *The Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* 15: 208-209.
- 2006 *Eight Reals Cobs of Potosi*, by Paoletti, Emilio. English-Spanish edition Trans. M. A. Woolson. Buenos Aires: [s.n.], 2006. Print.

Conference proceeding

- 2015 “Voces silenciadas, sabiduría olvidada. Limitaciones discursivas de la representación cultural en la era de la globalización.” [Silenced Voices, Forgotten Wisdom. Discursive Limitations of Cultural Representation in the Era of Globalization.] *LASA Southern Cone*.

Works In Progress

New Monograph: Theatre. Three plays in translation. "Griselda Gambaro: Tres obras para el siglo XXI." *Es necesario entender un poco, La persistencia* and *La Señora McBeth* (expected late 2020). <http://midspl.com/2018-program/>

New Monograph: "Ecocritical Perspectives from Latin America for the New Millennium."
[Perspectivas ecocríticas desde América latina para el milenio].

EDITORIAL AND BOARD POSITIONS

Associate Editor & Referee, *International Journal of Sustainability Education* and *International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability*.

Editor, Interdisciplinary Dossier "A Sustainable Future for Latin America," *A Contracorriente*

Reviewer, *Journal of Borderland Studies*.

Co-Chair of Environmental Section Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

Executive Committee member New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS).

TEACHING, MENTORING AND CURRICULUM DESIGN EXPERIENCE1. *Teaching & Course Design*

Honors and Undergraduate courses taught in Critical Theory and L.A. Environmental Humanities

The Pursuit of Knowledge (HCOL 85 Honors College Seminar, University of Vermont, fall 2019)

Climate Crisis & Latin America (new HCOL 86 Honors College Seminar, UVM, spring 2020)

Environment, Ecocriticism & Being Global I & II (new HCOL 185- HCOL 186 Honors Research Seminar, University of Vermont Honors College, taught in fall 2016 & 2017, spring 2019)

Language and Sustainability (new course in Spanish. SPAN 95, fall 2018 & 2019. U. of Vermont)

Role of Language & Culture in Climate Change Dialogue (new SPAN 1005, Middlebury C. 2009)

Environmental Issues in Latin America (new Interdiscip. INTD.1023, Middlebury C. 2005, 2006)

Courses taught including topics in Iberian and Latin American studies:

Introduction to Hispanic Literatures (SPAN 140, University of Vermont, 2016-2017 & spring '19)

Today's Issues in Spain and Spanish America: A Cultural Review of Contemporary Transnational Relations (new SPAN 308, Middlebury College 2009, 2010, 2013)

Ideas and Cultures of Spanish America; A Historic and Cultural Review from pre-Columbian to Contemporary Spanish America (SPAN 305, Middlebury College 2007, 2008, 2009)

Latin America Today: A Transdisciplinary Seminar (new SPAN 1001, Middlebury C. 2008)

Advanced Spanish Grammar & Spanish Writing (SPAN 109 and SPAN 101, UVM, 2016-2018)

2. *Thesis Supervision and Reader*

Chair Sr. Honors Thesis advisory committee, Emma Chereskin, UVM 2017-'18. Thesis: *Impacts of Engine Noise on Acoustic Behavior of Megaptera novaeangliae in the Chiriqui Peninsula*

Adviser to Middlebury Fulbright awardees' year in Colombia, Sophie Morse, 2013-2014. Project: *Sexual Violence Policy and Practice in Colombia*.

Latin American Studies Sr. Honors Theses Supervisor, Sage Sipchen, Middlebury Coll. 2008-09.

Thesis title: *From Democracy to Dictatorship: Government Impact on Chile's Shantytowns*

Latin American Studies Sr. Honors Theses Committee member, Alethea Gross, Middlebury, 2008-2009. Thesis title: *"Las presidentas" The Election of Female Presidents in Chile and Argentina*.

3. *Invited Talks & Workshops on Innovative Curriculum Development*

- 2019 (Editorial Board) CIEDS 2019 *International Congress of Education for Sustainable Development*, Pontificia Univ. Católica de Chile, Dec. 16-17, Villarica, Chile.
- 2018 (Designer/Organizer) “Biocultural diversity and conservation at the mountain massif Sant Llorenç del Munt.” Pre- LASA workshop for Environmental Section, in support of small-scale social projects in Colombia through helpingtohelp.org. LASA 2018. Barcelona. May 23-26.
- 2017 (Co-designer and Facilitator) “Sustainability and Curriculum Design Workshop.” Institute for Pedagogy in the Liberal Arts (IPLA) 2017. Oxford College, Emory Univ., GA. May 10-13.
- 2016 (Guest Speaker) “Interdisciplinarity and the University: Contemporary Challenges.” [talk in Spanish]. Universidad Kennedy, August 16. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2016 (Guest Speaker) “New Challenges for 21st Century Education. Finding actionable pathways for the SDGs.” ISCN 2016: *Leadership for a Sustainable Future*. Jun 13-15. Siena, Italy.
- 2016 (Guest Speaker) “Whose Voice? Environmental Justice and Indigenous Communities in South America.” Middlebury College Climate Justice Symposium, April 18-22. Middlebury
- 2015 (Designer and presenter) Faculty development presentation in sustainability. Integrating Sustainability in the Humanities. UVM, College of Arts & Science, November 5.
- 2012 (Co-designer and Facilitator) “Sustainability and Curriculum Design Workshop: Meeting Today’s Generation of Students.” AASHE Curriculum Convocation, AASHE 2012. Los Angeles, CA, USA. October 14-17.
- 2012 (Co-designer and Facilitator) “Sustainability and Curriculum Design Workshop: Place-based Case Study Approach.” University of Alberta, Edmonton, CA. June 12 – 14.
- 2010 (Guest Plenary Speaker). “Educating for a Sustainable Future” Chile’s Ministry of Environment (MMA) National Seminars *Universidad y Sustentabilidad*. Universidad Católica, Santiago, Chile. June 16-18, 2010. Universidad de La Serena, La Serena, Chile. June 22.

4. *Educational Technology and Program Design*

Program Design

Pilot Design in experiential-learning: “*Firefly: Wind, Art, Energy*.” A project designed to integrate art, language and engineering in a study of renewable energy, Middlebury College.

Educational Technology

Blended learning. Design of Digital Space for interdisciplinary collaborations (multi-media, blogs & forums 2012-18). Design and Pilot using educational/social 3-D virtual space Second Life for collaborative and communicative FL learning. Middlebury College, 2009-12.

Middlebury’s Faculty Representative. “Bamboo Workshops. Technology-based Collaboration in Humanities.” Mellon Foundation. Workshop II, San Francisco, CA. October 2008. Workshop III, Tucson, AZ. January 2009.

5. *Organization of Co-Curricular Talks* (unless noted, all events organized at Middlebury)

2020 – Environmental Historian Michael Smith *When History is Now: Sustainability in Rural Nicaragua*, virtual talk from London, UK (expected Feb. 2020);

2019 – Costa Rican biologist Laura Collado, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, “Sonido, Sociedad y Sustentabilidad: impactos del turismo en costas centroamericanas.” UVM, October 21. (in Spanish)

2019 -Paraguayan Film Scholar and Director Eva Karene Romero, *Unrepresentable Violence: Making Kuña*; an Amnesty-International documentary about gender violence. UVM, April 11th (multilingual – public event in English, class visits in Spanish).

2018 -Brazilian sculptor Nele Azevedo, *Monumento mínimo*. An “urban action” or performance in ice. City Hall, Burlington, VT as opening of UVM’s Feverish World Symposium. October 20th (multilingual- University-wide event) <https://www.uvm.edu/cas/rll/nele-azevedos-minimal-monument>

2018 -Argentine sculptor Vivianne Duchini, “Sculpting Nature: Challenges and Opportunities of Animal Art in the Latin American Imaginary.” UVM, April (in Spanish)

2018 -Hispanic Studies Scholar Scott Weintraub “Latin American Techno-poetics: Scientific Explorations in New Media.” University of Vermont, March (in Spanish)

2017 -Environmental Humanities Scholar John Elder, “Stay together, /learn the flowers, /go light”: Reflections on Community and Sustainability.” University of Vermont, October 18th (in English - University-wide event)

2017 -Mexican Writers in Diaspora: Ricardo Chávez Castañeda, “¿Nuevas convergencias? ¿Nuevas narrativas? El autor como protagonista entre ficción y realidad.” UVM, April (in Spanish).

2016 -Mexican Writers in Diaspora: Estela Gonzalez, “*Arribada*. Short fiction and the Comcaac-Seri of Northern Mexico.” University of Vermont, October (in English- Honors College)

2013 -Round-Table with Middlebury Alumni. “To Follow One’s Heart in the Pursuit of Knowledge. What Happens after Middlebury?” (in Spanish)

2012 -UNEP and UNAM Scholar Enrique Leff, “Sustainability Unbound. A Political Ecology Perspective from Latin America,” (in English).

2010 -Spanish Senator for Barcelona and ICV vice-president Jordi Gillot Miravet, ICV. “Spanish Immigration Policy and Spain’s Leadership Role in the EU Parliament.” Exclusive audio-conference (in Spanish)

2008 -IBD Economist Hugo Nopo Ph. D. “Outsiders: Exclusion Patterns in Latin America and the Caribbean,” January 2007 (in Spanish). “Poverty and Resource Distribution in Latin America.” Exclusive audio-conference, March (in Spanish).

2009, 2007, 2006. Attorney Ron Shems. “Global Warming in the US Courtroom.” Ron Shems, environmental lawyer and leader in Climate Change cases in U. S. Courts. Exclusive meeting with students, January (in English).

2007, 2005. Project Manager Daphne Hewitt, Rain Forest Alliance (NGO). “Community Managed Forest in the Petén, Guatemala: A Social experiment towards land reform, resource rights and community development” (in Spanish).

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2011- PRESENT)

2019 -“Whose Environment? Environmental Justice and the Matter of Inclusion in Latin America.” Workshop Organizer, Chair and Presenter. LASA 2019, Boston, MA. May 22-25.

2018 -“How language shapes perspective when seeking actionable pathways for the SDGs.” *Routes towards Sustainability 2018: Cultures and Local Practices of Sustainability. Intersecting Multiple Footprints and the Environmental Humanities*. Santiago & Villarrica, Chile. Dic. 10-14.

2018 -“Biometrics and the Ubiquitous Borderization of the Imagination as Enablers of our Border Crisis” NECLAS 2018, Clark U. & College of the Holly Cross, Worcester, MA, Nov. 10.

2018 -“Pulling the Paradox of the SDGs to Uneven Ground: A Transdisciplinary Learning Journey.” AASHE 2018, Pittsburgh, PA. Oct. 3-5.

- 2018 -“Teaching Ecocriticism & the Global South. *El Sueño del Celta* as an entry to sustainability discussions in the 21st century.” Conf. presentation. LASA 2018. Barcelona, May 23-26.
- 2017 -“Sustainability as a Framework for Scholarship in the Humanities: A Pedagogy for Environmental Ethics.” NECLAS 2017, University of New Hampshire, Durham, Nov. 4.
- 2017 -“Memoria, cuerpo y espacio: Las metáforas políticas del teatro de Griselda Gambaro.” LASA Southern Cone 2017, Montevideo, Uruguay, July 19-22.
- 2016 -“Partnering Faculty, Students and Community: Envisioning SDG 17.” Working Group presentation. ISCN 2016: *Leadership for a Sustainable Future*. June 13-15. Siena, Italy.
- 2016 -“*Biocultural Diversity*. Transdisciplinary Conversations.” & “Emerging Problems in Environmental Research.” LASA 2016. New York. May 27-30. Conf. Presentations.
- 2016 -“Decoding Coloniality, Encoding Memory. Ancestral cultures and the language of water in *The Pearl Button*.” NECLAS 2016, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, Nov. 12.
- 2015 -“*Nostalgia de la luz*. One Film's Poetic Dialogue between Science and Culture Brings New Light to Chile's Recent Past.” NECLAS 2015, Tufts University, Medford, Nov. 7.
- 2015 -“Silenced Voices, Forgotten Wisdom. Voces silenciadas, sabiduría olvidada: limitaciones discursivas de la representación cultural frente a la globalización.” LASA Southern Cone, Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, August 5-7. Conference Presentation.
- 2015 -“The Aesthetics of Uncertainty: Transcending Boundaries of Science through Creative Works.” The International Symposium of Science and Culture in Latin America. Trinity College, University of Oxford, UK. April 18. Conference Presentation.
- 2014 -“New Challenges for 21st Century Education: Sustainability as a Space for Dialogue in Today's Democratic Context” Workshop Organizer, Chair and Presenter. “Sustainability as Democratic Practice: A View for the 21st Century from Southern Cone.” Panel Organizer and Presenter. XXXII LASA International Congress 2014. Chicago, IL. May 21-24.
- 2014 -“Transforming the Border, Transforming the Migrant. Biometrics and the Ubiquitous Borderization of the Imagination.” ABS Annual Conference. Albuquerque, NM. April 2-5.
- 2014 -“Sustainability in the Liberal Arts Education: Experiences from Latin American studies.” The 2014 Int. Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic, Social Sustainability. University of Split, Split, Croatia. Jan 22-24. Conference Presentation.
- 2013 -“Silenced Voices, Forgotten Wisdom. Rapa Nui as Cultural Mirror of Colonized Discourses of Conservation.” XXXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, LASA 2013. Washington, DC. May 29 - June 1. Conference Presentation.
- 2013 -“Rapa Nui And Canary Islands: A Political Ecology Approach To Water Governance?” Rohatyn Ctr. for Global Affairs Int. Conference. Middlebury College. March 14-16.
- 2012 -“The role of Creativity and Imagination.” AASHE Advanced Track Workshop: Sustainability Unbound, AASHE 2012. Los Angeles, Calif., USA. Oct 14-17. Guest Presenter.
- 2012 -“The Social/Environmental Imagination as Collective Production of Meaning: Installations of Mexican Sculptor Helen Escobedo.” The 5th Biennial Conference of EASLCE. University La Laguna, Tenerife, Canaries' Islands, ES. June 27-30. Conference Presentation.
- 2012 -“Resignifying Environmental Epistemology: A Sustainability Perspective from the Humanities.” The 8th Int. Conference on Env., Cultural, Econc & Social Sustainability. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, CA. Jan. 10-12. Conference Presentation.
- 2011 -“Sustainability as Analytical Framework in Sepúlveda's *Un Viejo que leía novelas de amor*.” Literature and Environment. Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Sept. 2-4. Present.

2011 -“Securitization in contemporary border significance between Mexico and USA.” SPT ‘11, 7th Int. Conference of the Society for Philosophy & Technology. UNT, TX. May 26-29.

LANGUAGES

- English, Spanish, Italian: native or near-native proficiency
- Portuguese and French: professional use

AFILIATIONS

- Senior Co-Chair of Environmental Section of Latin American Studies Association (LASA); ; member of Southern Cone and Otros Saberes sections.
- Executive Committee member New England Council of Latin American Studies (NECLAS)
- Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) & EASLCE
- Routes towards Sustainability (*ROUTES*)
- Modern Language Association (MLA)
- Association for Borderland Studies (ABS)