

# Alejandra Ortega

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in English**, Purdue University, May 2022

**M.A. in English**, Wake Forest University, May 2015

**B.A. in History**, Michigan State University, December 2012

**B.A. in English**, Michigan State University, May 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monograph:

- *Envisioning Ecofeminism: Approaches to Environmental Futures in Popular Genre Fiction*, forthcoming, Lexington Press

### Peer-Reviewed Academic Journal Articles:

- “Whose Nightmare Is It? Addressing Human Embodiment Through Anger and Violence in Young Adult Speculative Fiction.” *American Studies (AMSJ)*, vol. 63, no. 3, 2024, pp. 131-55.
- “A Cursed Circle: Confronting Patriarchal and Colonizing Legacies in Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s *Mexican Gothic*.” *Studies in the Novel*, vol. 56, no. 3, 2024, pp. 302-22.
- “Calculating the Costs: The Effects of Land Consumption in Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 29, no. 3, 2022. (Advanced online publication: October 2020.)
- “Intersections of New Media and Narratives: The Enhanced Ebook Reading Experience.” *Rhizomes*, vol. 37, 2021, <http://rhizomes.net/issue37/ortega/index.html>.

### Peer-Reviewed Chapter in an Academic Edited Collection:

- “The Cultural Critique of American Patriarchal Capitalism in Bonnie Jo Campbell’s *American Salvage*.” *Michigan Salvage: Bonnie Jo Campbell and the American Midwest*, edited by Lisa DuRose, Ross Tangedel, and Andy Oler, Michigan State UP, 2023.

### Digital Academic Publication:

- “‘Prompted by the Violence of Her Passion’: Gendered Crime in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and Eliza Haywood’s *Love in Excess*.” *The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Common*. July 24, 2019. <https://www.18thcenturycommon.org/ortega/>

## **SELECT NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025 “Obsessive Intellectual Pursuits: Intersections of Speculative Fiction and Dark Academia”  
American Comparative Literature Association (Virtual)
- 2024 “Inviting Linguistic Diversity at a Two-Year College.”  
Conference on College Composition and Communication (Spokane, WA)
- 2023 “Whose Nightmare Is It? Addressing Human Embodiment Through Anger and Violence in Young Adult Speculative Literature.”  
American Studies Association (Montreal, Canada)
- 2023 “The Intersection of Space and Trauma in Jean Rhys’s *Good Morning, Midnight*.”  
Modernist Studies Association (Brooklyn, NY)
- 2022 “A Struggle for Control: Land Eugenics and Feminist Space in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland*.”  
Modernist Studies Association (Portland, OR)
- 2021 “A Cursed Circle: The Liminality of High Place in Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s *Mexican Gothic*.”  
The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS), Virtual Conference.
- 2020 “Interwar Economics: The Class Status of Space in F. Scott Fitzgerald.”  
American Literature Association (San Diego, CA) \*Canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2019 “The Cultural Critique of American Patriarchal Capitalism in Bonnie Jo Campbell’s *American Salvage*.”  
The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature (East Lansing, MI)
- 2018 “‘That is the tale; the rest is detail’: Understanding Created Personal and National Identity through Modern Retellings of Norse Mythology in Neil Gaiman’s Works.”  
Popular/American Culture Association (Indianapolis, IN)
- 2016 “‘Muss es sein?': The Architectural Innovations of Mark Z Danielewski’s *House of Leaves*.”  
American Comparative Literature Association (Cambridge, MA)

## **SELECT REGIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021 “Creating a Midwest Community with Haunting Legacies of the American South in Toni Morrison’s Works.”  
Midwest Modern Language Association (Milwaukee, WI)

- 2021 “Deconstructing Binaries Through the Ecological Uncanny in Jeff VanderMeer’s Southern Reach Trilogy.”  
Literature, Theory, Cultural Studies Organization Symposium, Virtual conference.
- 2019 “‘This is how an idea becomes real’: Teaching Analytical Writing and Ways of Reading with Graphic Narratives in the First-Year Composition Classroom.”  
Midwest Modern Language Association (Chicago, IL)
- 2019 “One vast uncontrolled experiment”: Tensions of Duality in Space and Society in Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy.”  
Midwest Modern Language Association (Chicago, IL)
- 2019 “Ecocritical Fashion from the Apocalypse to the Runway.”  
Northeast Modern Language Association (Washington, D. C.)
- 2018 “‘A Kind of Keystone in the Universe’: The External and Internal Lives of Yoknapatawpha Homes.”  
Northeast Modern Language Association (Pittsburgh, PN)

### **TALKS, LECTURES, WORKSHOPS**

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- 2025 “Ecofeminism”  
College of DuPage Philosophy Club
- 2024 “Teaching Graphic Narratives”  
College of DuPage Library
- 2024 Guest Lecture: *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
ENGLI 1102 Honors: Composition II. Aleisha Balestri (College of DuPage)
- 2024 “Generating Conversations Across Time: Confronting Race and Colonization in the Literature Classroom.”  
Modernist Studies Association and British Association of Modernist Studies Workshop
- 2024 “Linguistic Diversity in Student Writing: Equitable Response and Assignment Design”  
College of DuPage Composition Steering Workshop
- 2024 “Alternative Grading Practices”  
College of DuPage Composition Steering Workshop
- 2023 “Teaching Graphic Narratives”  
College of DuPage Library
- 2023 “Inclusive Syllabus Policies”  
College of DuPage Composition Steering Workshop

- 2021 “The Changing Faces of Sci-Fi” Addressing Diversity in the Genre  
Tippecanoe County Library in association with the Big Read (Lafayette, IN)
- 2021 Guest Lecture: *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia  
English 373: Science Fiction and Fantasy. Dr. Maggie Meyers (Purdue University)
- 2021 Guest Lecture: “Reassigning Meaning” by Simi Linton  
Critical Disability Studies 239: Introduction to Disability Studies. Dr. Maren Linett (Purdue University)
- 2021 Publishing Basics: How to Navigate the Publishing Process.  
English 692: Scholarly Publishing and Writing. Dr. Derek Pacheco (Purdue University)
- 2020 “Performing Home in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Beautiful and Damned*”  
Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies Forum Series (Purdue University)
- 2020 “Intersections of New Media and Narratives: The Enhanced Ebook Reading Experience.”  
Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies Forum Series (Purdue University)
- 2019 “Reading Eco-Apocalyptic Bodies: Intersections of Communication, Identity, and Fashion in the Anthropocene.”  
Literature, Theory, and Cultural Studies Forum Series (Purdue University)
- 2018 Guest lecture: *Nimona* by Noelle Stevens  
English 217: Myth and Literature, Dragons! Dr. Manushag Powell (Purdue University)

## **TEACHING AND INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois**

- Assistant Professor
  - English 1159: Greek Mythology
  - English 1161: Multicultural Literature
  - English 1150: Short Fiction
  - English 1101: English Composition I
  - English 1102: English Composition II
  - English 1102 H: Honors English Composition II

### **Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana**

- Instructor of Record
  - English 238: Introduction to Fiction, Summer 2021
  - English 373: Science Fiction and Fantasy, Fall 2020
  - English 238: Introduction to Fiction, Summer 2019

- English 106: First Year Composition, Spring 2019
- English 108: First Year Composition (Accelerated), Fall 2018
- English 106: First Year Composition, Spring 2018
- English 106: First Year Composition, Fall 2017

**Purdue University Writing Lab**, West Lafayette, Indiana

- Graduate Tutor, face-to-face and tutoring, August 2018-May 2019
- English Conversation Group Leader (for Second Language Learners), Spring 2019
- Grammar and Writing Instruction Video Presenter, Purdue OWL: Fall 2018-Spring 2019

**Wakefield School**, The Plains, Virginia

- Instructor, 6<sup>th</sup> grade literature, August 2016-June 2017
- Instructor, 6<sup>th</sup> grade composition, August 2016-June 2017
- Instructor, 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature, August 2016-June 2017
- Middle School Battle of the Books Coach

**Washtenaw Community College**, Ann Arbor, Michigan

- Adjunct Professor, Instructor of Record
  - ENG 181: African American Literature, Spring 2016
  - ENG 090/091: Developmental Writing, Spring 2016
  - ENG 090/091: Developmental Writing, Fall 2015
  - ENG 111: Introduction to Composition, Fall 2015

**Wake Forest University**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- Graduate Teaching Assistant
  - ENG 323: Shakespeare, Spring 2015
  - ENG 341G: Literature and the Environment, Fall 2014
  - ENG 150: Literature Interprets the World: Speculative Fiction, Spring 2014

**Wake Forest University Writing Center**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- Graduate Tutor, face-to-face, August 2013-May 2015

**Duke University Teaching Identification Program (Duke TiP)**, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

- Instructor, Speculative Fiction: Reading and Writing about Alternative Worlds, Summer 2015

**Duke University Teaching Identification Program (Duke TiP)**, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

- Teaching Assistant, Speculative Fiction: Reading and Writing about Alternative Worlds, Summer 2014

**Michigan State University College of Social Science**, East Lansing, Michigan

- Undergraduate Learning Assistant: Anthropology, Fall 2012

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE INSTITUTION**

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### **Departmental Committees, College of DuPage**

- Literature Committee Member, Fall 2021-Present
- Comp Steering Committee Member, Fall 2021-Present

### **Division Committees, College of DuPage**

- Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee Member, Fall 2021-Present

### **College-Wide Committees, College of DuPage**

- Great Read Series, Committee Chair, Spring 2025-Present
- Essai (Student Academic Research) Committee Member, Spring 2024-Present
- Inclusive Pedagogy Community of Practice Member, Fall 2023-Present

### **Student Club Advisor**

- The Page Turners, Fall 2022-Present

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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### **College of DuPage Great Read Series**

- Program Creator and Director, [www.cod.edu/greatreads](http://www.cod.edu/greatreads)

## **MENTOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

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- Caitlyn Miller. "The Effects of Consumerism: A Psychological Spiral." Research Symposium 2024, College of DuPage
- Rileigh Jose. "Does TikTok Know Your Sexuality Before You Do?" Research Symposium 2024, College of DuPage.
- Mia Halama. "What Does It Mean to Be an American?" Research Symposium 2024, College of DuPage.
- Vincent Arias. "Do You Consider Animals Therapists?" Research Symposium 2023, College of DuPage.
- Dominick Traverso. "On the Topic of Homelessness." Research Symposium 2023, College of DuPage.
- Pankti Patel. "Overcoming Barriers: The Educational Experiences of Undocumented Students." Research Symposium 2023, College of DuPage.
- Susan Lam, "Suppression of Sickle Cell Disease Using Gene Therapy." Undergraduate Research Conference 2020, Purdue University. \*Virtual conference due to COVID-19.
- Beatrice Smith, "Biometrics: A Key Security Solution." Undergraduate Research Conference 2019, Purdue University.

## **WRITING AND EDITING EXPERIENCE**

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### ***MFS: Modern Fiction Studies***

Production Manager: August 2021 – July 2022

Editorial Assistant: July 2019 – July 2021

### **Purdue OWL**

Online Content Developer: September 2017 – May 2019

- Chicago Style-17<sup>th</sup> Edition CMOS Author Date Classroom Poster:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/chicago\\_manual\\_17th\\_edition/documents/20180709CMOSADPoster.jpg](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/documents/20180709CMOSADPoster.jpg)
- Chicago Style-17<sup>th</sup> Edition CMOS NB Classroom Poster:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/chicago\\_manual\\_17th\\_edition/documents/20180702CmosNBPoster.jpg](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/chicago_manual_17th_edition/documents/20180702CmosNBPoster.jpg)

### **Duke University Press:**

Freelance Copy Editor:

*Black Atlas: Geography and Flow in Nineteenth-Century African American Literature* by Dr. Judith Madera. 2014.

### **Michigan House of Representatives**

Writer: October 2011 - July 2012

- Edited, researched, and wrote press releases, representative e-newsletters, talking points, speeches, media advisories, and campaign literature
- Assisted state representatives in official tasks including arranging press conferences

## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

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2021-2022 Association of American University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship

2021 Fall, PROMISE Travel Award (Purdue College of Liberal Arts)

2020-2021 Cheryl Z. Oreovicz English Scholarship (Purdue English)

2019 Fall PROMISE Travel Award (Purdue College of Liberal Arts)

2019-2020 Cheryl Z. Oreovicz English Scholarship (Purdue English)

2019 Spring PROMISE Travel Award (Purdue College of Liberal Arts)

2019 The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature Student Scholarship

2018 Fall, PROMISE Travel Award (Purdue College of Liberal Arts)

2017-2018 Modern Fiction Studies Teaching Assistantship

2013-2015 Wake Forest Graduate School Arts and Science English Department Academic Fellowship