

JEFFREY MIDDENTS

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CURRENT POSITION

Department of Literature

American University, Washington, DC

Associate Professor — Courses taught include: Critical Approach to Cinema; Remarkable Literary Journeys; The Literary Imagination; Third World Literature; Cinema and the 20th Century; Literature, Film and Globalization; National Cinema Study; Cinemas of Latin America: Narrative, Culture, Identity; Film Genres: The Film Musical; Film Genres: The Horror Film; Short Films; Stars; Film Writing, Film Culture; Auteur Study: Pedro Almodóvar; Auteur Study: Alfonso Cuarón; The “Boom!”: Latin American Fiction, 1960-1985; Metanarrative; Principles of Cinema Studies; Reading Mario Vargas Llosa; Transnational Cinemas; Television Studies. Visiting Assistant Professor, 2001-2002; Assistant Professor, 2002-2009; Associate Professor, 2009-present.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2001

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- Dissertation: “*Hablemos de cine*: Locating the Film Journal in the Development of Peruvian National Cinema”
- Co-chairs: Santiago Colás, Romance Languages and Comparative Literature; Carina Yervasi, Romance Languages. Committee Members: Catherine Benamou, Romance Languages, Film and Video Studies and American Culture; Margarita de la Vega-Hurtado, American Culture and Latino Studies.

Graduate Certificate in Film Studies, 2000

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- Directed project work with Professors Catherine Benamou, Gaylyn Studlar and William Paul
- Highest degree in film studies offered at University of Michigan.

M.A. in Comparative Literature, 1996

University of Michigan

- Completed with High Distinction

B.A. in English and Psychology, 1993

Dartmouth College

- Graduated with Honors in English. Thesis title: “‘...once upon a time’: The Decline of Historiographic Metafiction in the Work of Salman Rushdie”

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Fulbright Pre-Academic Training Program

Monterey Institute for International Studies

Instructor — Developed and taught two classes, “Graduate Writing for Specific Purposes” and “Graduate Life Skills Workshop,” for a three-week intensive training session for 40 incoming foreign Fulbright scholars, designed to introduce them to U.S. academic culture. July and August 2001, 2002.

7/21/2017

Stevenson College/Merrill College**University of California, Santa Cruz**

Core Lecturer — Designed and led discussion sections for writing-intensive core-course seminars for first-year students. Topics accompanied significant texts enumerating the place of the individual in relation to civilization (Stevenson Core: “Self and Society”) and emphasized connections to contemporary international issues (Merrill Core: “Cultural Identities and Global Consciousness”). Trained in instruction for California Subject A Writing requirement. Initiated and developed a two-credit class supplementing Stevenson Core. Designed film series with an international perspective, prepared supplemental materials and led cinephilic discussions for each film, implemented writing assignments and constructed evaluation mechanism. Wrote narrative evaluations for all students. Fall 2000 through Spring 2001.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Writing National Cinema: Film Journals and Film Culture in Peru*. Lebanon, NH: Dartmouth College Press, 2009. Part of the series *Interfaces: Studies in Visual Culture*.

CHAPTERS IN COLLECTED EDITIONS:

- “A Sweet Vamp: Critiquing the Treatment of Race in *Buffy* and the American Musical Once More (with Feeling)” [reprint]. *Music in the Whedonverse*. Kendra Leonard, ed. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2010. 119-132.
- “Roger Corman Dis/Covers Peru: National Cinema and Luis Llosa’s *Hour of the Assassin/Misión en los Andes*.” In *Latsploitation!: Latin America and Exploitation Cinemas*. Victoria Ruetalo and Dolores Tierney, eds. London: Routledge, 2009. 55-69.
- “Another *Limeño* Fantasy: Peruvian National Cinema and the Critical Reception of the Films of Francisco Lombardi and Federico García.” In *Representing the Rural: Space, Place and Identity in Films About the Land*. Catherine Fowler and Gillian Helfield, eds. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006. 307-322.
- “*Me moría*: Aesthetics, Documentary and the Creation of Nostalgia in Patricio Guzmán’s *Chile, memoria obstinada*.” In *Democracy in Chile: The Legacy of September 11, 1973*. Silvia Nagy-Zakmi and Fernando Leiva, eds. Sussex: Sussex Academic Press, 2005. 185-191.

EDITORIAL WORK AND TRANSLATIONS:

- *Studies in Hispanic Cinemas* (now *Studies in Spanish & Latin American Cinemas*) 9.2 (November 2012): “Voices from the Small Cinemas: Beyond the ‘remaining countries.’” Special edited volume on contemporary translated material from underrepresented Latin American cinemas. Co-edited with Tamara Falicov (University of Kansas). Also co-wrote introduction (115-19), and translated two articles: “Dossier on Cultural Exception in Peru” by René Weber (155-64) and “Public health warning concerning the Peruvian cinema flu” by Juan José Beteta (165-70).

REFEREED ARTICLES:

- “The first rule of Latin American cinema is you do not talk about Latin American cinema: Notes on discussing a sense of place in contemporary cinema.” *Transnational Cinemas* 4.2 (October 2013), 147-164.
- “Not the Same Ones You Sang When You Were Little: Children, Spain and Chapero-Jackson’s *Alumbramiento*.” *Short Film Studies* 2.1 (2011), 187-190.
- “A Sweet Vamp: Critiquing the Treatment of Race in *Buffy* and the American Musical Once More (with Feeling).” *Slayage: The Online International Journal of Buffy Studies* 5.1 (17, June 2005). <http://slayageonline.com/PDF/middents.pdf>
- “‘This Is Not Film’: Ef/facing the Screen in Kathryn Bigelow’s *Strange Days*.” *FEMSPEC* 5.1 (2004), 95-113.

INVITED NON-REFEREED ARTICLES:

- “Argentina: *Wild Tales* Indeed.” *AULA Blog*, Mar 9, 2015. <http://aulablog.net/2015/03/09/argentina-wild-ales-indeed/>.
- “Not Many, but One: A Case-Study Approach to Teaching World Cinema.” *Cinema Journal Teaching Dossier* 2.1 (Winter 2014). Special edition on “New Approaches to Teaching World Cinema,” edited by William Costanzo and Diane Carson. < <http://www.teachingmedia.org/many-one-case-study-approach-teaching-world-cinema/>>
- “En busca de lo nuevo: Entrevista con Caroline Libresco del Festival de Sundance.” *Vértigo* 2.6 (6 August 2003): 5.
- “Ojos que ven la verdad: Entrevista con Gail Dolgin.” *Vértigo* 2.4 (4 August 2003): 1.
- “Hedwig salió del edificio: Entrevista con John Cameron Mitchell.” *Vértigo* 2.3 (3 August 2003): 1.

VIDEO ESSAYS:

- “¿Por qué me miras así?: Magaly, Dolores and the Indigenous Icon.” *[in]Transition Journal of Videographic Film and Moving Image Studies* on March 20, 2016. Refereed.

INTERVIEWS:

- *Latin Pulse* (21 November 2013): <http://latinpulse.blogspot.com/2013/11/mexican-cinema-takes-well-deserved-bow.html>. Interviewed about contemporary Latin American cinema.

SELECTED REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- “Ciudadano Cuarón: Transnational Auteurism and Mexican Cinema.” Part of a panel entitled “New Approaches to Transnational Mexican Cinema,” Latin American Studies Association 2017, Lima, Perú, April 29-May 1, 2017.
- Presenter on workshop entitled “Latin American Film Studies and Digital Humanities,” Latin American Studies Association 2017, Lima, Perú, April 29-May 1, 2017.
- “My dream is to represent the beauty of the women from my State’: Latin American vs. World Cinema.” Part of a panel titled “Global Latin American Cinema: Politics, Aesthetics and Ethics,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2016, Atlanta, GA. April 1, 2016
- “Out of One, Many: First-Year Student Research and *The Contemporary World Cinema Project*.” Part of a workshop titled “Video Essays in Transnational Cinema Studies,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2016, Atlanta, GA. March 31, 2016.
- “Mi sueño es representar la belleza de mi estado: Latin American vs. World Cinema.” Part of a panel entitled “Globalization and Latin American Film: Politics, Aesthetics and Ethics,” Latin American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, May 27-30, 2015.
- “Reading Between the Subtitles.” Part of a panel entitled “On Subtitles,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2015, Montréal, Canada, March 25-29, 2015.
- “The Movies That Become ‘World Cinema’ (And the Movies That Don’t).” Part of a panel entitled “World Cinema” organized by Dudley Andrew, ACL(x): Examine, Penn State University, September 28, 2013.
- “Permanent Residents?: Contemporary Hollywood and the International Auteur.” Part of a panel entitled “Locating Transnational Hollywood,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2013, Chicago, IL, March 7, 2013.
- “Alfonso Cuarón as the Prisoner of Mex-kaban: The Transnational Auteur Meets the Franchise Film.” Part of a panel entitled “Styles of Global Authorship,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2012, Boston, MA, March 23, 2012.
- “Y tu Thundercat también: Glocalization, National Cinema and Alfonso Cuarón.” Part of panel entitled “The Im/Possibility of National Cinema,” American Comparative Literature Association 2010, New Orleans, LA. April 2-5, 2010.
- “In Lima, Like You: Confronting Peruvian National Cinema with Claudia Llosa’s *Madeinusa*.” Part of a panel entitled “What Remains: Contemporary Latin American Cinema,” American Comparative

- Literature Association 2009. Cambridge, MA. March 26-29, 2009. Also proposed, organized and co-chaired panel.
- “Ibermediating National Cinemas.” Part of a panel entitled “Programa Ibermedia and Contemporary Latin American Cinema,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2008. Philadelphia, PA. March 8, 2008. Also proposed, organized and chaired panel.
 - “Hablemos de cine(filía) peruana: Film Journals and National Cinema in Peru, Then and Now.” Part of panel entitled “Trans/National Cinephiliás,” American Comparative Literature Association 2007. Puebla, Mexico. April 22, 2007.
 - “Babes in the Amazon, Ponch in the Andes: Roger Corman and Peruvian Cinema.” Part of a panel entitled “Hollywood Business Practices and Latin American Cinema” at Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2006. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 4, 2006. Also proposed, organized and chaired panel.
 - “Peru Vs. the New Latin American Cinema: *Hablemos de cine* and the Viña del Mar Film Festivals of 1967 and 1969.” Part of a panel entitled “Beyond *La boca del lobo*: Peruvian Cinema, Past, Present and Future” at Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2005. London, England, April 3, 2005. Also proposed, organized and chaired panel.
 - “Hablemos de Minnelli: A Peruvian Look at *Some Came Running*.” Part of panel entitled “Hollywood *por otros ojos*: Film Spectatorship in Post-Revolutionary Mexico, Pre-Revolutionary Cuba and 1960s Peru” for ASA (American Studies Association) 2004, Atlanta, GA, November 12, 2004.
 - “But Is It National Cinema?: *Hablemos de cine* and the Peruvian Short Film Industry.” Part of a panel entitled “National (Short) Film Industries” at Society for Cinema Studies 2001. Washington, DC, May 27, 2001. Also proposed, organized and chaired panel.
 - “Pero en el cine hablan inglés: National Identity Versus Transnationalism in Film.” ACLA ‘99: “Comparative Literature and Cultural Transnationalisms: Past and Future,” Montreal, Quebec, Canada, April 9–11, 1999.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “The first rule of Latin American film is that you do not talk about Latin American film: On discussing a sense of place in contemporary cinema.” Keynote address at Symposium “Latin American Cinemas Today: Reframing the National.” University of Lincoln School of Media, Lincoln, UK, February 24, 2012.
- “*Madeinusa* and Peruvian National Cinema.” Roundtable presentation at Dartmouth College, May 28, 2009.
- “*Hablemos de cine peruano*, Then and Now: Film Writing and the Question of National Cinema in Peru.” Andean and Amazonian Worlds Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. February 23, 2007.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “In Lima, Just Like You: Mapping a Challenge to Peruvian Cinema with Claudia Llosa’s *Madeinusa*, *La teta asustada* and *Aloft*.” In preparation for *Cinema Journal*.
- *The Cinema of Alfonso Cuarón: Transnational, Auteur*. Book length work on transnational director.
- Three video essays: “vengAncha: How Mexican Filmmakers Accent the Margins of Dominant Cinema” (with Pamela Fernández) and “*Birdman*, or Fantasy Hopscotch, Not Played Very Often: A Video Essay” (about the inspiration of Julio Cortázar on Alejandro G. Iñárritu’s *Birdman*), both for the blog *Mediático*; and “Mi sueño es representar la belleza de mi estado: Framing Women in the Contemporary Latin American Festival Film”

RESEARCH HONORS AND AWARDS

- CAS Mellon Faculty Development Award, American University, 2016. \$1500 awarded.
- J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Award (Romania), one-year award, 2016. [Denied for personal reasons.]
- CAS International Faculty Travel Award, American University, 2014. \$1500 awarded.
- CAS Summer Research Grant, American University, Summer 2003. \$2000 awarded.
- Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, Spring/Summer 2001.
- Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1999–2000.
- Enriching Scholarship, LS&A Teaching with Technology Mini-Grant, Fall 1998. \$2500 awarded.
- Dean's Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan, Winter 1997.
- Comparative Literature Departmental Fellowship, University of Michigan, Fall 1994–Winter 1995.

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Unique Courses Developed: 18

- National Cinema Study: Mexico and Peru (346/646; Fall 2010); Mexico (346; Fall 2013)
- Transnational Cinemas (733; Spring 2014)
- The Contemporary World Cinema Project (UCOL-200; Spring 2015. One-credit research seminar teaching and workshopping video essays; affiliated with University College program).
- Cine contemporáneo latinoamericano (446/646, crosslisted with SPAN-456/656, Fall 2015. Taught entirely in Spanish.
- Cinemas of Latin America (346/646; Fall 2001, Fall 2003, Fall 2005, Fall 2007)
- Auteur Study: Alfonso Cuarón (347/646; Summer 2008, Spring 2009; 446/646, Spring 2013)
- Auteur Study: Pedro Almodóvar (346/646, Summer 2007)
- Metanarrative (733, Spring 2004; 308/608, Fall 2006; 481/681, Fall 2012)
- The Film Musical (346/646; Spring 2002, Spring 2004, Fall 2009)
- The Horror Film (346/646, Fall 2004)
- The Film Star (346/646; Spring 2006, Spring 2008, Spring 2011)
- Television Studies (446/646. Spring 2015)
- Principles of Cinema Studies (733; Spring 2006, Spring 2008)
- The “Boom”!: The Explosion of Latin American Fiction, 1960-1985 (367/667; Spring 2003, Fall 2004, Spring 2015; hybrid version, Summer 2009)
- Short Films (346/646; Summer 2006, Fall 2008, Fall 2011)
- Film Writing, Film Culture (Honors colloquium, Spring 2006)
- Major Authors: Mario Vargas Llosa (310/610; distance learning version, Summer 2011, Summer 2013)
- Third World Literature (150; distance learning version, Summer 2010)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Teaching Award Committee, 2015-2016

Program Committee for Boston conference, 2011-2012.

Nominating Committee, 2006-2009.

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Latino Caucus

Caucus Secretary, 2002-2003. Co-Chair, 2003-2005. Chair Ex-Oficio, 2005-2006. Member of SCMS Council on Caucuses, 2003-2005. Active Caucus member since 2000.

American University**Washington, DC**

- Member of University Senate Committee on Learning Assessment (2010-2013)
- Member of University Task Force of Academic Advising (2004).
- College of Arts and Sciences — Elected to Faculty Senate Student Life Committee and EPC Interdisciplinary Studies Committee (2003-2005); Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum, 2017-present.
- Department of Literature —
 - Director of Undergraduate Studies (2012-2016)
 - Summer Chair (2010, 2014, 2017)
 - Undergraduate Studies Committee (2002-03, 2005-06, 2008-2016; chair, 2012-2016)
 - Executive Council (elected 2003-04, 2007-08, 2009-10, 2010-11; ex officio 2012-2016)
 - Rank and Tenure Committee (2002-03, 2004-05, 2009-present)
 - Cinema Studies Committee (2010-present)
 - Search Committees: pre-1800 Comparatist Search Committee (2002-2003, 2003-04), World Poetry (2004-05), Cinema Studies (2006-07), World Literature (2010-11, 2011-12).
 - Graduate Studies Committee (2003-04, 2006-07)
 - College Writing Merit Committee (2003-04, 2005-06, 2013-14, 2017-18)
 - Tenure-Line Merit Committee (2006-07, 2007-08)
 - Department Council
- Advisor to Cinema Studies Minor (2003-2012).
- Department of World Languages and Cultures/Language and Foreign Studies – Outside Committee Member for LFS Chair Search (2010-11, 2011-12); outside committee member for Spanish faculty search (2014-15).
- First-Year Orientations Program – Presentation on Academic Development (2003-09).
- International Student and Scholars Services – New Student Orientation Academics! Program (2008-2015)
- AU Abroad – Abroad @ AU New Student Orientation Program (2010-present)

Social Science Research Council

- Read and evaluate fellowship proposals for International Dissertation Research Fellowships, 100-140 applications per year, 2010-2015

Latin American Film Festival**Washington, DC**

- Coordinated campus activities to bring several contemporary Latin American film directors and producers to American University in conjunction with festival organized by the Organization of American States (OAS, 2002-04) and the American Film Institute (AFI). Enlisted support from Departments of Literature and Language and Foreign Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, School of Communication, Bender Library, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Office of International Affairs. Introduced and moderated Q&A sessions with directors at AU and at AFI Silver Theater. September 2002, 2003, 2004.
- Judge. September 2004 (First year prizes awarded), 2005.

Telluride Film Festival**Hanover NH/Telluride, CO**

Head Intern/ Distribution Manager — Viewed and evaluated over 350 festival entries of various lengths. Organized and coordinated “Filmmakers of Tomorrow: Resumes” program of short films at festival. Managed all correspondence between festival and applicants. June through September 1994.

Festival Volunteer— Member of production and theater staff for Masons' Theater. August-September 1994, 2000, 2003-05.

Ringmaster—Managed, moderated and coordinated on-site pre- and post-screening introductions and question-and-answer sessions with filmmakers and critics at Masons' Theater. August-September 2006 to present.

AFFILIATIONS

- Society for Cinema and Media Studies; active member of Latino Caucus and Transnational Cinemas Scholarly Interest Group
- American Comparative Literature Association
- Latin American Studies Association