

# Emi L. Frerichs

## Accepts All Pronouns

Department of Spanish & Portuguese  
Specialization in Gender and Women's Studies

PhD Candidate • Lecturer

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Latin American Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2023

Minor Certificate: Gender and Women's Studies

Dissertation Committee: Rubén Medina (Chair), Jill Casid, Joseph Pierce, Paola Hernández

Fields: Gender and Women's Studies; Travesti Studies; Trans\* Studies; Latin American Literature and Culture

M.A., Spanish & Latin American Literature, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011-2013

B.A., Spanish, University of Iowa, 2006-2010

Study Abroad, IES Abroad & Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Spring 2009

## DISSERTATION

*Towards a Travesti Subjectivity and System of Aesthetics: Approaching Trans\*lations in Argentinean Literature, History, and Culture*

My dissertation project, "Towards a *Travesti* Subjectivity and System of Aesthetics: Approaching Trans\*lations in Argentinean Literature, History, and Culture," examines *travesti* authorship and representation within 21<sup>st</sup> Century Argentinian fiction. Assigned male at birth but legally and socially understood as individuals who identify neither as men nor women, *travesti* has emerged as a radical political and activist identity within the Southern Cone. Although *travesti* identity has been traditionally discerned through Globally Northern projections of queerness and trans\*ness, I argue that the literary and cultural productions of *travesti* representation and authorship expand and offer new pathways of queer decolonization within this contemporary moment of transnational neoliberalism. In this literary context, queer decolonization is constituted by the narrative subversion of widespread social discrimination, the negation of civil rights, the stigmatization of sex work, and extreme economic precarity. Through the examination of *travesti* authorship and representation, I analyze three distinct genre strategies that counteract the material conditions that define *travesti* lives: the dystopian, the neo-baroque, and the speculative fiction. Thus, I argue that each author contributes to a collective literary worldbuilding that not only foregrounds a vibrant portrayal of *travesti* individuals and their ingenuity in strife, but also posits a new vision for humanity through groundbreaking approaches to survival, kinship, and care. Interweaving these stories with archival references and personal testimonies of current and past activists, these pathways unveil new strategies for understanding diverse gender identities outside of the Western sex-gender binary in a globalized setting.

## PUBLICATIONS

“Towards a Travesti Subjectivity and System of Aesthetics within Argentinean Literature: Trasheo Travesti, Irreverence, and Bold Visions for a New Humanity.” *Chasqui: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana* 51.1 May 2022

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Gender, Women, and Cultural Representation, Spring 2023

Queer Bodies: (Dis)ability, Sexuality, and Gendered Embodiment, Fall 2022

Transnational Queer and Trans\* Literature in the Americas, Spring 2022

Gender, Women, Bodies, and Health, Fall 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022

LGBTQ+ Health and Healthcare in the Americas, Spring 2020, Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant, Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Gender, Women, Bodies, and Health, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Summer 2020

Head TA Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, LACIS (Latin American Caribbean Iberian Studies) Program & Department of  
History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introduction to Latin American History, Spring 2018

Primary Instructor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison,  
2011-2019

- Spanish 226: Spanish Writing and Composition, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Head TA Spring 2019
- Spanish 204, Summer 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016
- Spanish 203, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014
- Spanish 102, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Lecture, University of Wisconsin-Madison Ethics of Care Initiative. “On Decolonizing the Monstrous: Analyzing Speculative Fiction, *Travesti*, and Disability in Camila Sosa Villada’s *Las malas*.” February 2023.

Invited Lecture, Latin American Caribbean and Iberian Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Understanding Translations of Queerness: Diving Deeper into Queer Transculturation and Alternative Uses of Queer Terminology in Latin America.” April 2019

Panel Presentation, Latin American Studies Association (LASA) 2019 International Convention, Boston, MA: “Variations of Corporal ‘Realness’ and Refusing Essentialisms: Generational

Divides of the Trans, Travesti, & Transsexual Community in Mayra Santos-Febres' *Sirena Selena vestida de pena*." May 2019

Panel Presentation. Asociación de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades Conference, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL. "Constant Becomings: On Being Intersex, Travesti and Trans\* in Luis Zapata's *La hermana secreta de Angélica María*." September 2018

Panel Presentation. Kaleidoscope International Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. "My queerness may not be yours: breaking the North to South dialogue in a discussion of bodies and identities beyond the Western rupture of the binary." March 2018

Panel Presentation. Fresno Pacific University's Literature Across Cultures Conference, Fresno, CA. "Transcendence of Gender and Queer Utopias in Pedro Lemebel's *Tengo miedo torero*." October 2016

Panel Presentation. Kaleidoscope International Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. "Queering space, memory, and objects of memory in *Mi vida después*; an application of Sara Ahmed's *Queer Phenomenology*." March 2015

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dissertation Write-up Award, Summer 2022

GLBT Alumni Council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association, Research Award, Fall 2019

Tinker-Nave Field Research Grant, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Summer 2018

Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2019 and Fall 2016

Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Summer 2018

Honored Instructor Award, Division of University Housing, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018

Gold Scholar Recipient of the Matthew Shepard Scholarship, 2006-2010  
Awarded full tuition, books and fees for each of the four years

Dean's List, University of Iowa, 2006-2010

Iowa Friends of Civil Rights Award, 2005

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Graduate Coordinator, UW-Madison Center for Care Initiative, Department of Gender & Women's Studies. Spring 2022-ongoing.

Co-organizer, Kaleidoscope International Graduate Student Conference, "Embodying Transitions: Beings and Becomings." Keynote Speaker Invitee: Dr. Jack Halberstam.  
Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Committee Member, Graduate Student Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Spanish & Portuguese Department, 2017-2020

Professional Spanish Transcriptionist and Translator, Qualitative Health Research Consultants, Madison, WI; June 2017-February 2018

Welcoming Committee - Kaleidoscope International Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, March 2014

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Gender and Sexuality Campus Center, Peer Mentor Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2020-Present

- Paired on-campus with a LGBTQ+-identified undergraduate student to provide mentorship and regular communication about adjustment and life on campus

Eastern Iowa Coalition Leader, *Iowa Pride Network*, Des Moines, IA, 2006-2010

- Worked as a coalition leader for local high school and college students to provide a safe environment for LGBTQ students within the Iowa City area (University of Iowa campus and local area high schools). Led discussions pertaining to the LGBTQ community, ranging from discussions of historical importance, cultural relevance, and self-care within the community

## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

### **RUBÉN MEDINA**

Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dissertation Chair  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
[rmedina@wisc.edu](mailto:rmedina@wisc.edu)

### **JILL H. CASID**

Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Committee Member  
Department of Gender and Women's Studies  
[jhcasid@wisc.edu](mailto:jhcasid@wisc.edu)

### **JOSEPH M. PIERCE**

Associate Professor, Stony Brook University, Committee Member  
Department of Hispanic Languages & Literature  
[joseph.pierce@stonybrook.edu](mailto:joseph.pierce@stonybrook.edu)

### **PAOLA HERNÁNDEZ**

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### **JENNY HIGGINS**

Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Teaching Reference  
Department of Gender and Women's Studies  
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### **ANNIE MENZEL**

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Department of Gender and Women's Studies  
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