

# Laura Kanost

104 Eisenhower Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506  
phone: (785) 532-1925 • email: lakanost@k-state.edu

## EDUCATION

### University of Kansas

#### **Ph.D., Spanish, May 2007**

Dissertation: "Political Asylums: Locating Mental Illness in Latin American Literature (1980-2000)." Dissertation Advisor: Danny J. Anderson.

Minor: Brazilian Literature.

#### **M.A., Spanish, May 2003**

### Kansas State University

#### **B.A., Spanish and English; Secondary Major in Latin American Studies, May 2001**

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Latin American Literature

Disability Studies

U.S. Children's Literature in Spanish

Translation

Service Learning

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish**

Department of Modern Languages, Kansas State University, Fall 2007-present

Courses taught:

- Spanish 410, Composition and Grammar
- Spanish 420, Advanced Conversation
- Spanish 550, Introduction to Literature
- Spanish 568, Literature of Spanish America

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Kansas, Fall 2001-Spring 2002 and Fall 2003-Spring 2006.

Courses taught:

- Spanish 340, Textual Analysis and Critical Reading (in Barcelona, Spain)
- Spanish 329, Intermediate Conversation II (in Barcelona, Spain)
- Spanish 324, Grammar and Composition
- Spanish 328, Intermediate Conversation I
- Spanish 216, Intermediate Spanish II
- Spanish 212, Intermediate Spanish I
- Spanish 108, Elementary Spanish II
- Spanish 104, Elementary Spanish I

## Study Abroad

### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Kansas Barcelona Summer Institute, 2004

Designed and taught courses in introductory literature and intermediate conversation. Worked with the Program Directors and other instructors to prepare a group of approximately thirty students for the program prior to departure, and to supervise the students during the program's initial two-week travel period, the four-week course session, and the return to Kansas.

### **Program Assistant**

Kansas State University Mexico Summer Program, 2000

Helped the Program Directors to oversee a group of approximately thirty students in a six-week intensive Spanish language program in Zacatecas and Cuernavaca, Mexico. Graded compositions, observed instructors, and assisted with development of study materials and exams.

## Translation Experience

**Certified by the American Translators Association** in Spanish to English translation, 2001-present.

**Contract Linguist**, Kansas City Federal Bureau of Investigation, Summer 2002.

**Freelance Translator**, 1998-present.

Experienced in translating literary, academic, medical, legal, and technical documents from Spanish and Portuguese into English.

## Editorial Experience

### **Student Assistant to the Editor**

*Studies in Twentieth Century Literature*, 1998-2001.

Record-keeping, filing, processing submissions, corresponding with writers and reviewers, updating webpage.

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Book in Progress**

*Political Asylums: Locating Mental Illness in Late Twentieth-Century Latin America*

### **Articles in Refereed Journals**

"Translating Ghosts: Reading 'Cambio de armas' and 'Other Weapons' as Haunted Texts." Forthcoming, *Chasqui*.

"*Pasillos sin luz*: Reading the Asylum in *Nadie me verá llorar* by Cristina Rivera Garza." *Hispanic Review* 76.3 (2008): 299-316.

"Body Politics in Patrícia Galvão's *Industrial Park*." *Luso-Brazilian Review* 43.2 (2006): 90-102.

### **Translations**

“Angels Among Ruins,” translation of “Ruina sobre ruina. Imágenes para repensar la memoria” by Sandra Lorenzano. Forthcoming book chapter in *Telling Ruins*, Palgrave.

Selected chapters of *Sacred Spaces: Religious Traditions of Oriente, Cuba* by Jualynne E. Dodson and José Millet Batista. Forthcoming, U P of Florida.

“The Construction of History in the Folds of a Family History in the Novel *Song Lost in West Buenos Aires* by María Rosa Lojo,” trans. of “Construcción de la Historia en los pliegues de la historia familiar en *Canción perdida en Buenos Aires al Oeste* de María Rosa Lojo,” by Zulema Moret. *Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literature* 26.2 (2002): 382-94.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

“Ada, Alma Flor.” “Belpré, Pura.” “Children’s Literature in Spanish—United States.” “Eltit, Diamela.” “Gorriti, Juana Manuela.” “Mera, Juan León.” “Ponte, Antonio José.” Forthcoming, *World Literature in Spanish: An Encyclopedia*, Greenwood Press.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“The Kansas State Psychiatric Hospital as Heterotopia in *La mujer que cayó del cielo* by Víctor Hugo Rascón Banda.” Midwest Association of Latin American Studies. San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2008.

“Made in the USA en español: (Auto)biografías latinas infantiles.” Invited lecture, Initiation Ceremony of the Honorary Society Sigma Delta Pi. Kansas State University. Manhattan, Kansas, December 2007.

“Walls that Talk: Articulating Depression in Lya Luft’s *The Red House*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 2006.

“Protagonist and Reader on the Threshold: Representing Liminal Subjectivities through the Fantastic in *El portero* by Reinaldo Arenas.” Midwest Association of Latin American Studies. St. Louis, Missouri, November 2005.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Student Research Mentor**, Kansas State University, 2007-present  
Committee Member for Ileaneth Murillo, M.A. in Second Language Acquisition  
Faculty Mentor for Rose Djiofack, Developing Scholars Program  
Faculty Mentor for Marissa Dorau, Honors Program

**Undergraduate Academic Adviser**, Kansas State University, 2007-present.

**Service Learning**, developed community component for SPAN 420, Advanced Conversation, including partnerships with Job Corps, Northview Elementary School, and the Fox Creek Stables. Authored article on Job Corps project for forthcoming *Guide to Service-Learning Colleges and Universities*, Student Horizons. 2007-present.

**Conversation Partners Program**, developed collaboration with Adelia Peña Clavel of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, matching K-State Spanish students with UNAM English learners for language practice and friendship via email, chat, and Skype. 2007-present.

**Telefund Captain**, recruited and supported student fundraising volunteers, Modern Languages Department, Kansas State University, 2008.

**United Way Department Representative**, assisting in fundraising effort, 2008.

**University Open House**, designed and assisted visitors with *papel picado* Mexican craft activity, Modern Languages Department, Kansas State University, 2008.

**French and Spanish Book Review Editor and Editorial Board Member**, *Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literature*, 2007-present.

**Reader, Translation Awards Committee**, American Translators Association, 2005-present.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship, University of Kansas, 2006-2007.

Graduate School Paper Presenter Travel Grant, University of Kansas, 2006.

First Prize, Student Paper Competition, Midwest Association of Latin American Studies Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 2005.

Alva V. Ebersole Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Scholarly Paper, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Kansas, 2004.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Graduate Fellowship, Center of Latin American Studies, University of Kansas, 2002-2003.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

## LANGUAGES

English: native.

Spanish: near-native.

Brazilian Portuguese: proficient.

French: reading knowledge.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Languages Association

Latin American Studies Association

American Translators Association

Midwest Association of Latin American Studies