

# RYAN JAMES KERNAN

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## EDUCATION

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| Dissertation          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lost and Found in Black Translation: Langston Hughes's Translations of French- and Spanish-Language Poetry, his Hispanic and Francophone Translators, and the Fashioning of Radical Black Subjectivities. July 1, 2007, Advisors Efraín Kristal and Richard Yarborough.</li></ul> |
| Degrees               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ph.D., UCLA, Comparative Literature, 2007</li><li>• A.B., Princeton University, English Literature and Theatre, 1998</li></ul>  |
| Linguistic Abilities: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English</li><li>• Spanish</li><li>• French</li><li>• Reading knowledge of Russian and Portuguese</li></ul>  |

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

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| • 2011 – 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Faculty Fellow, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture</li></ul>  |
| • 2006 – 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of California President's Dissertation Year Fellowship</li></ul>   |
| • 2006        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship, with Professor Michael Heim</li></ul>      |
| • 2004        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship, with Professor Michelle Clayton</li></ul>  |
| • 2001 – 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UCLA Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship</li></ul>                                  |
| • 2000 – 2001 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• University of California Graduate Opportunity Fellowship</li></ul>            |
| • 1998        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>; <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>, Princeton University</li></ul> |

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Professional Identification	I am an African Americanist, comparativist, literary theorist and critic, focusing on Translation Studies, Africana, and literature of the Americas.
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Description of Scholarly Objectives

My comparativist approach to the literary production of the African Diaspora builds on the work of scholars who have been developing the field of African American Studies and Diasporic Studies within modern academia since the late 1960s. In the broadest sense of the term American, I aspire to contextualize and to treat African American literature with the care, respect, and depth accorded other “national” and “transnational” literatures.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 – Present</li> <li>• 2009 – 2018</li> <li>• 2007 – 2009</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecturer, Department of English, Rutgers University</li> <li>• Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rutgers University</li> <li>• Lecturer, Department of Comparative Literature, and Program in African American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)</li> </ul> |
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**PUBLICATIONS**

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**Manuscript**

*New World Maker: Radical Poetics, Black Internationalism and the Translations of Langston Hughes* employs a multidisciplinary approach to elucidate the key role that translation played in Langston Hughes’s creative processes and in the fomentation of literary black left internationalism from 1926 to 1967. Engaging four languages and using translation as a vantage point to offer a dramatic re-thinking of Langston Hughes’s 1930s radical poetry and his enormous international influence in the realms of poetry and politics, the book reveals the profound extent to which Hughes’s practice of translation and his thinking about black internationalism were deeply enmeshed problem-solving operations that informed the composition of his radical verse, and shows how Hughes worked in conjunction with his Hispanic, Soviet, and Francophone translators to provide the genesis of black radical internationalist poetry. (Status: Under Advance Contract at Northwestern University Press)

**Articles in Refereed Journals**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020</li> <li>• 2020</li> <li>• 2014</li> <li>• 2012</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Perpetual Pornography: <i>Le Bleu de ciel</i> in Pantagruel's Mouth" (under review at <i>French Studies</i>)</li> <li>• "Vusco a Volvuvver a lo sin Voz en Vallejo: Trauma en <i>Trilce</i> (under review at <i>Latin American Literary Review</i>)</li> <li>• "The Coup of Langston Hughes’s Picasso Period: Excavating Mayakovsky in Langston Hughes’s Verse" <i>Comparative Literature</i>, (Winter 2014)</li> <li>• "Langston Hughes’s Cuban Contacts: Translation, Complementary Conversation, and Inter-American</li> </ul> |
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Dialogue" *Langston Hughes Review* 24.25 (Fall/ Winter 2010/2011)

### Edited Collection

- 2017 • *Justice in Time: Critical Afrofuturism and the Struggle for Black Freedom*. eds., Ryan Kernan and Elizabeth Reich (under contract at University of Minnesota Press, anticipated Spring 2020 release)

### Chapters in Books Or Monographs

- 2021 • "No Place to Be Somebody in the Cosmic Race: The Latin American Houseling and Unhouseling of Shango in Manuel Zapata Olivella's *Changó, el gran putas*" in *Justice in Time: Critical Afrofuturism and the Struggle for Black Freedom*. eds., Ryan Kernan and Elizabeth Reich (under contract at University of Minnesota Press)
- 2021 • Introduction (co-written by Elizabeth Reich) for *Justice in Time: Critical Afrofuturism and the Struggle for Black Freedom*. eds., Ryan Kernan and Elizabeth Reich (under contract at University of Minnesota Press)
- 2010 • "Author," *The Encyclopedia of the Novel*, edited by Peter Logan, Wiley Blackwell: Oxford (2010)
- 2010 • "Story and Discourse," *The Encyclopedia of the Novel*, edited by Peter Logan, Wiley Blackwell: Oxford (2010)
- 2005 • Bibliography and Index (with Kelly Austin) for *The Cambridge companion to the Latin American novel*, edited by Efraín Kristal, Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, (2005)

### Article in Literary Journal

- 2011 • "How it Feels to be Mulatto Me," *Phati'tude*, Vol. 2 No. 4 (Winter 2011): 12, 20-23.
- **Review** – 2017 • *Letters from Langston: From the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond*, eds. Evelyn Louise Crawford and Mary Louise Patterson (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), 434 pp. ALH Online Review, Series X <https://academic.oup.com/DocumentLibrary/ALH/Online%20Review%20Series%2010/Ryan%20James%20Kernan%20Online%20Review%20X.PDF>

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### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, LECTURES, DEMONSTRATIONS

#### Invited Addresses

- 2021 – "Downstream from 'The Negro Speaks of Rivers': Langston Hughes, Négritude, and the Poetics of Black Internationalism," in "A Century of Transnational Circulation for

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Langston Hughes," Panel with Cedric Tolliver and Anita Patterson, Shane Graham responding, MLA, Toronto, January 10, 2021

- 2017 – "Translation As Origin: Untranslatability and The Myth of Sikán: " American Literatures: Translation Dimensions," MLA, January, Philadelphia, January, 5-8. 2017
- 2014 – "American Literature in 3D: Space, Time and Language" Roundtable, Susan Gillman and Caroline Evander presiding, MLA, Chicago, January 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> 2014
- 2013 – " American Studies in 3D: Space, Time, Language," Round-table, Susan Gillman presiding, American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC, November 2013
- 2006 – "El hermano oscuro/The Darker Brother: José Antonio Fernández de Castro's translation of Langston Hughes," Translation in Colonial and Ethnic Studies: An Interdisciplinary Symposium moderated by Brent Hayes Edwards, University of Chicago, February 15, 2006

### Conference Papers

- 2020 – "The Role of Black Dialect as a Transnational Interpretant for the Decoding of Proletarianism: The Case of Ivan Parsons and Langston Hughes," ACLA, Chicago, March 19-22, 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2018 – "Langston Hughes: Subaltern Routes and Cosmopolitan Identities," ACLA, Los Angeles, University of California Los Angeles, March 30-April 1, 2018
- 2016 – "Seminar: Big Bangs: Race and Radicalism in its Gaseous State," ACLA, Cambridge, Harvard University (Convener and Presenter), Cambridge, March 17-20, 2016
- 2016 – "There's a Haitian Vévé in my French Romanticism: The Discursivity of Home as Fugitivity in *Les Cenelles*" Traversing the (Un) Home-Space: Blackness in New American Frontiers, ASA, Denver, November 7-12, 2016
- 2015 – "Importing-Exporting Racism Ivanov-Vano's: Black and White: Importing US Minstrelsy as a Means to Export International Communism" Panel, ACLA, Seattle, Washington, March 26-29, 2015
- 2013 – "Cosmopolitan Authorship: Translation and the Discursive Strategies of the Harlem International," (Panel: Co-convener and Presenter) ACLA, April, Toronto, March 29-April 23, 2013
- 2013 – From Chateaubriand's Wilderness to Lanusse's Wasteland: Excavating the Transformation of French Romanticism in *Les Cenelles*, America's First Book of Indigenous Poetry," Co-convener and Presenter) MLA, Boston, January 3-6, 2013
- 2010 – "Considering Still More Coldly: Franco Moretti's Conjectures," paper for *Where is American Literary Studies Now*, (Co-convener and Presenter) Rutgers University, November, New Brunswick, November 12, 2010
- 2007 – "Langston Hughes's Latin American Debut," ACLA, Princeton University, March 23-26, 2007
- 2006 – "Re-contextualizing Aesthetic Regimes: Langston Hughes's Picasso Period," ACLA, Puebla, Mexico, April 19-22, 2006

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- 2005 – “Don’t Call Me Yanqui White Man: Nicolás Guillén’s Harlem Renaissance/ Langston Hughes’s Poesía Negra,” ACLA, March 11-13, 2005
- 2005 – “Tom-Toms Turned the Tide: Langston Hughes’s Drum Circle Translations of Nicolás Guillén and Jacques Roumain,” Northeastern Modern Language Association, Panel: Modernists Citizens, Boston, MA., March 31-April 2, 2005
- 2004 – “The Blue of Noon in Pantagruel’s Mouth: Reading Bataille through Auerbach,” ACLA, Ann Arbor, University Michigan, April 16-18, 2004
- 2003 – “The Influence of Jorge Luis Borges on the Theatre of August Wilson,” ACLA, San Diego, April 4-6, 2003
- 2002 – “Subjects Born in Captivity,” ACLA, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 11-14, 2002

### **Memberships**

- American Studies Association
- American Comparative Literature Association
- Modern Language Association
- American Literary Translators Association

### **Contributions to the Advancement of the Field**

- 2019 – Outside article review for manuscript submitted to *African American Review*
- 2019 – Outside article review for manuscript submitted to *Langston Hughes Review*
- 2018 – Co-Convener of “Translation as Performance: Uncanny Doubles Between Covers” ALTA: Performance, Props, and Platforms, Bloomington, Indiana, Saturday, October 31 - November 3, 2018
- 2016 – Seminar Convener: “Big Bangs: Race and Radicalism in its Gaseous State,” ACLA, Cambridge, Harvard University Cambridge, March 17-20, 2016
- 2013 – Panel Co-Convener with Shane Graham “Cosmopolitan Authorship: Translation and the Discursive Strategies of the Harlem International,” ACLA, April, Toronto, March 29-April 23, 2013
- 2013 – Seminar Co-Convener with Esther Lezra “Old World Mirrors, New World Faces: Imagining Transatlantic Selfhood through Literature of the Americas” MLA, Boston, January 3-6, 2013
- 2010 – Co-Organizer for the conference Where is American Literary Studies Now, Rutgers University, November 12, 2010
- 2008 – Seminar co-chair “Ports of Call,” ACLA Conference: “Arrivals and Departures,” Long Beach, California, April 24-27, 2008
- 2007 – Seminar co-chair “The Typesetter’s Handmaiden: Visual and Literary Cultures in Contact,” ACLA Conference: “Trans, Pan, Intra: Cultures in Contact,” Puebla, Mexico, April 19-22, 2007
- 2004 – Convener of the UCLA International Conference for Graduate Student Literary

Ryan James Kernan

Translators, UCLA, Jan 23-25, 2004

- 2003-2006 – Co-Founder and President of the Babel Study Group for Translation Studies at UCLA

### **Service to Rutgers University**

- 09/2018 – Ongoing Member of the Rutgers Committee for Bias Protection and Awareness
- 09/2016 – 12/2016 Junior Faculty Liaison to English Department Committee for Bias Protection and Awareness, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.
- 2015-2016 – Member of the Rutgers English Department Committee for Bias Protection and Awareness
- 2014 – Rutgers English Diversity Institute: Instructor for the Drama Component.
- 2013-2014 – English Department Graduate Placement Council
- 2012-2014 – Dissertation Committee, Vince Vaughn, Program in Comparative Literature
- 2011-2012 – Orals Committee, Vince Vaughn, Program in Comparative Literature
- 2011 – Rutgers English Diversity Institute: Instructor for the Drama Component with Elin Diamond.
- 2010 – Co-Organizer for the conference *Where is American Literary Studies Now*, Rutgers University, November 12, 2010
- 2010 – ongoing Affiliate Faculty Member in the Program in Comparative Literature
- 2010 – Rutgers English Diversity Institute: Instructor for the Drama Component with Elin Diamond
- 2010 – Member of the Rutgers English Department Graduate Education Council
- 2010 – Member of the Graduate Admissions Committee

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### **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

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#### **Syllabi**

- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/19th-Century-African-American-Literature-and-Its-International-Influences.pdf>
- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-African-American-Literary-Theory.pdf>
- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-African-American-Literature-and-Its-International-Influences.pdf>
- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-African-American-Literature-and-the-Left---Graduate-Seminar.pdf>
- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Black-Drama.pdf>

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- <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Black-Literature,-1930-to-the-Present.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Great-Books-from-the-World-at-Large.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Great-Works-of-Literary-Theory.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Harlem-Renaissance.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-Literary-Afterlife-of-The-Souls-of-Black-Folk.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-The-Lost-Generation---Joyce,-Fitzgerald,-Hemingway.pdf>
  - <http://www.blacktranslation.com/resources/Syllabus:-The-Role-of-Translation-in-Post-Colonial-Discourse-Graduate-Seminar.pdf>

### **Courses Taught**

Rutgers University Department of English 2009 – Present

#### Undergraduate Courses

- "19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Literature and its International Influences"
- "African American Literary Theory"
- "African American Literature and its International Influences"
- "Black Literature from 1930 to the Present"
- "The History of Black Drama"
- "The Harlem Renaissance"
- "The History of Black Drama"
- "Introduction to Literary Theory: Great Works of Literary Theory"
- "Principles of Literary Study: Poetry"
- "The Literary Afterlife of *The Souls of Black Folks*"
- "The Lost Generation: Joyce, Hemingway and Fitzgerald"

#### Graduate Courses

- "The Role of Translation in the Fomentation of Post-Colonial Discourse and Literary Black Radicalism"
- "African American Literature and the Left"

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UCLA Department of Comparative Literature 2006-2009

- Undergraduate Courses:
- "Survey of Literature from the Middle Ages to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century"
  - "Foundational Fictions of World Citizens: Narrative, Geography, and Identity"
  - "The foundational Fictions of World Citizens: Performativity, Sexuality and the Post-Colonial Subject"
- Graduate Course:
- "The Harlem Renaissance and the African Diaspora"

**Students Supervised**

Doctoral Committee

2014 Vaughn Anderson, Dissertation Committee "Disappearing Acts: Octavio Paz, John Cage, Haroldo de Campos, and the Poetics of Science." Program in Comparative Literature, October 29, 2014

Undergraduate Independent Study

- 2013 – Second reader with Martin Glisserman, Benjamin Raphael's Senior Honors Thesis
- 2011 – Second reader with Abena Busia, Tamara Jones' Senior Honor's Thesis "Romance in *Contending Forces*." (2010-2011)

Graduate Independent Study

- 2014 – Vaughn Anderson, Dissertation Committee. "Disappearing Acts: Octavio Paz, John Cage, Haroldo de Campos, and the Poetics of Science." Program in Comparative Literature.
- 2013 – Faculty mentor for academic placement: Mark Leong
- 2010 – Faculty mentor for academic placement: Elizabeth Reich
- 2010 – Faculty mentor for academic placement: Eric Sierra

**ARTISTIC WORKS**

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- 2007 – Casona, Alejandro. *No Suicide in Spring*, Translated by Ryan Kernan, produced by the East Los Angeles College Theater Department
- 2002 – *The Three Christs of Ypsilanti*, play written by Ryan Kernan, directed by Rodney Lloyd Scott, produced in UCLA Theater Department's 2002 TheaterFest
- 2002 – *Valley Dogged*
- 2001 – *Nubian World Order*, one-act play written by Ryan Kernan, staged reading produced by the UCLA Theater Department