

**Emily Colbert Cairns, Ph.D.**

Salve Regina University  
Marian 106  
100 Ochre Point Ave.  
Newport, RI 02840

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**EDUCATION**

**University of California, Irvine**

Ph.D. in Spanish (June 2012)

Dissertation: The *Other* Sephardic Diaspora: Feminine Representations of Sephardic Identity in the Early Modern Atlantic World.

M.A. in Spanish (June 2008)

**Hamilton College**, Clinton, New York

Bachelor of Arts (May 2006)

Majors: Spanish and Mathematics

Thesis: Resistiendo las construcciones tradicionales del cuerpo judío-femenino como salvaje e inferior: los productos culturales de cinco escritoras judío americanas.

Cum laude, Honors in Spanish

**Hamilton Academic Year in Spain** (Fall 2004)

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Salve Regina University**, Newport, RI (2012-present)

*Associate Professor of Spanish*

Teach undergraduate courses in Spanish (111, 112, 203, 204, 241, 242, 311, 312, 321, 390, 399) and Portuguese (111, 112), Pell Honors 299, UNV (101, 102)

**Middlebury College, Summer Language Schools**, Middlebury, VT (2012-2014)

*Spanish Faculty*

Teach undergraduate courses in Spanish (level 1.5 Communication, Reading/Writing, Culture)

**University of California, Irvine** (2006-2012)

*Teaching Assistant, Department of Spanish and Portuguese*

Taught courses in Spanish (1ABC, 2ABC, 3A) and Co-taught (113A, 130C)

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS**

**Pell Honors Award** (fall 2024-spring 2025). Salve Regina University. Award to conduct research with current Pell student, Leila Martinez, to support work with Newport Historical Society on Aaron Lopez papers.

**Critical Concern Faculty Collaborative** (2023-2025). Salve Regina University, Critical Concern of Immigration to support project "The Sephardic Diaspora: Women of the Mallorca Chueta Community.

**Antone Award** (fall 2023). Salve Regina University. Award to bring my SPA 311 class to RISD museum and meet with exhibiting artist Adela Goldbarb.

**Antone Award** (fall 2022). Salve Regina University. Award to support publication of Early Modern Maternities. (forthcoming Amsterdam University Press).

**Sabbatical** (fall 2019). Archivo de la *Diputación de Sevilla*. “Wetnursing Under Scrutiny in Early Modern Spain in the Casa Cuna.”

**Antone Award for Academic Excellence, Recognition Award.** (fall 2018). Salve Regina University. Recognition Award for book publication and contribution to the field. \$5,000.

**Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow.** (2016-2017). Salve Regina University. Faculty learning community. Award to support new course development in civic engagement. \$2,000 award.

**100,000 Strong in the Americas.** (fall 2016). Salve Regina University. Grant to support course development for Spanish for the Professions Minor. \$4,000 award.

**Provost Fund.** (summer 2016). Salve Regina University. Summer Stipend to research tapestries in *Museo de la Seo*, Zaragoza, Spain. \$1,500 award

**PRAGDA Film Festival.** (awarded spring 2016). Festival October 16-30. To host Hispanic Film Festival on Salve Regina’s Campus. \$1,500 award.

**Collaborative Grant** (fall 2015, spring 2016). Salve Regina University. Funding for advanced class (SPA 399) to see play *Entre mujeres* in Providence based Hispanic Theater Company and visit to MFA Boston. \$400 award

**Rhode Island Campus Compact Fellow** (2014-2015). Award to support collaborative work between Salve Regina and local community. \$500 award

**Presidential Faculty Award** (fall 2014) Salve Regina University. Award resulting in one course reduction to support manuscript preparation.

**Collaborative Grant** (fall 2014) Salve Regina University. Funding for visit with advanced class (SPA 321) to Goya exhibit at Boston’s MFA. \$400 award

**Provost’s Fund** (summer 2013). Salve Regina University. Summer research stipend for the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Spain. \$1,500 award

**Enhanced Regent’s Dissertation Year Fellowship** (2011-2012) School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine. \$18,000 award

**The Bancroft Library Study Award** (summer 2011) University of California, Berkeley. Award to research with unpublished manuscripts. \$3,000 award

**Humanities Center Grant** (summer 2011) School of Humanities, UC Irvine. Award to research in Santiago, Chile. \$1,500 award

**Humanities Travel Grant** (fall 2010, fall 2009) School of Humanities, UC Irvine. \$500 award

**Graduate Student International Summer Travel Research Grant** (Summer 2009). International Center for Writing and Translation, UC Irvine. Travel to Madrid, Spain.

**Graduate Student Summer Language Fellowship** (Summer 2007)

International Center for Writing and Translation (ICWT), UC Irvine. Travel to study Portuguese in Lisbon, Portugal.

**Enhanced Regent's Fellowship** (2006-2007) UC Irvine.

**Travel Grant** (Spring 2006) Hamilton College. Travel to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic for research project. \$500 award

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS****Monograph**

*Esther in Early Modern Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora: Queen of the Conversas*. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

**Edited Volume**

(co-editor) with Nieves Romero-Diaz. *Early Modern Maternities*. Amsterdam University Press (fall 2024).

(co-editor) with Brian M. Phillips. *Confined Women: Walls of Female Space in Inquisitorial Spain*. (Hispanic Issues On Line, 2020).

(guest editor) "Critical Cluster: Food Studies Medieval and Early Modern Period." *La Corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures and Cultures*. (Vol. 49, No. 3, Summer 2021).

**Refereed Articles**

"Maternal Practice and the *Chuetas* of Mallorca: The Inquisitorial Trials of Pedro Onofre Cortés." *Religions*: Special Issue [Theology and Aesthetics in the Spanish and Portuguese Empires](#). Eds. Dale Shuger and Dana Bultman 2024.

"Female Embodiment: Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." *La Corónica*. 541.1. co-written with Elizabeth Spragins (2024).

"¿Maternidad obligatoria? en *Pan de limón con semillas de amapola*" with *Representaciones de la mujer en la España Contemporánea*. Advook Press, 2023.

Co-written with Elizabeth Spragins. "Following the Bloodlines in Zayas' *El traidor contra su sangre*. Forthcoming with *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

"Wet Nurses Under Scrutiny: Regulating Lactation in the Seventeenth-Century *Casa Cuna*." *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 22.1 (2022): 147-169.

"Breast Milk in the Inquisitorial Testimony of Isabel de Baeza and La Nodriz del infante." *Romance Notes* 62.3 (2022): 515-26.

"Introduction Pre-Modern Food Studies." *La Corónica: A Journal of Medieval Hispanic Languages, Literatures and Cultures*. (Vol. 49, No. 3, Summer 2021).

"Gender bending en la primera modernidad: *La mujer barbuda, Amor, agravio y mujer* y *La Monja Alférez*." Peter Lang, 2021.

“Breastfeeding in Public? Representations of Breastfeeding in Early Modern Spain.” *Health and Healing in the Early Modern Iberian World: A Gendered Perspective*. Eds. Margaret E. Boyle and Sarah E. Owens. Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2021.

“Breast is Best in Early Modern Spain.” *Revista de Estudios de Género y Sexualidades*. 46: 1-2 (2020): 19-40.

“Introduction.” (co-author with Brian M. Phillips.) *Confined Women: Walls of Female Space in Inquisitorial Spain*. Eds. Emily Colbert Cairns and Brian M. Phillip. (Hispanic Issues On Line, April 2020).

“Upon Being ‘Badly Married’: The figure of the *malcasada* in Cervantes’ novella *El celoso extremeño*.” *Confined Women: Walls of Female Space in Inquisitorial Spain*. Eds. Emily Colbert Cairns and Brian M. Phillip. (Hispanic Issues On Line, April 2020).

"Esther in Inquisitorial Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora." (June 2016) 175. *Hispanófila*. 183-200.

“Crypto-Catholicism in a Protestant Land: *La española inglesa*.” (fall 2016) 36:2. *Cervantes Journal: Bulletin of the Cervantes Society of America*. 127-144.

“Crypto-Jewish Faith and Ritual in *Nueva España*: The Second Inquisitorial *Procesos* of Isabel de Carvajal. (2015) 29:1. *E-Humanista*. 592-605.

“Esther among crypto-Jews and among Christians: Queen Esther and the Inquisition manuscripts of Isabel de Carvajal and Lope de Vega’s *La hermosa Ester*.” (November 2013) 42:2 *CHASQUI: Revista de literatura latinoamericana*.

## Invited Articles

“Breastfeeding in Early Modern Iberia.” Forthcoming in *Routledge Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World (REWR)*. Eds. Jelena Sánchez and Montserrat Pérez Toribio.

“The Sephardic Diaspora in Colonial New England.” *Forever Present and Silent No More: Early Sephardic Voices in the Spanish North American Atlantic*. Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press, Volume on Latinx Literature in Transition Vol. I. 2023.

“Statues and Mercy in Salve.” *Muse and Mercy*. Salve Regina University, 2023.

"Esther: Queen of The Conversas" TheTorah.com, February 2021.  
<https://www.thetorah.com/article/esther-queen-of-the-conversas>

“Saint Esther in Latin America.” *Esther in America: The Scroll’s Interpretation in and Impact on the United States*. Ed. Rabbi Dr. Stuart W. Halpern. Connecticut: Maggid Books, 2020. 159-168.

**Book Reviews**

*The Murder of William of Norwich: The Origins of the Blood Libel in Medieval Europe* (Oxford, 2015) by E.M. Rose. *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture*, Fall 2017. Book Review.

*El sentido oculto de las palabras en los testimonios inquisitoriales de las Rivera: judaizantes de la Nueva España* (2010) by Silvia Hutton Samui. *Journal of Mexican Studies*, published August 2011. Book Review.

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

“Unconscious Victims, Sexual Violence and Alterity in Cervantes and Zayas.” Renaissance Society of America. (March 20-22, 2025 Boston, MA).

“Alterity and Women’s Faith Practices in the Inquisition manuscripts of New Spain, Mallorca and Portugal.” Modern Language Association. (January 8-11, 2025 New Orleans, LA).

“Lactation and Legal Cases from the Corte Mayor de Navarra.” Sixteenth Century Society (October 31-November 2, 2024 Toronto, Canada)

Organized and moderated panel “Early Modern Alterities” New England Modern Language Association Conference (March 2024 Boston, MA).

“Maternity and the Book of Mothers in the Archivo Histórico de Oviedo” at the Sixteenth Century Conference (October 2023 Baltimore, MD).

“Early Modern Maternities” GEMELA Online Book Presentation Conference (October 2023)

“Early Modern Maternity” and “Motherhood in Early Modern Period” Renaissance Society of America, San Juan March 9-12, 2023

“Embodied Ritual and Acts of Care: Caregiving in Pre-modern Iberia.” With Elizabeth Spragins. Modern Language Association January 5-7, 2023.

“Wet Nursing in the Archivo General de Navarra” GEMELA, online, October 6-7 2022.

“Mother’s First Food: Breastmilk in Sephardic Balladry.” International MLA Symposia. Glasgow June 2022.

“Maternities” Roundtable. GEMELA Virtual Symposium, July 24, 2021.

“Mothers and Maternity in the letters of Estefania de Requesens.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference April 21-23, 2022

Feminine Materiality: Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose. MLA, January 5-7, 2022. Co presented with Elizabeth Spragins.

Following the Blood Lines in Zayas's 'El traidor contra su sangre.'" Co-presented with Elizabeth L. Spragins, College of the Holy Cross. International Congress of Medieval Studies Virtual. May 10-15, 2021.

"Lactation and Other Mothers in Early Modern Spain." Renaissance Society for America Virtual 2021. April 13-22, 2021.

"Wet Nurses Under Scrutiny: Regulating Lactation in the Seventeenth-Century *Casa Cuna*." GEMELA Virtual Symposium. October 3-4, 2020.

"*Gender bending* en el teatro de la temprana modernidad." I Congreso Internacional: No Solo Fiesta: Teatro, sociedad y credo en el siglo de oro Hispánico (TriviUN). Hosted virtually by University of Rhode Island. May 27-28, 2020.

"Breast is Best in Early Modern Spain." International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. May 9-12, 2019.

Roundtable participant, "Health and Healing in the Early Modern Iberian World: A Gendered Perspective." GEMELA. Charleston, SC. October 25-27, 2018.

"Breastfeeding in Public? Representations of Breastfeeding in Early Modern Spain." Renaissance Society of America. New Orleans, LA. March 22-24, 2018.

"The Malmaridada in the Epic & Ballad Traditions of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century: *La bella malmaridada*." Modern Language Association. New York, NY. January 4-7, 2018.

"Upon Being Badly Married: The Figure of the *Malcasada* in Cervantes's novella *El Celoso Extremeño*." Early Modern Iberian Studies of New England. Amherst, MA. Sept. 29, 2017.

"A Diasporic Nationality: Identity in the Early Modern Sephardic Diaspora." Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. January 5-8, 2017.

"The Inquisitorial Manuscripts of Leonor de Carvajal." Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. January 5-8, 2017.

"Mission to Praxis: Building Engaged Communities." Panel Discussion. New England Faculty Development Consortium. Worcester, MA. November 18, 2016.

"The Sephardic Diaspora in New England: Aaron Lopez." Latin American Jewish Association Regional Conference. New York NY. June 26, 2016.

"Discursive Bodies: Representations of Heroic Women in Medieval Spanish Literature." Organizer and Presider. International Congress of Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, MI. May 12-15, 2016.

"Punishment, Control, Heroines in Early Modern Spain." Panel chair and organizer. North East Modern Language Association. Hartford, CT. March 17-20, 2016.

"Portraiture of Two Early Modern Iberian Queens: Isabel la Católica and Queen Esther." Renaissance Society of America. Boston, MA. March 31-April 3, 2016.

### **Invited Lectures**

"Queen of the Conversas." Temple Shalom, Middletown, RI. March 12, 2025.

"How I Write." Academic Center of Excellence, Salve Regina University. March 2024, with Mark Kietges and Tim Neary.

"Esther in Early Modern Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora" Touro Synagogue Foundation (March 2024, online)

*New Books Record*: New Books in European Studies. "Esther in Early Modern Iberia and the Sephardic Diaspora: Queen of the Conversas." Podcast Interview with Elizabeth Spragins. January 23, 2020.

Esther, "Queen of the Conversas." Sisterhood Shabbat, Temple Israel, Natick, MA. March 16, 2019.

Judah Touro Lecture Series, Inaugural Program. "Esther: Queen of the Conversas." Touro Synagogue, Newport, RI. May 6, 2018.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Undergraduate Courses Taught at Salve Regina University (2012-present)**

Pell 299: Women's Voices in the Hispanic World

SPA111 Elementary Spanish I

SPA112 Elementary Spanish II

PTG111 Elementary Portuguese I

PTG112 Elementary Portuguese II

UNV101 Bodies, Objects and Places: Materiality in Our Everyday World

UNV101 Documenting Slavery in Colonial New England

SPA203 Intermediate Spanish I

SPA204 Intermediate Spanish II

SPA241 Spanish Conversation and Composition I

SPA242 Conversations through Cultures II

SPA 306: Latin American Culture and Civilization: Moments of Crisis and Violence

SPA 311: Women's Voices in a Transatlantic Perspective.

SPA 312: Latin American Literary Masterpieces: Resistance and Rebellion in Women's Voices

SPA320 Spanish Culture and Civilization

SPA390 Spanish Literary Masterpieces

SPA 399 Coming of Age in the Hispanic World

SPA399 Witches, Loose Women and Go-Betweens: Others of the Early Modern

Iberian World

SPA399 Contemporary Argentine Writers and Culture. *\*Short Term Abroad Program in Mendoza, Argentina.*

SPA399: Women's Voices in a Transatlantic Context

SPA399: Early Modern Women (Capstone)

SPA 399: Honors Thesis

SPA Wksp: Language House Complement

UNV 101: Material Practices, Slavery in New England

UNV 102: Food and Foodways in the Hispanic World

**Undergraduate Courses Taught at Middlebury College Summer Language Schools (2012- 2015)**

Spanish 1.5 High Beginner Communication

Spanish 1.5 High Beginner Reading, Writing and Culture

**Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine (2007-2011)**

Spanish 1 Series: 1A, 1B, 1C

Spanish 2 Series: 2A, 2B, 2C

Spanish 3A

**Co-taught** Spanish 113A. Spanish Phonetics

**Co-taught** Spanish 130C. Jewish Latin American Writers

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Board Member Journal for REGS (Revista de estudios de genero y sexualidades). 2022-present

Managing Director of Gemela (Grupo de Estudios de la mujer en España y las Américas). 2023-present

Reader for article award for Sixteenth Century Society (2023-present).

Reader for La Corónica. Journal of Medieval Spanish (spring 2021)

Reader for Calíope: Journal of the Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry (spring 2018)

Reader for American Jewish History. (fall 2017)

Reader for e-Humanista: Journal of Iberian Studies. (fall 2015-present)

Editorial Advisor for SJML (Shippensburg Journal of Modern Languages). (2014)

Panel Moderator. Fall 2013. Humor Studies Conference. UMKS, Kansas City Missouri.



## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

**Salve Regina**

Chair, Department of Modern Languages, 2024-present.

*Core Structuring Committee.* 2022-2024.

*Sabbaticals Committee.* 2022-2024

*Pell Honors Advisory Committee* 2021-2024

*Language House Advisor.* Proposed and implemented 1) bringing two Fulbright Teaching and Language Assistants (FLTA) to live/work on campus, 2) establishing a language house for undergraduate students that provides an immersion experience. (2014-present)

*Festival de Cine.* (Coordinator). Salve Regina University (2016-present)

*Diversity and Inclusion Task Force* (Chair). Salve Regina University. (2016- 2018)

*Search Committee. Tenure Track Assistant Professor,* Dept. of Modern Languages. (2014)

*Faculty Assembly Executive Committee.* Salve Regina University. (2014-2017)  
Treasurer. (2015-2017)

*Pell Center Fellow.* Salve Regina University (2013-present).

*Committee for Multicultural Affairs.* Co-Chair. Salve Regina University. (2013-2016)

*Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor Committee.* Salve Regina University. (2013-present)

*FACSB Committee.* Salve Regina University. (2013-present)

*Guest Speaker.* Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexualities Studies (WGS100).

October 2016, October 2015 “The Gaze and Two Latin American Artists.”

*Guest Speaker:* Introduction to Global Studies (GLO100):

Feb. 2014: “*Conversas in Diaspora*” presentation about crypto-Jews in Early Modern Diaspora.

March 2013: “Indigenous Others in the Early Modern Period.”

*Guest Speaker:* Research Methods (CEG 222)

Jan. 2017: “Researching in the Field of Spanish Literature.”

*Committee for Innovation and Technology.* Salve Regina University. (2013-2014)

*Department Liaison for Majors and Minors.* Salve Regina University. (2013-2014)

*Search Committee Member.* Search for Assistant Director of Multicultural Programs. (2012-2013)

**UC Irvine**

*Ph.D. Student Representative.* Department of Spanish and Portuguese, UC Irvine. (2010-2011)

*Graduate Student Assistant to the Director.* Jewish Studies, UC Irvine. (2009-2010)

*Presented Film,* Latin American Film Festival, UC Irvine. (spring 2011)

*Volunteer at Mexican Annual Conference.* Department of Spanish and Portuguese UC Irvine. (2007-2011)

*Respondent.* New Research Forum, UC Irvine. October 28, 2009.

Created Artist Book: 23. Donated upon request to UC Irvine Langston Library, 2007.

**Student Advising**

Undeclared Freshman Advisor. Salve Regina University. 18 advisees (2014- 2017)

Spanish Advisor to Majors and Minors. Salve Regina University. 40 advisees (2013-present)

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

*Touro Education Committee* (chair). Board Member, Newport RI.

Brown Paleography Group. Working with the group to transcribe and translate the Aaron Lopez Papers at the Newport Historical Society.

*Pell School.* Coordinate students in Language House and FLTAs to teach Spanish/French in an after school elementary program, with 8–11-year-olds. Newport, RI. (2014-present)

*Language Exchange Program.* Coordinator and founder of program of a language exchange for UCI students of Spanish and residents of local Mexican community. Centro Cultural de México, Santa Ana. (2009-2012)

*Radio Sefarad.* Conducted interviews, recorded interviews, and assisted on the website for internet radio broadcast. Madrid, Spain. (Fall, 2008)

*Volunteer for Peace.* Worked with international volunteers for “Nuestra Tierra” to teach English to children and adults in a small community in México. Provincia, México. (Summer 2003)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association

Sigma Delta Pi

Latin American Jewish Studies Association

GEMELA  
NeMLA

**LANGUAGES**

English-Native Speaker  
Spanish-Near Native  
Portuguese-Proficient

*References Available Upon Request*