

# Cristina D. Ramirez, Ph.D.

---

Western Technical College  
[cramirez@westerntech.edu](mailto:cramirez@westerntech.edu)  
*Please email for address or phone number*

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy** - Rhetoric and Writing Studies  
The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

**August 2009**

## Abstract

*Claiming the Discursive Self: The Rhetoric of Mexican Women Journalists, 1876-1940* introduces women rhetors who participated in not only in creating a Mexican national identity, but also constructed that identity to insure women's place in history as well as in their current and future politics. Framed as a rhetorical historiography, this study fills a space in rhetorical history that has recently turned its gaze toward Latin American rhetors/rhetorics. It examines the rhetorical strategies of Mexican women unknown to rhetoric, such as Laureana Wright de Kleinhans (1846-1896), Hermila Galindo (1885-1954), Juana Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza (1875-1942), and a group of women from 1900, *las mujeres de Zitácuaro*. These women employed their discourse to traverse the borders of gender identification, impacting the ideas in culture, politics, religion, and feminist beliefs.

**Master of Arts** – English Education  
The University of Texas at El Paso

**May 2004**

**Thesis:** *Voice in Writing: History, Analysis and Pedagogy*

**Bachelor of Arts** - English Literature with a Minor in Spanish  
The University of Texas at El Paso

**December 1993**

## Research and Teaching Interests

Underrepresented Rhetorics  
K-12 Learning and Research

Writing Project  
Curriculum Development

## Publication

“Forging a Mestiza Rhetoric: Mexican Women Journalist’s Role in the Construction of a National Identity.” *College English* 72.1 (2009).

## Published Report

Co-authored with Gail Rioux. “Homeland Security Education Needs Assessment.” The National Center for Border Security and Immigration. Washington, D.C. July 2010. Award Number: 2008-ST-061-BS0001.

### **Forthcoming Publication**

“*Venimos a ocupar nuestro puesto: The Revolutionary Rhetoric of Juana Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza.*” Ed. Jennifer Speed. *Revolutionary Women: Portraits and Essays*. Spring 2011.

### **Article Under Review**

Co-authored with Gail Rioux. “Working Toward Relevant Homeland Security Education Programs through an Education Needs Assessment.” Under review by *Homeland Security Affairs*.

### **Presentations**

“Homeland Security Education Needs Assessment.” Naval Postgraduate School & Center for Homeland Defense and Security Conference. October 2010. Invited.

“Critical Teaching Skills at the Middle School/High School Level.” Metropolitan State College of Denver English Department. April 2010. Invited.

“Connecting DHS On-the-Job Realities with Academia.” Naval Post-Graduate School Education Summit. Georgetown University. February 2010.

“Laureana Wright de Kleinhans: Constructing a New Feminine National Identity.” V Coloquio Internacional de Historia de Mujeres y de Genero. Oaxaca, Mexico. March 2010. (Presentation in Spanish).

“Education Needs Assessment: Homeland Security Education Program on Border Security and Immigration.” Department of Homeland Security Site Visit. University of Texas at El Paso. December, 2010.

“Mestiza Voices: Mexican Women Journalists in the Formation of Discursive Spaces.” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference. Michigan State University. September, 2009.

“Discovering Spaces for Writing: The Need for Writing Instruction in Law Enforcement.” Rhetoric Society of American Frontera Retórica Chapter. University of Texas at El Paso, September, 2009. Invited.

“Improving Peer Review with On-line Technologies.” International Sun Conference on Teaching and Learning. University of Texas at El Paso, February, 2009.

“Mestiza Rhetoric: The Rhetoric of Mexican Women Journalists (1876-1940),” Presentation by invitation given at Florida State University, January, 2009. Invited.

“Writing the Personal Statement: Open Doors to Graduate Schools with Narrative.” Professional and Scholastic Development for Undergraduates Workshop. University of Texas at El Paso, November, 2008. Invited.

Recovering Lost Rhetorics: The Feminist Manifesto of Las Mujeres de Zitácuaro.” Feminist Rhetorics and Social Justice Research Forum with Karlyn Kohrs Campbell. Syracuse University, October 2008.

“Mestiza Rhetoric: Mexican Women Journalists and Activists 1876-1940.” Retórica Frontera Symposium and Open House. University of Texas at El Paso, April 2008.

“*La Dirección de Estudios Retóricas en los Estados Unidos / The Direction of Rhetorical Studies in the United States.*” Meeting with Director of Culture of the State of Durango, Mexico, Gonzalo Salas, and Director of Library and Archives, Oscar Jiménez Luna. Durango, Dgo., Mexico, March 2008. (Presented in Spanish)

“Service Learning: A Graduate Student’s Experience.” Border Learning Conference. Las Cruces, NM, February, 2008.

“Juana Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza’s Turn of the Century Mexican Feminist Civic Discourse.” Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference. Little Rock, AK., October 2007.

“On the Border of Transforming Race, Pedagogy and Community.” Race and Pedagogy National Conference. University of Puget Sound, September 2006.

“*Machela O’oba: A New Beginning for Man: A Cross Border Non-Profit Organization.*” Lineae Terrarum: International Border Conference. University of Texas at El Paso, March 2006.

“Narratives Bridging Borders: Cross Border Writing Collaboration.” Second Annual Border Literacy Festival. University of Texas at El Paso, December 2003.

“Teaching an Ancient Genre of Argumentation: The Fable.” West Texas Writing Project Spring Conference. University of Texas at El Paso, February 2002.

### **Full-Time Research under a Federal Grant**

**June 2009 – August 2009**

#### **Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

In a post-doctoral position at UTEP, I worked as a research and writing specialist for The National Center for Border Security and Immigration (NCBSI), a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funded Center of Excellence. NCBSI’s mission is to develop a HS bachelor’s based on the needs of the agency’s employees. As a key member of the research team, I administrated and presented this survey at agency locations around the country and also within the university setting. I gained experience in quantitative research, public speaking, and administrative experience in managing a 1.4 million dollar grant.

#### **Summer Scholars Academy**

**June – August 2010**

The National Center for Border Security and Immigration’s main goal is to promote underrepresented students in the STEM areas. As part of this initiative, I coordinated a ten week summer undergraduate research program with eight students and six professors. I planned Talk & Tours with government and international agencies and also helped organize a Cross-border Security Panel discussion with Tecnológico de Monterey. The program culminated with the students presenting their research to community and university leaders.

**Teaching Experience**  
**Western Technical College**

**August 2010 – Present**

Business Technical Writing

Western Technical College prepares students for technical careers in the fields of Electronics Engineering Technology and Information Security Systems. This course is an extreme challenge with fifty contact hours in ten days with traditionally under-served students. I have strategically combined the theoretical and practical aspects of writing and encourage problem-based writing assignments. Technology enhanced classroom.

**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Rhetoric and Writing Studies**  
 Assistant Instructor

**Summer 2003, Spring 2005-Spring 2009**

Work Place Writing and Organizational Communication 3355  
 Technology Enhanced, Computer Classroom

As part of the program's push to realign the writing curriculum, the Work Place Writing and Organizational Communication course was restructured to emphasize rhetorical theories of workplace writing. The course positions students as knowledge workers in distributed work and classroom environments, encourages discussion and response to current rhetorical theory, and engages students in meaningful research. I was involved in the piloting of this new course by teaching three sections and contributing my own unique pedagogical approach.

Teaching Grammar Through Writing 3303  
 Technology Enhanced, Computer Classroom

I developed and implemented the syllabus of this English Education based course. The class took a three tier pedagogical approach. The first component of the course surveyed the current research on teaching grammar in the classroom from grades K – College. In the second part of the course, I taught grammar in the context of writing, taking a rhetorical approach. And lastly, the students developed lessons to use in their future classrooms.

Writing Processes of Children 4354

Writing Processes of Children introduces teachers from any discipline with the pedagogical techniques to teach writing to their future students in the K -12 classrooms. Future teachers learn how to engage students in writing activities that are context based, meaning that the students first read to write, which produces richer and more complex texts. The culminating project asks the students to write a process oriented lesson that they can immediately use in their classes.

Research and Critical Writing 1312  
 Realigned Rhetoric and Writing Studies Curriculum  
 Technology Enhanced, Computer Classroom

Expository English Composition 1311  
 Realigned Rhetoric and Writing Studies Curriculum

**El Paso Community College Rio Grande Campus**  
 English Faculty Adjunct Instructor

**Summer 2005 and 2006**

Expository English Composition 1301  
 Technology Enhanced, Computer Classroom

**El Paso Independent School District**  
 Full-time Instructor

**Fall 1993-Spring 2005**

Henderson Middle School  
 Lincoln Middle School  
 El Paso High School

**Grades 7-8**  
**Grades 7-8**  
**Grades 9 -12 and Dual Credit**

### **Related Work Experience**

International Research Trips to Durango, Durango, Mexico  
 April 2008, March 2007, December 2006

One of the Mexican women journalists I am researching, Juana Belén Gutiérrez de Mendoza, was born in San Juan del Río, Durango on January 27, 1875. I took several trips to this region in order to find primary research material. From the information gathered on these trips, I created my own extensive digital archive of various historical newspapers that I have referenced and shared for research.

Writing Tutor and Lab Coordinator  
 El Paso High School

Aug. 2004-May 2005

Because of my graduate work, and my experience with the West Texas Writing Project, I was selected to work in the writing lab. In the lab, I worked with students from grades 9 -12 on writing projects, monitored the opening and closing of the lab, scheduled classes, and introduced students to writing in digitally enhanced environments. I worked with a Smart Board on various occasions and introduced students writing in real world situations.

Children's Literature Conference  
 Coordinator and Promoter

Fall 2004

As coordinator of this conference, I was in charge of assuring that the conference, attended by 300 + people, started and ended smoothly. The coordinating job involved advertising, securing the venue, ordering the food, organizing and distributing the packets, and recruiting volunteers to work at the conference.

West Texas Writing Project  
Co-Director

Summer 2002-2003

As Assistant Director in the West Texas Writing Project, I provided support in many areas, such as coordinating the summer program, and presenting lessons. On several occasions, I planned and carried out writing retreats, accompanied and presented with the Directors in the Central Texas Region where we discussed current issues of our Writing Project, and consulted with members of the Texas Education Agency. Part of my master's thesis was adopted as a component of the West Texas Writing Project curriculum guide.

Community Book Promoter and Sales Director

Fall 1997-2001

At Henderson Middle School, a school situated on the U.S. / Mexican border, I proposed incorporating Scholastic Book Fairs to promote literacy while raising funds to purchase books for the classroom. For four years, I coordinated book fairs with the entire school, aligning class schedules for visits, encouraging the PTA's involvement, advertising the fair to the surrounding community, and handling the monies. In 1999, we were recognized for the fourth highest book sales in the El Paso region.

### **Honors and Awards**

Graduate School Dodson Doctoral Fellowship

Spring 2009

The Dodson Doctoral Fellowship is an endowment from the Lee and Harriet Dodson Estate established at the University of Texas at El Paso in order to assist doctoral candidates in their final semester of studies. Each year, six doctoral candidates are selected from a pool of applicants to receive funding for time off to concentrate on and complete the dissertation.

Teachers for a New Era Carnegie Research Grant

Spring 2006

This project was carried out under the auspices of Keith Polette. I was charged to write the research proposal and seek IRB Board approval. The plan involved visiting classrooms of model teachers, videotaping their lessons, and sharing them as case analyses in the college education classroom. Mr. Jim Marshall, ESL instructor at Guillen Middle School, located less than one mile from the Mexican border, served as my main model teacher. He presented lessons on how he has successfully raised ESL students' test scores to passing in one year.

Outstanding Graduate Award  
University of Texas at El Paso

Fall 2004

### **Community Work**

Writing Internship with not-for-profit organization, AVANCE

Fall 2007

The Rhetoric and Writing doctoral program required a writing internship with a not-for-profit organization. I chose to work with AVANCE, an organization whose mission is to help parents learn English skills that will help them break the cycle of poverty. I connected my research on Mexican women to the mostly female students at AVANCE. I conducted lessons

to promote critical thinking about the English they were learning, which lead the students to develop strategies to use their English skills in their community. Some of the strategies they developed and implemented were translating bills for their neighbors, and accompanying friends to parent/teacher meetings to serve as a translator.

Eliminating Racism, Empowering Women  
Leadership Institute – YWCA

Fall 2007

Selected through a nomination, I participated in a Leadership Institute that required its participants to organize and implement a community project. Our group decided to raise money for two scholarship award of a thousand dollars. When we distributed the project's jobs, I elected to visit several high schools to publicize the scholarship and offer first-hand assistance in writing the application essay. I recruited, mentored, and directed several students on how to write and present their scholarship papers.

International Research Trip

Fall 2005

To write a paper on the cross-border non-profit organizations of Machela o'Oba for the international border conference of *Linea Terrarum* held at the UTEP in Spring of 2006, I traveled with Moises Guerrero, the founder, and Dr. Neil Devereaux to Chihuahua Mexico to document the organization's work. I interviewed several Mexican government officials, Diputado Beto Pérez and Diputado Comaduran, and asked them questions about the treatment, educational advancement, and political standing of the indigenous people of Chihuahua. I also interviewed several indigenous women and their families.

## Coursework

### Doctoral Seminars

Rhetorical History I

Dr. Carol Clark

Rhetorical History II

Dr. Beth Brunk-Chavez

Composition Studies

Dr. Helen Foster

Advanced Critical Theory

Dr. Elaine Fredericksen

Rhetoric and Technology

Dr. John Scenters-Zapico

### Concentration Courses

Postmodern Rhetorics

Dr. Helen Foster

Independent Research: Mexican History, 1876 – 1940

Dr. Samuel Brunk

Special Topics in Rhetoric and Composition (Contemporary Rhetorics)

Dr. Stacey Sowards

### Foundational Courses

Introduction to Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Dr. Beth Brunk-Chavez

Community Literacy Internship

Dr. Isabel Baca

Borderlands History

Dr. Kate Mangelsdorf

Graduate Writing Workshop

Dr. Yolanda Chavez

## References

Beth Brunk-Chavez, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
The University of Texas El Paso  
English/Rhetoric and Writing Studies  
Hudspeth Hall 220  
El Paso, TX 79986  
915.747.5797  
[blbrunk@utep.edu](mailto:blbrunk@utep.edu)

Victor Villanueva, Ph.D.  
Professor/Director of American Studies  
The University of Washington – Pullman  
Wilson Short 111a  
PO Box 644013  
Pullman, WA 99164-4013  
509.335.2680  
[victory@wsu.edu](mailto:victory@wsu.edu)

Kate Mangelsdorf, Ph.D.  
Professor  
The University of Texas El Paso  
English/Rhetoric and Writing Studies  
Library Writing Center Director  
El Paso, TX 79968  
915.747.5543  
[kmangels@utep.edu](mailto:kmangels@utep.edu)

Doug Meyers, Ph.D.  
Professor/Director of English Education  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso, TX 79968  
915.747-5276  
[dmeyers@utep.edu](mailto:dmeyers@utep.edu)