

Program Faculty

Rachel VanWieren, PhD rvanwieren@nu.edu

Rachel VanWieren is an Associate Professor and the Academic Program Director for the BA program in Spanish. She holds a PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literatures from UCLA, an MA in Literature from the Universidad de Chile, and a BA in Spanish from Hope College. Dr. VanWieren teaches a wide range of courses in the Spanish program at NU, from introductory Spanish classes to Latin American literary and culture courses. She enjoys working with students at all levels to improve their language and cultural competency skills. Dr. VanWieren's research is in the field of Latin American literary and cultural studies. Her current focus is on representations of Patagonia's colonization and settlement in Chilean and Argentine cultural works, with a particular interest in fictional portrayals of migrant workers and adventurers. Her most recent articles are "Reconsidering the Patagonian Worker Movements of the 1920s: Francisco Coloane's and Luis Sepúlveda's Rebellious Chilotes" in *A Contracorriente* and "Sketching Social Mobility in the Gold Rushes of California and Patagonia: Bret Harte and Manuel Rojas" in *Hispanófila*.

Teresa Rinaldi, PhD trinaldi@nu.edu

Teresa Rinaldi is an Associate Professor of Spanish in the College of Letters and Sciences at National University, La Jolla, California. She teaches on-site at the San Diego region campuses and also on-line courses. Born in Rosario, Argentina, she received her first Bachelor's Degree from Profesorado Nacional de Musica (violin), Rosario, Argentina. She continued her education at the University of North Texas, Denton, Texas where she obtained her certificate in English from the Intensive Language Institute at UNT and her Bachelor's in Spanish and Music from the same university. She received her Doctorate in Philosophy, World Cultures, Latin American Literature from the University of California, Merced, California. Her research agenda includes: Nikkei cultural production in Latin America, Music performances and cultural productions, Gender Studies, Caribbean Women literature, Photography and Literature and Hispanic Films from Spain and Latin America. She has published a variety of articles about: Nikkei literature and film in Brazil and Argentina, African American roots in Argentina, the perception of good and evil, Musicals as a form of discourse and women in power (Eva Peron).

Luis Acebal, Ph.D. lacebal@nu.edu

I have always been passionate about the diverse ways that literature and language inform each other. After completing my undergraduate degree at S.D.S.U, I studied language and literature at the University of Nice, France and later moved to Zacatecas, Mexico to assist in establishing a language academy in that city. My years as a secondary school teacher in Morocco also provided me with opportunities to expand my understanding of African and Arab literatures. After my tenure in Morocco, I participated in the development and implementation of an English program in The Comoros Islands. Since completing my Ph.D. in Comparative Literature

at Binghamton University in 19th century literature, I have had the opportunity to further my academic interests by teaching and conducting literary research in Latin American and Europe. More recently, I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct research as well as teach two graduate English literature courses in Santa Fe, Argentina. My most recent publication addressed the ways that Hawthorne and Borges incorporated Romance as a mode of artistic representation. Currently, I am working on two projects. The first addresses the theme of premature burials in the works of Edgar Allen Poe and the second explores the importance of digital literacy in conducting scholarly work.

Pamela Redela, PhD

My name is Pamela Redela and I have been on staff as adjunct faculty here at National University since July of 2004. I hold a B.A., M.A. and a PhD in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture and I also teach in the Women's Studies Department of California State University, San Marcos. My research focuses the Chicana/Latina female-authored short story with a focus on applied feminist theory and violence against women.

I am a social-justice minded scholar who is dedicated to furthering goals of gender equality through education and leading by example. My education and teaching experiences have afforded me the opportunity to interact with various sectors of society while my working class upbringing keeps me committed to grassroots effort. I have spent time in Puerto Rico, Spain, and Mexico City where I met and interviewed feminist activists and authors. I also gave a seminar on women's writing at the Encuentro Feminista de Latinoamérica y el Caribe in Costa Rica, which is a meeting of over 700 feminists from all over the Spanish-speaking world. A recent research activity has been with the Guatemala Human Rights Commission on their August 2010 "A Woman's Right to Live" delegation addressing the patriarchal violence of femicide. This experience was profound and life-altering, and resulted in numerous campus presentations on the topic as well as an article entitled "Fighting Femicide" in the Winter 2011 edition of Ms. Magazine. Most currently, in February of 2013 and March of 2016, I traveled to Cuba on an Educator Exchange where I toured the education system of the island nation and met closely with University level Women's Studies Departments. Cuba is a truly interesting and fascinating place full of contrasts and possibilities. My writings and research presentations focus on the ways in which fiction writing offers a distinct and valuable perspective on the female multi-cultural experience, and as such, my teaching focuses the power of literature to contextualize and offer various views of historical moments.

Olga Zindel, PhD

Olga (May) Zindel received her Bachelor in Fine Arts from The Art Institute of Chicago, her Masters degree in Aesthetics and Art from BUAP and her PhD in Creation and Theories of Culture from UDLAP. She has been a Professor in Unarte University, Buap-ARPA University and Casa Noria in Puebla, Mexico. Since 2010 she has been part of the on-line faculty of National University teaching Spanish, Mexican Cinema, Women Directors and Identity and Culturalism.

She published the book: Images that disturb among other publications. She has been a board member for The Society for Phenomenology and Media. She speaks English, Spanish, German and French. She is also an artist and her art work has been shown in USA, México, Chile, Italy and Cuba. mayzindel.blogspot.com. Her current research focuses on art and ecology, cultural studies, cinema and narrativity and aesthetics.

Walberto Díaz, Ed.D.

Walberto Díaz received two Bachelor's degrees, one in Spanish Language and Literature and another one in Psychology from CSUB, his Master's degree in Spanish Language, Literature and Culture from SDSU and his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Management from Alliant University. Also, he holds a TESOL Certificate and a Translator and Interpreter Certificate from UCSD.

He has worked at UCSD, USD, and at several community colleges in San Diego. Walberto has been teaching at National University since 2003. He has taught all levels of Spanish both onsite and online. Besides teaching Spanish, he has also taught English as a Second Language and Translation and Interpretation courses. Additionally, he has worked as a Spanish Consultant for Dual Language schools.

His current research focuses on strategies to create successful online language instructors and the development and creation of effective online classes. Walberto also enjoys writing poetry and is currently working on a bilingual poetry book. www.instagram.com/walbertopoetry