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# Benjamin J. Nelson

## Education

2000-2007 University of Chicago Chicago, IL

**Ph.D., Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish), June 2007**

**M.A., Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish), Winter 2001**

**Dissertation:** "Tending to Empire: The Spanish Pastoral Novel and Its Reflection upon Imperial Spain" Defended on January 12, 2007. (Advisor: Frederick A. de Armas)

### Fellowships/Grants:

- 2006-2007 The Franke Institute for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship
- 2004 Louis Cooper Research Grant (Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago)
- 2003 Tinker Field Research Grant (Center for Latin American Studies, University of Chicago)

1999-2000 Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA

1995-1999 Illinois Wesleyan University Bloomington, IL

**B.A., Spanish Language and Literature, *magna cum laude***

- Research Honors and Departmental Honors in Spanish (Spring 1999)
- BA Research Thesis: "Las mujeres de oro: un análisis de las mujeres de *El Quijote I*"

## Teaching Experience & Academic Employment

2007- University of South Carolina Beaufort Beaufort, SC  
**Assistant Professor of Spanish**

2003-2007 University of Chicago Chicago, IL  
**Lecturer of Spanish**

2002-2007 University of Chicago Chicago, IL  
**Research Assistant to Professor Frederick A. de Armas**

2001-2007 Wilbur Wright College Chicago, IL  
**Adjunct Professor of Humanities and Foreign Languages Department**

2003-2006 University of Chicago Chicago, IL  
**B.A. Preceptor for Department of Romance Languages & Literatures**

2002-2003 University of Chicago Chicago, IL  
**Head Lector of Spanish Literature (Intermediate Level)**

2000-2002 University of Chicago Chicago, IL  
**Head Lector (2001-2002) and Lector (2000-2001) of Spanish Language**

1999-2000 Pennsylvania State University University Park, PA  
**Instructor of Basic Language Program**

### Publications

“Adorning an Empire: Ekphrastic Interior Design in Jorge de Montemayor’s *La Diana* and Lope de Vega’s *La Arcadia*.” *Ekphrasis in the Age of Cervantes. The Second Session*. In *Cahiers parisiens/Parisian Notebooks*. University of Chicago Center in Paris. Vol 1. (2005): 161-74.

“Pastoral Novel of the Sixteenth-Century,” *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Sixteenth-Century Spanish Writers*. Ed. Gregory B. Kaplan. Vol. 318. Detroit: Thomas Gale, 2006. 311-16. (Co-authored with Julio Vélez-Sainz.)

### Conference Presentations

“Past Grandeur, Future Uncertainties: Pastoral and Empire in Francisco Loubayssin de la Marca’s *Historia tragicómica de don Henrique de Castro* (1617),” The Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Chicago, IL), April 2008.

“Pilgrimage to the Identity of the Temple of Diana in Montemayor’s *The Seven Books of the Diana*,” The Western Mediterranean Culture Workshop, University of Chicago (Chicago, IL), March 2007.

“Staircase to Giants: Cervantes, Venice and the *Scala dei Giganti*,” 2006 Early Modern Image and Text Association Conference: Word, Image, and Ideology in Habsburg Europe (Denver, CO), October 2006.

“An Innovative Approach towards Understanding the Temple of Diana in Jorge de Montemayor’s *Los siete libros de la Diana*,” The Newberry Library 2005 Renaissance Studies Graduate Student Conference, Newberry Library (Chicago, IL), June 2005.

“Jailing Literary Genres: Interpreting the Galley Slaves of I.22,” Fifth Annual Cervantes Symposium, Newberry Library (Chicago, IL), April 2005.

“Imperial Interior Design: Ekphrasis and Empire in Jorge de Montemayor’s *La Diana* and Lope de Vega’s *La Arcadia*,” Symposium on “Ekphrasis in the Age of Cervantes,” University of Chicago Paris Center (Paris, France), November 2004, Invited Presenter.

“Rewriting Tegualda: The Portrayal of the Ideal Woman in Alonso de Ercilla’s *La Araucana* and Gaspar Mercader y Carroz’s *El Prado de Valencia*,” Visiones Literarias del Viejo y Nuevo Mundo Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst (Amherst, MA), April 2004.

“I’ll just die if s/he doesn’t love me”: Male vs. Female Suicide in Miguel de Cervantes’ *La Galatea* and Don Gonzalo de Saavedra’s *Los pastores del Betis*,” 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference on Luso-Brazilian and Hispanic Literature, Linguistics and Culture, Indiana University (Bloomington, IN), February 2004.

“How to (Un)make an Arcadia: Cervantes’ *Don Quijote* and Tirso’s *La fingida Arcadia*,” Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, TX, March 2003.

“From a Novel to the Stage: The Transformation of Lope de Vega’s *La Arcadia* into a Comedia,” Spanish Golden Age Theater Symposium, El Paso, TX, March 2002.

### Professional Service

2007-2008 Search Committee (Spanish)

Organizer of USCB's El Club de Español

Guest speaker for pre-show discussion of University of Chicago's Court Theatre's performance of *Man of La Mancha* (October 19, 2005)

Co-organizer of the 2005 Graduate Student Conference – Repercusiones e impactos quijotescos a través de los siglos: La publicación del *Quijote I* (University of Chicago, April 22, 2005)

**Languages**

- Spanish – Fluent
- French – Intermediate fluency
- Italian – Elementary fluency
- Latin – Reading and translating proficiency

**Workshops**

Participant, Workshop on Teaching in the College (University of Chicago, Fall 2001)

**Research & Teaching Interests**

The Pastoral (Spanish, Italian, English and French)  
The Spanish Monarchy during the Golden Age  
Textual praise and/or criticism of the Spanish Empire  
Geographical spaces within prose narratives  
Question of genre (prose, poetry, drama) during the Golden Age  
Cultural history of Spain and Latin America (Medieval, Golden Age, Colonial)

**Web Page Design**

- University of Chicago Conference “Baroque and Neobaroque/Barroco y Neobarroco” (Fall 2001)
- University of Chicago “La quinta hora” for Spanish Program (2001-2003)