

## SOFÍA KEARNS

### OFFICE ADDRESS

Modern Languages and Literatures  
Furman University  
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### EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Field: Contemporary Latin American Literature. 1995
- **M.A.** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Fields: Latin American Literature XIX and XX Centuries. Modern Peninsular Literature XIX and XX Centuries. 1990
- **B.A.** Universidad Industrial de Santander, Bucaramanga, Colombia. Field: Modern Languages Teaching (*Licenciatura en Idiomas*). 1984

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Contemporary Latin American literature, Latin American women's writing, ecocriticism, feminist theory.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At Furman University: 1994-95 Instructor ; 1995-2000 Assistant Professor ; 2001-2007 Associate Professor; 2007 – present: Professor

At the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana: 1987-1994 Teaching Assistant of Spanish

In Colombia, South America: 1978-86 elementary and high school teacher of English and French

### AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

- *The Furman Standard* Grant. 2019-2022. Colombians and their involvement in the Greenville Textile Industry since the 1960s, a documentary.
- *Undergraduate Research Fellowship*. Oral histories of Colombians in Greenville, SC, and their involvement in the local textile industry. Summer 2018 with Ingrid Ramos; summer 2019 with Marina Cox and Whitney Maness.
- *Furman Humanities Grant*. With Helen Lee Turner (Religion). First Nations CLP Series with Cherokee writer and journalist Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle and Mapuche-Argentinian poet Liliana Ancalao. Spring 2018.
- *Furman Advantage Teaching fellowship*. Liz González was my teaching fellow in my

- SPN 240 (Latin American Civilization course) in Fall 2016
- *Research and Professional Growth* grant to cover expenses to attend *Conferencia Internacional de Literatura Hispánica* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and research trip to Comodoro-Rivadavia, Argentina, March 5-11, 2017
  - *Faculty Development* grant for my presentation “Building Partnerships in the Community: An Interdisciplinary Research Project in Greenville, SC” at the *Let’s Talk. Relationships, Research, and Results. Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures Symposium*. University of Notre Dame, IN. March 31, 2017
  - *Diversity and Inclusion Mini-Grant*, awarded to Tami Blumenfield and I to conduct WGSS Retreat on March 23, 3:00-7:00 PM at the Shi Center.
  - Furman Senior Order, 2011.
  - SC Department of Higher Education Service-Learning Award, 2010.
  - CAP grant for full-year sabbatical leave 2007-8.
  - Furman Advantage Teaching Fellow 2009-10 (James Rust) and 2010-11 (Tabby Mendez).
  - Furman Advantage Research Fellow (Lisa Mulvey), Spring 2007.
  - Furman Advantage Teaching Fellow (Lisa Mulvey as service-learning assistant), Fall 2006.
  - Furman Advantage Research Fellowship, Summer 2000
  - Furman Advantage Teaching Fellowship, Fall 1998, Winter 1999
  - Named “Most memorable Furman teacher” by Anne Reeves, 1998 alum and receiver of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, October 22, 2005.
  - Selected by Senior Melissa Rekas as “Most influential professor at Furman,” May 2000.
  - Alester G. Furman Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Meritorious Advising Award, May 1999.
  - Faculty Development Grant to conduct interview with author Anacristina Rossi, Summer 1998.
  - Rho Kappa de Sigma, May 9, 1995; Phi Sigma Iota, April 4, 1995
- List of Teachers Ranked Excellent by their Students at the University of Illinois: 1987, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993.

## PUBLICATIONS

- *Oral Histories of Colombian Textile Workers in Greenville, SC*. 2019. <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/textile-workers/>
- "La literatura indígena y su rol en el proyecto de recuperación lingüística en el continente americano." *MIFLC Review*, vol. 19, Fall 2019. pp. 71-85.
- “Convergencias feministas y de justicia social en dos generaciones de poetas guatemaltecas: Ana María Rodas y Rosa Chávez.” *Agencia, historia y empoderamiento femenino*. Eds. Diane Marting, Eva París y Yamile Silva. Ministerio de la mujer, Crítica dominicana literaria sobre escritoras hispanoamericanas, 2018, pp. 237-54.
- "La compaginación de identidades étnicas y femeninas en la poesía indígena de Liliana Ancalao y Rosa Chávez" *Ciberletras* 38. July 2017. <http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras/v38/kearnss.htm>
- “Worldbound. Michael Robinson’17 wins Fulbright Teaching Assitantship in Colombia” *Palingual* 3, Fall 2017.
- "Widening the Spectrum of Desire and Nation: Anacristina Rossi's Fiction." *QED. A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*. 3:2 Summer 2016. Pp. 93-106.

- "El logro de la 'palabra única' en *El canto de las moscas*." María Mercedes Carranza. 7 *ensayos sobre su obra*. Luz Eugenia Sierra, Editora. Bogotá: LETRA A LETRA e Instituto Caro y Cuervo, 2014. pp. 97-129.
- "Latin American and French Post-Modern Aesthetics in *María la noche*. *LEF-E (L'Erudit Franco-Espagnol) An Electronic Journal of French and Hispanic Literatures*. Vol. 2, Fall 2012. pp. 73-92. <http://lef-e.org/>
- "Questioning Modernity, Affirming Resilience: Eco-pedagogies for Homero Aridjis' *En quién piensas* and Anacristina Rossi's *La loca de Gandoca*." Co-authored with Laura Barbas-Rhoden. *Review 85. Eco-Literature and Arts in Latin America*. Vol. 45:2 (November 2012). 167-74.
- "Introduction" and "Afterword." *La loca de Gandoca/The Madwoman of Gandoca*. Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2006.
- Postcoloniality in Rossi's *Limón Blues*. *South Carolina Modern Language Review* 5:1. Spring 2006. Online. <[http://alpha1.fmarion.edu/~scmlr/scmlr\\_004.htm](http://alpha1.fmarion.edu/~scmlr/scmlr_004.htm)>
- Nueva conciencia ecológica en algunos textos femeninos contemporáneos. *Latin American Literary Review* 34:67 (January-June 2006). 111-127.
- Online student edition of *La loca de Gandoca*, ecofeminist short novel by Costa Rican author Anacristina Rossi, August 2005 (available to Furman campus readers only at <http://millie.furman.edu/kearns/LLG/>)
- Book chapter: "Ana María Rodas y la negociación con la tradición patriarcal." *Desde la zona abierta. Artículos críticos sobre la obra de Ana María Rodas*. Ed. Aida Toledo. Guatemala: Editorial Palo de Hormigo, 2004. 25-51.
- Book Review: "El mundo más que humano en la poesía de Pablo Antonio Cuadra by Steven White." *Confluencia* 20:1 (Fall 2004): 221-23
- "Una ruta hacia la conciencia feminista: la poesía de Gioconda Belli." *CiberLetras* 9 (July 2003). Online. <<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras>>
- "Political and Toxic Discourse: The Latest Poems by María Mercedes Carranza." *CiberLetras* 5 (August 2001). Online. <<http://www.lehman.cuny.edu/ciberletras>>
- "Anacristina Rossi: testimonio y lucha por la conservación ambiental de Gandoca-Manzanillo." *Confluencia* 16:2 (Fall 2000)
- "Environmental Issues in Costa Rica. An Interview with Anacristina Rossi." *Organization and Environment*. 13:2 (June 2000): 262-5.
- "Otra cara de Costa Rica a través de un testimonio ecofeminista." *Hispanic Journal* 19:2 (Fall 1998): 313-39.
- Book Review. "Prólogo de un mentor de escritores." *Confluencia, Revista Hispánica de Cultura y Literatura*, vol. 13.2 Spring 1998.
- Book Review: "The Mystic of Tunja. The Writings of Madre Castillo, 1671-1742." By Kathryn Joy McKnight. *The Women's Studies International Forum*. Fall 1998.
- "El amor en la poesía de María Mercedes Carranza." *The Romance Languages Annual* III (1991): 561-66

## OTHER ACADEMIC ENDEAVORS

- Ongoing research on the Colombian community in Greenville and its ties to the textile

- industry. Supported by the Furman offices of Research and Internships, and Community-Based Learning.
- The First Nations Cultural Life Program Series, 1, 2 and 3: "Ancalao, Liliana, "Inspired Resistance: The Poetry of Liliana Ancalao"; "First Nations In Dialogue: Cherokee and Mapuche Perspectives"; "Cherokee Life Through Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle's Short Stories" *FUSE, the Furman University Academic Exchange*: Co-organized with Helen Lee Turner. (2018) <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/first-nations/>
  - Piper Seminar presenter, November 14, 2011.
  - "Decentering Self and Nation." Furman Faculty Seminar, March 1, 2011.
  - Lilly Center For Vocational Reflection Speaker, February 4, 2010.
  - *CTEL* Teaching and Learning Showcase presenter, June 1, 2007.
  - Piper Ethics Seminar participant, August 2006-June 2007.
  - *CTEL* service-learning round-table presenter, December 6, 2006.

## CONFERENCE WORK

- "Hispanic Diversity in Greenville: the Colombian Community and its involvement in the Textile Industry." Co-presentation with student-research assistant Ingrid Ramos. Hispanic/Latinx Voices in Academia Conference. Clemson University, Saturday October 13, 2018
- La literature indígena y su rol en el proyecto de recuperación lingüística en el continente Americano." MIFLC, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. October 4-6, 2018.
- "Diverse Gender Representations in the Poetry of Graciela Huinao and Rosa Chávez, Two Indigenous Women from Latin America." SEWSA (Southeastern Women's Studies Association) Conference. Clemson University. March 1-3, 2018.
- "Posturas contestatarias de género e identidad cultural en la poesía indígena de Liliana Ancalao y Rosa Chávez." *XIX Congreso Internacional de Literatura y Estudios Hispánicos*. Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 9, 2017.
- Co-presenter with Stephanie Knouse and Michael Robinson: "Building Partnerships in the Community: An Interdisciplinary Research Project in Greenville, SC." *Let's Talk. Relationships, Research, and Results. Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures Symposium*. University of Notre Dame, IN. March 31, 2017
- "Liliana Ancalao y la dialéctica entre el campo y la ciudad. (Liliana Ancalao and the dialectic between the city and the countryside)." Panel Chair and presenter at *MIFLC Mountain Inter State Foreign Language Conference*, Charleston, SC October 15, 2015
- Conference panelist: Americas Society Symposium on Eco-literature in Latin America. Americas Society, Carnegie Hall's "Voices from Latin America Festival", Manhattan, NY, November 14-16, 2012.
- Mellon Workshop: "Queering the Curriculum II" Vassar College, June 2012.
- Mellon Workshop: "Queering the Curriculum I" Middlebury College, October 2011.
- "A Maturing Partnership: Furman University's Latin American Civilization service- learning and ESOL in Greenville Public Schools." *South Carolina Service-Learning Conference*, March 7, 2011. Prepared and presented with service-learning assistant Tabby Mendez.
- "A Desire to Self Others in *Limón Blues* and *Limón Reggae*, the latest novels by Anacristina Rossi." MIFLC 2009, Furman University.

- Panel Organizer: "Nuevas tendencias en la narrativa femenina en Latinoamérica al cambio de siglo (del XX al XXI). MIFLC 2009, Furman University.
- "Radical Questioning of Gender and Subjectivity in the 1980s: Anacristina Rossi's *Maria la noche*" at the 18th *Conference of the International Association of Hispanic Women's Literature and Culture*, Agnes Scott College, Atlanta, October 16-18, 2008.
- Nature and Subalternity: Anacristina Rossi's Short Story "Tigre de Agua." *ASLE* (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference). Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC. June 2007.
- "Service-learning in the Latin American Civilization class at Furman University." Paper developed with service-learning assistant Lisa Mulvey. *AACU* (American Association of Colleges and Universities conference), Los Angeles, CA, April 2007.
- "Political and Cultural Place in the Poetry of María Mercedes Carranza." *VI International literature conference*. Cancún, Mexico, March 7-9, 2007.
- "The personal and the Political: Violence in the Poetry of María Mercedes Carranza." *Furman Faculty Seminar*, February 15, 2007.
- "Eroticism in Anacristina Rossi's narrative." *Latin American Studies Association*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 2006.
- "Nueva conciencia ecológica en algunos textos femeninos contemporáneos." *Latin American Studies Association*, Las Vegas, October 2004
- "*Limón Blues*: Historical Critique of a Denied Multiculturalism." *Furman Faculty Seminar*, November 6, 2003
- "*Limón Blues*: Homenaje y revisión histórica del aporte etno-cultural jamaiquino en Costa Rica." *56th Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference*. University of Kentucky, Lexington, April 24-6, 2003.
- "Hacia la concientización feminista en la poesía de Gioconda Belli." *MIFLC*, Furman University, October 2002
- "Toxic and Political Discourse: the Latest Poems by Maria Mercedes Carranza." *Poetic Discourses at Play: Hispanic, Luzo-Brazilian, and US Latino/a Poetry Conference*. The University of California, Irvine. April 13-15, 2000.
- "Caretakers and Destroyers of Nature: Gender Reconceptualizations in the Literary Works by Anacristina Rossi." *ACS Women's Studies Conference*. Birmingham Southern College, Oct. 14-15, 1999.
- "Progress at What Cost? A Cultural and Ecological Critique in a Short Story by Anacristina Rossi." *IV ASLE Conference (Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment)*. Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI, June 3-5, 1999.
- "Joys and Pains of Computer Technology applied to the teaching of Latin American Literature and Culture." *SAMLA (South Atlantic Modern Language Association)*. Atlanta, GA, November 1998
- "Literature, Ecology and Feminism in Costa Rica: Anacristina Rossi's narrative." IX International Conference of the *Asociación de literatura femenina hispánica*. Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ. Sept. 16-20, 1998.
- "Otra cara de Costa Rica a través de un testimonio eco-feminista: La loca de Gandoca de Anacristina Rossi." VII International Conference of the *Asociación de Literatura femenina hispánica*. University of Colorado at Boulder. October 3-5, 1996.

- "La nación y las latinoamericanas de hoy: tres respuestas poéticas." *VI International Conference of the Asociación de Literatura femenina hispánica*. Barnard College, New York, NY October 19-21, 1995.
- "La apropiación cultural del deseo femenino: Ana María Rodas, María Mercedes Carranza y Gioconda Belli." *V International Conference of the Asociación de Literatura femenina hispánica*. Davidson College, Davidson, NC October 20-22, 1994.
- Panelist: "The Personal and the Professional: A Roundtable/discussion on Women in Hispanic Studies." *V International Conference of the Asociación de Literatura femenina hispánica*. Davidson College, Davidson, NC October 20-22, 1994
- "Secuelas surrealistas en los setenta: *Casi poesía* de Anabel Torres." *Continental, Latin American and Francophone Women Writers Ninth Annual International Conference on Foreign Literature*. The Wichita State University, April 9-11, 1992
- "La oralidad en *Hasta no verte Jesús mío* de Elena Poniatowska" *Second Area Conference for Graduate Students of Hispanic Literature*. The Ohio State Univ. at Columbus, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. April 11-12, 1991
- "Otros pasajes pastoriles en *La Araucana* ." *The Illinois Conference of Latin Americanists: A Congress on Recent Research and Developments on Latin America*. U. of Illinois at Champaign, November 16-17, 1990.

## PROFESIONAL ACTIVITY AT FURMAN

### University Service

- Recent Committee work: Faculty Status Committee Fall 2018-present; Strategic Vision Advisory Committee (2016-2018); Cultural Humility Committee (Spring 2016-Spring 2018); Faculty and Administration Liaison Committee (2015-2018); Presidential Search Committee, 2013-14; Chair, Appeals , 2011-13.
- Women's, Gender and Sexuality Minor Co-Chair 2017-2018; 1999-2000, 2010-12
- Organizer of the following Cultural Life Program lectures: The First Nations CLP Series, March 2018; International Justice Mission "Give Us Names" March 16, 2011. Lecture and craft display by Sarah Woodard, Director of the Center for Development in Central America, Managua, Nicaragua. April 3, 2009. *Colombia: A Personal Account* by Lizzie Brock, from Peace Brigades International, October 17, 2000. *Colombia: Current Crisis*, September 19, 2000. *The Family of a Death Row Inmate*, March 13, 2000. *Dead Man Walking* by Sister Helen Prejean, March 21, 2000. Environmental issues in Costa Rica, by Anacristina Rossi, January 2000.
- United Way-Furman Research Team, with Matt Cohen (EES), Stephanie Knouse (MLL) and Michael Robinson (2017, EES, SPN student); Fall 2016.
- Associated Colleges of the South Women's and Gender Studies conference Co-Director (with Dr. Karni Bhati. Furman University on April 4-5, 2014)
- Latin American Studies Interdisciplinary Minor Steering Committee member(from its creation to the present).
- Other Committee Work: Fringe Benefits, 2006-7; Individualized Curriculum Program, 2002-4; Curriculum and Academic Advising 1999-2001; Discipline and Policies and

Procedures 1997-9; Year of the Global Citizen Committee, 2010-11.

- Opening Convocation Speaker (on the topic of service-learning) September 12, 2007.
- Hispanic Heritage Month celebration committee, 2005-6. Organizer of first and second *Hispanic Heritage Celebration* at Furman 1998, 2000.
- Faculty Advisor for Furman student chapter of Amnesty International, 1997-2005.
- Lecture on the political and social crisis in Colombia, Dr. Fraser's Political Science class, May 9, 2002.
- International Poetry Reading participant, May 2, 2002.
- Co-organizer *EarthFest* April 20, 2002.
- Lecture: *Colombia Today*, for *What in the World* Series of Continuing Education Dept., April 26, 2001.
- Freshman book discussion of E. Gaines' *A Lesson Before Dying*, September 1999, H. Hickham's *Rocket Boys*, September 2000, and Janise Ray's *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, September 2001.
- Instructor of *Teachers as Scholars Seminar on Latin American Culture*, October 18 and November 1, 2000.
- Participant in *Dialogue (former program for Freshmen)*, Fall 1998.
- Board of *Connections*, a Continuing Education program, 1997-9.

### **Modern Languages and Literatures Department**

- Co-Creator, with Stephanie Knouse of the first *MLL Spanish Fellowship*, with Hispanic Alliance. Summer 2016 - Summer 2017.
- Co-chair, MLL's Language Center committee. Fall, Spring and Summer 2015-6.
- Co-director of MLL Foreign Study Programs: Madrid, Spain, Fall 2019; Santiago, Chile January 2013, 2004; Madrid, Spain Aug.-Oct. 1997; San José, Costa Rica Jan-Feb. 1996.
- Independent Study (Sarah Blake) Fall, 2011.
- Service-learning as applied to a Latin American Civilization class (Spanish 27), featured in *Engage Magazine* March 1, 2007.
- Department's representative for Environmental Committee 2002, and organizer of the lecture "Literature and environment" April 23, 2002.
- Co-organizer MLL International Picnic, May 4, 2000.
- Coordinator Spanish Language House, 1998-9.
- MLA interviewer of Spanish candidate, Washington, DC., Dec. 1996

### **PROFESIONAL ACTIVITY OUTSIDE FURMAN**

- Weekly teaching volunteer ESOL Tanglewood Middle, Spring 2012.
- Reader of papers by Middle School Students on History Month, March 24, 2011.
- Interpreter for the Catholic Dioceses of Charleston medical delegation to San Pedro la Laguna, Guatemala, April 7-13, 2008.
- Invited reader/evaluator of publication submission to *Confluencia, Revista Hispánica de Cultura y Literatura*, June 2006.

- Designer of syllabus and consultant for a Latin American Civilization class at Greenville Technical College, fall 2004.
- Co-organizer, with Lisa Hall, of Amnesty International Women's Day Celebration, Coffee Underground, downtown Greenville, March 9, 2002.
- Lectures: "The Colombia Crisis." Greenville Technical College, March 7, 2001, and University of Georgia in Athens, August 30, 2000.
- Advanced Placement Tests Spanish Reader, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, June 11- 18, 2000.
- Thirtieth Earth Day Celebration, Amnesty International, downtown Greenville, April 22, 2000.
- Coordinator of Amnesty International Greenville Chapter # 182 Spring 1998.
- Translation Assistant to Doris Russ, Director of Appalachia II Public Health District, Greenville, Summer 1995.
- Translator for medical team sponsored by St. Mary's Catholic Church in Champaign, Illinois to Calavera, Morazán, El Salvador August 2-13, 1993 and July 10-18, 1999.
- Research Assistant to Professor Paul W. Borgeson in the preparation of his book *Belli, Carlos Germán. Los talleres del tiempo. Versos escogidos*. Madrid: Visor Libros, 1992, August 1992- May 1993.
- Research Assistant to professor Evelyn Picon Garfield, Aug. 1989- May 1990.
- Organizer of "La tertulia" Literature Discussion Group, University of Illinois at Urbana, 1992-1994.
- Writer of Alphabetical Index for the book *Las Literaturas Hispánicas. Introducción a su estudio*. Vol.1. By Garfield, Evelyn Picon and Ivan A. Schulman, Detroit, Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 1991.
- Teaching Assistant to Professor Bill VanPatten in teaching Spanish through Natural Approach in a class entitled "The Geography of the Americas" August 1987 - May 1988;
- Instructor of High School level Basic English, 1983-4, and Basic French 1985-86, Colegio de la Presentación, Pie de Cuesta, Santander, Colombia.
- Elementary School Teacher, Colegio de la Presentación, Floridablanca, Santander, Colombia 1979-82.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- AEG--Asociación de Estudios de Género (Formerly AILCFH--Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica)

#### **LANGUAGES**

- Spanish: native speaker (Colombia)
- English: near-native
- French: reading and writing knowledge