

Neus Penalba Suárez

npenalba@brynmawr.edu

ORCID: 0000-0003-2816-5352

EDUCATION

2016 – 2021: PhD in Humanities, Heritage and Cultural Studies. Universitat de Girona, Spain.

- Thesis Title: "*Ànimes preses. La mort i la primavera, de Mercè Rodoreda: etnografia, primitivisme i espiritualitat*". ["Souls taken. *Death in Spring*, by Mercè Rodoreda: ethnography, primitivism and spirituality"]. Supervisor: Dr Xavier Pla.
- Qualification: Excellent Cum Laude.

2009 – 2010: Master of Arts. Université Denis Diderot-Paris VII, France.

- Master in "Lettres, arts et pensée contemporaine". Spécialité "Littérature, histoire et société".

2007 – 2009: Master of Arts. Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain.

- Master in "Construction and Representation of Cultural Identities". Advanced training in the definition and analysis of processes involved in the cultural construction of identity, and in the representations in literature, cinema, and theatre.
- Master Thesis Title: *Negativity as Experience: A reading of Theodor W. Adorno and Thomas Bernhard*.

2005 – 2007: Two-year BA in "Literary Theory and Comparative Literature", (UB), Spain.

2000 – 2005: BA in "Journalism". Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain.

CURRENT POSITION

Sep 2024 Assistant Professor in Spanish. Bryn Mawr College, US.

COURSES TAUGHT IN BMC

Fall 2024: SPAN 245 "The Hunger Years in Franco's Spain"

Fall 2024: SPAN B102 "Advanced Language through Culture"

Spring 2025: SPAN B349 "Rural and Environmental Imagination in Spain"

Spring 2025: SPAN B120 "Introducción al análisis literario"

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Sep 2023 – July 2024 Teaching Associate. University of Cambridge, UK.

- Teaching Associate in Modern Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies [Temporary Cover]. Spanish Portuguese Section. Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages & Linguistics. University of Cambridge.
- Bye-Fellow of Newnham College.

2020 – 2022 Associate Lecturer. Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain.

- Associate Lecturer in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature in the Departments of Catalan, Spanish and English Literatures.

Sep 2015-Dec 2015 Invited Researcher. Université de Montréal, Canada.

- Research and Teaching in Catalan Literature. Department of Literatures and Languages of the World.

2013 – 2015 Associate Lecturer, Université Vincennes–Saint Denis Paris 8, France.

- *Lectrice* in Catalan language and culture. Department of Spanish Language and Literature.

2012 – 2013 Spanish Language Scholar. Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

- Member of the Spanish Department and host of cultural activities on-campus at "The Spanish House".

2011 – 2012 Associate Lecturer. Université Lumière Lyon 2 & Université Jean Monnet, France.

- *Maître de Langues* in Catalan language and culture. Department of Romance Languages and Literatures of these two universities in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.

2008 – 2010 Associate Lecturer in Literary Theory. Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain.

- Associate Lecturer in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature in the Departments of Catalan, Spanish and English Literatures.

AWARDS, RESEARCH STAYS AND FELLOWSHIPS

28/10/2023 "Joan Fuster Prize" to the best essay written in Catalan.

2023 Fundació Mercè Rodoreda. Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona, Spain.

- Award for the article "Fam i golafreria a *Quanta, quanta guerra...* de Mercè Rodoreda".

2022 Postdoctoral research stay. Università Ca'Foscari, Venice, Italy.

- Project on Ecocriticism in the Master's in Environmental Humanities (5/1/2022 – 8/31/2022).

2022 Institució de les Lletres Catalanes, Barcelona, Spain.

- Research book funding: *The European Bildungsroman in Mercè Rodoreda's literature.*

2017 Research stay grant at FaberLlull, Olot, Spain.

- Doctoral research at this residence for the arts, sciences and humanities. (1/15/2017 – 2/11/2017).

2013 Award for PhD Innovation Research, Fundació Mercè Rodoreda, Spain.

2005 Award for "End of Year Extraordinary Prize", Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.

MAJOR COLLABORATIONS

2013 – to the present. Associated member of the Research Group "Comparative Literature at the European Intellectual Space", Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

(2024) *Famb als ulls, ciment a la gola: Una lectura de La mort i la primavera de Mercè Rodoreda*. València: Tres i Quatre Edicions, winner of the **2023 Joan Fuster Prize** for the best essay written in Catalan and listed among the [top five best books published in Catalan in 2024](#) across all genres by critics from the Spanish newspaper *El País*.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Forthcoming

(2025) «New Literary Voices in the Face of Mass Tourism in the Canary Islands» in *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies*, special Issue "Cultural Responses to Overtourism in Spain (2010 onwards)". Edited by Anna Casas i Guillem Colom-Montero.

(2025) «Camp i bosc: El rol del territori en el cinema català contemporani». *Journal of Catalan Studies*, special issue "Emerging visions of contemporary cinema and audiovisual in Catalonia". Edited by Bryan Cameron and Ignasi Gonzalo-Salellas. University of Cambridge.

(2025) «El cadàver exquisit de Mercè Rodoreda: de patum a sticker. Construcció d'imatge, apropiació nacionalista i branding pòstum» a *Catalan Review*, special issue "Després de la literatura. Usos i apropiacions postliteraris del cànon català" edited by Mercè Picornell and Bernat Padró.

Published

(2024) «*Alcarràs*, el darrer préssec: una aproximació des dels *food studies*», a *Catalonia* No. 34. Sorbonne Université. <https://doi.org/10.4000/12pag>

(2023) «“Com si la terra respirés”: Una lectura ecocrítica de *La mort i la primavera*». *Journal of Catalan Studies* Vol. 2 No. 24 (2023): *Journal of Catalan Studies*. University of Cambridge, p. 1-19. <https://revista.anglo-catalan.org/ojs/index.php/jocs/article/view/74/71>

(2022) «Un “pou sense fons”? Com llegir *La mort i la Primavera* de Mercè Rodoreda» in *Rassegna Iberistica*. Vol. 45 n° 118. Venice: Edizione Ca' Foscari. 16/12/2022, p. 331-347. <http://doi.org/10.30687/Ri/2037-6588/2022/19/008>.

(2012) «A l'origen de l'assagisme fusterià. Les originalitats: orígens d'una coherència intel·lectual», *Revista L'Espill*, n° 40, València: PUV, p. 187-196.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

(2023) «L'obra periodística de Just Cabot a París: mirador a un projecte català estroncat» in Martí i E. Pino, *Gare de France: lire le journalisme littéraire entre la France et la Catalogne*, Barcelona: PUB. (*Forthcoming*)

(2022) «Joan Fuster, el dret a una escriptura ociosa. Notes sobre Joan Fuster i l'amor» in Antoni Martí and Josep Lluís Martí i Berbois (eds), *Joan Fuster: Història i memòria*. Barcelona: Memorial Democràtic. p. 51-75.

(2021) «“La màxima diversitat en el mínim espai”. L'europèisme perifèric de les nacions petites des d'una perspectiva catalana» in A. Martí and E. Sullà (eds), *Weltliteratur i literatura comparada. Perspectiva des d'Europa*, Barcelona: PUB, p. 281-293.

(2018) «El comparatisme d'Armand Obiols» in Antoni Martí i Teresa Rosell (eds.) *Comparatistes sense comparatisme. La literatura comparada a Catalunya*, Barcelona: PUB, p. 111-124.

(2016) «“Les aubépines dintre el llibre de Proust devien ser més boniques que mai” Mecanismes proustians en la narrativa de Mercè Rodoreda» in Xavier Pla (ed.), *Proust a Catalunya. Experiències de lectura*, Barcelona: Arcadia, 2016, p. 219-241.

(2015) «Joan Fuster: entre Sartre i Camus, Erasme», A. Martí and B. Padró (Eds.): *Qui acusa. Figures de l'intel·lectual europeu*, Barcelona: PUB, p. 263-272.

(2013) «Joan Fuster i l'originalitat de ser un mateix. La riquesa teòrica de Les originalitats» in A. Martí Monterde and T. Rosell (eds.): *Joan Fuster: Figura de Temps*, Barcelona: PUB, p. 113-133.

INVITED LECTURES

(2024) «Figures d'autor: banalització i revitalització. El cas de Mercè Rodoreda» at the Seminar Postliteratura catalana: definicions, límits i eines d'anàlisi", 19th July 2024, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain.

(2024) «Posteritat de Mercè Rodoreda» at the Jornada d'Estudi "La posteritat i els escriptors catalans", 25th January 2024, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

(2024) «Rural Contemporary Cinema in Spain» at the Symposium "Uncharted Territories: Contemporary Eco-poetics in/and Translation", 1-2 February 2024, University of Cork, Ireland.

(2024) «Food and colonialism in Emilia Pardo Bazán» at the CRASSH Symposium "Poetics of Feasting: Food, Art, and Literature in Latin America", 31st May 2024, Christ's College, University of Cambridge.

(2023) «Devouring the countryside: the conflict between agriculture and renewable energies in Carla Simon's *Alcarràs* and Rodrigo Sorogoyen's *As Bestas*» at the International Congress "Stories come to matter: Water, food, and other entanglements", 4th December 2023, Università Ca'Foscari, Venice, Italy.

(2022) «¿Hacia una estética primitivista? Arte y literatura en Mercè Rodoreda» at Giornata di Studio "Transmedialità Letteratura e arti nella cultura ispanica contemporanea", 28th November 2022, Università Ca' Foscari, Venice, Italy.

(2022) «Joan Fuster: entre Sartre i Camus, Erasme» at Seminaire Gare de France IV. Centenaire de Joan Fuster. 27-28 October 2022. Université Paris 8, France.

(2022) «El dret a una escriptura ociosa. Notes sobre Joan Fuster i l'amor» at "Jornada Joan Fuster: Història i Memòria", Memorial Democràtic de Catalunya, 5-6 October 2022. MUHBA, Barcelona, Spain.

(2022) «Noves lectures sobre Mercè Rodoreda: *La mort i la primavera*» at Seminari permanent d'estudis de literatura catalana contemporània, Research Group LICMES, 27 September 2022, UOC, Spain.

(2022) «Abjecció, innocència i desig a l'obra de Mercè Rodoreda» at The XIX Congress of Students of Catalan Philology, 5-7 April 2022, Tarragona, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain.

(2016) «“La màxima diversitat en el mínim espai”. L'europeisme perifèric de les nacions petites des d'una perspectiva catalana» at The Seminar “Weltliteratur and Comparative Literature. An European perspective”, 15th June 2016, MUHBA and Universitat de Barcelona.

(2016) «Mecanismes proustians en la narrativa de Mercè Rodoreda» at The International Symposium "Proust a Catalunya. Experiències de lectura (Lectors, crítics, traductors i detractors de la 'Recherche'", 9-10th June 2016, Girona, Universitat de Girona.

(2015) «Mercè Rodoreda: escriure a París o fer créixer flors al Pol Nord» at The International Symposium Barcelona-Paris Intellectual Relations and Cultural Capitals (1880-1950). 6-8th May 2015, Barcelona, MUHBA and Universitat de Barcelona.

(2013) «Joan Fuster: entre Sartre i Camus, Erasme» at The International Symposium “Qui Acusa? Figures de l'Intel·lectual Europeu”, 5-7th November 2013, Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona.

(2013) «L'obra periodística de Just Cabot a París: mirador a un projecte català estroncat» at International Seminar Gare de France I “Lire le journalisme catalan entre la France et la Catalogne”, 17-18th October 2013, Lyon, École Normale Supérieur.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

(2024) «Rural imaginaries in Contemporary Catalan Film» [online] at the 45th Conference of the Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies, 4th-6th September 2024, Technological University of Dublin, Ireland.

(2024) «Faim et ascetisme: *Tant et tant de guerre...* et *Voyages et fleurs*, de Mercè Rodoreda. Un approche depuis les "food studies"» at the Xth Conference of the Association Française de Catalanistes, 14-16th Mars 2024, Sorbonne Université.

(2023) «El gust del darrer préssec. Una mirada ecocrítica a l'extinció de la pagesia a *Alcarràs*, de Carla Simón» at The LXVIII Anglo-Catalan Society Conference, 11th November 2023. Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

(2023) «Memoria, olvido y valor testimonial en *Os Cães de Barcelona*, de Paula Rego» at The Association for Contemporary Iberian Studies Conference (ACIS) 44th Annual Conference, 7th September 2023. Porto, Portugal.

(2023) «Vulnerabilitat ambiental i lingüística en els imaginaris literaris catalans» at the 2nd Summer Seminar of the North American Catalan Society, 12th July 2023. Barcelona, Spain.

(2022) «El viatge iniciàtic a través de la fam, el riu i la mort. *Quanta, quanta guerra...*, de Mercè Rodoreda» at The XIII International Congress of the Italian Association of Catalan Studies "Storie di un mare comune. Cibo, vita et morete sulle rotte del Mediterraneo d'Oriente", 1st December 2022. Università Degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro, Italy.

(2022) «El poble com un gran cos malalt. Una lectura ecocrítica de *La mort i la primavera*» at The LXVII Anglo-Catalan Society Annual Conference, 4th November 2022. Universitat Jaume I, Castelló, Spain.

(2022) «La força antimítica a la narrativa de Mercè Rodoreda» at, X Seminari Internacional d'Estudis Transversals "Dones de Llegenda", 7-8 October 2022. Universitat d'Alacant - Centre d'Interpretació Carmelina Sánchez Cutillas, Altea, Spain.

(2021) «Distopia, ucronia i temps paral·lels a *La mort i la primavera*, de Mercè Rodoreda» at The (Otra)Iberia Conference "Ucronías, utopías i distopías", 12th April 2021, Warsaw, University of Warsaw, Poland.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES

April 2024-May 2025: Curator of the forthcoming museum exhibition devoted to Catalan novelist Mercè Rodoreda. "[Rodoreda, a forest](#)" at the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB).

OTHER WORK/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2023 Teacher of French Language and Culture. Official Languages School for Adults (EOI), Salou, Spain.

2019 – 2021 Teacher of French Language and Culture. High School "Institut Ramon Berenguer IV", Cambrils, Spain.

2018 – 2019 Teacher of French Language and Civilization. High School "Institut Roseta Mauri", Reus, Spain.

2017 – 2018 Teacher of Creative Writing for Adults. Tarragona School of Letters, Tarragona, Spain.

2016 – 2020 Teacher of Catalan and Spanish Literature, course “Literary Images of Catalonia and Spain”, CIEE, Barcelona, Spain.

2009 – 2011 Teacher of Spanish Culture, CIEE Study Abroad Barcelona.

2005 – 2006 Journalism free-lance collaboration. Newspaper *La Vanguardia*, Barcelona, Spain.