

## **Doris Sommer**

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## *Curriculum Vitae*

### **Education**

- Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Rutgers University, 1977.  
Dissertation, "Mann, Midrash, and Mimesis."
- M.A., Comparative Literature, Rutgers University, 1975.
- M.A. Hispanic Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1970.
- B.A., English Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1970.
- B.A., *cum laude*, Spanish Language and Literature, Rutgers University, 1968.

### **Academic and Research Appointments**

- Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University, 2003 – present.
- Director, Harvard Seminar of Latino Cultures, Harvard University, 1997-present.
- Professor of Graduate Studies in Latin American Literature, Harvard University, 1991-present.
- Visiting lecturer, School for Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 2001.
- Professor of Spanish and Women's Studies, Amherst College, 1989-1991.
- Assistant, then Associate Professor of Spanish, Amherst College, 1980-1989.
- Assistant Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature, Livingston College, 1978-1980.

### **Administrative Positions**

- Director, Cultural Agents Initiative, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and housed at Harvard University, CGIS rm 222, 2002-present. See: [www.culturalagents.org](http://www.culturalagents.org)
- Faculty Director, Harvard Winter Institute (Puerto Rico), DRCLAS. January 2005
- Committees, Harvard University:
  - Executive Committee, DRCLAS
  - Ethnic Studies
  - American Civilization
  - Latin American Studies

- Committee on Degrees in Literature
- Committee on Degrees in History and Literature
- Public Service Committee
- Conference Coordinator, Harvard University:
  - “The Jewish Latin Mix: Making Salsa,” October 2005
  - “Bilingual Aesthetics, II,” March 2001.
  - “Bilingual Aesthetics,” December 1999.
  - “Africa in the Americas,” February 1998.
  - “Politics and Performance,” April 1994.
  - “Nationalisms and Sexualities,” April 1989.
  - “The Americas,” an ongoing seminar at the Humanities Center, September 1996-present.
  - “Bilingual Benefits: Interdisciplinary Perspectives,” April 2004
  - “Cultural Agents,” Graduate Student Conference, Feb. 2005
- Conference Coordinator, “Cultural Agency in the Americas,” Social Science Research Council (SSRC); Cuzco, Peru, January 2001.
- !Culturas en el Aire!: Indigenous radio in the Americas” Santiago Chile, Oct.2005
- “Visible Rights: Photography by and for Youth”, Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dec. 2006

## Grants

- John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, January-December 1995, and
- ACLS Fellowship, January-December 1995, for the completion of *Proceed with Caution*.
- Program grants for Performance and Politics, DRCLAS, 1994.
- American Express Grant, Ethics in the Professions, Summer, 1992.
- Amherst College Faculty Research Grant, Summer, 1988.
- Fellow, W. E. B. DuBois Institute, Harvard University, 1982-83.
- National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship, 1982-83, for the completion of *One Master for Another*.
- Principal for group grants:
  - “Cultural Agency in the Americas,” a multi-year project through the SSRC, funded by the Ford Foundation.
  - “New American Studies,” a 4-year conference series at Harvard University, funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.
  - “Cultural Agency” workshop grant for Bellagio, October, 2001.
  - Radcliffe Institute Exploratory Seminar on Cultural Agency, December 2003.
  - “Winter Institute, DRCLAS and San Juan” for January 2005, from Wilbur Marvin Foundation.
  - “Interfaculty” grant for “Cultural Agents Initiative” from Associate Provost for Arts and Culture, Harvard University, 2005-2006

## Publications

- **Books:**

1. Editor, *Cultural Agency in the Americas*, (Durham, Duke University Press, 2006)
2. *Bilingual Aesthetics: A New Sentimental Education*, (Durham, Duke UP, 2004).
3. Editor, *Bilingual Games*. New York: (New York, Palgrave, 2003).
4. *Proceed with Caution, when engaged by minority writing in the Americas* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999).  
In Spanish: *Abrazos y rechazos: Cómo leer en clave menor*, (Bogotá: FCE, 2006)
5. Editor, *The Places of History: Regionalism Revisited in Latin America* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999).
6. Editor, with Andrew Parker, Mary Russo, and Patricia Yaeger, *Nationalisms & Sexualities* (New York: Routledge, 1991).
7. *Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991).  
In Spanish *Ficciones fundacionales: La novela nacional en América Latina* (Bogotá: FCE, 2005)
8. *One Master for Another: Populism as Patriarchal Rhetoric in Dominican Novels* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1984).

- **Articles Related to *Proceed with Caution*:**

1. "Slaps and Embraces: A Rhetoric of Particularism," *Ungovernability*, ed. Ileana Rodríguez, forthcoming from Duke University Press.
2. "Where the Accent Falls," *Our America and José Martí*, ed. Raúl Fernández, forthcoming from Duke University Press.
3. "Attitude, its Rhetoric," *The Turn to Ethics*, ed. Marjorie Garber et al, (New York: Routledge, 2000).
4. "No todo se ha de decir: Cecilia no sabe; Beloved no cuenta," *Casa de las Américas* (Summer 1999).
5. "Syncopate the State," *Performance Studies*, ed. Peggy Phelan (New York University Press, 1998).
6. "Puerto Rico a flote: Desde Hostos hasta hoy," *El Caribe entre imperios: coloquio de Princeton*, ed. Arcadio Díaz Quiñones, et al (Río Piedras, PR: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1996).
7. "Conocimiento Interruptus: una ética de lectura," *Las culturas de fin de siglo en América Latina*, ed. Josefina Ludmer (Rosario, Arg.: Beatriz Viterbo, 1995).
8. "About Face: The Talker Turns," *Boundary 2* 23.1 (Spring 1996).
9. "At Home Abroad: El Inca Shuttles With Hebreo," *Creativity and Exile*, ed. Susan Suleiman, *Poetics Today* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1998).
10. "Mosaic and Mestizo: Bilingual Love From Hebreo to El Inca," *Jewish Studies*.
11. "Grammar Trouble: Cortázar's Critique of Competence," *Diacritics* 25.1 (Spring 1995).
12. "Our Ame-Ríca," *Fieldwork*, ed. Marjorie Garber, (New York: Routledge, 1995).
13. "Taking A Life: Hot Pursuit and Cold Rewards in Testimonial Novel," *Signs* 20.4 (Summer 1995)
14. "Textual Conquests: On Readerly Competence and 'Minority' Literature," *MLQ*

- (1994).
15. "Who Can Tell?: Filling in the Blanks for Villaverde," *ALH* 6.2 (1994).
  16. "Resisting the Heat: Menchú, Morrison, and Incompetent Readers," *Cultures of United States Imperialism*, eds. Donald Pease and Amy Kaplan, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1994).
  17. "Cortez in the Courts: The Traps of Translation from Newsprint to Film," *The Dissident Spectator*, ed. Marjorie Garber (New York: Routledge, 1993).
  18. "Cecilia no sabe, o los bloqueos que blanquean," *Revista de critica literaria Latinoamericana*.
  19. "No Secrets," *The Real Thing: Testimonial Discourse and Latin America*, ed. Georg M. Gugelberger (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996)
  20. "Resistant Texts and Incompetent Readers," *Poetics Today* 15.2/3 (Summer/Fall 1994).
  21. "Rigoberta's Secrets," *Latin American Perspectives*, Testimonials Issue, ed. Georg M. Gugelberger 18.3 (1991).
  22. "Not Just a Personal Story: Women's Testimonios and the Plural Self," *Life/Lines: Theoretical Essays on Women's Autobiography*, eds. Celeste Schenck and Bella Brodzki (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1988).
  23. "A Nowhere for Us: The Promising Pronouns of Cortázar's 'Utopian' Stories," *Dispositio* IX/24-26; and in *Discurso Literario* 4.1.
  24. "Whitman: The Bard of Both Americas," *Approaches to Teaching Whitman's Leaves of Grass*, ed. Donald D. Kummings (New York: Modern Language Association, 1990).
  25. "Supplying Demand: Walt Whitman as the Liberal Self," *Reinventing the Americas: Comparative Studies of Literature of the United States and Spanish America*, eds. Gari LaGuardia and Bell Chevigny (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985); and in *New Political Science* 15 (Summer, 1986).

• **General Articles:**

1. "Choose and Lose," *Multilingual America*, ed. Werner Sollors, New York University Press, 2002.
2. "Contrapuntal Languages: The Games They Play," to be published in a collection edited by Marc Shell.
3. "Counterdependency: Puerto Rico, the Semi-Colon(y)," to be published in a collection edited by Arcadio Díaz Quiñones.
4. "Art and Accountability," *Review* 72, The Americas Society (Nov. 2005)
5. "El contrapunteo latino entre el inglés y el español: notas para una nueva educación sentimental," forthcoming in *Prácticas*, ed. Mabel Moraña (Pittsburgh, PA: Instituto Iberoamericano).
6. "American Projections of One-derland," *Latin@s in the 21<sup>st</sup>*, ed. Marcelo Suárez Orozco (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2002).
7. "For Love and Country, Fundar y fundir: Latin America's Romances with Modernity," in *Il romanzo*, ed. Franco Moretti. Ed. Einaudi, 2001.
8. "Invitation to Bilingual Aesthetics," *MLA, Profession* (2003).
9. "For Love and Money: Of Pot-Boilers and Precautions," *PMLA* (Spring 2001).

10. "Puerto Rico Afloat," *The Cultures of the Hispanic Caribbean*, ed. Conrad James and John Perivolaris (Gainseville, FL: University of Florida Press, 2000).
11. "Ilán Stavans, el José entre sus hermanos," *Revista Iberoamericana* 191 (abril-junio 2000). 413-419.
12. "Be-longing and Bi-Lingual States," *Diacritics* 29.4.
13. "A Vindication of Double Consciousness," *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, ed. Henry Schwarz (New York: Blackwell, 1998).
14. "Either And," with Alexandra Vega, the introduction to *Yo-Yo Boing!*, Giannina Braschi (Pittsburgh, PA: Latin American Literary Review Press, 1998).
15. "La pienezza della narrativa romantica: Mármol, Mera, Galván, Issacs," *Storia della civiltà letteraria ispanoamericana*, vol. 2, eds. Dario Puccini and Saúl Yurkievich, (Torino: UTET, 1995).
16. "Irremediamente humana: El Cetro de Sor Juana," *Lazarrillo* 8 (1995).
17. "Introduction" and "Mirror, Mirror, in Mother's Room," *Mama Blanca's Memoirs*, Teresa de la Parra, trans. Harriet de Onís and Frederick Fornoff (Pittsburgh, PA: Pittsburgh University Press, 1993).
18. "Borrón y cuenta nueva: Comienzos tardíos y (t)razas tempranas en Enriquillo, Cumandá, y Tabaré," *Casa de las Américas* 187 (1992).
19. "Irresistible Romance: The Foundational Fictions of Latin America," *Nation and Narration*, ed. Homi Bhabha (New York: Routledge, 1990).
20. "Allegory and Dialectics: A Match Made in Romance," *Boundary 2* 18.1 (1991).
21. "El mal de María: (Con)fusión en un romance nacional," *MLN* (March 1989).
22. "When History Was Romance in Latin America," *Salmagundi* 82-83 (Spring 1989).
23. "Sab c'est moi," *Hispanamérica* 48 (1987); and in *Genders* 2 (Summer 1988).
24. "El género desconstruido: Cómo releer el canon a partir de La Vorágine," *Ensayos sobre La vorágine*, ed. Montserrat Ordóñez (Madrid: Alianza, 1988).
25. "Plagiarized Authenticity: Sarmiento's Cooper and Others," *Do the Americas Have a Literature?*, ed. Gustavo Pérez Firmat (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1990).
26. "Galván's Foundational Fiction and Populist Revisions by Bosch and Marrero Aristy," *Revista Iberoamericana* 142 (1988).
27. "The Boom in Spanish American Literature: A General Introduction," with George Yúdice, *Postmodern Fiction: A Bio-Bibliographical Guide*, ed. Larry McCaffery (Westfield, NY: Greenwood Press, 1986).
28. "America as Desire(d): Nathaniel Tarn's Poetry of the Outsider as Insider," *American Poetry* (Albuquerque, NM: University of New Mexico, 1984); and in *Dialectical Anthropology* 2.2-4 (1986).
29. "National Romance and Populist Rhetoric in Spanish America," *Europe and its Others* (Colchester: Essex University, 1985).
30. "Thomas Mann's Gentle Prophetic Voice," *Poetic Prophecy in Western Literature*, eds. Jan Wojcik and Ramond-Jean Frontain (Cranbury, NJ: Fairleigh Dickenson University Press, 1984).
31. "Populism as Rhetoric: The Dominican Republic," *Boundary 2* XI.1-2 (Fall/Winter 1982-83).
32. "Good-bye to the Revolution and the Rest: Aspects of Post-1965 Dominican Narrative," *Latin American Literary Review* (Sept. 1981).
33. "Pattern and Predictability in the Stories of Julio Cortázar," *The Contemporary Latin*

- American Short Story*, ed. Rose Minc (New York: Senda de ediciones, 1979).
34. "History and Romanticism in Pedro Mir's *Cuando amaban las tierras comuneras*," *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* (Río Piedras, PR: Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1979).
  35. "Art and Accountability" in "Special Supplement on Cultural Agents," *Review 71*, *The Best of Review*, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Americas Society, Routledge, Nov. 2005 pp. 261-314. pp 261-276.
  36. "Crisis Means Turning Point" *Future of the Humanities*, edited by Humanities Center, SUNY, Buffalo, NY.
  37. "Ethical Asymmetries: Learning to Love a Loss", chapter 9 in *Reading Otherwise*, edited by Erin Graff.
  38. "Useful Humanism" in *PMLA* October 2006, pp 1670-1673.