

Fernando Varela
 Texas Lutheran University
 1000 W. Court St. Seguin, TX 78155
 Office number: **830-372-6086**; email: **fvarelamereles@tlu.edu**

Current position

- Texas Lutheran University (Seguin, TX)
 - Assistant Professor of Spanish, tenure-track (2021-present)
 - Director for the Women's and Gender Studies Center (Spring 2024-present).

Education

- PhD in Spanish and Portuguese; certificate in American Studies; certificate in Humanities Teaching and Learning. **Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN. (2015-2021)
 - Dissertation: "Fossils, Literature, and the Origins of Race in the Americas: Museum Writing and the Poetics of Display."
- Master of Arts in Spanish and Portuguese. **Vanderbilt University**, Nashville, TN. (2015-2018)
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences. Spanish concentration. *Summa cum laude*, **Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University**, Jupiter, FL. (2013-2015)

Awards and honors

1. Verner Gembler Fellowship, Texas Lutheran University, 2024-2027.
2. Louise A. Taylor Scholarship for most promising dissertation research in the humanities at Vanderbilt University, 2021.
3. Scholar of the Month, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2021.
4. Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2020-2021.
5. Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship, 2020-2021 (declined).
6. Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2020-2021.
7. Vanderbilt Center for Second Language Studies Fellowship, 2020-2021.
8. Vanderbilt American Studies Fellow for Futures of American Studies at Dartmouth College, Summer 2018.

9. Rackham Merit Fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2015-2020 (declined).
10. Vanderbilt University Graduate Student Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship (2015-2020).
11. University Scholar for the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University, 2015.
12. Wilkes Humanities and Social Science Scholar, covering full-tuition, room, and board at the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, Florida Atlantic University, 2013-2025.
13. Presidential Scholar, covering full-tuition at Palm Beach State College, 2012-2013.

Article publications (peer-reviewed)

- Varela, Fernando. "Biophilia and Ecophobia in Santiago Nazarian's *Biofobia*." Special issue on environmental humanities, *Hispanófila*, edited by Alicia Rivero [forthcoming 2024].
- Varela, Fernando. "Taxidermy and the Environment in Cristina García's *The Agüero Sisters*." *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlae048>
- Varela, Fernando. "Myxomatosis and Radioactivity in Carlos Saura's *La caza (The Hunt, 1966): On Biopolitics and Extinction*." *Environmental Humanities*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2022, pp. 129-144. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1215/22011919-9481473>
- Varela, Fernando. "Vegetal Life and the Baroque in Alejo Carpentier's *The Lost Steps*." *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 28, no. 3, 2021, pp. 917-931. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isz116>
- Varela, Fernando. "Machado de Assis, Houses, and the Gaze: Between the Universal and the Local." *Hispania*, vol. 103, no. 1, 2020, pp. 87-95. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpn.2020.0003>
- Varela, Fernando. "Thomas Jefferson, Domingo Sarmiento, and the Baroque Wild Man." *Romance Notes*, vol. 59, no. 2, 2019, pp. 383-93. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/rmc.2019.0034>
- Varela, Fernando. "Anthropocentrism and Taxidermy in Santiago Nazarian's *Neve negra*." *Journal of Lusophone Studies*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2019, pp. 298-315. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.21471/jls.v4i1.204>

Invited Lecture

"Taxidermy and the Environment in Cristina García's *The Agüero Sisters*," Glasscock Center for the Humanities. Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, October 2023.

Book Reviews

Varela, Fernando. Review of Carolyn Fornoff's *Subjunctive Aesthetics: Mexican Cultural Production in the Era of Climate Change*, in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 31, no. 2, 2024, pp. 469-71.

Varela, Fernando. Review of Frank García's *Clicas: Gender, Sexuality, and Struggle in Latina/o/x Gang Literature and Film*, in *Hispania* [in progress, invited].

Recent Conferences

Presider and co-organizer with Nicolás Campisi (Georgetown University), "Anthropocene and Latin American Cultural Production." Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.

Presenter, "Travesti Ecology in Camila Sosa Villada's *Las malas*." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment. Portland, OR, July 2024.

Presenter, "Tentacular Intimacy in Amat Escalante's *La region salvaje*," Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, November 2022.

Presider, "Animal Studies in Spanish and Portuguese," Modern Language Association Convention, Virtual, January 2021.

Presenter, "Vegetal Ontologies and the Baroque," Modern Language Association Conference, Virtual, January 2021.

Presenter, "Taxidermy and the Environment in Santiago Nazarian's *Neve Negra*," Symposium on Afro-Brazilian Cultures. Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 2019.

Service to the profession

Diversity Officer, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), 2023-2025.

Peer-reviewer for the following journals:

- *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*
- *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment*
- *Hispania*
- *Hispanófila*
- *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*
- *Romance Quarterly*
- *Transmodernity: Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World*

Service to Texas Lutheran University

- Chair, Curriculum Committee (2023-24)
- Member, Curriculum Committee (2022-2025)
- Member, Search Committee for Business Management (2022-23)
- Faculty Advisor, Student Government Association (2022-present)
- Member, Diversity Committee (2023-present)
- Member, Committee for First-Year Student Experience/FREX (2023-present)
- Vice-President, TLU Wesley Foundation (2023-present)

Languages

Spanish (native)

English (near native)

Portuguese (proficient)