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Sabbatical Report, Fall 2022

In Fall 2022, I was fortunate to receive a sabbatical from Sonoma State University to focus on my research. During this time, I was able to get a lot of work done on research projects. My time was primarily dedicated to the preparation of two article manuscripts on Spanish and Latin American Gothic literature, in keeping with what I proposed for my sabbatical. I was able to read sources, write, edit, and submit these two article manuscripts to journals for peer review. Additionally, I managed to finish writing the draft of another article I had been working on previously related to the fictional representation of animals. Below, I will briefly describe the work I engaged in and manuscripts I produced.

Research Outputs:

- **Produced and Submitted Two Article Manuscripts on Gothic Narratives**

My proposed project for the sabbatical was to continue investigating Spanish and Latin American Gothic narratives, women writers, and literary representations of gender with the goal of producing two article manuscripts (*or possibly two book chapters*) on the Gothic mode. I was able to achieve my goal by writing and submitting two article manuscripts during my sabbatical.

The first article manuscript I wrote during this fall was about Colombian writer Soledad Acosta de Samper's use of Gothic settings in her fiction. I have previously written about Acosta de Samper, and I knew that she had published a huge number of texts, many of which had not been sufficiently studied, so I felt that reading more of her works would be a fruitful activity, particularly since I had noticed some Gothic elements in her writing. After studying numerous novels and stories by this prolific author in June and August, I found two very interesting narratives with Gothic settings from the mid-nineteenth century that I was able to analyze and compare. I then amassed and read secondary sources in August and September and spent late September and part of October writing. Finally, I submitted this article manuscript to a journal in early November 2022 for peer review.

The second article manuscript that I wrote during my sabbatical I approached by revisiting the *tradiciones* or *leyendas* of Cuban author Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda. I have written previously about her texts, so I know her fiction well, and I felt that I would be able to produce a new, original article about her narratives. In 2021, I had discussed her representations of ghosts in numerous stories at NEMLA (the Northeast Modern Languages Association Convention), and I wanted to continue to explore the topic of spectrality in her works. Ultimately, I became interested in her discussion of gender and a specific plot arc that was present in one of her ghost stories. Suspecting that she was following a larger Gothic literary trend, in October I read numerous additional ghost stories from Spain (where she lived during her adult life) and from Latin America. In the end, the manuscript I wrote was about her story's similarities and differences to stories by two other authors: Eugenio de Ochoa and Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer. I spent the first part of November reading secondary sources and the second half of November and

the remainder of my sabbatical in December writing and editing. I was able to finish and submit the article manuscript to a journal for peer review in late December 2022.

- **Finished Older Article Manuscript Draft on Fictional Animals in a Realist Novel**

Beyond my major project on Gothic literature detailed above, I also had a bit of time to finally finish up the draft of another ongoing article project. Whenever I needed a break from working on Gothic texts, I returned to this older project about the representation of animals in Latin American realist fiction, which I narrowed down further to focus on a novel by Chilean writer Alberto Blest Gana, choosing to leave some of my additional research about other authors and their texts aside for a potential future article. I wrote about Blest Gana's fiction previously in my dissertation, but this essay takes a different angle by analyzing his representations of companion animals (dogs and horses). This project had continually been placed on hold while I wrote other things during the last few years because it was different from most of my other research. I was finally able to finish writing the draft of this article in December 2022. I hope to submit this article manuscript in January 2023 after making a few more edits.

- **Conference Presentation at PAMLA**

I was also able to present part of my research on Soledad Acosta de Samper at PAMLA, the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference in Los Angeles on November 11, 2022.

Conclusion

Overall, I feel that my sabbatical was productive. The time I had was very useful for conducting research, writing, and submitting two article manuscripts to journals for peer review, as well as finishing up another, older manuscript that I hope to send for peer review at a journal shortly. As a literary scholar, having the time to read narratives without interruption was very helpful, so the sabbatical allowed me to deepen my knowledge of certain nineteenth-century authors and their works. All of the reading time also helped me stay current on the latest relevant scholarship, as I was able to dedicate significant time to reading recent scholarly articles and books published in my field. I hope that my research will also positively impact my teaching, as I'll be bringing some new ideas to my classes this spring. Finally, since I was able to achieve the goals I set for research outputs, I feel that the sabbatical was valuable to me, and I greatly appreciate having been given the opportunity to focus on my research and produce new scholarship.