

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES: SPANISH DEPARTMENT SPRING 2015 (Revised)

1. General Statement

Faculty members in the Spanish Department participate in a variety of fields within the Americas and/or the Iberian Peninsula that include (but are not limited to): literary studies, film studies, translation theory and practice, and interdisciplinary studies such as Women's and Gender Studies, Race and Ethnic Studies, Performance Studies, and Cultural Studies. This list is neither exhaustive nor does the order in which the fields are listed bear any significance.

Generally speaking, the highest professional achievement in the above areas is peer-reviewed publication and this remains true for publications both in English and in Spanish (the language of publication does not matter). Within the discipline there are many different ways in which publications are "peer-reviewed" (see below), and many viable forums for scholarly work exist in addition to print publication; for example, electronic and multimedia publication have become valuable and respected means of contributing to the profession.

In part II of these guidelines (following), categories of achievement are listed, and a number of examples provided. The list follows a very rough hierarchy of potential importance to the field, but it is important to realize that exceptions to this order frequently occur. For example, in some cases, especially with research engaging contemporary issues and debates, it is essential to publish promptly and/or frequently; this is more successfully accomplished with article-length publications than book-length publication. It is also important to note that electronic publication has come to carry the same weight as print publication.

The Spanish Department faculty, acknowledging the reduced number of scholarly monographs currently being published as well as the length of time needed for a manuscript to go through the peer review and editing processes in order to appear in print, maintains that publication of a single-authored book, while highly desirable and a top category for scholarship, is not a necessary or even reasonable expectation for tenure or promotion. Without doubt, a book-length publication is a major contribution; however, it is important to note that it might not be feasible or even desirable for an author to publish their research as a book. For more information on the effects of the so-called crisis in academic publishing in our specific discipline, please see the MLA publication on "The Future of Scholarly Publishing" available online at: http://www.mla.org/resources/documents/issues_scholarly_pub/repview_future_pub

Finally, we maintain that commitment to a coherent research agenda, a sustained and ongoing engagement in publication and intellectual pursuits in one's field and the overall quality of one's work are more important than its specific form. We do not consider a single-author monograph a necessary accomplishment, either at the point of consideration for tenure or at the point of promotion to Full Professor. Given that the breadth and quality of presses, journals and other publication venues vary greatly, especially across the diverse fields represented within the Spanish Department, we are reluctant to offer a ranking or hierarchy. Nor do we wish to quantify a specific number of articles. Rather, we feel that the overall body of work should be considered on an individual basis. For this reason, it is suggested that each candidate should

make a case for the relative merits and the quality of the peer-review process of all publications in their application materials.

2. Categories of scholarly and artistic achievement

A. Publication

Typically, the following contributions undergo rigorous peer review. For this reason, the types of publications listed below (monographs, edited volumes, critical editions, journal articles and specific forms of translations) are considered to fall under category A in the Faculty Code. The candidate should clarify to the best of their ability the nature of the review process if and when a publication has been subject to peer review.

1. Book-length publications. This can take various forms including but not limited to scholarly monographs, editing a collection of essays or conference proceedings, editing a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal, critical editions, translations and textbooks.

2. Article-length publications. This can take various forms including but not limited to articles in scholarly journals (both print and electronic), book chapters, and articles in critical anthologies—all of which are peer-reviewed. This category also includes conference proceedings. These publications likewise often undergo a rigorous peer-review process. Conference proceedings are almost always highly selective. Invitations to contribute to edited volumes, literary anthologies, to translate, to write catalog essays, etc. in and of themselves signify recognition and distinction in the field and thus merit a distinct category.

3. Invited contributions. An important category of peer-reviewed publication is an invited contribution to an edited volume or special topics journal. Such invitations serve as recognition that the author is a respected authority on the topic.

4. Translations. The publication of translations creates opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. Such translations can take various forms, including book-length works with a substantial scholarly apparatus, article-length translations of theory or criticism published in a peer-reviewed journal, and significant works of literary translation. These publications, like monographs and articles, undergo a rigorous peer review or editing process.

Typically, the following contributions do not undergo rigorous peer review. Therefore, the types of publications listed below are considered to enhance a candidate's application; however, they alone would not be sufficient for tenure and promotion. Again, the candidate should make clear the nature of any review process if a publication has been subject to peer review.

5. Book reviews, film reviews, performance reviews, interviews, dictionary/encyclopedia entries, etc. Although typically shorter in length, such publications have a significant impact and often

represent the most current research conducted in a given area. In addition, book, film and performance reviews are often directly solicited by editors/authors based on one's reputation within the field. Review essays that make an original argument, or review-articles that discuss multiple works should be considered as particularly commendable.

6. Multimedia. The production of multimedia CD-ROMs and web-based materials has been a major activity in the field of modern languages. Our primary national organization, the Modern Language Association, has published statements that serve as a useful guideline for evaluating this type of activity. (These can be found on the web at "www.mla.org" under the title "Reports from the MLA Committee on Computers and Emerging Technologies in Teaching and Research.")

In all of the above work, co-authoring with colleagues at other institutions is considered as meritorious as individual scholarship. Such collaborations typically broaden the participants' scope and expertise, often resulting in enhanced departmental as well as institutional recognition and prestige. Collaborative research endeavors, while the norm in other disciplines, remain far less common in the humanities. The candidate should be sure to clarify their authorial role in any joint publication.

Similarly, Whitman student/alumni involvement in a professor's research, especially in the writing and publication process, is considered to impart additional value to that work and serves as a demonstration of the spirit and aims of a top-tier liberal arts institution. Again, the candidate should be sure to clarify the nature of the collaborative process.

B. Professional scholarly activity

1. Serving on the editorial/advisory board of peer-reviewed scholarly journals (print or electronic) and/or academic presses. Being invited to serve as a referee, even in an ad-hoc capacity, serves as an indicator of one's reputation and expertise in a particular subject area.

2. Presentations at professional (international/national/regional) conferences. Top-tier venues, those that are most selective and international in scope, include the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA) and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference (which previously was organized every 18 months then became an annual conference in 2013) and the annual Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH) conference. One-time conferences held on a special topic/author typically constitute a top-tier venue as well. Additionally, regional divisions of the MLA (M/MLA, RM/MLA, NEMLA, SAMLA) offer important opportunities for engaging directly with scholars in the geographic region.

3. Invited talks, including at conferences, professional workshops, and other campuses. As with invited publications, invited speaking engagements signify recognition and distinction in the field and thus merit a distinct category.

4. Service to professional organizations, serving on a grant review and/or national exam boards. Active participation in the form of leadership roles within professional organizations and national boards, especially when requiring nomination and/or election, signify both dedication to the profession and recognition from one's peers.

5. Organization and/or chairing of sessions at conferences.

6. Presentations for non-academic audiences (libraries, civic organizations, primary and secondary schools, etc.)

7. Attendance at professional meetings and conferences.

8. Membership in professional organizations.

C. Individual and institutional development

1. Successful application for external grants and fellowships. However, it is important to note that grant opportunities are very rare for Hispanists and it is not expected for Spanish faculty to have an active record of external grant applications.

2. Serving on dissertation committees at other institutions.

3. Conclusion

The Spanish Department has prepared this document with the hope that the above statement and lists will clarify the role and importance of research in our field/s, and serve as a useful guide for those inside and, especially, those outside the department who will be evaluating Spanish faculty members undergoing review. Furthermore, we hope it will serve as a guide for junior members of the department as they prepare for the various stages of review, especially the tenure review.