# Carrie Tirado Bramen

Department of English

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# Education

1994 Ph.D. in Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University

Dissertation title: “’An Innocent Way Out’: The Literature and Politics of Cultural Pluralism, 1880-1925”

1988 M.A. in Critical Theory, Sussex University (UK)

1987 B.A. University of Connecticut, Storrs. *summa cum laude,*

Major: English; Minor: Latin American Studies

# Professional Experience

2017- Director, UB Gender Institute, University at Buffalo

2018- Professor of English, University at Buffalo

2000-2018 Associate Professor of English, University at Buffalo

1994-2000 Assistant Professor of English, University at Buffalo

2007-2013 Executive Director of the UB Humanities Institute, University at Buffalo

# Honors, Fellowships & Grants

2022 Richard and Mary Jo Marsh Fellowship, William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan.

2022 Co-Director, Folger Institute Seminar Grant, “Gilded Age Book Collecting and the Constructed of Cultural Capital, Then and Now.” Buffalo, April 2022.

2021 NY Humanities Reading & Discussion Grant, Women’s Suffrage & Intersectionality, collaboration with Erie County Commission on the Status of Women

2020 Recipient (on behalf of the Gender Institute) of a Baldy Center Conference Grant for “Legacies of Women’s Suffrage Conference,” March 5-6.

2018-2019 MAC Leadership Fellow, Academic Leadership Development Program (appointed by Vice-Provost of Faculty Affairs)

2018 NEH Summer Institute: History of Women’s Suffrage in the Americas (July 2018, Carthage College, Wisconsin)

2018 Humanities New York Grant, Women’s Suffrage Reading Group (through UB Gender Institute, Spring semester)

2016 UB Gender Institute Faculty Research Grant for archival research at the Stowe Center in Hartford, CT.

2014 Anne LaBastille Writer-in-Residency in Nonfiction, Adirondack Writing Center 2009 Fellow, American Antiquarian Society (NEMLA summer research fellowship) 2007 Grant-in-Aid, Folger Institute, “Shakespeare in America,” March 16-18

2005-2006 Fellow, Charles Warren Center in US History, Harvard University

2000 Co-winner of the Thomas J. Wilson Prize, awarded by the Board of Syndics at Harvard University Press for best first book.

2000 Baldy Center Summer Research Grant, Law School, University at Buffalo

1999 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, State University of New York

1998-1999 Drescher (UUP) Leave Program

1997 Teaching Excellence Award, Golden Key National Honor Society

# 1996 The Milton Plesur Excellence in Teaching Award, University at Buffalo Student Association

# Books

***American Niceness: A Cultural History***(Harvard University Press, 2017)

[Reviewed in the *New Yorker Online, Times Higher Education, TLS, Choice, Los Angeles Review of Books, The Journal of American History, American Literature, American Literary History* Reviews Online, *Library Journal*, *British Association of American Studies, The Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Early American Literature, Novel, Historian, Middle West Review, Fides et Historia, Trouw* (Netherlands)]

***The Uses of Variety: Modern Americanism and the Quest for National Distinctiveness*** (Harvard University Press, 2000). Co-winner of the Thomas J. Wilson Prize, awarded by the Board of Syndics at Harvard University Press for best first book.

[Reviewed in *The Journal of American History, American Literature, Journal of American Studies, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Studies in American Fiction, The Journal of Religion, History of Education Quarterly, Philadelphia Inquirer*]

# Edited journals

Guest Editor, *Nineteenth Century Prose.* Special Issue on the Picturesque. 29.2 (Fall 2002).

# Media

“The em-power of music in the Women’s Suffrage Movement,” featured interview with WBFO host Marian Hetherly, aired August 26, 2020.

<https://news.wbfo.org/post/em-power-music-womens-suffrage-movement>

“Summer Reading,” *Times Higher Education* (UK) (2019);

“Winter Reading,” *Times Higher Education* (December 2018, 2017).

“Varieties of Religious Experience from Justin Bieber to Beyoncé.” Invited response to Kathryn Lofton’s *Consuming Religion* (Chicago UP 2017), Book Symposium on Syndicate Network of Political Theology [posted on April 22, 2019] https://syndicate.network/symposia/theology/consuming-religion/

“Mark Twain in Buffalo,” featured interview with WBFO host Marian Hetherly, aired November 30, 2018. <http://news.wbfo.org/post/happy-birthday-mr-clemens-how-buffalo-defined-mark-twains-legacy>

Interview with Glen Ford, editor of *Black Agenda Report*. Podcast November 27, 2018

Featured Author in *Black Agenda Report: Book Forum* (November 20, 2019) https://[www.blackagendareport.com/bar-book-forum-suzy-hansens-notes-foreign-countryand-](http://www.blackagendareport.com/bar-book-forum-suzy-hansens-notes-foreign-countryand-) carrie-bramens-american-niceness

“In the DACA Debate, which version of America—nice or nasty—will prevail?” *The Conversation* (Feb. 13, 2018).

[http://theconversation.com/in-the-daca-debate-which-version-of-america-nice-or-nasty-will- prevail-90731](http://theconversation.com/in-the-daca-debate-which-version-of-america-nice-or-nasty-will-%20prevail-90731)

Featured Author, “Talking Aloud” with Marcus Smith, Interview program on Brigham Young University Radio via Sirius XM Satellite Radio [October 2017].

“Book of the Week with Author Profile,” *Times Higher Education* (UK), August 2017.

“Five Books Published in 2017 that I want to read,” *Political Theology Network* (August 9, 2017) https://politicaltheology.com/books-we-love-part-2-roberto-sirvent/

“Americans have always been nice. But is it a sham?” *Washington Post* (Outlook Section), June 30, 2017 [Reprinted in *Chicago Tribune*].

**Scholarly essays (peer-reviewed)**

“Niceness in a Neoliberal Age,” *Public Culture* 30:2 (May 2018): 329-350.

“Flirting in Yankeeland: Rethinking American Exceptionalism through Argentine Travel Writing,” *The Latino Nineteenth Century,* ed. Rodrigo Lazo and Jesse Alemán (NYU Press, 2016), 230-254.

“The Christology of Niceness: Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Jesus Novel and Sacred Trivialities,” in *Beyond Protestant Modernism: American Religious Liberalism Revisited*. Ed. Leigh Schmidt and Sally Promey (Indiana UP, 2012), 39-75.

“James, Pragmatism and the Realist Ideal,” in *The Cambridge History of the American Novel,* ed. Lenny Cassuto, Associate editors Benjamin Reiss and Clare Eby (Cambridge UP, 2011), 304-321.

“An Insolent Style--Leslie Fiedler, 1941” in *A New Literary History of America,* eds. Werner Sollors and Greil Marcus (Harvard University Press, 2009), 747-752.

“Speaking in Typeface: Characterizing Stereotypes in Gayl Jones' *Mosquito*," *Modern Fiction Studies* 49:1 (Spring 2003): 124-154. Special Issue on "Fictions of the American (Trans)Imaginary."

"A Transatlantic History of the Picturesque," *Nineteenth Century Prose* 29:2 (Fall 2002): 1-19.

"Why the Academic Left Hates Identity Politics," *Textual Practice* 16:2 (Spring 2002): 1-11. "The Urban Picturesque and the Spectacle of Americanization," *American Quarterly* 52:3

(September 2000): 444-477.

"William Dean Howells and the Failure of the Urban Picturesque," *The New England Quarterly* (March 2000): 83-99.

"Christian Maidens and Heathen Monks: Oratorical Seduction at the 1893 World's Parliament of Religions," *The Puritan Origins of American Sex*. ed. Tracy Fessenden et al. (Routledge, 2000), 191-212.

"Translating Exile: The Metamorphosis of the Ordinary in Dominican Short Fiction," *Latin American Literary Review* 26 (January-June 1998): 63-78.

"The Americanization of Theron Ware," *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 31:1 (Fall 1997): 63-86. "Minority Hiring in the Age of Downsizing," *Socialist Review* 26: 3-4 (Fall 1996): 49-70.

Reprint. "Minority Hiring in the Age of Downsizing," *Power, Race, and Gender in Academe: Strangers in the Tower?* eds. Shirley Lim and Maria Herrera-Sobek. New York: Modern Language Association, 1999. 125-147

# Book reviews

Steven C. Bullock, *Tea Sets and Tyranny: The Politics of Politeness in Early America*

(Philadelphia: U of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), *Early American Literature* 54:3(Winter 2019): 828-832.

Rodolfo F. Acuña, *Assault on Mexican American Collective Memory, 2010—2015: Swimming with Sharks* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017), *Journal of American History* (September 2018)

Andrew Warnes, *American Tantalus: Horizons, Happiness, and the Impossible Pursuits of US Literature and Culture* (Bloomsbury 2014). *American Literary History Online Review,* (Fall 2016)

Beth Lueck, Brigitte Bailey and Lucinda Damon-Bach, eds. *Transatlantic Women: Nineteenth- Century American Women Writers and Great Britain* (New Hampshire 2012). *Modernism/Modernity* (2013).

Nina Baym, *Women Writers of the American West*, *1833-1927* (Illinois 2011). *New England Quarterly* 85: 1 (2012).

Russ Castronovo, *Beautiful Democracy: Aesthetics and Anarchy in a Global Era* (Chicago 2007). *New England Quarterly* (June 2009).

Betsy Klimasmith, *At Home In the City: Urban Domesticity in American Literature and Culture 1850-1930* (U of New Hampshire Press, 2005). *Journal of American History* (March 2007).

William Morgan, *Questionable Charity* (University Press of New England, 2004). *Journal of American History* (September 2005).

John Conron, *American Picturesque* (Penn State UP, 2000). Reviewed for *The New England Quarterly* (June 2001).

## Works in Progress

“The Journey-work of the Stars”: Astrological Prophecy in the Nineteenth Century (book)

“Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Florida Plantation” (journal article)

# Invited Lectures

2019 The Killeen Chair Lecture on Theology and Philosophy. “The Feminist Politics of (In)Civility,” St. Norbert College, Green Bay, Wisconsin. September 19.

2019 Keynote. “American Niceness: Then and Now,” Australia and New Zealand American Studies Association Conference ANZASA (July 14-16, 2019), The University of Auckland, New Zealand.

2019 First Inaugural Monica Moore Lecture, “American Niceness: Then and Now,” Modern Thought & Literature Program, Stanford University, May 8th.

2019 “American Niceness: Then and Now,” Queens University, Department of English, Kingston, Ontario, April 5th.

2016 “American Niceness: From Thomas Jefferson to #FreeHugs,” The Local Americanist Series, University of Maryland, College Park, Department of English, May 4.

2014 “Southern Niceness and the Black Smile,” Adirondack Writing Center, Anne LaBastille Writer-in-Residence Lecture

2011 “Flirting in Yankeeland: Nineteenth-Century Argentine Travel Writing to the US,” UC Irvine. Symposium on the Latino Nineteenth Century, April 2011.

2010 “The Christology of Niceness,” English Department, Americanist Colloquia series, Indiana University (February 8, 2010).

2009 “The Banality of Niceness: Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Jesus Novel and Sacred Trivialities,” American Studies Symposium, Yale University, September 24-26.

2008 “Christian Niceness and the Likable Jesus: The Role of the Religious Novel in Nineteenth Century Liberalism,” Religious Studies Symposium, Princeton, April 10-11

2006 “Conversation and Likability in Eighteenth Century British America.” Charles Warren Center Colloquia. History Department. Harvard University.

2005 Charm Offensive: Anti-Americanism and the American Abroad in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Graduate Americanist Colloquia, English Department, Harvard University.

2005 “The Power of Chivalric Charm: Mexican Memory, American Guilt and the Border Romance of the 1890s,” English Dept. Tulane, New Orleans, LA. Feb. 20, 2005.

2004 "On the Future of Latino/a Studies,” English Department, George Washington University, Washington, DC. October 29, 2004.

2000 “The Urban Picturesque and the Spectacle of Americanization." 12th Annual *Arizona Quarterly* Symposium on American Literatures and Culture, University of Arizona, Tucson.

# Conferences

2021 “To the Moon: Astrological Speculation on Wall Street,” *Speculative Endeavors: Cultures of Knowledge and Capital in the Long 19thCentury*. University of Bayreuth, Germany (October 22-24).

2021 Presenter, “American Literature Society at 100,” MLA Annual Convention, Toronto, January.

2019 Presenter, “Astral Literacy and 19th Century Theories of Cosmology,” British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (BrANCA) 4th Biennial Symposium, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom, December 18th.

2018 Presenter, “*Zadkiel’s Almanac* & Astrological Prophecy: From the Indian Mutiny to the

U.S. Civil War,” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), October 11-15, University of Florida.

2018 Presenter, “Stonewall Jackson and Astrological Prophecy,” C19: Society of Nineteenth- Century Americanists, Albuquerque, NM. March 22-25.

2018 Presenter, “The American Girl Goes to the Global South: Juvenile Literature of the 1890s,” MLA Annual Convention, NYC, January 4.

2017 Presenter, “American Niceness and English Nastiness: The Legacy of Transatlantic Comparison,” *Symbiosis: International Conference on Transatlanticism,* Daemen College (co-sponsored by UB English), July 7-9, 2017

2016 Presenter, “Plymouth Rock Revisited: The Making of a Likable Empire on the Asian Frontier,” C19 Working Seminar: Settler Colonialism and Territorial Expansion (Greenberg and Kelman), C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists’ Biennial Convention, Penn State, March 18th.

2016 Presenter and Panel Co-organizer, “Unsettling Smiles: Black Amiability and Southern Niceness,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists’ Biennial Convention, Penn State, March 18th.

2016 Moderator and Organizer, “The Past, Present and Future of American Literature: A Roundtable with Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement Awardees: Lawrence Buell, Cecelia Tichi, Frances Smith Foster, Robert Levine.” Featured Presidential-themed Panel. MLA Annual Convention, Austin, TX, January 8th.

2016 Presenter, The Hubbell Medal Award Presentation to Ann Douglas, sponsored by the American Literature Section, MLA Annual Convention, Austin, TX, January 8th.

2015 Presenter and Organizer, “How Does Trauma Travel? The Case of Demetria Martínez’s *Mother Tongue,”* American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, October 8th.

2014 Presenter, “Flirting in Yankeeland: Rethinking American Exceptionalism through Nineteenth-Century Argentine Travel Writing to the US,” C19: Society of Nineteenth- Century Americanists, UNC Chapel Hill (March 2014).

2014 Presenter, “Indian Giving and the Dangers of Hospitality,” Native American Commons (working seminar) C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, UNC Chapel Hill (March 2014).

2012 Presenter, “New Research in Nineteenth-Century Latino/a Studies,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico (October 2012).

2011 Presenter, “Intellectual Freedom in a Time of (Economic) Crisis,” America Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, October.

2009 Presenter and Co-Organizer, “Neighborliness and the Ethics of Citizenship,” American Studies Association, Washington DC, November.

2007 Presenter, Roundtable on Americanist Paradigms and Obsolescence, American Studies Association (October, Philadelphia)

2007 Presenter, “How Clarissa Became More Likable in America,” American Literature Association. Boston, May 26.

2005 Presenter, “The Power of Chivalric Charm: Mexican Memory, American Guilt and the Border Romance of the 1890s,” American Literature Association, Boston, May.

2004 Presenter and Organizer, "Alcott's Nice Girls." Narrative: Society for the Study of Narrative, University of Vermont. April

2001 Presenter and Organizer, "George Washington Cable and the Southern Picturesque." Symposium on the Southern Picturesque. New Orleans Historical Society. Dec. 28.

2000 Presenter, "Bi-racial Fictions and the Mendelist Allegory." American Studies Assoc., Detroit, October

1999 Presenter, "Cosmopolitan or Cultural Imperialist? Rethinking William James's Anti- Imperialism." Modern Language Association, Chicago, December.

1999 Presenter, "On the Necessity of Borders: From William James to Eduardo Galeano." American Studies Association. Montreal, Canada, October.

1999 Presenter, "The Urban Picturesque and the Spectacle of Americanization." Nineteenth- Century Studies Association. Philadelphia, March.

# UB Conferences and UB Presentations

2021 Moderator, Presidential event on diversity and inclusion. Loretta Ross, “Cancel in, not canceling out.”

2021 Moderator, Signature Lecture Series with Africana and American Studies, Barbara Smith in Conversation with Lillian Williams.

2020 Organizer, “Legacies of Suffrage: Women’s Civic Activism Then and Now” (March 5-6), UB Gender Institute

2020 UB 2020 Communicators’ Conference. Panelist on “Language Across Difference” panel, March 18 [postponed due to COVID-19]

2019 Panelist, On Promotion to Full Professor, Office of Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs (March)

2018-2019 “On Misogyny” Lecture Series, UB Gender Institute. Organizer.

2018 Roundtable Moderator, “#MeToo: Reflections,” Buffalo Humanities Festival, UB Humanities Institute, September.

2018 “Reproductive Justice Symposium,” UB Gender Institute, February 8. Organizer

2017 “She Persists: Women Innovators of Buffalo, Then and Now,” UB Gender Institute,

Organizer and Moderator (Sept. 26).

2017 “Buffalo Book Chats,” UB Gender Institute program of dorm-based discussions on *I am Malala* with undergraduates in Goodyear X Lounge, September 13, 2017.

2015 Moderator after screening of “Pelo Malo,” (“Bad Hair”) [Directed by Mariana Rondón, 2013; Venezuela]. Sponsored by the UB Multicultural Affairs Office.

2015 “HI@10” Presenter, UB Humanities Institute, November 2nd.

2015 Introduction to Adam Phillips, Visiting Resident Scholar, Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis, April 28th.

2014 Co-organizer, “Humanities and the Public University,” UB Humanities Institute Conference, and moderator for Julie Ellison, Univ. of Michigan, April 17.

2013 “Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Plantation,” Feminist Research Alliance (March)

2013 “The Transatlantic Turn in the Humanities,” UB Humanities Institute Conference, moderator for Prof. Ato Quayson, University of Toronto (March).

2013 Organizer and Moderator, “The Humanities on Main Street: UB in the 1970s,” Gray Matter Series, UB Humanities Institute. Anderson Gallery, UB. (May)

2009 Co-organizer, UB Humanities Institute Conference: “On Belief” (October 2009) 2008 Co-organizer, UB Humanities Institute Conference “History of Madness Today” and

moderator for Ben Reiss (Oct. 2008)

# Community Events

2021 Faciliator of Reading Group on Women’s Suffrage and the History of Intersectional Feminism, HumanitiesNY and Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, May-June.

2020 Centennial of the 19th Amendment, League of Women Voters, Organizing Committee (UB Gender Institute representative)

2019 Consultant (pro bono), Elmwood Franklin School, Buffalo, NY. Diversifying the K-8 curriculum.

2019 Suffragists & Spiritualists: An Evening in Lily Dale, September 28, 2019.

2019 Book Discussion: Kate Manne’s *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny* (Downtown Central Library, March 2019). In collaboration with Erie County Commission on the Status of Women.

2019 Consultant for new curriculum on Inclusion, Diversity, and Social Justice for the Elmwood Franklin School, Buffalo, NY

# Professional Service (UB)

2021 Member of Ad Hoc Tenure Committee for Dr. Mishuana Goeman, CAS

2021 Member of the Search Committee for a Chair of the Department of Africana and American Studies, College of Arts & Sciences

2021 Member of the Search Committee for the Lockwood Chair in Latinx History, History Department, College of Arts and Sciences

2021 Moderator of Affinity Group on Gender in the Academy, Office of Vice-Provost for Inclusive Excellence

2020- Advisor to University Communications’ Editorial Standards Committee

2020-21 Advocate for Dr. Christine Varnado for Promotion to Associate Professor

2020-21 Advocate for Dr. Meredith Conti for Promotion to Associate Professor

2020- Appointed to the Provost’s Strategic Financial Management Advisory Group

2020 Baldy Institute, UB Law School. Conference Grants Committee

2020 UB 2020 Comunicators’ Conference. Panelist on “Navigating Language Across Difference” (March 2020, postponed).

2018 Chair, Hiring Committee in African American Literature, English Department.

2017- Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council, Office of the Vice Provost for Equity

and Inclusion

2017-2018 Member of Committee on Minority Student Retention, Provost

2017- Director, UB Gender Institute, Office of the Provost

2014-2016 Director of the MA Program, Department of English

2015 Reviewed applications for OVPR Research fellowships in the Humanities

2007-2013 Executive Director, UB Humanities Institute (CAS)

[Co-organized three annual conferences; initiated New Faculty Seminar Series; created “Scholars@Muse” and then “Scholars@Hallwalls,” a forum for HI faculty fellows to present their work to the Buffalo community; organized several individual events; authored two NEH institutional challenge grants (100 pp. each, submitted in 2009, 2011; both declined). With HI Director, I oversaw the distribution of HI faculty fellowships and graduate student research grants, summer fellowships, and funding to Research Workshops.]

2010-2011 CAS Dean’s Committee on Assessment

2009-2010 CAS Dean’s Committee on Criteria and Promotion

2007 UB Graduate School, Committee for Graduate Awards in Excellence in Teaching

2002-2004 CAS Dean’s Committee on Graduate Fellowships

1999-2004 Director of Graduate Admissions, Dept. of English

## Professional Service (National & International) (selected)

EDI Consultant and Panelist, Ferguson Partners: Leadership Consultants, Chicago, IL.

External Evaluator, SUNY Oswego, Department of English. March 2021.

Morton Cohen Award Selection Committee for Distinguished Edition of Letters, Modern Language Association (2019- 2022). Chair of the Committee, 2021-2022.

Alumni Board, Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University (2018- )

Organizing Committee, “Literary Tourgée,” Conference at the Chautauqua Institute, September 27 -29, 2019. Chaired by Sandra Gustafson (Notre Dame).

External Dissertation Reviewer, English Department, York University, Toronto (June 2018)

Program Chair (elected) for 5th biennial conference of C19: The Society of

Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, NM (March 2018)

Executive Committee (elected), C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (2016-2018)

Co-organizer for *Symbiosis: A Transatlantic Journal* (UK-based) 11th Biennial Conference: On

Transatlantic Literary and Cultural Relations (July 2017) at Daemen College, Amherst NY. <http://www.symbiosistransatlantic.com/news/>

Selection Committee for the 1921 Prize for Best Essay on American Literature, awarded by the American Literature Society/MLA (2016)

Advisory Board, book series *Innovation and Activism in American Women’s Writing,* edited by Sharon Kirsch and Janet Boyd for Lexington Books (2016-ongoing)

New York State Representative of the Delegate Assembly, MLA (2017-2020), elected Dec.

2016. I also served as NY State Representative from 2005-2008.

Chair (elected), American Literature Section (ALS), Modern Language Association (2015-2016); Advisory Council (Elected) and Nominating Committee, (2014-2016)

Article referee for *PMLA, Criticism, English Language Notes (ELN), Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* (UCLA); *New England Quarterly*; *MELUS*, *Contemporary Literature.*

Book manuscript referee: Harvard UP, Cambridge UP, UPenn Press, Fordham UP

Fellowship Selection Committee: American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

Tenure evaluator: University at Albany, University of Arizona, CUNY, Swarthmore, University of Colorado, Florida International University, Bowling Green

Editorial Board Member, *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* (UCLA) (2001-2004)