

# AHCT VIRTUAL SPANISH GOLDEN AGE THEATER SYMPOSIUM

Simposio virtual de la AHCT sobre el Teatro del  
Siglo de Oro



*Los empeños de una casa.* Produced by the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance. February 2024. Annabella Mireles.

*October 10-11, 2025*

*Del 10 al 11 de octubre de 2025*

This conference is dedicated to Cathy Larson  
Se dedica este congreso a Cathy Larson



## Dedication to Cathy Larson



## Dedicación a Cathy Larson

Catherine Larson earned her B.S. in Education and M.A. in Spanish from the University of Missouri and her PhD in Spanish at the University of Kansas. She began her university teaching career at the College of the Holy Cross and then moved to Indiana University where she taught in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, affiliated with the Women's and Gender Studies programs, and served for a time as dean of Undergraduate Education in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Cathy's research focused on Hispanic theater—early modern Spanish theater, especially women playwrights, as well as Latin American theater. She published dozens of articles and book chapters, and wrote and co-edited several books in those fields, including *Approaches to Teaching Spanish Golden Age Drama* (with Everett Hesse, 1989), *Language and the Comedia, Theory and Practice* (1991), *Brave New Words: Studies in Spanish Golden Age Literature* (with Edward H. Friedman, 1996), *Latin American Women Dramatists: Theater, Texts, and Theories* (with Margarita Vargas, 1999), *Games and Play in the Theater of Spanish American Women* (2004), and *Espectáculo: Antología del drama hispánico* (with Denise DiPuccio, 2019). Cathy also published translations of Zayas's *La traición en la amistad / Friendship Betrayed* (1999) and Azevedo's *El Muerto disimulado / Presumed Dead* (2018) (both with Valerie Hegstrom). Her translations were performed by several university and professional theater companies in El Paso, Oklahoma City, and Washington D.C.

She became a member of the board of directors of the Association for Hispanic Classical Theater in 1987 and served throughout the 1990s, working for several years as First Vice President and organizing our annual Golden Age Spanish Drama symposia. In the mid-1990s, Cathy was able to adopt her son Orion. Many members of AHCT remember Cathy as a wonderful colleague, mentor, teacher, and friend. She was bright, dedicated, fun, kind, thoughtful, and generous. We will miss her.

Valerie Hegstrom, AHCT President

Catherine Larson obtuvo su licenciatura en educación y su maestría en español en la Universidad de Missouri y su doctorado en la Universidad de Kansas. Comenzó su carrera docente universitaria en el College of the Holy Cross y luego se trasladó a la Universidad de Indiana, donde enseñó en el Departamento de español y portugués, afiliada a los programas de Estudios de la mujer y género, y se desempeñó durante un tiempo como decana de Educación de pregrado en el Colegio de artes y ciencias.

La investigación de Cathy se centró en el teatro hispano—el teatro español del Siglo de Oro, especialmente en las dramaturgas, así como en el teatro latinoamericano. Publicó decenas de artículos y capítulos de libros y coeditó varios libros en esos campos, incluyendo *Approaches to Teaching Spanish Golden Age Drama* (con Everett Hesse, 1989), *Language and the Comedia, Theory and Practice* (1991), *Brave New Words: Studies in Spanish Golden Age Literature* (con Edward H. Friedman, 1996), *Latin American Women Dramatists: Theater, Texts, and Theories* (con Margarita Vargas, 1999), *Games and Play in the Theater of Spanish American Women* (2004), and *Espectáculo: Antología del drama hispánico* (con Denise DiPuccio, 2019). Cathy también publicó traducciones de *La traición en la amistad / Friendship Betrayed* (1999) de Zayas y de *El Muerto disimulado / Presumed Dead* (2018) de Acevedo (ambas traducciones con Valerie Hegstrom). Sus traducciones fueron representadas por varias compañías teatrales universitarias y profesionales en El Paso, Oklahoma City y Washington D.C.

Cathy se convirtió en miembro de la junta directiva de la Association for Hispanic Classical Theater en 1987 y sirvió durante toda la década de 1990, trabajando varios años como Primera Vicepresidenta y organizando nuestros simposios anuales sobre el teatro español del Siglo de Oro. A mediados de los años noventa, Cathy pudo adoptar a su hijo Orion. Muchos miembros de AHCT recuerdan a Cathy como una colega, mentora, profesora y amiga maravillosa. Era brillante, dedicada, divertida, amable, reflexiva y generosa. La extrañaremos profundamente.

Valerie Hegstrom, Presidente de AHCT



SPECIAL THANKS TO . . .

***GRACIAS EN  
ESPECIAL A . . .***

*Kerry Wilks, Lynn Vidler, Bonnie Gasior, Darci Strother, and Anne Krook for the special sessions. To Kerry Wilks in particular for organizing the professional development sessions. To Anna-Lisa Halling and Jonathan Wade for monitoring the channels and taking care of the technical details of the conference. To Rob Bayliss, Bruce Burningham, Jennifer Darrell, Adriana Domínguez, Jon Ellis, Marissa Luquette, Harrison Meadows, Alejandra Juno Rodríguez Villar, Sara Sánchez, and Mainer Vázquez Pedro for volunteering to moderate the panels. To Jacob Herald for restructuring and relaunching AHCT's website.*

# Friday October 10th, Viernes 10 de octubre

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99620741989?pwd=MJrOCvuCUPFOEtUv7hMmcBnr1i3dlm.1>

Eastern time (ET): 10:00-10:25am / Mainland Spain (Spain): 4:00-4:25pm  
Welcome, Orientation, **Valerie Hegstrom**, AHCT President  
Awards, **Rob Bayliss & Harrison Meadows**  
Tribute to Cathy Larson

Descanso/Break ET 10:25-10:30am / Spain 4:25-4:30pm

**Zoom link:** <https://tinyurl.com/AHCTsessionA>

Session 1a - 10:30-12:10pm ET / 4:30-6:10pm España

**Cognitive Aesthetics: Curiosity, Neurodivergence, and Dramatic Mediation**  
Moderator: Bruce Burningham, Illinois State University

ET 10:30-11:00am Spain 4:30-5:00pm “*Libido sciendi en Ver y creer* de Juan de Matos Fragoso” **Shifra Armon**, Professor Emerita

ET 11:05-11:35am Spain 5:05-5:35pm; UK 4:05-4:35pm “Neurodivergent Neoplatonism” **Laura Seymour**, Swansea University, UK

ET 11:40-12:10pm Spain 5:40-6:10pm “(Ap.) Calderón y la manipulación del aparte” **Ellen Frye**, William Paterson University of New Jersey

Descanso/Break ET 12:10-12:30pm / España 6:10-6:30pm

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/99620741989?pwd=MJrOCvuCUPFOEtUv7hMmcBnr1i3dlm.1>

Session 2 - 12:30-1:45 ET / 6:30-7:45pm España

**Welcome, Professional Development Sessions.**

Kerry Wilks, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

“Using Adaptive Leadership to Drive Positive Change: Countering Chaos and Toxicity in the Academy and Beyond”

**L. Lynn Vidler**, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; **Kerry Wilks**, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

As the title indicates, this session will directly address the challenging times facing both the academy and the US in general. With more than 25+ combined years of administrative, adaptive leadership, and advocacy experience, Vidler and Wilks will give you the tools and honest answers on the most effective ways to advocate for positive change, while protecting your own well-being. Whether you tend to follow the ostrich model of burying your head in the sand or you prefer to storm the proverbial castle, using the tools of adaptive leadership can help you make progress on what matters to you most ... even if it has nothing to do with your career.



Descanso/Break ET 1:45-2:00pm / España 7:45-8:00pm

**Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99620741989?pwd=MJrOCyuCUPFOEtUv7hMmcBnr1i3dIm.1>**

**Session 3** - 2:00-3:30pm ET / 8:00-9:30pm España

**Keynote Address**

Moderator: Kerry Wilks, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

“What to Do When Your Department and Your Field Seem to Vanish?” **Anne Krook**, Practical Workplace Advice.

Before our eyes, whole departments are being eliminated; as this happens across multiple universities, whole fields are withering, gradually or swiftly. What should you do as a scholar in one of those fields? This talk looks at how those fields began to offer a way of structuring courses in those fields to remain relevant to undergraduate and graduate student learning, to place themselves in cooperation with other disciplines, and to support career development of their faculty.



Dr. Anne Krook began her career at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she taught 17th and 18th Century English literature and literary approaches to the Hebrew scripture and New Testament before moving to Seattle. Her career took a radical turn when she was approached by a small startup as she was restaurant bartending, which turned out to be Amazon.com! While there, she held various roles in US and international website development, program management, internal audit, and infrastructure. After that, she worked as VP of Operations at a startup, Mindbloom, and then as VP of Operations at Synapse. Given the fact that Anne is familiar with both the academy and industry, she championed the hiring of PhDs for the unique skill sets that they can bring to an organization. After leaving industry, her consulting practice has focused on helping graduate students prepare for the job market (with a special emphasis for those in the humanities), as well as other pressing topics (e.g., women in the workforce). She regularly speaks at universities and professional organizations such as the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. She is also past chair of the Board of Directors, and Chair of the Emeritus Board, of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of LGBTQ+ people and everyone living with HIV.

**Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99620741989?pwd=MJrOCyuCUPFOEtUv7hMmcBnr1i3dIm.1>**

**Session 4** - 3:45-5:00pm ET / 9:45-11:00pm España

Moderator: Kerry Wilks, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

“Boundaries, Burnout, and Balance: A Wellness Workshop for Faculty” **Bonnie Gasior**, California State University, Long Beach; **Darci Strother**, California State University, San Marcos

This will be an interactive session exploring the emotional labor of academic life and the mounting pressures faculty face—from heavy teaching loads and research demands to institutional instability and dwindling resources. Grounded in Mental Health First Aid principles, this workshop offers practical tools for recognizing burnout, setting boundaries, and implementing sustainable self-care practices. Through guided reflection and peer connection, participants will leave with a personalized wellness plan and renewed clarity on how to protect their mental health this semester and beyond.



**Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99620741989?pwd=MJrOCyuCUPFOEtUv7hMmcBnr1i3dIm.1>**

**Session 5** - 5:00-6:00pm ET / 11:00pm-12:00am España

Moderator: Kerry Wilks, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

**Roundtable / Mesa redonda**

**Kerry Wilks**, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay; **L. Lynn Vidler**, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; **Anne Krook**; **Bonnie Gasior**, California State University, Long Beach; **Darci Strother**, California State University, San Marcos

# Saturday, October 11th, Sábado 11 de octubre

**Zoom link for “a” sessions:** <https://tinyurl.com/AHCTsessionA>

Session 6a - 10:00-11:50am ET / 4:00-5:50pm España

## **Legend, Language, and Legacy: Unearthing Forgotten Voices**

Moderator: Jon Ellis, Oklahoma State University

ET 10:00-10:30am Spain 4:00-4:30pm “Solomon, Jovinian, and Divine Doubles: Considering (Literally) Angelic Kings” **Christopher Weimer**, Oklahoma State University

ET 10:35-11:05am Spain 4:35-5:05pm “On Editing Jacinto Cordeiro's *Los doce de Inglaterra*” **Jaime Cruz-Ortiz**, Kennesaw State University

ET 11:10-11:40am Spain 5:10-5:40pm “Referencias de Enrique de Villena en la obra cervantina” **Francisco García Rubio**, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

Session 7a - 11:50-1:30pm ET / 5:50-7:30pm España

## **Spectacles of Status: Theatrical Spaces and Social Commentary**

Moderator: Rob Bayliss, University of Kansas

ET 11:50am-12:20pm Spain 5:50-6:20pm “Costumed Critiques: The World Upside-Down Motif in Calderón's *La vida es sueño* and *El monstruo de los jardines*” **Jennifer Darrell**, King's College

ET 12:25-12:55pm Spain 6:25-6:55pm “*La prueba de los ingenios*, de Lope de Vega, como muestrario de la alta cultura cortesana” **Rafael Castillo**, St. Lawrence University

Descanso/Break 1:30-1:40pm ET / 7:30-7:40pm España

Session 8a - 1:40-3:30pm ET / 7:40-9:30pm España

## **Verse, Vision, and the Beyond: Exploring Metaphysical and Mythological Journeys**

Moderator: Jennifer Darrell, King's College

ET 1:40-2:10pm Spain 7:40-8:10pm “Los elementos maravillosos en *El caballero de Olmedo*” **Omar Sanz Burgos**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

ET 2:15-2:45pm Spain 8:15-8:45pm “The Cosmic Meaning of Rhythmic Speech: From Verse to Universe” **John Slater**, Colorado State University

ET 2:50-3:20pm Spain 8:50-9:20pm “The Mythological Psychopomp adapted for the Journey to the Underworld in Calderón's *El Purgatorio de San Patricio*” **Jonathan Ellis**, Oklahoma State University

Descanso/ Break 3:20-3:30pm / ET 9:20-9:30pm España

Session 9a - 3:30-5:10pm ET / 9:30-11:10pm España

## **Designing the Golden Age: Staging Classical Spanish Drama at a Public University**

Moderator: Adriana Domínguez, University of Texas, El Paso

Roundtable Participants/ Participantes de la mesa redonda:  
**Carolyn Cubit-Tsutsui**, University of Texas, El Paso, **Leticia Delgado**, University of Texas, El Paso; **Cynthia Esparza**, University of Texas, El Paso

**Zoom link for “b” sessions:** <https://byu.zoom.us/j/92692055371>

Session 6b - 10:00-11:50am ET / 4:00-5:50pm España

## **Between Heaven and Earth: Theatrical Explorations of Faith, Tradition, and Resistance**

Moderator: Harrison Meadows, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

ET 10:00-10:30am Spain 4:00-4:30pm “El problema del binarismo religioso que presentan los renegados en *Los baños de Argel*” **Mackenzi McGowan**, Bethany College, West Virginia

ET 10:35-11:05am Spain 4:35-5:05pm “Entre la tradición y la innovación: la segunda *Égloga de navidad* enciniana en el Teatro Español madrileño” **Sara Sánchez-Hernández**, Universidad de Burgos

ET 11:10-11:40am Spain 5:10-5:40pm “Staging the Story of Adam and Eve in the Convent” **Valerie Hegstrom**, Brigham Young University

Session 7b - 11:50-1:30pm ET / 5:50-7:30pm España

## **Staging Gender: Queer Desire, Royal Masculinity, and Warrior Women**

Moderator: Maider Vázquez Pedro, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

ET 11:50am-12:20pm Spain 5:50-6:20pm “¿Quando volveras a VERME?: Speaking, Hearing, and Queering Female Desire in María Egual's *Coloquio entre Nise y Laura*” **Marissa Luquette**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

ET 12:25-12:55pm Spain 6:25-6:55pm “Charles V's Codpiece: Staging Royal Masculinity in Lope de Vega's *Carlos V en Francia*” **Christopher C. Oechler**, Gettysburg College

ET 1:00-1:30pm Spain 7:00-7:30pm “From ‘Semíramis fuerte’ to Amazona ‘bella’: On The Eighteenth-Century Divas who Played Altisidora in Antonio Enríquez Gómez's *El noble siempre es valiente*” **Alex McNair**, Baylor University

Session 8b - 1:40-3:30pm ET / 7:40-9:30pm España

## **Staging the Past; Performing the Present: Comedia and Cultural Strategy in the 21st Century**

Moderator: Alejandra Juno Rodríguez Villar, Hanover College

ET 1:40-2:10pm Spain 7:40-8:10pm “The Expediency of the *Comedia*” **Rob Bayliss**, University of Kansas

ET 2:15-2:45pm Spain 8:15-8:45pm “Connecting *Comedia* to America250: A Call to Action” **Ben Gunter**, Theater with a Mission / Florida State University

ET 2:50-3:20pm Spain 8:50-9:20pm “Through the Lookingglass: Circus Quixote in Chicago” **Bruce R. Burningham**, Illinois State University

Session 9b - 3:30-5:10pm ET / 9:30-11:10pm España

## **Reimagining Early Modern Theater: Histories, Archives, and Embodied Performance**

Moderator: Sara Sánchez-Hernández, Universidad de Burgos

ET 3:30pm-4:00pm Spain 9:30-10:00pm “*Comedia Stages*: A Global Platform for Mapping the Life of the Spanish *Comedia*” **Alejandra Juno Rodríguez Villar**, Hanover College

ET 4:40-5:10pm Spain 10:40-11:10pm “La puesta en escena de las comedias colaboradas en el Reino de Galicia” **María del Pilar Chouza-Calo**, Central Michigan University

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