

Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures
University of California, Irvine
322 Humanities Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-5275, USA
(949) 254 9225
luisfd@uci.edu
ferdelacruz.com

LUIS FERNANDO DE LA CRUZ HERRERA, Ph.D.

PEN NAME Fer de la Cruz

EDUCATION **PhD**, Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures.
University of California, Irvine. 2020-present.
Dissertation successfully defended with honors, May 2026. GPA 4.0.

Master of Arts in Spanish, Ohio University. Athens, Ohio, 2008. The program contained a strong focus on Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, besides literature. *Apostille* dated June 24, 2011.

Licenciatura en Humanidades y Filosofía (4-year college degree equivalent to Bachelor of Arts), with Focus on Education. Universidad Mesoamericana de San Agustín. Yucatán, México. Professional license/Cédula profesional by the Mexican Secretariat of Public Education: 4914690.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE 2020-present **Teaching Asst-Gship**. During sixteen quarters and three Summer Sessions, I have taught Spanish classes of levels 1 (Fundamentals) and 2 (Intermediate), plus a Spanish 3 class (Heritage Spanish: Latinidades en California) for a full quarter, and another Spanish 3 class (US Latino Communities) as a substitute for two weeks. Employee ID: 10456647.

2022-23 (Fall quarter) **Teaching Asst-Gship** with Dr. Jacobo Sefamí: Spanish 60E Mexico and Central America: A Survey. I attended Dr. Sefamí's lectures along with about 130 students, lead weekly discussion sessions with two groups of 30 students, and graded student papers.

2021-22 (Winter quarter) **Teaching practicum** with Dr. Gonzalo Navajas's class Spanish 123 *Autobiography and Fiction* (code 31515). Dr. Navajas asked me to co-teach the class with him, present materials, do close-reading analysis and moderate discussions with undergraduate students. University of California, Irvine. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

2012-2020 **Academic Coordinator**. Centro de Idiomas del Sureste. I was in charge of one branch of the school. My job consisted of hiring teachers and interviewing potential students for both the program of English as a Foreign

Language for local Mexican students, and the program of Spanish as a Second Language for foreign students. Yucatan, Mexico.

2008-2012 **Founding professor.** School of Creative Writing of the State Center of Fine Arts, in Yucatan, Mexico. I planned and taught classes for children (ages 8-11), young adults, and adults of all ages. Among the classes that I taught were: *Introducción a la Poesía* (Introduction to Poetry), *Ingeniería de la Escritura* (Writing Engineering), *Composición del Poema* (Poem Composition), *Poesía Experimental* (Experimental Poetry), *Literatura de Ciencia Ficción* (Science Fiction Literature), *Educomunicación* (Educommunication), and *Introducción a la narrativa* (Introduction to Narrative).

2019 **Professor of English as a Foreign Language.** Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), local branch in Yucatan: Área de Lenguas del Centro Peninsular en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (CEPHCIS). One semester.

2013-2014 **Professor.** Seminario de Escritura Creativa. Two semester-long courses on-line. Universidad de Quintana Roo, División de Ciencias Políticas y Humanidades. Departamento de Humanidades. Chetumal, Q.R., Mexico.

2012 **Professor of literature in Spanish.** Four-week course to students from The Lawrenceville High School, New Jersey, U.S.A. Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), local branch in Yucatan: Área de Lenguas del Centro Peninsular en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (CEPHCIS).

2012 **Instructor of Spanish as a Second Language.** A seven-week course for students of Brigham Young University. Universidad Modelo. Yucatan, Mexico.

2008-2012. **Instructor.** Central College en Mérida, a local branch, in Yucatan, Mexico, of Central College, in Pella, Iowa. Classes taught: Latin American narrative I & II, and various levels of Spanish as a Second Language.

1992-2012 **Instructor of English and Spanish for Students of Other Languages.** Centro de Idiomas del Sureste. Yucatan, Mexico.

2006-2008 **Graduate Teaching Associate.** Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. During the two years of completion of my Master's Degree, I taught Spanish levels 1 (Novice) & 2 (Intermediate) for six quarters and two Summers.

ORIGINAL
WORK
(AUTHORED
BOOKS)

2023 *Pero el mar no es de fiar. Veinte años, veinte títulos: Selección poética (2003-2023)*. Publisher: Los cínicos editorial. ISBN: 9798851038334. Paperback and Kindle editions. A personal anthology of my poetry, featuring new and selected poems from a twenty-year period since the publication of my first book. It includes a selection of poems from the titles below in this section and from some titles in the next. Available on Amazon.

2022 ***Siete calaveras covidarias y un poema post-neogótico***. Satirical poetry. Publisher: Editorial Raíces. ISBN: 9798218087715. Paperback and electronic editions. Available on Amazon.

2022 ***Extramuros***. Lyric poetry. Publisher: Bitácora de Vuelos ediciones. ISBN: 9798832906096. Paperback and electronic editions.

2021 ***Poemas espirales***. Lyric poetry. Publisher: Libros del Marqués/Ayuntamiento de Mérida. Paperback edition, 64 pages. ISBN: 9786078713455. Available at the Young Research Library, UCLA (YRL ; PQ7298.413.R882 P64 2020) and at the McHenry Library, UC Santa Cruz (PQ7298.413.R89 P64 2020).

2020 ***Cómo aprendí a volar***. Novel for children of ages 11+. Publisher: Libros en Red/Ayuntamiento de Mérida. Paperback and kindle editions, 76 pages. ISBN: 9781629154473. Available on Amazon.

2020 ***Sabotaje a la Che más otros dos poemarios de humor neoquevediano***. Lyric and satirical poetry. Publisher: Libros en Red/Ayuntamiento de Mérida. Paperback and kindle editions, 187 pages. ISBN: 9781629154466. Available on Amazon.

2020 ***Covidario veinte veinte. 20 + 20 poemas desde la cuarentena***. Poetry. Publisher: Ablucionistas. Paperback edition, 83 pages. Released on May 20, 2020, this is the first full-length book of poetry by a single author about the Covid-19 pandemic published in Mexico. E-book edition available for a free download:

[https://www.academia.edu/43055325/Covidario veinte veinte 20 20 poemas desde la cuarentena](https://www.academia.edu/43055325/Covidario_veinte_veinte_20_20_poemas_desde_la_cuarentena)

2020 ***Bestiario hiperreal o imaginario***. Poetry for children of ages 8-12. Illustrations by Miriam E. Pérez Ballesteros. Publisher: Editorial Sociedad Lunar. Paperback and kindle editions. Chapbook. 29 pages. ISBN: 9786079937225.

2019 ***Osario***. Lyric poetry. Publisher: Pequeña Flor de Loto. Chapbook. 25 pages.

2019 ***Seven Songs of Silent Fireflies***. Lyric poetry. Publisher: E.G. Editorial. Chapbook edition, 18 pages. ISBN: 978-607-96987-9-9. First edition by JKPublishing, 2008. Athens, Ohio, EE. UU.: <http://www.jkpublishing.org/bookstore/fer.php>

2019 ***Si el avestruz volara***. Poetry for children of ages 8-12. Second edition by Avestruz Ediciones & Eugenia Editorial. Chapbook, 32 pages. First chapbook edition by El Drenaje, 2015.

2019 ***Aliteletas. De la A a la que quieras***. Poetry for children ages 6-9. Publisher: Maldonado Editores, 72 pages. Illustrated by Lucía Gutiérrez. ISBN:

968-5929-09-9. First edition, 2015, by Editorial Dante, 72 pages, illustrated by Humberto Irigoyen. ISBN: 9786077090687.

2018 *El corazón de Plutón y otras dulzuras*. Poetry for children ages 7+. Illustrated by Miriam Pérez Ballesteros. Publishers: SEDECULTA/SEGEY/IHMY. Paperback edition, 47 pages. Available at the Rivera Library at University of California, Riverside (PZ73.C782 2018).

2013 *Ver con el corazón. Testimoni*y. Co-authored by Karina Sosa. Publisher: In Your Eyes. Chapbook edition.

2012 Three books of fables for children: *Fábulas de humildad* (ISBN: 9786077090885), *Fábulas de honestidad* (ISBN: 9786077090878), and *Fábulas de amor y amistad* (ISBN: 9786077090915). Personal adaptations of classic fables by Samaniego, Fernández de Lizardi, José Rosas Moreno, Petissen, Aesop, Paul F. de Gaudin, and others, incorporating values of today, such as tolerance and multiculturalism. Illustrated by Manuel Taure, Viviana Hinojosa, Bárbara García, and Alberto Guerra. Hard cover editions by Editorial Dante. 24 pages each book.

2010 *Redentora la voz*. Lyric poetry. Publisher: Ayuntamiento de Mérida. ISBN: 9786077870029. Paperback edition, 68 pages.

2003 *La conversión del polvo/La Conversión de la Poussière*. Poetry, bilingual chapbook edition. Publishers: Presagios/Columba Ediciones. Mérida, Yuc.

(Technical data on all of the books above is available on:
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/22616610.Fer_de_la_Cruz?from_search=true&from_srp=true)

TRANSLATED WORKS

2026 *El Popol Wuj desde el Antropoceno*. Publisher: Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. This work was reviewed through a **double-blind peer review process** by academic peers. A translation of the *Popol Wuj* of the K'iche' people of Guatemala, presented in parallel verse and accompanied by an in-depth introductory study. Available for free download on: <https://altexto.mx/> & libreria.uady.mx.

2020 English > Spanish *Lif Up the Stone. The Gospel According to Jonathan/Al levantar la Piedra. El Evangelio según Jonathan*, by Jonathan Harrington. A postmodern rewriting of the Gospel of St. Matthew in forty blanc-verse sonnets. Publisher: Ablucionistas. Paperback bilingual edition. 103 pages.

2019 French > Spanish *Le Cimetière marin/Cementerio Marino*, by Paul Valéry. chapbook, 15 pages. Publisher: Avestruz ediciones, bilingual chapbook edition. This translation also appears in *La Raíz Invertida* (2018), Revista

Latinoamericana de Poesía, published on-line: laraizinvertida.com/detalle-2446-el-cementerio-marino-de-paul-valery

2018 Yucatec Mayan > English and Spanish: Two poems by Ana Patricia Martínez Huchim and prologue, contained in the book ***No es por demás/Ma'chéen koneli'/Not in vain***. Publisher: Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas. Available at the Geisel Library, UC San Diego (PM3968.9.M36 M33 2018).

2017 Spanish > English: Poem ***El puño en alto/Fist Held High***, by Juan Villoro. The Ofi Press Magazine. International Poetry and Literature from Mexico City. Issue 55. P. 20-22: en.calameo.com/read/004739059eb686cac653d

2017 English > Spanish: Poem ***If You Ever Visit Huhi/Si un día vas a Huhí***, by Gerardo Pacheco Matus. Published in Pacheco Matus' personal blog: gerardogpm.wordpress.com/2017/10/15/si-un-dia-vas-a-huhi-pacheco-matus-version-al-espanol-fer-de-la-cruz/

2017 Yucatec Mayan > English: Book ***Chan Jpiil yéetel juntúul Nakuch Máak/Pil y el Nakuch Máak/Jpiil and the Nukuch Máak. An oral Mayan tale***, compiled and retold by Ana Patricia Martínez Huchim. Trilingual edition in Yucatec Mayan, Spanish, and English. Chapbook. Author's edition. Available at the Doe Library at UC Berkeley (PM3968.9.C43 A363 2016).

2016 English > Spanish (co-translated by Susana Barradas). Book ***Rastro de papeles***. Selection of poems by Jonathan Harrington. Publisher: Ediciones Cocodrilo. 58 pages.

2015 Yucatec Mayan > English. Book ***Tsíimin tuunich, jwáay mis yéetel aluxo'ob/El caballo de piedra, El jwáay gato y Los aluxes/The Horse of Stone, The Jwáay-Cat, and The Aluxes. Maaya tsikbaló'ob/Antología de relatos orales mayas/Anthology of Mayan oral tales***. Oral tales compiled and retold by Ana Patricia Martínez Huchim. Trilingual edition in Yucatec Mayan, Spanish, and English. Publisher: Comisión Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas. 120 pages.

2015 English > Spanish: Two poems by Imtiaz Dharker ***A Century Later/Un siglo después*** and ***Half The Sky/Mitad del cielo***, for Plan International (NGO in the UK), published in the Spanish version of its annual report *Por ser niña. El estado mundial para las niñas 2015*. Pages. 21 and 63: uam.mx/cdi/pdf/s_doc/biblioteca/porser_nina_2015.pdf (my credit appears on page 4).

2015 English > Spanish: ***Two poems on bullfighting/Dos poemas sobre tauromaquia***, by Jack Little. The Merida Review. A Literary Magazine: themeridareview.wordpress.com/tag/fer-de-la-cruz/

2014 Spanish > English: Poema de Raúl Renán. *Variaciones de mí en dos medidas/Variations of myself in two allotments*. The Merida Review. A Literary Magazine: themeridareview.wordpress.com/tag/raul-renan/

2013 Spanish > English: Two plays: *El viaje inmóvil. Estudio en espiral sobre el suicidio/The Motionless Trip. Spiral Study on Suicide*, by Juan de Dios Rath and *Manual de cacería/Hunting guide*, by Noé Morales. Murmurante Teatro.

2013 English > Spanish. Book of poetry *Candidates for Sainthood and Other Sinners /Aprendices de santo y otros pecadores*, by Don Cellini. Bilingual edition by Mayapple Press. Woodstock, NY. 54 pages.

PAPERS ON LITERARY TRANSLATION

2018 **¿Rescate de poetas vivos? La poesía maya en español**. A paper read on the 10th Congreso Internacional de Literatura Box populi, vox dei: de querellas y querencias en la cultura mexicana (UC-Mexicanistas/UADY/FILEY), Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán.

2017 **Poesía maya en la diáspora. By the way, ¿cómo está el clima en Huhí?** A paper read on the 9th Congreso Internacional de Literatura *Ni frío ni calor: cero grados. Tiempos y climas en la cultura mexicana*, (UC-Mexicanistas/UADY/FILEY), Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán.

WORKSHOPS TAKEN ON LITERARY TRANSLATION

2018, 2013, 2011, 2010 y 2009 **U.S. Poets in Mexico** (USPiM). 30 hours of workshop per conference. The workshops on translation were lead by Suzane Jill Levine (2013) and Pedro Serrano (2009). On different years, I also took poetry workshops by Forrest Gander, Diane Wakoski, Anne Waldman, Miguel Ángel Leyva, Bob Holman, C.D. Wright, Mónica de la Torre, Jack Collom, and Hoa Nguyen: uspoetsinmexico.org

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

2025 **Summer Dissertation Fellowship from the School of Humanities**. I completed my dissertation, which is ready to be defended.

2024 & 2025 **DTEI Graduate Scholars Program** fellowship receipt, granted by UCI's Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation.

2022 **First prize**. International literary prize by Bitácora de Vuelos Ediciones, for my book *Extramuros*, published that year.

2019 **First prize** in the Ciudad de Mérida International Poetry Award, between the Méridas of Spain, Venezuela, and Mexico, for his *Poemas espirales*.

2015 **First prize** in State-wide award of literature for children: Premio Estatal de Literatura para Niños "Elvia Rodríguez Cirerol", for a narrative poem titled *El corazón de Plutón y otras dulzuras*. Yucatan's Secretariat of Arts and Culture (SEDECULTA).

2011 **First prize** in regional poetry award: Premio Regional de Poesía “José Díaz Bolio”. Patronato ProHistoria Peninsular. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.

VARIOUS
OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

2024 A review of **Caleidoscopia. Escrituras y Poéticas de lo Oblicuo en América Latina** (RIL editores, 2021). Vértice. Cultura, Life, & Stile: <https://grupopiramide.com.mx/vertice/libros/resena-caleidoscopia-escrituras-y-poeticas-de-lo-oblicuo-en-america-latina-fer-de-la-cruz/>

2023 A review of **El feliz ingenio neomexicano. Felipe M. Chacón and Poesía y prosa**. University of New Mexico Press, 2021, Edited, translated, and introduced by Anna M. Nogar and A. Gabriel Meléndez. Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies. University of Arizona. Volume 26, 2022. pp. 189-191. <https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/69/article/874631>

2022 A prologue for **Paraíso artificial**, a book of poetry by Jorge Yam (Pinos Alados, 2022). Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

2017 A back cover blurb for **Poesía Reunida II**, a compilation of the poetry of Ramón Iván Suárez Caamal (La Nave de Papel, 2017), 389 pages. ISBN 9781548532925.

VOLUNTEER
ACTIVITIES

2023-present Co-organizer of a monthly **open-mic poetry reading** named *Uma porção de coraçãozinho*, mainly for graduate students and faculty of the Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese at UCI, but also open to guests. Co-organized with Dr. Jacobo Sefamí.

2016-present **President of the jury** for Premio Peninsular de Poesía José Díaz Bolio. I select other jury members and, with them, declare a winner and possible honorary mentions.

2022 & 2023 **Member of the organizing committee XXVI Congreso de Estudios Mexicanos Juan Bruce-Novoa 2022 “Soundscapes of México”**. University of California, Irvine. Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

2021 & 2022 **Co-presenter at the Noche de Altares**, a Day of the Dead community festival organized by the Centro Cultural de México in Santa Ana, in Santa Ana, California. While various musicians performed on the stage, I improvised traditional Mexican *calaverita* stanzas, which I then read between acts, to express gratitude to the previous performers and to welcome the next, following a strict rhyme and metric patterns, along with wit and humor, according to the traditional stanzas long associated to the Day of the Dead festivity in Mexico.

2020-2022 **Member of the organizing committee** of the *Flor y Canto International Poetry Festival*, in San Francisco, CA.

2017-present **Member of the advising committee** (consejo consultivo), in Literature. Patronato Pro Historia Peninsular (ProHispen).

2018-2020 **Member of the Board of Directors** of the Merida English Library, in Yucatan, Mexico. I was a member of this committee during an important expansion phase of library facilities, which involved fund raising in the expat community. I also participated in a subcommittee that organized MEL Talks, featuring weekly lectures.

2014-2016 **Secretary.** Mexican Association for Teachers of English (MEXTESOL). Yucatan chapter. Yucatan, Mexico. I helped organize academic activities and kept the minutes of every board meeting.

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- ACADEMIC FESTIVALS AND CONFERENCES** 2026 **XXX Congreso Anual de Mexicanistas Juan Bruce-Novoa** Ecos y Territorios de la Naturaleza, sponsored by University of California, Irvine, UC-Mexicanistas, and the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur.
- 2025 **Maya Festival of the Bay Area**, City College of San Francisco, Mission Campus. I participated in two sessions: (1) public reading of English translations of contemporary Maya poets, and (2) *prelaunch* of my forthcoming translation of the *Popol Wuj*, titled *El Popol Wuj desde el Antropoceno* (in press, Casa Editorial de la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán). I discussed the relationship between the ancient Mayan tales it contains and the *milpa* polycrop system as it functions within ancient and contemporary pan-Mayan culture.
- 2025 **Project Presentation.** My project was selected for presentation during the closing session organized by the Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation (DTEI) at UCI Teach Day. The presentation was titled *From Students' Perspective: Wellness While Testing Tests*.