

AUDREY GARCIA

Fulbright Fellow, Researcher, and Educator.

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA — *Doctoral Candidate of English and Comparative Literature*

AUGUST 2024 - PRESENT

First year doctoral student within the English and Comparative Literature department. Currently emphasizing in comic studies, nationalist studies, adaptation theory, and francophone literature.

University of California Irvine Irvine, California, USA — *Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature with Specialization in World Literature*

SEPTEMBER 2017 - MARCH 2021

Alumna from the University of California Irvine. Awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees in Comparative Literature and Philosophy in March 2021. Graduated Cum Laude; final GPA of 3.76. Degree conferred March 2021.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) Yao City, Osaka, Japan — *Assistant Language Teacher*

AUGUST 2023 - PRESENT

Assistant language teacher for junior high English classes for Japanese grades 1-3. Supports lead English teachers by assisting with lessons and providing one on one help with students in class. Also creates class activities to practice grammar structures and or vocabulary. Additionally, creates cultural lessons for the students.

Ghent University Ghent, Flanders, Belgium — *Exchange Student and Literary Researcher*

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023

Post-graduate researcher with Ghent University's COMICS Department. Researching under Professor Maheen Ahmed and her graduate team. Emphasizes in politics and nationalist

LANGUAGES

English - Native

Spanish - Proficient

French - Proficient

Dutch - Beginner

Japanese - Beginner

SKILLS

Experienced in teaching environments

Experienced Academic Researcher

Resourceful

Flexible

Self-Motivated

Strong communication skills

Strong organizational ability

AWARDS

Fulbright Fellowship Grantee March 2022 - June 2023

Graduated Cum Laude March 2021

Member of Phi Beta Kappa

Endorsed by UCI's Scholarship Office since August 2021

Recipient of UC Irvine's Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research May 2021

UCI Dean's List Honoree - 9 Quarters

iconography in children's literature.

<https://www.comics.ugent.be/audrey-alexis-garcia/>

**Education USA Brussels, Brussels, Belgium— Fulbright
Ambassador**

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2024

Assists at Belgian college fairs and presents information on pursuing university in the United States. Responsibilities include attending college events, providing accurate information, and advising potential students.

**Walnut Valley Unified School District Walnut, California,
USA — Certificated Substitute Teacher**

JANUARY 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2022

CBEST Certified and holder of 30 Day Emergency Substitute Permit. Substitutes in grades K-12 in various in-district schools. Responsibilities include conducting class (including Dual Language Immersion and Special Education), facilitating aides, adapting lessons, and working closely with students.

**Sycamore Academy of Culture and the Arts Chino,
California, USA — Certificated Substitute Teacher**

DECEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022

CBEST Certified and holder of 30 Day Emergency Substitute Permit. Substitutes in grades K-8 Sycamore's independent charter school on their Chino campus. Responsibilities include conducting class, adapting lessons, and working closely with students.

**C2 Education Diamond Bar, California, USA — English and
AP Exam Prep Tutor**

JUNE 2021 - JUNE 2022

Tutored primarily in grades 6-12 in English but also offered support in Social Sciences, History, and Introductory Spanish. Classes included vocabulary, grammar practice, reading, and essay writing. Also tutored grades 9-12 in preparation for exams including AP exams, placement tests, and the SAT.

**UC Irvine's School of Social Sciences Global Connect
Internship Irvine, California, USA — Site Supervisor Intern**

AUGUST 2019 - MARCH 2021

Led an intern team of 8, hosted curriculum meetings, and structured lessons. Collaborated with teachers and other staff members to provide an engaging class environment. Assisted in writing curriculum for Global Connect's textbooks titled *Intro to*

**Recipient of the Panther Pride
Association Annual Scholarship June
2017**

**Bright Prospect Scholarship Recipient
June 2017**

Globalization and *Gen Z*. Participated in educational workshops to learn new techniques to increase student participation in class. Experienced in in-person and online teaching.

UC Irvine's Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) Irvine, California, USA — *Undergraduate Researcher*

JUNE 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Full-time researcher. Conducted individual research on nationalism in American comics by focusing on the evolution of Captain America in order to produce a research project titled "Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives". Research involved knowledge of library archives and online library resources. Worked closely with advisor Professor Eyal Amiran of UC Irvine's Comparative Literature Department.

UC Irvine's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) Irvine, California, USA — *Undergraduate Researcher*

JANUARY 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Conducted individual research on Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* and Takahiro Arai's manga adaptation of *Les Misérables* with focus on questions of rebellion and issues of nationalism. Worked with advisor Professor Jane Newman of UC Irvine's Comparative Literature Department. Research essay totaled 13 pages and worked temporarily with faculty from Ohio State University with knowledge of Japanese cultural products.

Panda Express Irvine, California, USA — *Server/Cashier*

SEPTEMBER 2017 - JUNE 2018

Performed prep work such as washing dishes, cutting vegetables, cleaning front of the house, etc. Resolved customer concerns and relayed relevant information to the supervisor. Prepared for busy periods by organizing ingredients and restocking supplies.

PROJECTS

A Critical Exploration of Political and Ideological Reflection in Belgian Comics

Project. Fulbright U.S. Student Program. *Ghent, Flanders, Belgium.*

MARCH 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2023

"Belgian comics are national treasures and the country's cultural products have been shared with a global audience. At the same time,

Belgian scholars have recognized that Belgium's colonial history and multicultural society have impacted the creation and reception of these comics. Belgian comics are a vessel that wield popular culture's massive influencing power; therefore, it has become vital that we attempt to understand which narratives are revered and which are disregarded by the national public. Under the supervision of Professor Maheen Ahmed, comics scholar, and Professor Anne Morelli, political historian, I explore these critical themes to understand how cultural products both influence and represent general attitudes, senses of identity, and the nation." Taken from the abstract of *A Critical Exploration of Political and Ideological Reflection in Belgian Comics*

ACME Speaker Series - The Imaginary Wild West: Transnational Tropes and the Franco-Belgian Cowboys as a Tool of Self-Reflection

Lecture. ACME and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. *Brussels, Belgium.*

MAY 2023

Lecture presented to ACME, a Belgian comics research group. Abstract: In this study, the prominence of the American cowboy rises to the forefront by presenting the cowboy and the mythological West to be a "safe space" for Belgian comics to explore their relation to power and its identity through a third party. Cowboys' unique openness results from the fact that the "American" cowboy is truly not American at all; cowboys popularized by cinema are based on Italian Spaghetti Westerns or are inspired by tales of Mexican 'vaqueros'. Therefore, the cowboy is a figment of imagination rooted in idealism and a mythologized version of the American West. The inherent transnationality of cowboys creates a figure capable of becoming adapted by any specific culture. The transnationalism of cowboys and geographic distance of its setting allows the genre to be used as a tool of fantasy that removes itself directly while maintaining its Franco-Belgian characteristics. Furthermore, the ability for these figures to travel internationally allows it to open pathways for various social commentary and expansion into new iterations of the trope.

The Unexpected Yeehaw: Belgian Cowboys and American Iconography in Belgian Comics

Presentation. Fulbright U.S. Grantee Symposium. *Brussels, Belgium.*

FEBRUARY 2023

Presentation on the initial development of 'A Critical Exploration of Political and Ideological Reflection in Belgian Comics'. Detailed the unexpected transnationalism of the comic book Western and the presence of cowboys as imagery. Symposium selected Fulbrighters to present at the United States Embassy in Brussels hosted by Ambassador M. Adler and the Belgian Fulbright Commission.

Johns Hopkins' Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Symposium - Presentation. Johns Hopkins University. *Baltimore, Maryland, USA*

APRIL 2021

After receiving a grant from UCI's School of Humanities to participate, I virtually presented "Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives" at Johns Hopkins' Macksey Symposium.

UCI's Undergraduate Research Symposium - *Irvine, California*

MAY 2021

Presented "Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives" to my home department of Comparative Literature. Attended as a speaker and as a nominee for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research.

Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives — Project. UC Irvine's SURP. *Irvine, California, USA.*

JUNE 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020

Completed during the summer of 2020 through UC Irvine's Summer Undergraduate Research Program.

"By analyzing a variety of Captain America comics from different eras of American American history, I disassemble binaries of the American narrative to reframe how American perspectives are vocalized in a popular medium. This deconstruction of the character reveals contradictions in American values that disrupts the traditional narrative and looks toward future problems with facism in the United States." Taken from the abstract of *Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives*.

Manga and *Les Misérables*: How Symbols of Nationalism Join the Cosmopolitan — UC Irvine's UROP

JUNE 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2021

Completed in summer 2020 through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

"Every culture produces classic works of iconic literature that later symbolize what that culture wishes to project as a part of its official history. In French literature, Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a classic tale of rebellion that persists as a popular story that has fascinated generations of people. Beyond its status as a French classic, however, From musicals to animations, *Les Misérables* has inspired dozens of adaptations elsewhere in the

world, including Takahiro Arai's 2012 manga adaptation. Translated into Japanese and rewritten in French by scholar Yoshio Toyoshima, Arai's rendition of *Les Misérables* raises questions of universality and allows the exploration of nationalism's role in creating a pathway to enter the cosmopolitan." Taken from the introduction of *Manga and Les Misérables: How Symbols of Nationalism Join the Cosmopolitan*.

PUBLICATIONS

“Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives”
Johns Hopkins’ Richard Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Journal Baltimore, Maryland - *Johns Hopkins University*

SEPTEMBER 2021

After presenting “Captain America: Disassembling Traditional Narratives” at Johns Hopkins’ Macksey Symposium in April 2021, the essay was selected for publication in the Johns Hopkins’ Macksey National Undergraduate Humanities Research Journal.

<https://mackseyjournal.scholasticahq.com/article/27882>

“Media Literacy” from Globalization UCI’s Global Connect. *Curriculum*.

JULY 2021

“Media Literacy” is a lesson for high school students that highlights the importance of developing media literacy to navigate our modern world. Taught as an interactive lesson that first tracks the history of media and how it has adapted to today, we present the dangers of unchecked information and inform the students of how to keep themselves accurately informed. Included in a larger text, Globalization.

<https://www.globalconnect.socsci.uci.edu/files/webppts/intro2globalization/09%20Media%20Literacy.pdf>

“In this second” - UCI’s Patient Project Community Journal. *Poetry*.

MAY 2021

Written for UCI’s Patient Project Community Journal, “In this second” was inspired by hopefulness in the midst of uncertainty.

<https://www.patiencejournal.org/post/in-this-second>

“A Confession of Love for Times New Roman” - UCI’s Patient Project Community Journal. *Poetry*.

MAY 2021

Written for UCI’s Patient Project Community Journal, “A Confession of Love for Times New Roman” is a light-hearted ode to an unexpected muse.

<https://www.patiencejournal.org/post/a-confession-of-love-for-times-new-roman>

“Stifling August” - UCI’s Patient Project Community Journal.
Poetry. University

FEBRUARY 2021

“Stifling August” is a debut piece that reflects on the constraints of time.

<https://www.patiencejournal.org/post/stifling-august>

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Serve the City: Brussels Brussels, Belgium — *Community Kitchen Volunteer*

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

Volunteer for food portioning to serve at Serve the City’s Community soup kitchen. Located at Holy Trinity Church in Ixelles, Brussels. Responsibilities include portioning food, packaging meals, cleaning kitchen, and loading shipments.

Ukrainian Refugee Center. Brussels, Belgium — *English 4 Refugees Tutor and English Table Host.*

SEPTEMBER 2022 - JUNE 2023

Volunteer English tutor for the Ukrainian Refugee Center based in Brussels. Project aims to assist Ukrainian Refugees in learning English to increase job opportunities in Belgium. Requires background in French. Responsibilities include assisting with class and writing curriculum for weekly lessons. Hosted English conversation tables weekly.

Ranch View Elementary Library Ontario, California — *Student Volunteer*

MAY 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2022

Assisted with inventory, shelving, and class visits.

UC Irvine Comparative Literature Department Irvine, California, USA — *Volunteer Mentor*

APRIL 2022 - JUNE 2022

Research mentor for an undergraduate researcher. Hosted meetings, provided personalized feedback, and offered research guidance and support.

UC Irvine French Department Irvine, California, USA —
Learning Assistant

JANUARY 2021 - MARCH 2021

Learning facilitator for Professor Maryse Mijalksi in French I for Spanish Speakers. Assisted students in-class via Zoom, created workshops, and activities. Prepared class materials and tutored at special events.

Ranch View Elementary School Ontario, California, USA —
Student Volunteer

AUGUST 2018 - MARCH 2020

Worked in small groups in the classroom, assisted teachers, and graded student work. Assisted primarily in kindergarten to fourth grade.

Engaged in one-on-one tutoring within the classroom in mathematics, social sciences, and language arts. Volunteered to assist in student activities and supervised recess.

UC Irvine FRESH Basic Needs Hub Irvine, California, USA
— *Student Volunteer*

JANUARY 2019 - JANUARY 2020

Advocated for food security. Stocked food pantry and assisted with food deliveries. Provided information to those interested in programs such as CalFresh. Encouraged and assisted peers from UC Irvine to utilize resources like the FRESH Basic Needs Hub.

