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College of Arts and Letters  
Department of Languages and Literature

Dear Dr. Ryan Hallows,

Thanks for accepting being one outside reviewer in my attempt to become a full professor at Johnson C. Smith University. I appreciate your willingness to review my work as I think you have the knowledge to contextualize my contributions in Latin American Studies.

I have published five different peer-reviewed articles in the area of Latin American Studies regarding topics that range from literary reviews to gender course analysis, from communal identity in music to discourse analysis. I am not in a research institution would require me to highly specialize in one area, but rather I am in a teaching institution, teaching four courses every semester that range from basic Spanish to general Latin American history, from Intermediate Spanish to Introduction to Latin American Literature. These multiple courses that I teach—see Curriculum Vitae—reflects in my general approach to Latin American Studies.

All the following mentioned five articles have been published in a varied of peer-reviewed platforms, from literary journals to history journals. They have been numbered from the latest to the oldest publication. Regardless of the background of the publishing journal and the topic the article analyses, they have one element in common that connects them: communal discourse analysis in Latin American. Additionally, I also shown collegiality and mentorship as I have co-author articles with a colleague in a different academic discipline as well as students. For example, I have co-authored one article with Dr. David Diaz- Arias-Chair of the Department of History at the University of Costa Rica, and two students, Ramon Garibaldo-Valdes, a student from Johnson C. Smith University Valdez (currently [a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Yale University](#)), and José Daniel Jiménez Bolaños, a master graduate student from the University of Costa Rica in History.

José Daniel Jiménez Bolaños and I put together the following the first article after he presented it as a final paper for one of my seminars at the University of Costa Rica-San Jose: (1) [“Entre la ciencia y la cultura: La conformación del discurso médico sobre la homosexualidad en el contexto del surgimiento del VIH/SIDA en Costa Rica.”](#) This article analyzes the how the medical discourse conceptualized and represented homosexuality during the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Costa Rica. I added the theoretical reflection on the issue of sexuality as an object of study that constructs subjectivity at the same time. After the theoretical approach, José Daniel Jiménez Bolaños analyzed how the journalistic discourses conceptualized the HIV/AIDS in the light of religious discourse, dichotomizing the Costarican society.

My second article, [“Theatrical Inauguration of a Parallax View: Intertextually-Mediated Communal Memory in Borges’s ‘Tema del traidor y del héroe’”](#) analyzes the discursive theatrical



mediation in the understanding of historical events. I argue that Borges narrates an impossible-to-reverse symbolic interpretation of a historical events by having a scripted theatrical historical event that deployed a specific discursive understanding of the events. Thus, even when the hero of the war of independence is found to be the traitor, his nationally anchored narrative as hero makes it impossible to undo. My third article "[El ruido y la nación: cómo el rock iberoamericano redefinió el sentido de comunidad en Latino América](#)" co-written with my former student Ramón Garibaldo Valdez, analyzes how process how the music rock and roll became a medium by which a new sense of Latin American identity came into being in the 90s. The student and I did an excellent cultural analysis by putting rock *vis a vis* national identity of the 1950s to 1970s only to be lifted after the market openness of the 1980s. We argue that the nationalistic discourses of the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century could no longer appeal to a new generation of youth who, first wanted to identified with music from English-Speaking countries, and finally became the vehicle to reimagine a supranational regional identity in the 90s with MTV Latino.

My fourth article (4) "[From Wonder to Disappointment: A Typewriter's \(Crashing\) Value and the Limits of Discourse in Los de abajo](#)" analyses the limits of the value-granting discourses of modernity in the Porfirian society as represented by a shining typewriter that gets destroy. I argue that the revolutionaries' destruction of the typewriter after looting it for its shiny looks reflects how uneven discourses of modernity in the illiterate revolutionaries. While modernity reached the cities, following the concept of the Lettered City, where the typewriter had a use, it did not reach the countryside where the revolutionaries destroy it. Thus, the typewriter destruction as the revolutionaries go into the countryside reflects the changing is value-granting discourses during the Porfirian dictatorship in Mexico.

The fifth article "[El entusiasmo en el poder de la palabra: Hugo Chávez y una tradición latinoamericana](#)" analyzes the enthusiams in Hugo Chavez as part of a Latin American tradition. I co-wrote it with Dr. David Diaz-Arias, who was then the Chair of the Graduate Department of History in Costa Rica. You can click on any of the following links to go directly to the pdf print-out.

I will need the letter by September 2021 to submit it by the middle of October 2021. If you have a question or require additional information, do not hesitate in contacting me at [mbahena@jcsu.edu](mailto:mbahena@jcsu.edu).

Sincerely,

Mario Bahena Uriostegui, PhD  
Chair, Languages and Literatures Department

