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He focuses on the literature of early modern Spain often from a comparative perspective. His interests include the politics of astrology; magic classical mythology and the Hermetic tradition; ekphrasis; the relations between the verbal and the visual particularly between Spanish literature and Italian art; and the interconnections between myth and empire during the rule of the Habsburgs.

He is the author of approximately 200 essays. His more recent books and collections include: *Cervantes, Raphael and the Classics* (1998); *European Literary Careers: The Author from Antiquity to the Renaissance* (2002); *Writing for the Eyes in the Spanish Golden Age* (2004); and *Ekphrasis in the Age of Cervantes* (2005); *Quixotic Frescoes: Cervantes and Italian Renaissance Art* (2006); *Hacia la tragedia áurea* (2008); *Ovid in the Age of Cervantes* (2010); *Calderón: del manuscrito a la escena* (2011); *Objects of Culture in the Literature of Imperial Spain* (2013); *Nuevas sonoras aves: catorce ensayos sobre Calderón de la Barca* (2015). His book *Don Quixote among the Saracens: Clashes of Civilizations and Literary Genres* (2011) was recognized with honorable mention for the PROSE Award in Literature 2011.

He has three books forthcoming in 2016, a revised and translated edition of his Astraea book, *El retorno de Astrea: Astrología, mito e imperio en Calderón* (Madrid: Iberoamericana); *La astrología en el teatro clásico europeo: de Lope de Vega a Shakespeare* (Madrid: Verbum); and a novel entitled *El abra del Yumuri* (Madrid: Verbum).