

Javier Patiño Loira is Assistant Professor of Spanish & Portuguese at UCLA, where he arrived in 2017 after earning his PhD from Princeton University. Javier's first book, *The Age of Subtlety: Nature and Rhetorical Conceits in Early Modern Europe*, is forthcoming from the University of Delaware Press in June 2024. At the crossroads between literature and the history of science, *The Age of Subtlety* studies the seventeenth-century craze for rhetorical conceits within the early modern culture of ingenuity, a form of creative, problem-solving use of the imagination that was at once responsible for the conceits of orators and poets, the machines of the engineer, the juggler's sleight of hand, the wiles of the statesman, and the discovery of truths about nature. Javier has also published numerous articles and book chapters on early modern Italian and Spanish rhetorical and poetic theory and the formation of libraries, as well as ideas on education and translation. At present, he is working on his second book, *Ecologies of Decay: Spontaneous Generation and Nature's Economy*, which argues that the study of spontaneous generation (the belief that insects, toads, fungi, and a variety of creatures emerged from decaying matter) crucially informed seventeenth-century ecological thought and contemporary views of nature's "economy," its program to remain always similar to itself yet never the same.