You joined us in 2005, what were you up to before that?
Well, I graduated from the Universidad Católica del Perú, and during the 1990s I taught semiotics, Latin American literature and literary theory in several universities in Lima. I also began writing literary criticism for El Comercio, the largest newspaper in Perú. Later on I started writing on politics and became the director of the newspaper’s Saturday cultural magazine, Somos. It was quite an interesting and challenging experience, because ours was one of the few newspapers opposing the dictatorship of Alberto Fujimori. By 1999, however, I decided to return to literature, my true calling, and I went to Cornell University, where I got my Ph.D. in 2005.

Which courses have you enjoyed the most at Bowdoin?
The ones I have found the most interesting are “Borges and the Borgesian” and “The Shining Path and the End of the World.” The course on Borges focused on his essays and narrative, particularly in their dialogue with world literature and film. For example, we studied French philosopher Michel Foucault and Polish-American filmmakers Larry and Andy Wachowski (“The Matrix”). The interdisciplinary course on the Shining Path examines terrorism –its Peruvian Maoist version of the 80s and 90s in particular– from a perspective that combines the social sciences and, of course, literary production in the form of short stories, novels, plays, and poetry.

Could you tell us about your recent research projects?
In 2006 I published Rebeldes: Sublevaciones indígenas y naciones emergentes en Hispanoamérica en el siglo XVIII, a series of essays on several indigenous upheavals from the eighteenth century in Latin America. The book’s thesis is that rebellions conducted by indigenous leaders were proposing more ethnically inclusive national projects than those carried out by the criollos (the elite of Spanish descent born in the Americas) who led the Independence movements later on in the nineteenth century.

I also finished writing my first novel, which is about to be published in Perú, and continue to direct Dissidences: Hispanic Journal of Theory and Criticism, an online scholarly journal I founded in 2005 that is now co-sponsored by Romance Languages and Latin American Studies: www.dissidences.org.