With a heavy heart we share the sad news that José Antonio Quiroga, Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish at Emory University, died at home on Thursday, January 11 of natural causes. He is survived by his mother Rita Molinero, his sister Lourdes Quiroga, his brother-in-law Thomas Graham, and his nephew José Castello.

José was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1959. His family moved to Puerto Rico, where he lived until he moved to Boston for his undergraduate studies. After receiving his B.A. in English and Latin American Literature from Boston University and his Ph.D. in Spanish from Yale University, he taught at The George Washington University before joining the Emory faculty in 2002. Quiroga also held visiting professorships at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, Berkeley, the University of Maryland, and the Universidad de la Pampa (Santa Rosa, Argentina), and was the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship.

He was a world-renowned literary critic who also published on film, music, and arts, especially those of Latino America and the Caribbean. He was a leading figure in studies in sexualities in the Americas.  José authored six books and numerous other studies, which include *Mapa Callejero. Crónicas sobre lo gay desde América Latina* (Buenos Aires: Eterna Cadencia, 2010); *Law of Desire: A Queer Film Classic* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2009); *Cuban Palimpsests* (U of Minnesota Press, 2005), *Sexualidades en disputa: homosexualidades, literatura y medios de comunicación en América Latina* (with Daniel Balderston, Buenos Aires: Libros del Rojas, 2005), *Tropics of Desire* (NYU Press, 2000), and *Understanding Octavio Paz* (U of South Carolina Press, 1999).

His work presents readers with sophisticated arguments about questions from various fields and registers, such as the Cold War or the turf wars of the Cuban exile movements; the photographs of Walker Evans and Osvaldo Salas, or the letters of Virgilio Piñera and Reinaldo Arenas; the poetry of Octavio Paz and other great poets of Latino America, or the queerness of Pedro Almodóvar.

José Quiroga was a generous mentor and teacher. He directed over two dozen doctoral theses and participated in numerous Honors theses. His graduate and undergraduate courses were cherished and much sought-after by students. With María M. Carrión, he directed one of the first US academic programs in Cuba, where a few Emory students were able to study first-hand with Cuban writers and artists whose work Quiroga supported and made known in American academia.

Quiroga served as a member of the Board for the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS-CUNY-NY), and in Washington, DC he was the Co-Chair of Gente Latina de Ambiente, which engaged in grassroots organizing and AIDS related work while providing  health and social services to the Latina/o Gay and Lesbian Community. He also helped supervise the Cultura es Vida AIDS Prevention Program under the sponsorship of National Latino Lesbians and Gays (LLEGO).

He was a well-respected and beloved colleague at Emory and beyond. The colleagues and students in many American- and Latino American universities who worked with him and knew his formidable intellectual presence and generous sense of collegiality will miss him dearly.

José was in poor health in the past few years. Despite his losing capacity to move and keep up with the frenzied pace of things as he used to, he never lost his outstanding elegance and sense of humor, and his brilliance and incisive mind never faded when it came to the questions that inspired and worried him.

The Department of Comparative Literature will organize a memorial service.