

# JUAN CABALLERO

## identity technologist & technology sociologist

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I am a lifelong technologist and inveterate polymath. I have been focused doggedly on decentralized digital identity and user-managed cryptography for years, with DLT systems, governance, and emerging business models as secondary topics of research. I would like to think my previous day-job as a college professor of humanities informs my skills as a community manager, an ersatz scrum master, and a standards editor. My previous researching areas (human rights, political theory, decolonization) underwrites more my approach to digital ethics, geopolitics, and data sovereignty, but beyond that, they also inform my vision of what a humane tech could look like, and why it's been so slow to emerge from today's venture-capital casino.

### MAJOR AND ONGOING CLIENTS

- 9/2020 - Advisor; Open Source Yenta (for the Credible, DIDKit, and Rebase projects)  
Spruce Systems – Decentralized Identity & Credentialing  
NY, NY (Remote)
- 7/2020 - Community + Communications Lead (half-time)  
Decentralized Identity Foundation – Linux Foundation Open-source project  
NY, NY (Remote)
- 7/2020 - Founder, CEO  
LearningProof aG – Community Management, Education, Standards Consulting  
Berlin, Germany
- 7/2019 - Grantwriting, Project Management, Research (contract)  
Spherity.com, GmbH – Self-Sovereign Identity platform  
Berlin, Germany
- 7/2018 Founder, Researcher, Partnerships  
Product Strategist (2020-2021 Mozilla/Coil Grant for the Web WMS project)  
SourceCheck.org (research & open-source collective)
- 7/2018 – 7/2019 Contributor & Berlin Correspondent  
Popula.com (online magazine of world culture; ConsenSys-backed)
- 5/2018 – 8/2019 Analyst, Researcher, Editor, Writer  
ThePurpleTornado.com – emerging technology research contractor  
(US Department of Homeland Security, Science & Technology Directorate)
- 7/2014 – 5/2017 Associate Professor of Spanish and Literature  
Earlham College  
Richmond, IN

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- “Decentralized Identity as a Meta-platform: How Cooperation Beats Aggregation,” with Michael Shea, Sam Smith, and Carsten Stöcker, *Rebooting the Web of Trust 9*. [bit.ly/spherityMetaPlatformPaper](http://bit.ly/spherityMetaPlatformPaper)
- “#SSI101: An Introductory Course on Self-Sovereign Identity, the Spherity Way,” [bit.ly/spheritySSI101](http://bit.ly/spheritySSI101)
- “Self-sovereign identity for digital publications and social media,” in Preukschat, Alex and Reed, Drummond (eds.), *Decentralized Digital Identity: The advent of Self-Sovereign Identity*, Manning Publications, NY, NY, late 2020.
- Head researcher and editor, *Entities, Identities, and Registries* (with Kaliya Young, February, 2019). *Securing Voter Data* (April 2019). *Distributed Ledgers in Modern Supply Chain Management* (September, 2019). The Purple Tornado.
- Contributing researcher and editor, *A Comprehensive Guide to Self-Sovereign Identity* (available as kindle e-book). The Purple Tornado, 2018.
- “Exploring Sustainable Technology Commons using Appreciative Inquiry,” with Adrian Gropper, Heather Vescent, and Kaliya Young. RWoT, May 2018 (via github).
- “Playful pedagogy and polemic bilingualism in the contemporary Argentine memoir of immigration: Mario Castells’ *El mosto y la queresá* (2012)”. *Critical Multilingualism Studies*, June 2017, U of Arizona.
- “Saint Lionel” (translated excerpt from Hernán Vanoli’s *Mellizas del bardo*, 2012) and accompanying essay. *Words without borders.org*, January 2015. (open access)
- Dirty Spanish* (general-readership slang phrasebook). Ulysses Press, 2008. Second edition, 2011.
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## EDUCATION

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| PhD | University of California, Berkeley<br>Department of Comparative Literature: Latin American Literature, German Literature (Modernism), American Literature (Modernism), Critical Theory (Genre and Popular Culture) | 2013 |
| BA  | University of California, Santa Cruz<br>Modern Literary Studies, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Computer Science, and Mandarin Chinese   | 2002 |

## MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND PAST LIVES

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|---|-------------|
| Assistant Professor, Dept. of Spanish and Hispanic Studies, Earlham College, Richmond, IN   | 2014-2017   |
| Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN   | 2013-2014   |
| Curriculum Developer and Web Design Consultant for the Library of Foreign Language Film Clips<br>Berkeley Language Center (during graduate studies) | 2012        |
| Translator and editor, <i>Balnearios</i> (feature-length script), Martin Rejtman, Buenos Aires  | 2009        |
| Research assistant and webmaster, Center for the Study of Sexual Culture  | 2004 – 2005 |
| Database engineer (PostgreSQL) and front-end developer (.NET), animecorner.com  | 2002-2004   |