




# Sara E. Castro Cantú

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Department of Spanish & Portuguese  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2025      **ABD    Ph.D. Candidate in Hispanic Linguistics**  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)  
Dissertation Chair: Salvatore Callesano, PhD
- 2024      **Heritage Language Summer Teacher Workshop**  
National Heritage Language Resource Center, UCLA
- 2023      **Graduate Minor in Latina/Latino Studies**  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- 2019      **M.A.    Linguistics | Concentration in Language and Culture**  
California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)
- 2017      **B.A.    Psychology (*cum laude*)**  
**Graduate of the University Honors Program**  
California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)

## VISITING RESEARCH POSITIONS

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- 2023      **Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)**  
Escuela Nacional de Lenguas, Lingüística y Traducción, Mexico City  
Supervisor: Roland Terborg, PhD | May 22 - June 19

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2023      **Tinker Field Collaborative Research Fellowship**, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS), UIUC
- 2023      **Conference Travel Grant**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2022      **Summer Research Fellowship**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Manuscript under review

- 2024            **Castro Cantú, S.**, & Callesano, S. (2024). Heritage Spanish speakers in Illinois and domains of use: A comparative study of self-reported proficiency across two university campuses. *Languages Special Issue: Spanish in the US: A Sociolinguistic Approach* [under review].

### Online book reviews

- 2022            Pye, J., & **Castro Cantú, S.** (2022, August 4). *Manufacturing Celebrity: Latino Paparazzi and Women Reporters in Hollywood* by Vanessa Díaz. The London School of Economics and Political Science.  
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2022/08/04/book-review-manufacturing-celebrity-latino-paparazzi-and-women-reporters-in-hollywood-by-vanessa-diaz/>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### PAPERS

- 2024            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2024, April 18). *El bilingüismo en la Ciudad de México: El inglés y el español en La Condesa y Roma Norte*. Presented at the 11th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS11), State University of New York at Buffalo, NY.
- 2024            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2024, Feb 9). *Using the Theory of Ecology of Pressures to understand language shift in Mexican Indigenous communities*. CLACS Summer Graduate Research Fellows Conference, UIUC.
- 2024            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2024, January 12). *El bilingüismo en el paisaje lingüístico de la Ciudad de México: El caso de La Condesa y Roma Norte*. Presented at the Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone world (BHL\_2024), January 10-12th, Puebla, Mexico.
- 2023            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2023, April 7). *Ideologías del español “estándar” en hablantes de herencia de español en Chicago*. Presented at the 28th Conference of Spanish in the U.S., April 6-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.
- 2022            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2022, September 30). *Exploring the discourse around “in-betweenness” of Latin American G1.5 in Los Angeles*. Presented at ALFALito 2022 (Proyecto 16), UIUC.
- 2022            **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2022, February 24). *Constructing identity through language: Perceptions of English and Spanish fluency among bilingual speakers*. Sociolinguistics Symposium (SoSy22), UIUC.

- 2021 **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2021, July 23). *Exploring the relationship between language attitudes and intergenerational language shift in Chicago's Mexican communities*. Illinois Summer Research Symposium, UIUC.
- 2017 **Castro, S. E.** (2017, Nov 13). *Effects of exposure and attitude in language maintenance and shift*. CSULB Graduate Research Conference.

## POSTERS

- 2022 **Castro Cantú, S.E.** (2022, October 27). *"In-between two worlds": An analysis of deictics in the discourse of G1.5 in Southern California*. Presented at the UIC Bilingualism Forum, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2019 **Castro, S. E., Holtz, M., Ku, N., & Finney, M.** (2019, June 23-28). *Ethnolinguistic vitality, ethnic affiliation, parental effort and heritage language maintenance in Southern California*. International Symposium on Bilingualism 12 (ISB12), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- 2019 Scenters-Zapico, J., Diesel, L., & **Castro, S. E.** (2019, April 11). *What do California State University, Long Beach alumni, instructors, and students think about the role of writing on campus and in their professions?* Presented at the WASC Senior College and University Commission Academic Resource Conference, Garden Grove, CA.
- 2018 **Castro, S. E., Holtz, M., & Ku, N.** (2018, November 14). *Effects of domains of language use, parental effort, attitude, and identity on heritage language maintenance*. CSULB Graduate Research Conference.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor of Record** | Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC  
 Spanish in the United States  
 Spanish for Business

**Teaching Assistant** | Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC  
 Advanced Spanish Grammar in Context  
 Introduction to Spanish Grammar  
 Intensive Elementary Spanish

**Teaching Assistant** | College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UIUC  
 Global Perspectives in Cross-Cultural Contexts  
 Global Perspectives for Intercultural Learning

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- 2024 **Graduate Student Teaching Award**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2021 - 2024 **List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students**, UIUC | Awarded Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- 2023 **President's Research in Diversity Travel Program**, The University of Illinois System
- 2023 **CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program**, The California State University | Faculty Mentor: Anna Bax, PhD
- 2021 **Summer Predoctoral Institute**, UIUC | Advisor: Salvatore Callesano, PhD
- 2019 **Excellence in Graduate Research Award**, Linguistics Department, CSULB
- 2019 **Distinguished Graduate Student Award**, Linguistics Department, CSULB
- 2019 **Outstanding Comprehensive Project**, Linguistics Department, CSULB
- 2018 **Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Scholarship** Honorable Mention, The California State University
- 2017 **Joann Beers Outstanding Service**, Department of Psychology, CSULB
- 2017 **Outstanding Senior in Psychology**, Department of Psychology, CSULB
- 2015 **Associate of Arts Awarded with Honors**, El Camino Community College

## CERTIFICATES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 2024 **Mentoring Matters @ Illinois Summer Institute**, UIUC
- 2024 **Graduate Teacher Certificate**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL), UIUC
- 2024 **Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) TA Seminar**, January 9-10, UIUC
- 2023 **Master Course in Online Teaching**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (CITL), UIUC
- 2023 **Mentoring Certificate**, Graduate College, UIUC, April 26th, 2023
- 2023 **Undocumented Student Ally Training**, UIUC, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
- 2020 **Elementary French courses**, Long Beach City College
- 2018 **UndocuAlly Training**, Dream Success Center, CSULB

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2021 - **Doctoral Researcher**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC  
P.I.: Salvatore Callesano, PhD | Sociolinguistics of Spanish in the U.S.

- 2018 - 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Linguistics Department, CSULB  
P.I.: Malcolm Finney, PhD | Heritage language shift and vitality
- 2017 - 2018 **Research Coordinator**, Writing Across the Curriculum, CSULB  
P.I.: John Scenters-Zapico, PhD
- 2016 - 2017 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, Department of Psychology, CSULB  
P.I.: Yada Treesukosol, PhD

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 **Online Content Editor**, National Heritage Language Resource Center, UCLA
- 2024 **Summer Courses Co-Coordinator**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2019 - 2021 **Coordinator**, Graduate Center, CSULB
- 2019 **Graduate Assistant**, Thesis & Dissertation Office, CSULB
- 2017 - 2019 **Graduate Assistant**, Graduate Center, CSULB
- 2017 **Writing Tutor**, El Camino Community College, Torrance, CA
- 2017 **Graduate Peer Advisor**, Career Development Center, CSULB
- 2017 **Instructional Student Assistant**, Department of Psychology, CSULB
- 2016 - 2017 **Writing Tutor**, University Writing Center, CSULB
- 2016 **Student Assistant**, Bob Murphy Access Center, CSULB

## SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER

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### DISCIPLINE-LEVEL SERVICE

- 2024 - **Associate Editor**, *Intersecciones hispánicas: Revista de literatura, cultura y lingüística*, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of New Mexico
- 2023 - **First Generation Access and Equity (FGAE) Committee**, Linguistic Society of America

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024 - 2025 **Committee on Public Engagement and Outreach**, University of Illinois Senate
- 2023 - 2024 **President**, Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Organization (SPGO), UIUC
- 2022 - 2023 **Capricious Grading Committee**, SPGO, UIUC
- 2021 - 2022 **Organizing Committee**, Sociolinguistics Symposium, UIUC
- 2016 - 2017 **Undergraduate Intern**, Graduate Center, CSULB
- 2016 - 2017 **Vice President**, Psychology Student Association, CSULB
- 2016 **Psychology Resource Office Guide**, Department of Psychology, CSULB

## **MENTORSHIP**

2022 - 2023 **Graduate Mentor**, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, UIUC

## **COMMUNITY WORK**

2022 - 2023 **Spanish Interpreter**, The Immigration Project, Central and Southern Illinois

2015 **Spanish Language Interpreter**, Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Linguistic Society of America

Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina

American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese

American Anthropological Association

Society for Linguistic Anthropology

## **LANGUAGES**

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English: full proficiency, Spanish: full proficiency, French: elementary proficiency