

Sara E. Castro Cantú

Curriculum Vitae

Loyola University Maryland
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
4501 N Charles Street, Baltimore MD 21210

scastrocantu@loyola.edu

EDUCATION

- 2025 **Ph.D. Hispanic Linguistics**
 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)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

- 2025 - pres. **Assistant Professor** | Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
 Loyola University Maryland

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 **Summer Research Grant**, Loyola University Maryland
 Project: *Spanish in Charm City: Language, identity, and community in the Baltimore diaspora*
- 2023 **Tinker Field Collaborative Research Fellowship**, Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS), UIUC
- 2023 **Summer Research Fellowship**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2023 **Conference Travel Grant**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2022 **Summer Research Fellowship**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2025 **Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIUC

- 2024 **Elizabeth Dayton Award**, Linguistic Society of America
- 2024 **Graduate Student Teaching Award**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 2023 **CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program**, The California State University | Faculty Mentor: Anna Bax, PhD
- 2021 - 2025 **List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students**, UIUC | Awarded Spring 2025*, Fall 2024, Spring 2024*, Fall 2023*, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022, Spring 2022*, Fall 2021 | **outstanding distinction*
- 2023 **President's Research in Diversity Program**, University of Illinois System
- 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

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2025 **Castro Cantú, S.E., & Callesano, S. (2025)** Domains of use and self-reported proficiency: A comparative study of heritage Spanish speakers across two university campuses. *International Journal of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest*, 44(1).
<https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/ijlasw/vol44/iss1/5>
- 2025 **Castro Cantú, S.E. (2025).** Ideologies of standard Spanish: Discourses of later-generation heritage speakers of Spanish in Illinois. *Spanish as a Heritage Language*, 5(2), 295-318. <https://doi.org/10.5744/shl.2025.2728>
- under review **Castro Cantú, S.E.** Language and belonging at a Hispanic-Serving Institution: Qualitative insights from heritage speakers of Spanish. Under review at *Journal of Language, Identity & Education*.
- under review **Castro Cantú, S.E.** English in the linguistic landscape of Mexico City: The case of La Condesa and Roma Norte. Under review at the conference proceedings of the *11th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2025 Castro Cantú, S.E. (April). Book review of Defectors: The rise of the Latino far right and what it means for America, by Paola Ramos. *Intersecciones Hispánicas: Revista de Cultura, Literatura y Lingüística*, (2), 145-146. <https://tinyurl.com/4eha4ate>
- 2022 Pye, J., & Castro Cantú, S.E. (August 4). Manufacturing Celebrity: *Latino Paparazzi and Women Reporters in Hollywood* by Vanessa Díaz. The London School of Economics and Political Science. <https://tinyurl.com/lseuk2022>
- under review Castro Cantú, S.E. Voicing “identidad” and the Latinx Washingtonians: Book Review of *Empanadas, pupusas, and greens on the side: Language and latinidad in the Nation's Capital* by Amelia Tseng. Under review at *American Speech*.

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND INVITED TALKS

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 *Spanish language vitality in Maryland: An analysis of language maintenance among heritage speakers*. 12th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS12), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. April 10th
- 2026 *Cultivating belonging at a Hispanic-Serving Institution: Qualitative insights from heritage speakers of Spanish*. Fifth International Conference of Heritage/Community Languages, National Heritage Language Resource Center Conference, UCLA. February 27th
- 2024 *El bilingüismo en la Ciudad de México: El inglés y el español en La Condesa y Roma Norte*. 11th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS11), State University of New York at Buffalo, NY. April 18th
- 2024 *Using the Theory of Ecology of Pressures to understand language shift in Mexican Indigenous communities*. CLACS Summer Graduate Research Fellows Conference, UIUC. February 9th
- 2024 *El bilingüismo en el paisaje lingüístico de la Ciudad de México: El caso de La Condesa y Roma Norte*. Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone world (BHL-2024), Puebla, Mexico. January 12th
- 2023 *Ideologías del español “estándar” en hablantes de herencia de español en Chicago*. 28th Conference of Spanish in the U.S., Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. April 7th

- 2022 *Exploring the discourse around “in-betweenness” of Latin American G1.5 in Los Angeles.* ALFALito 2022 (Proyecto 16, Cuestiones lingüísticas en relación con la diáspora latinoamericana), UIUC. September 30th
- 2022 *Constructing identity through language: Perceptions of English and Spanish fluency among bilingual speakers.* Sociolinguistics Symposium (SoSy22), UIUC. February 24th

ORGANIZED PANELS AND WORKSHOPS

- 2025 McKinnon, S., Callesano, S., **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, Christiansen, S., & Yakushkina, M. (April 11). *Critical perspectives of so-called ‘no sabo kids.’* Panel presented at the 29th Conference of Spanish in the U.S., April 10-12, University of Texas, San Antonio, San Antonio, TX.
- 2025 Destro-Boruchowski, I.L., **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, Hitchins-Chik, C, & Diaz, A. (October 4). *How the new NHLRC online professional development course addresses community-based heritage language schools’ needs.* Presented at the 12th Annual Community-Based Heritage Language Schools Conference, October 3-4, American University, Washington, D.C.

POSTERS

- 2022 Castro Cantú, S.E. (October 27). *“In-between two worlds”:* An analysis of deictics in the discourse of G1.5 in Southern California. UIC Bilingualism Forum, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2019 **Castro, S. E.**, Holtz, M., Ku, N., & Finney, M. (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.** (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?* WASC Senior College and University Commission Academic Resource Conference, Garden Grove, CA.
- 2018 **Castro, S. E.**, Holtz, M., & Ku, N. (November 14). *Effects of domains of language use, parental effort, attitude, and identity on heritage language maintenance.* CSULB Graduate Research Conference.

GUEST COURSE LECTURES

- 2026 Heritage speakers of at Hispanic-Serving Institutions: A sociolinguistic Approach. RGR 485 – *Intercomprehension among Romance Languages.* Course taught by Dr. Clorinda Donato at California State University, Long Beach. April 23rd

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 - pres. **Loyola University Maryland**
Spanish in the United States
Introduction to Spanish Linguistics
Intermediate Spanish
- 2021 - 2025 **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)**
Spanish in the United States (*instructor of record*)
Spanish for Business
Oral Spanish
Elementary Spanish II
Intensive Elementary Spanish
Introduction to Spanish Grammar
Advanced Spanish Grammar in Context
Global Perspectives in Cross-Cultural Contexts
Global Perspectives for Intercultural Learning

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 **Visiting Researcher**, Escuela Nacional de Lenguas, Lingüística y Traducción, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
Supervisor: Roland Terborg, PhD | May 22 - June 19, 2023
- 2018 - 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Linguistics Department, CSULB
P.I.: Malcolm Finney, PhD
- 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

SERVICE

MENTORSHIP

- 2026 **Faculty Supervisor**, Student Research Assistant Program, Loyola University Maryland
- 2024 - 2025 **Graduate Mentor**, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, UIUC | Mentored a linguistics undergraduate student
- 2022 - 2023 **Graduate Mentor**, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program, UIUC | Mentored a first-generation undergraduate student

DISCIPLINE-LEVEL SERVICE

- 2023 - pres. **First Generation Access & Equity Committee**, Linguistic Society of America
- 2024 - 2025 **Associate Editor**, *Intersecciones hispánicas: Revista de literatura, cultura y lingüística*, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of New Mexico

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024 - 2025 **Committee on Public Engagement and Outreach**, University of Illinois Senate, UIUC
- 2024 **Fulbright Interview Committee**, National and International Scholarships Program, UIUC
- 2024 **Session Presenter**, Graduate Academy for College Teaching, UIUC | Title: "Differentiated Instruction: Principles and Strategies," August 20th
- 2024 **Organizing Committee / Chair of Abstract Review Committee**, Latine Studies Graduate Student Conference, UIUC
- 2021 - 2022 **Organizing Committee**, Sociolinguistics Symposium, UIUC

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2024 - 2025 **Graduate Assistant**, Social Dynamics of Language Variation and Change Reading Group, UIUC
- 2023 - 2024 **President**, Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Organization (SPGO), UIUC
- 2022 - 2023 **Capricious Grading Committee**, SPGO, UIUC
- 2016 - 2017 **Vice President**, Psychology Student Association, CSULB
- 2016 **Psychology Resource Office Guide**, Department of Psychology, CSULB

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2025 - pres. **ESL Volunteer**, Immigration Outreach Service Center, Baltimore, MD
- 2022 - 2023 **Spanish Interpreter**, The Immigration Project, Downstate Illinois
- 2015 **Spanish Interpreter**, Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - 2026 **Content Development**, National Heritage Language Resource Center, UCLA
- 2025 **Co-Coordinator of Summer Courses**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC | Coordinated SPAN 142, 202, 228, 252, 305, 307
- 2024 **Co-Coordinator of Summer Courses**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC | Coordinated SPAN 142, 202, 228, 252, 305, 307

- 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 - 2017 **Undergraduate Intern**, Graduate Center, CSULB
- 2016 **Student Assistant**, Bob Murphy Access Center, CSULB

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 **Teacher Scholar Certificate**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, UIUC
- 2024 **Heritage Language Summer Teacher Workshop**, National Heritage Language Resource Center, UCLA
- 2024 **Certificate Program in Student Success Analytics**, The California State University
- 2024 **Graduate Teacher Certificate**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, UIUC
- 2023 **Master Course in Online Teaching**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, UIUC
- 2023 **Mentoring Certificate**, Graduate College, UIUC, April 26th
- 2021 **Summer Predoctoral Institute**, UIUC | Advisor: Salvatore Callesano, PhD
- 2020 **Elementary French courses**, Long Beach City College

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2026 **Faculty Fellow for Community-Engaged Teaching**, Loyola University Maryland
- 2026 **Safe Zone Training**, Loyola University Maryland
- 2026 **Mental Health First Aid**, Loyola University Maryland, January 9th
- 2024 **Mentoring Matters @ Illinois Summer Institute**, UIUC, June 11-12th
- 2024 **Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) TA Seminar**, UIUC, January 9-10
- 2023 **Undocumented Student Ally Training**, UIUC, March 3rd
- 2018 **UndocuAlly Training**, Dream Success Center, CSULB

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Linguistic Society of America

Linguistic Association of the Southwest

Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina

American Association of Teachers of Spanish & Portuguese

Society for Linguistic Anthropology