

# Sara E. Castro Cantú

## Curriculum Vitae

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

[scastrocantu@loyola.edu](mailto:scastrocantu@loyola.edu)

### EDUCATION

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- 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

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

### HONORS AND AWARDS

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- 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

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2025 **Conference Travel Grant**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, UIUC
- 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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2025 Castro Cantú, S.E. (forthcoming). Ideologies of standard Spanish: Discourses of later-generation heritage speakers of Spanish in Illinois. Forthcoming at *Spanish as a Heritage Language*.

### 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.
- 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>

### ARTICLES 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*.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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### PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Castro Cantú, S.E. (April 18). *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.
- 2024 Castro Cantú, S.E. (February 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. (January 12). *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.
- 2023 Castro Cantú, S.E. (April 7). *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.
- 2022 Castro Cantú, S.E. (September 30). *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.
- 2022 Castro Cantú, S.E. (February 24). *Constructing identity through language: Perceptions of English and Spanish fluency among bilingual speakers*. Sociolinguistics Symposium (SoSy22), UIUC.

### ORGANIZED PANELS

- 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.

### WORKSHOPS

- 2025 Destro-Boruchowski, I.L., **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, & Hitchins-Chik, C. (upcoming). *How the new NHLRC online professional development course addresses community-based heritage language schools' needs*. To be presented at the 2025 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.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Loyola University Maryland

Introduction to Spanish Linguistics  
Intermediate Spanish

### 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

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- 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 TO THE PROFESSION AND DEPARTMENT

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### 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

### CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2024 **Organizing Committee / Chair of Abstract Review Committee**, Latine Studies Graduate Student Conference, UIUC
- 2021 - 2022 **Organizing Committee**, Sociolinguistics Symposium, UIUC

### UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL 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 - 2025 **Graduate Assistant**, Social Dynamics of Language Variation and Change Reading Group, UIUC
- 2024 **Session Presenter**, Graduate Academy for College Teaching, UIUC | Title: "Differentiated Instruction: Principles and Strategies," August 20<sup>th</sup>
- 2023 - 2024 **President**, Spanish and Portuguese Graduate Organization (SPGO), UIUC
- 2022 - 2023 **Capricious Grading Committee**, SPGO, 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

- 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

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- 2022 - 2023 **Spanish Interpreter**, The Immigration Project, Downstate Illinois
- 2015 **Spanish Interpreter**, Special Olympics World Games, Los Angeles, CA

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2024 - pres. **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 **Student Assistant**, Bob Murphy Access Center, CSULB

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 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
- 2024 **Mentoring Matters @ Illinois Summer Institute**, UIUC, June 11-12<sup>th</sup>
- 2024 **Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) TA Seminar**, UIUC, January 9-10
- 2023 **Master Course in Online Teaching**, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, UIUC
- 2023 **Mentoring Certificate**, Graduate College, UIUC, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- 2023 **Undocumented Student Ally Training**, UIUC, March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 2021 **Summer Predoctoral Institute**, UIUC | Advisor: Salvatore Callesano, PhD
- 2020 **Elementary French courses**, Long Beach City College
- 2018 **UndocuAlly Training**, Dream Success Center, CSULB

## **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