

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 * <i>outstanding distinction</i>
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. <i>International Journal of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest</i> , 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. <i>Spanish as a Heritage Language</i> , 5(2), 295-318. https://doi.org/10.5744/shl.2025.2728
under review	Standard language ideology and the 'no sabo kid' label: An analysis of heritage speakers' perspectives in two metropolitan areas. Under review at <i>International Journal of the Sociology of Language</i> .
under review	Language and belonging at a Hispanic-Serving Institution: Qualitative insights from heritage speakers of Spanish. Under review at <i>Journal of Language, Identity & Education</i> .

under review 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

- 2026 Castro Cantú, S.E. (August). 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. *American Speech*, 101(3), 341-354. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00031283-12720221>
- 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(1), 145-146. https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/intersecciones_hispanicas/vol2/iss1/13
- 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>

CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND INVITED TALKS

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Castro Cantú, S.E. (April 10). *Spanish language vitality in Maryland: An analysis of language maintenance among heritage speakers*. (April 10). 12th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS12), Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 2026 Castro Cantú, S.E. (February 27). *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.
- 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, Buffalo, NY.
- 2024 **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, Glödstaß, W., & King, E. (March 1). *The sociolinguistics of study abroad in an online community: The case of a public university in the Midwest*. Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics (GURT): Education Abroad Language, Learners, and Communities. Georgetown University, Washington D.C.

- 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 AND WORKSHOPS

- 2026 **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, Alarcon, L., López Alonso, K., Pye, J., Solano-Escobar, L., & Rahming, V. Spanish in higher education: 21st century perspectives, challenges, and pedagogical approaches. To be presented at the 55th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest, October 8-10, Towson University, MD.
- 2025 McKinnon, S., Callesano, S., **Castro Cantú, S.E.**, Christiansen, S., & Yakushkina, M. (April 11). *Critical perspectives of so-called ‘no sabo kids.’* Presented at the 29th Conference of Spanish in the U.S., University of Texas, 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*. Workshop presented at the 12th Annual Community-Based Heritage Language Schools Conference, 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 Spanish 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 Composition & Conversation
 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

- 2025 - 2026 **Faculty Co-organizer**, “Hora de café con leche” Spanish conversation group, Loyola University Maryland
- 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

- 2026 - pres. **Faculty Advisor**, Spanish Club, Loyola University Maryland
- 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 - 2026 **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 26 th
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 9 th
2024	Mentoring Matters @ Illinois Summer Institute , UIUC, June 11-12 th
2024	Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) TA Seminar , UIUC, January 9-10
2023	Undocumented Student Ally Training , UIUC, March 3 rd
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