

PhD in Spanish Linguistics

Graduate Faculty

A full list of SILC faculty may be found at: <https://silc.asu.edu/about/people>

Updated: June 2025

PhD in Spanish Linguistics

Graduate Faculty

Research

- **Sara Beaudrie**, Professor, Spanish Linguistics and Director of SILC
- **Alvaro Cerron-Palomino**, Faculty Head of Spanish and Associate Professor, Spanish
- **Lorena Cuya-Gavilano**, Associate Professor of Spanish
- **Michael Gradoville**, Assistant Professor, Spanish
- **Olga Kellert**, Associate Professor, Spanish
- **Barbara Lafford**, Professor Emeritus, Spanish
- **Marta Tecedor Cabrero**, Assistant Professor, Spanish

Other

- **Hope Anderson**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Assistant to the Director of Digital Services
- **Omar Beas**, Associate Teaching Professor, Spanish
- **Steven Flanagan**, Associate Teaching Professor, Spanish
- **Anne Walton-Ramirez**, Teaching Professor

PhD students are also welcome to study with SILC research faculty not listed above.
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PhD in Spanish Linguistics

Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Sara Beaudrie, Spanish Linguistics and Director of SILC

Professor Beaudrie's research interests include heritage language development and classroom instruction, language program development, bilingualism, heritage language assessment and literacy development, and critical approaches to HL pedagogy. She has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and presented in national conferences on heritage language pedagogy and development. She is the co-editor of Spanish as a heritage language in the United States: "The State of the Field," published by Georgetown University Press and the co-author of "Heritage language pedagogy: Research and Practice," published with McGraw Hill. Her co-edited book (2016) is entitled: "Innovative strategies for heritage language teaching: Guidelines for the classroom." Her most recent co-edited book (2022) is "Heritage Language Teaching: Critical Language Awareness Perspectives for Research and Pedagogy" with Routledge.

Research interests:

Heritage Language Pedagogy, Second Language Acquisition, Second Language Writing, Spanish, Bilingualism, Spanish Applied Linguistics

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Language Program Administration, Spanish Second Language Methods, Spanish Heritage Language Pedagogy, Spanish Heritage Language Research, Bilingualism: Language, Ideologies, Politics, and Education

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Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Alvaro Cerron-Palomino,
Faculty Head of Linguistics
and Associate Professor,
Spanish

Professor Cerrón-Palomino obtained his doctorate in Hispanic linguistics at the University of Southern California, and his teaching and research interests include variationist sociolinguistics, dialectology, and historical linguistics. Cerrón-Palomino's main area of research is morpho-syntactic variation in understudied varieties of Spanish, both monolingual and bilingual. His publications include articles in journals like Spanish in Context, Sociolinguistic Studies, Lingüística, Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics, and the International Journal of Bilingualism, among others.

Research interests:

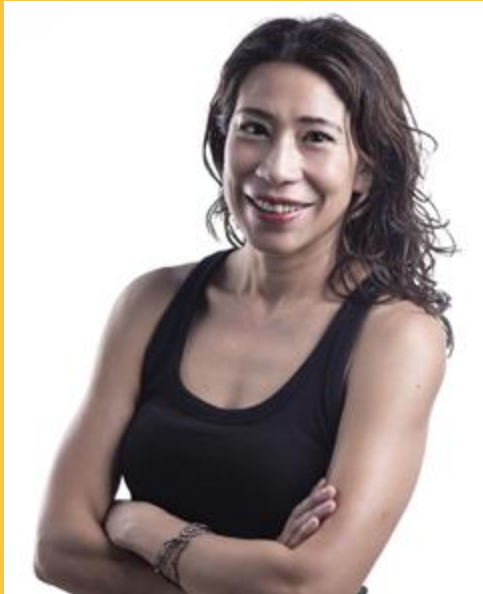
Classics, Linguistics, Spanish, Statistics, Syntax and Morphology

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Advanced Topics in Sociolinguistics, Semantics, History of the Spanish Language, Spanish Language in America, Studies in the Spanish Southwest

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Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Lorena Cuya-Gavilano,
Associate Professor of
Spanish

Dr. Cuya-Gavilano is the author of *Fictions of Migration: Narratives of Displacement in Peru and Bolivia* (2021, reprinted 2025) and numerous article and chapter publications. She is currently researching Andean cultural productions of the post-Cold War and the Andean imaginaries of the Anthropocene. Cuya-Gavilano's most recent work questions and rethinks notions of de-localization and displacement beyond decoloniality.

Her prize-winning research and academic initiatives have won funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Fulbright Commission, and the ASU Public History Fund, among other institutions. Most recently, she has been a Visiting Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and at the University of Bordeaux Montaigne, France. Dr. Cuya-Gavilano has served as the Faculty Lead for the Spanish for the Professions Program at ASU and has also published on Languages for Specific Purposes and Intercultural Communication.

Research interests:

Andean Cultural Studies, Migration Studies, Film Analysis, Anthropocene, Contemporary Latin American Cultural Studies, Transnationalism, and Human Geography

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Dr. Cuya-Gavilano's teaching and mentoring interests include Andean Cultural Studies (film, literatures, and other textualities), Migration Studies, Anthropocene, Transnationalism, critical theory, and Post Cold War Cultural productions

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Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Michael Gradoville,
Assistant Professor of
Spanish

Michael Gradoville is an assistant professor of Spanish. He teaches upper-division and graduate-level Spanish linguistics courses in addition to general linguistics courses within the School of International Letters and Cultures. His research interests include usage-based linguistic theory (especially in phonology), sociophonetics, corpus linguistics, quantitative research methodologies in linguistics, and language variation and change. His research activity includes varieties of Spanish and Portuguese spanning the Western Hemisphere. His work has appeared in journals such as the Journal of Phonetics, Lingua, Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory, and the International Journal of Bilingualism. Prior to his arrival at ASU, Gradoville taught at the University of New Mexico, Indiana University and Spelman College.

Research interests:

Linguistics-Research Methodology, Phonetics and Phonology, Portuguese, Sociolinguistics, Spanish

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Spanish Phonology, Research Methods for Linguistics, Project-based Learning, Heritage Language Learning

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Olga Kellert, Associate
Professor of Spanish

Dr. Olga Kellert is the author of numerous articles at the intersection of **sociolinguistics and artificial intelligence**. Her current research explores how AI can assist in the linguistic analysis of multilingual communication—such as interactions between Spanish and English speakers in the United States, or between Spanish and Guaraní speakers in Paraguay. Her most recent work proposes innovative methods for approaching linguistic questions using computational tools. She has received several grants for interdisciplinary projects investigating how computational methods and language technologies can address sociolinguistic issues, including the impact of language, social background, and information sources on health education.

Dr. Kellert supervises students in linguistics, bioscience, and computer science, who apply language technologies and text analysis techniques to tackle pressing social questions.

Research Interests:

Artificial Intelligence and Communication; Health Literacy; Multilingualism; Low-Resource Languages

Areas of Graduate Mentoring:

Dr. Kellert's teaching and mentoring span AI and Communication, Health Literacy, Statistics, Language Technology, Mass Media, and New Research Methods.

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Core Faculty: SUM/WTR Faculty Research



Barbara Lafford, Emeritus
Professor, Emeritus College

Barbara A. Lafford is a Professor Emerita of Spanish in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts. In addition to her professorial duties, Lafford has served as the associate dean of extended education and as head of the languages and cultures faculty group in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts at the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus. After arriving at ASU, she published in the areas of Spanish sociolinguistics, second language acquisition (SLA), Spanish applied linguistics, computer assisted language learning (CALL), and languages for specific purposes/experiential learning. She has also worked with the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, the School of Social Work, and the College of Nursing and Health Innovation to create Spanish courses focused on the needs of students in those fields, so they can interact effectively with the community they serve. Under her leadership, the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts created an undergraduate minor and certificate in Spanish for the professions that is offered at the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus and online. Professor Lafford has participated in her profession at the national level in several capacities. She has served as associate editor for the Applied Linguistics section of *Hispania*, chair of the Board for CALICO (the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium), and she held the post of editor for the Monograph/Focus Issue Series of the *Modern Language Journal* from 2005–14.

Research interests:

Applied Linguistics, Spanish

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Spanish linguistics, sociolinguistics, second language acquisition, research methods in linguistics, the use of technology to teach second languages, Spanish for the professions, and Spanish applied linguistics.

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Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Marta Tecedor Cabrero,
Assistant Professor of
Spanish

Marta Tecedor is an assistant professor in Spanish linguistics in the School of International Languages and Cultures. She earned her doctorate in second language acquisition (2013) from the University of Iowa, with an specialization in technology. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in teaching methods, second language acquisition, computer-assisted language learning, and Spanish language. As an applied linguist, her primary area of research is computer-assisted language learning with a focus on flipped and online curricular models. In her current research, she examines how the use of multimedia technologies can be incorporated in the foreign language classroom to promote the development of linguistic, interactional, and intercultural competencies. Over the past few years, her work on these topics has appeared in peer-reviewed journals, such as Foreign Language Annals, Hispania, ReCALL, Computer Assisted Language Learning, and Pragmatics.

Research interests:

Curriculum Design, Linguistics, Online Education: Online Teaching and Learning, Second Language Acquisition, Spanish

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Online Learning, Topics in Applied Linguistics, Spanish Second Language Acquisition,

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Hope Anderson, Clinical Assistant Professor, Assistant to the Director of Digital Services

Hope M. Anderson is Clinical Assistant Professor of Spanish and founder of Teaching Solved LLC. She holds a doctorate in Second Language Acquisition & Teaching from the University of Arizona with a specialization in Second Language Pedagogical Theory and Program Administration. She coordinated the hybrid Spanish program at the University of Arizona and the lower-level Spanish program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell before coming to ASU. Her research interests include hybrid language pedagogy and curriculum design. Her first book, *Blended Basic Language Courses: Design, Pedagogy, and Implementation*, was published by Routledge Research in 2018. At ASU, she teaches Spanish linguistics and other Spanish content courses. Her startup, Teaching Solved LLC, aims to help teachers help students learn languages through useful tech tools.

Research interests:

Second Language Acquisition, Spanish, Applied Linguistics, Pedagogical Studies, Curriculum Design

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Second/Foreign Language Teaching & Learning, Proseminar, Second Language Acquisition

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Omar Beas, Associate
Teaching Professor of
Spanish

Omar Beas is originally from Lima, Peru. He received his doctorate in linguistics from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2007. He was a lecturer in Spanish at several institutions in Los Angeles, California before moving to Phoenix, Arizona in 2012. In 2012-2014, he became a visiting assistant professor at the School of International Letters and Cultures at the Arizona State University, where he currently works as an Associate Teaching Professor.

Research interests:

Spanish, Typology, Phonetics, Syntax and Morphology, Second Language Acquisition, Phonology

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Second Language Acquisition

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Steven Flanagan, Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish

Dr. Steven Flanagan is an Associate Teaching Professor of Spanish and Director of Spanish Second Language Acquisition who has studied and worked at ASU since 2013. He has spent time in Mexico as well as several years living and working abroad in Spain during which time he attended the Universitat d'Alacant (Alicante, Spain) and honed his language skills. He has taught various basic, intermediate, and advanced undergraduate Spanish courses ranging from SPA 101 to SPA 413 in both hybrid and completely online formats as well as graduate level courses in second language teaching methodologies. His primary focus is to concentrate on contributing in meaningful ways to the pedagogical and service growth of the Spanish and Portuguese section in the School of International Letters and Cultures, and the university. In addition to these efforts, he conducts research focused on post-secondary teacher training, language curriculum design, and online/hybrid language learning related to increasing student success. He was the 2020-2021 recipient of The College's Outstanding Instructor Award.

Research interests:

Second Language Acquisition, Spanish, Applied Linguistics, Higher and Postsecondary Education, Online Education: Online Teaching and Learning, Teaching and Teacher Education

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Spanish Language Coordinator.

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Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



Anne Walton-Ramirez,
Teaching Professor

I have been teaching Spanish at Arizona State University since 1996 and became full-time faculty in 1999. I have studied translation during my Masters program along with Second-Language Acquisition and other areas of research. During my PhD studies I focused on English linguistics with a focus on semantics and syntax. My current position is Coordinator for second language courses in our Upper Division Tempe campus program.

Research interests:

Spanish, Linguistics, Translation

Areas of graduate mentoring:

Coordinator for second language courses