

Luis David Gaytán-Soto

Education

- 2022-Present **M.A.** Hispanic Linguistics (with Distinction)
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Faculty Advisor: [Melissa Bowles, Ph.D.](#)
- 2018-2022 **B.A.** Spanish (Linguistics & Literature) | *Cum Laude*
Minors: History & Philosophy | McNair Scholar (2021-2022)
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (CPP)
Faculty Advisor: [Amalia Llombart-Huesca, Ph.D.](#)

Research Interests: Instructed heritage and second language acquisition, heritage literacy development, phonological awareness training, Spanish in the US, bilingualism, writing vs typing, second and heritage language writing

Non-Degree Education

(•= University Internal) (†=External)

2023 Summer (7 Weeks) Intensive Portuguese Summer Program | **Middlebury College** †

Summer Research Programs

(•= University Internal) (†=External)

- 2022 Summer (9 Weeks) Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute | **UIUC** •
Faculty Advisor: [Salvatore J. Callesano, Ph.D.](#)
- 2021 Summer (7 Weeks) Summer Research Opportunity Program | **Northwestern University** †
Faculty Advisor: [Miguel Caballero-Vazquez, Ph.D.](#)

Academic Employment History

- Fall 2023 (16 Weeks) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | UIUC
¹Access and Achievement Program Graduate Student Assistant
- Spring 2021 (16 Weeks) Office of Student Success, Equity, and Innovation | CPP
²Early Assessment Program Administrative Student Assistant

¹ Supported ~30 1st generation students by holding one on one advising sessions with them and co-teaching

² Supported prospective 1st generation students entering from high school & community college to 4yr college

Publication(s)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Article(s)

1. 2023 Llobart-Huesca, A., **Gaytán-Soto, L.** "[Spanish Heritage Language Learners: Reading difficulties and spelling errors](https://journals.upress.ufl.edu/shl/article/view/1947)". *Spanish as a Heritage Language Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 2, Pg. 65-87.
<https://journals.upress.ufl.edu/shl/article/view/1947>

Manuscript(s) in preparation:

1. **Gaytán-Soto, L.**, McCarvel, M., Mantenido, I., Dees, J., Bowie, D., Truong, T.
"Identifying, understanding, and supporting diverse first-generation scholars in linguistics" *Proceedings from the 24th annual meeting of the Linguistic Society of America.*

Academic Accolades

(•= University Internal) (†=External)

Fellowships

Fall 2023	Career Exploration Fellowship UIUC •	\$5,000
Summer 2023	Summer FLAS Fellowship European Union Center UIUC •	\$7,500
Fall 2022	IGNITE Fellowship Teach for America †	\$2,200
2022-2023	Aspire Illinois Masters Fellowship UIUC •	\$20,000
Summer 2022	SPI Summer Research Fellowship UIUC •	\$4,500
Spring 2022	IGNITE Fellowship Teach for America †	\$1,200
Summer 2021	Summer Research Fellowship Northwestern University †	\$5,000

Research Travel Grants

Fall 2023	Graduate College Master's Project Travel Grant UIUC •	\$500
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Conference Travel Grants

Fall 2023	Department of Spanish & Portuguese Travel Grant UIUC •	\$647
Fall 2023	Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics Grant LSA†	\$1,000
Spring 2022	Conference Travel Grant CPP •	\$600

Co-Applied Conference Travel Grant(s) For Undergraduate RA's

Spring 2024	Conference Travel Grant Office of Undergraduate Research UIUC •	\$250
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Scholarships

Fall 2022	Inspire Initiatives Scholarship NAACP †	\$5,000
Summer 2022	Latino Faculty Association Leadership Scholarship CPP •	\$1,000
Spring 2022	McNair GRE Scholarship CPP •	\$200
Spring 2021	Cecil B. Brown Scholarship CPP •	\$6,000
Spring 2021	English & Modern Languages Scholarship CPP •	\$500

Award(s)

Spring 2024	Best Hispanic Linguistics Abstract Georgetown University †	
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Fall 2023 [Graduate Student Leadership Award-Master's Student](#) | UIUC • \$500
 Fall 2022 Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program | Cal State University System †
 Fall 2021 [Research Distinction Award](#) | CPP •

Stipends

Spring 2024	Writing Across the Curriculum Seminar UIUC •	\$135
Fall 2023	Indigenous Scholars of the Americas LSA †	\$200
Summer 2023	FLAS Travel Stipend The U.S. Department of Education †	\$1,100
2021-2022	McNair Scholars Stipend CPP •	\$600
Spring 2022	McNair Scholars Travel Stipend CPP •	\$400
Spring 2022	McNair Scholars Research Stipend CPP •	\$400
Fall 2020	Research Assistant Stipend Dept. of Political Science CPP •	\$500

Fellowships Applied

Spring 2023	Flagship Scholarship Point Foundation (Semi-finalist) †	
Spring 2024	Access & Achievement Program Fellowship (Declined) UIUC •	\$4,000-\$8,000
2023-2024	Hispanic Scholarship Fund (Waitlisted) †	\$500-\$5,000
Spring 2023	Summer FLAS Fellowship (Finalist) Center for Global Studies •	\$7,500
2023-2024	Empowerment Fellowship (Finalist) †	\$20,000
2023-2024	Inter-Seminars Graduate Fellowship (Alternate) UIUC •	\$37,250

Research Project(s)

*Indicates undergraduate student research assistant

Current Projects:

1. Exploring Spanish bilinguals', L2s, and native speakers typed writing processes: Evidence from stimulated recalls. Overseen by [Dr. Melissa Bowles](#) **[IRB approved]
2. A comparative corpus study of typed Vs written misspellings of Spanish bilinguals', L2s, and native speakers: Their implications for teaching. Overseen by [Dr. Melissa Bowles](#) **[IRB approved]

Collaborator:

1. [Online training program for interpreters for Individualized Education Program](#) | UIUC
 | Funded: Illinois State Board of Education | Proofread & recorded audio prompts

Conference Presentations

(* = virtual) (*represents undergraduate student collaborator)

Oral Presentations

2024 **Gaytán-Soto, L.**, *Knott, B. (February 16th). *Graduate Portuguese and Hispanic Symposium (GRAPHSY)*. Georgetown University. "Effects of Modality (Written vs. Typed) and Task Type on Spelling: A Comparative Study with Spanish Bilinguals, L2s, and Native Speakers: Their Implications for Teaching"

- 2024 **Gaytán-Soto, L.**, McCarvel, M., Mantenuto, I., Dees, J., Bowie, D., Truong, T. (January 4th to 7th). *Linguistics Society of America (LSA)*. Annual Meeting in New York City. “Identifying, understanding, and supporting diverse first-generation scholars in linguistics”
- 2022 Llombart, A., **Gaytán-Soto, L.** (July 9th to 12th). *American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)*. Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. “Spanish Heritage Language Learners & Reading”.
- 2022 Dao, A. Ph.D., Aguilar, A., **Gaytan-Soto, L.**, Minasian, M., Widjaja, G., (March). *Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities (RSCA)*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “Isolation in a Multigenerational House- hold During the Covid-19 Pandemic” *
- 2022 Llombart, A., **Gaytán-Soto, L.** (February). *9th National Symposium in Spanish as a Heritage Language (NSSHL)*, Florida State University. “Spanish Heritage Language Learners Reading difficulties and spelling errors”. *
- 2021 Robertson, M., **Gaytán-Soto, L.** (November). *Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)*, California State University, San Bernardino. “Cross-Cultural Differences in Social Media Use: Implications for International Social Media Strategy”. *
- 2021 **Gaytán-Soto, L.** (August). *Creative Activities. Research Symposium (CARS)*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “Transcending Beyond HIV: From a Death Sentence to a Metaphor of Life in Marta Dillon’s *Vivir con virus* (2016)” (Presented 2nd quote) *
- 2021 **Gaytán-Soto, L.** (July). *Research Symposium, Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)*, Northwestern University. “Transcending Beyond HIV: From a Death Sentence to a Metaphor of Life in Marta Dillon’s *Vivir con virus* (2016)” (Presented 1st quote) *
- 2021 Cunningham, O, Prentice, J., **Gaytán-Soto, L.**, & James Sturges Ph.D. (April). *12th Lowell Overton Undergraduate Research Symposium*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “Assessing the Relationship between Social Media Use and Sustained Attention” *
- 2021 Menounou, E. Ph.D., **Gaytán-Soto, L.**, Juscamaita, K, &., Horn, N. (March) *Research Scholarship and Creative Activities (RSCA)*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “Reasoning Globally: With a Little Help From Their Friends” *

Poster Presentation(s)

- 2022 **Gaytan-Soto, L.** (July). *Illinois Summer Research Symposium (ISRS)*, The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. “Using the Implicit Association Test in Spanish:

The next step in bilingual language biases”. (Given as a round-table discussion as well)

Research Experiences

Research Assistant Positions

Fall 2021

[Dr. Amy Dao, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor of Anthropology | **CPP**

Summer 2021

[Dr. Holguín-Mendoza Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics | **Uni of Cal. Riverside**

Spring 2021-Spring 2022

[Dr. Amàlia Llombart-Huesca, Ph.D.](#)

Professor of Spanish Linguistics | **CPP**

Fall 2020-Spring 2021

[Dr. Elli Menounou, Ph.D.](#)

Assistant Professor of Political Science | **CPP**

Fall 2020

[Dr. Renford Reese, Ph.D.](#)

Professor of Political Science | **CPP**

Teaching Experience

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | **Graduate Teaching Assistant** | Urbana, IL

*= Denotes course as instructor of record

*= Denotes as TA

*= Denotes as discussion facilitator

Spanish Courses

Spring 2024

*Advanced Spanish Grammar in Context**

Fall 2023

*Introduction to Spanish Grammar**

Non-Spanish Courses

Spring 2024

*Intro to Latina/o Studies**

Fall 2023

*First Year College Success (co-taught) **

Spring 2023

*Global Perspectives in Cross-Cultural Contexts**

Fall 2022

*Global Perspectives for Inter-Cultural Learning**

Mt. San Antonio College | **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant** | Walnut, CA

Fall 2020

American Language Intermediate Writing

Winter 2021

American Language Intermediate Writing

[\(See Student Feedback\)](#)

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona | **Undergraduate Grader** | Pomona, CA

Spring 2021

Introduction to the Spanish Speaking World

Undergraduate Student Mentorship

Undergraduate Research Assistants

Fall 2023-Spring 2024

Kami Parker | UIUC

2nd year student majoring in Spanish |

Enrolled in-Advanced Readings in Spanish | TA

Bryanna Knott | UIUC

*4th year student majoring in Psychology | **1st Generation Student***

Enrolled in-Advanced Readings in Spanish | TA

Mentoring & Advising

January 2024

Pop-Up Mentoring Program | LSA Annual Meeting

Assigned 1 mentee from Hofstra Uni. majoring in linguistics

Fall 2023

Independent Advising | UCLA

Advising 1st gen international student applying to linguistics grad schools double majoring in Hispanic Linguistics and Applied Mathematics

Fall 2023-Present

Advising, Connecting, & Empowering Mentorship Program | UIUC

Assigned 3 Latinx mentees-Comentoring | La Casa Cultural Latina

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Advising, Connecting, & Empowering Mentorship Program | UIUC

Assigned 1 Latinx mentee undeclared | La Casa Cultural Latina

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Bronco Navigators via Mentor Collective | CPP

Assigned 1 Latinx mentee majoring in Spanish

Summer 2022-Fall 2023

Undocuprofessionals Networks: Mentor | Virtually

Assigned 1 Latinx mentee from UCLA majoring in applied mathematics

Spring 2022

César Chávez Center for Higher Education Peer Mentorship | CPP

Assigned 1 Latinx mentee majoring in anthropology

July 2021-December 2021

Bronco Navigators via Mentor Collective | CPP

Assigned 7 mentees-4 actively participated

Service

Journal Reviewer

Fall 2022-Present

Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture

Graduate Student Journal | The University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Conference Organizer

- Fall 2023-Spring 2024 16th Annual Illinois Language & Linguistics Society Conference | UIUC
- Fall 2022-Spring 2023 Sociolinguistic Symposium | UIUC
- Fall 2022-Spring 2023 15th Annual Illinois Language & Linguistics Society Conference | UIUC

Abstract Reviewer

- Spring 2023 Sociolinguistic Symposium | UIUC

Departmental and University Organizations/Committees

- Fall 2023 Institute by Leadershape Scholarship Committee Reviewer | UIUC
Reviewed 16 applicants for 12 awards and 2 alternates
- Fall 2023-Spring 2024 1st Gen Access & Equity Travel Grant Selection [Subcommittee](#) | Linguistic Society of America
Reviewed 10 applicants for 1 award and 2 honorable mentions
- Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Social Chair | Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Organization | UIUC
- Spring 2023-Present Graduate Recruitment Representative | Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Organization | UIUC
- Spring 2023-Summer 2023 1st Gen Access & Equity Subcommittee for the LSA: *Lead in developing accepted abstract for the LSA 2024 Annual Meeting* | Linguistic Society of America
- Spring 2023 La Casa Cultural Latina Scholarship Selection Committee | UIUC
Reviewed 55 applicants for 2 awards only and 3 alternates
- Fall 2022-Present La Casa Cultural Latina: Advisory Committee | UIUC
- Fall 2022-Present 1st Gen Access & Equity [Committee](#) | Linguistic Society of America
- Fall 2022-Spring 2023 Richard Chavez Ambassador | La Casa Cultural Latina | UIUC
- Fall 2021-Spring 2022 President | The McNair Club | CPP
- Spring 2020 Vice-President & Treasurer | The Spanish Club | CPP
- Fall 2020 Interim President | The Spanish Club | CPP
- Fall 2019-Spring 2020 President | The Spanish Club | CPP

Invited Talks & Panels

(* = virtually)

- 2023 **Gaytan, L.** (November). *LAS Access & Achievement Program*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “Applying to Graduate School Workshop: MA/PhD Programs in Social Sciences”
- 2023 **Gaytan, L.** (November). *La Casa Cultural Latina: Lunch on us Workshop Series*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “Applying to Graduate School Workshop: MA/PhD Programs in Social Sciences”
- 2023 **Gaytan, L.** (February). *Introduction to research programs at CPP*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “Researcher student panel” *
- 2022 **Gaytán, L.** (September). *McNair Scholars meeting*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “McNair Scholars Graduate Student Panel Q & A panel” *
- 2022 **Gaytán, L.**, Luna, N (April 7th, 14th, & 21st). *Applying to Graduate School Workshop: MA/PhD Programs in Social Sciences & STEM*. California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. McNair Scholars Program & the Learning Resource Center. *
- 2022 **Gaytán, L.** (May). *McNair Scholars Orientation-Cohort 24*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “McNair Scholars Q & A panel”
- 2021 **Gaytán, L.** (November). *McNair Scholars meeting*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “My Experience During Northwestern’s University Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) and applying to Summer Research Programs”. *
- 2021 **Gaytán, L.** (October). *McNair Scholars Preparatory Orientation*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “McNair Preparatory Group Advising Session” *
- 2021 **Gaytán, L.** (October). *McNair Scholars Preparatory Program Orientation*, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. “What is it like being a McNair Scholar and how did you get started in research” *

Workshops/Panel Organizer

- 2023 First-Generation Student Member Mixer/Intro | 1st Gen Access & Equity [Committee](#) | LSA
- 2020 *Navigating Undergraduate Studies*. February 27th. Invited speakers: Dr. Daniel Lewis, Professor of History | CPP

2020 *Graduate School Admission & Culture*. February 15th. Invited speaker: Meloddye Campos, Ph.D. Candidate in Hispanic Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago | CPP

2019 *Hemispheric American Literature Overview*. November 14th. Invited speaker: Dr. Nancy Quintanilla, Assistant Professor of Literature | CPP

2019 *15th-17th Iberian Literature and Early Modern Drama Research Overview*. November 7th. Invited speaker: Dr. Marta Albalá, Associate Professor of Iberian Literature (TT) | CPP

Voluntarism

Fall 2022-Spring 2023 Pen Pal Program with William Elementary School | UIUC

July 2022-Present [Cohost-Behind the Research Podcast](#)

January 2021-April 2021 Pandemic Professors 501 (C)(3) (Virtual)

January 2021 United Nations Volunteer: *Transcribed 1 hour of Spanish Audio*

Spanish Tutoring (ST) & Spanish Conversation Facilitator (SCF)

Spring 2021-Spring 2022 Spanish Subject Tutor | CPP

Fall 2021-December 2021 Spanish Language Assistantship (SCF) | CPP

Spring 2021-June 2021 Spanish Professional Internship (ST & SCF) | Mt Sac. College
Developed [worksheet activity](#) about the direct object in Spanish

Tutoring Training

Spring 2021-Fall 2021 Level 1 & 2 Fundamentals of Tutoring | CPP

Translation Experience

English to Spanish Primary Sources

Spring 2020 Ronald Reagan, *Neshoba County Fair Speech (1980)*

Spring 2020 John M. Harlan, *Dissenting Opinion in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*

Certificates, Letters, & Tests

Spring 2022 [Certificate of Appreciation](#) | CPP
For dedication to mentoring 1st year students 2021-2022

April 2021 English Oral Proficiency Interview (ACTFL) (OPI)-[Superior](#)

February 2021 [Certificate of Appreciation](#) | United Nations Volunteer Program
January 2021 Spanish Oral Proficiency Interview (ACTFL) (OPI)-[Advanced High](#)
Fall 2020 [Letter](#) earning strong recommendation from the 3 professors
[Certificate](#) recognizing contribution and participation

Professional Memberships

Linguistics Society of America (LSA)

Languages

Spanish: Heritage Speaker

English: Native

Portuguese: Speaking & Reading

Technical Skills

Final Cut Pro (Video editing) (Advanced)

Photoshop (Beginner)

R (Beginner)

Skills

Accordion (Advanced) [Since I was 10 years old]

Saxophone (Novice)