

Laura D. Cummings Ruiz
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Heritage language acquisition, phonology/phonetics, Spanish-English translation

EDUCATION

- 2017-Present Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Pending)
Advisor: Dr. Silvina Montrul
- 2017-Present Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE) Certification,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Pending)
- 2019 Certificate in Translation Studies – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Thesis: A Theoretical and Applied Perspective on Spanish-English Medical Translation
Advisor: Dr. Kara Warburton
- 2017 M.A. in Spanish Linguistics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Thesis: The Comprehensibility of L2 Accented Speech in a Lexical Decision Task
Advisor: Dr. Jill Jegerski
- 2015 B.S. (Dual Major) in Psychology, Spanish, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Study Abroad: Curso Internacional de Deusto de Español (CIDE) at the University of Deusto, University of Deusto, 2014

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2015-Present Research Assistant, Dr. Silvina Montrul, Department of Spanish & Portuguese,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2015-Present Teaching Assistant, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
SPAN 122: Intensive Elementary Spanish (Fall 2015)
SPAN 130: Intermediate Spanish (Fall 2016)
SPAN 130 Online: Intermediate Spanish (Spring 2019)
SPAN 142 Online: Spanish in the Professions (Summer 2017, Spring 2018)
SPAN 200: Readings in Hispanic Texts (Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018)
SPAN 228 Online: Spanish Composition, Heritage Course (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)
SPAN 303: Sounds of Spanish (Fall 2019)
SPAN 307: Bilingualism (Fall 2018)
- 2016-2019 Translator, Leyenda Traducciones, S.L.
- 2016 Summer Camp Instructor, University Language Academy, University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
- 2015 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Dr. Silvina Montrul. Department of Spanish
& Portuguese, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- 2014-2015 Tutor, Irwin Academics Center, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
ASTR 100: Introduction to Astronomy
PSYC 100: Intro Psych
PSYC 201: Intro to Social Psych
PSYC 210: Behavioral Neuroscience
RLST 110: World Religions
- 2014 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Dr. Melissa Bowles, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PUBLICATIONS

Cummings Ruiz, L.D. (in press). The Comprehension of L2 Accented Speech in a Lexical Decision Task. In *Selected Proceedings of the 2017 Second Language Research Forum, Columbus, OH*.

Cummings Ruiz, L.D. (2019). North Midland /u/-fronting and its Effect on Heritage Speakers of Spanish. In Sasha Calhoun, Paola Escudero, Marija Tabain & Paul Warren (eds.) *Proceedings of the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne, Australia 2019*.

CONFERENCES

Cummings Ruiz, L.D. (2019, August). North Midland /u/-fronting and its Effect on Heritage Speakers of Spanish. Paper presented at the 19th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Melbourne, Australia.

Cummings Ruiz, L. (2017, October). The Comprehension of L2 Accented Speech in a Lexical Decision Task. Paper presented at the Second Language Research Forum, Columbus, OH.

Cummings Ruiz, L. (2017, May). Comparing VOT Production of Spanish as a Second Language. Poster presented at the SLATE Graduate Student Symposium, Urbana, IL.

Cummings Ruiz, L. (2017, March). Examining the Comprehension of L2 Accented Speech in a Lexical Decision Task. Poster presented at the Illinois Language and Linguistics Society Conference, Urbana, IL.

Cummings Ruiz, L. (2016, October). The Persevering Identity of the Hispano-Romani Language: The Historical and Lexical Development of Caló in Spain. Poster presented at the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, Georgetown, D.C.

Cummings Ruiz, L. (2016, May). Examining the Comprehension of L2 Accentedness in a Lexical Decision Task. Poster presented at the SLATE Graduate Student Symposium, Urbana, IL.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND OUTSTANDING ACHIVEMENTS

FLAS Fellowship, Center of Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017

Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member, International Phonetic Association, 2019-2020

President, Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Organization (SPGO), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019-2020

Board Member, Student Advising on Graduate Education (SAGE), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2018-2019

Vice President, Spanish & Portuguese Graduate Organization (SPGO), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017-2018

Língua Portuguesa Para Estrangeiros No Contexto Cultural Do Brasil, Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina, 2017

Spanish Language and Culture for Teachers Program, University of Deusto, 2016

IFLIP Elementary Portuguese Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2016

SERVICE

Conference coordinator, ILLS 11, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2018

Volunteer Spanish interpreter, Parkland College, March 2018

Conference volunteer, ILLS 10, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2018

Volunteer peer reviewer, ILLS 10, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January 2018

Conference volunteer, GALANA-7, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 2016

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Spanish	Native/Heritage
Portuguese	Advanced
French	Intermediate
Basque	Beginner

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical analysis: R, RStudio, Excel

Translation: SDL Trados, MemoQ, Memsource

Acoustic analysis: Praat

Experiment management: Paradigm, Ibex Farm, Qualtrics

Microsoft: Excel, Word, PowerPoint