

Dunia Catalina Méndez Vallejo

Contact

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Education

PhD

Dual PhD in: Linguistics and Hispanic Linguistics
 Institution: Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.
 Specialization: Syntax
 Thesis title: *Focalizing ser ('to be') in Colombian Spanish*
 Thesis directors: Yoshihisa Kitagawa and Miguel Rodríguez-Mondoñedo
 Conferred: October 2009

M.A.

In: Hispanic Linguistics
 Institution: Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.
 Conferred: January 2006

In: Linguistics
 Institution: Indiana University. Bloomington, IN.
 Conferred: December 2005

In: Semiological Studies
 Institution: Universidad Industrial de Santander. Bucaramanga, Colombia
 Thesis title: *Análisis Semiótico del Discurso Producido por los Jóvenes Universitarios de Bucaramanga acerca del Sujeto Tatuado.*
 Thesis director: José Horacio Rosales Cueva
 Conferred: February 2002.

B.A.

In: Language Teaching.
 Institution: Universidad Industrial de Santander. Bucaramanga, Colombia
 Conferred: October 1999.

Research and Teaching Interests

- Primary areas: Syntax and information structure; Syntax-prosody interface; Sociolinguistics; Morpho-syntactic variation; Hispanic Linguistics.
Focalizing *ser* structure:
<http://www.princeton.edu/~dvallejo/FS/>
- Secondary areas: Pragmatics-prosody interface; Dialectology; Language change.

Publications

Book

Focalizing ser ('to be') in Colombian Spanish. An empirical study of a dialectally-marked syntactic phenomenon in Spanish. Lambert Academic Publishing: 2012.

Book chapters

Information structure inside Spanish TPs. In: Orozco, R. (Ed.), *New directions in Hispanic Linguistics*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing: 2014.

On the syntax of the Focalizing *ser* ('to be') structure. In: File-Muriel, R. and R. Orozco (Eds.), *Linguistic studies in Colombian varieties of Spanish*. Vervuert/Iberoamericana: 2012.

Articles

Focus inside: evidence from Spanish and Chinese. With Hsu, Y-Y. *Linguistic Interfaces in East-Asian Languages: A Festschrift in Honor of Yoshihisa Kitagawa (Studies in East Asian Linguistics)*. Springer: 2024.

Understanding the Focalizing *Ser* structure: Going beyond syntax. *Form and Meaning: Studies of Grammatical Variation and Communicative Choice in Spanish*. Berlin, Germany: Peter Lang Verlag: 2024.

A syntactic-prosodic analysis of Focalizing 'ser'. With Flores, T. *Lingüística y Literatura* 81, 60-88. 2022.

TP-internal focus and dialectal variation: The case of the Focalizing *Ser*. *Linguistics Vanguard*. Vol. 5 (1): 2019.

Ser Focalizador: Usos y variaciones. *Revista Internacional de Lingüística Iberoamericana (RILI)*. Iberoamericana Editorial Vervuert. Vol. XIII (2: 26). 2015.

Changing the focus: An empirical study of the 'Focalizing *ser*' ('to be') in Dominican Spanish. *Isogloss*, Vol. 1 (1) 67-93: 2015.

Los efectos condicionantes del verbo en el uso variable de los pronombres personales de sujeto. With: Orozco, R. and L-A Vidal-Covas. *Actas del XVII Congreso Internacional de la Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina (ALFAL)*: 2014.

The M word: Face and politeness in Colombian Spanish. *Dialectologia*. 12: 2014.

Conversational and prosodic patterns in Spanish requests. *International Journal of Language Studies (IJLS)*, 7(2) 109-142: 2013.

Syntactic variation in Colombian Spanish: The case of the Focalizing ser (FS) structure. *Proceedings of the 39th LSRL Conference*. John Benjamins: 2011.

Some syntactic considerations regarding the *Focalizing ser* ('to be') construction in Colombian Spanish. *2008 WECOL Proceedings*. University of California. Davis, CA: 2009.

Editions

IULC Working Papers Online. Vol. 7. Indiana University. Bloomington, IN: 2007.

Editor with de Jong, K.

<https://www.indiana.edu/~iulcwp/contents.cgi?which=7>

Presentations

Invited speaker

Taking ownership of the curriculum: The transformation of the Spanish Language Program at Princeton University (with M. Bono & A. Bruzos-Moro). *AAUSC*. Virtual meeting: October 2024.

Bringing Spanishes into the language classroom through corpus-based pedagogic material (with A. Merino). *PCLS Lunch Talk Series*. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.: December 2022.

La variación morfosintáctica en el español de Colombia. *Ciclo de conferencias: El español hablado en Colombia*. Grupo de investigaciones Glotta - Universidad Industrial de Santander: December 2020.

Voces de la periferia: retos y propuestas para enseñar una lengua local en los Estados Unidos, (with A. Faber, N. Cervantes, A. Holgado & P. Moscardó). *El futuro de la enseñanza del español en Estados Unidos (Instituto Cervantes)*. New York, NY: December 2017.

Estatus dialectal y estructura sintáctica del "Ser Focalizador". *Asociación Alemana de Hispanistas (Hispanistentag)*. Heidelberg, Germany: March 2015.

Variación sintáctica y focalización: el caso del "Ser Focalizador". *Congreso Internacional de la Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina (ALFAL)*. João Pessoa, Brazil: July 2014.

Focus inside: evidence from the Spanish FS construction. *Tuesday Seminar Series*. Department of Linguistics. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii, at Manoa: January 2011.

Peer-reviewed participation

- The Spanish Language Program at Princeton University (with M. Bono). *Primer Encuentro de Programas de Español de Ivy Leagues*. New Haven, CT: April 2024.
- Más allá de la sintaxis: aproximaciones multidisciplinares en torno al Ser Focalizador. *I Simposio Internacional sobre Variación Gramatical y Construcción del Significado*. San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain. 2022.
- Creating pedagogical materials using spoken corpora to develop socio-pragmatic competence (with A. Merino). *PLL Conference*. Virtual presentation. 2022
- Celebrating language and its varieties: Bringing Spanishes into the classroom (with A. Merino). *AATSP*. San Juan: Puerto Rico. 2022.
- Facilitating autonomous language learning and developing critical skills using an innovative Spanish learning platform (with A. Merino and A. Holgado-Lage). *Owning the L2 Curriculum - CLTL Symposium*. Virtual presentation. 2021.
- A syntactic-prosodic analysis of Focalizing 'ser' (with T. Flores). *Acoustical Society of America, 179th Meeting*. 2020.
- Exploring issues of sociolinguistic variation in the language classroom (with A. Faber, A. Merino & M. Bono). *AATSP*. San Diego, CA. 2019
- Voces de Princeton: Practical uses of an online audiovisual corpus of spoken Spanish (with B. Johnston). *NEALLT*. Philadelphia, PA. 2019
- Surveying dialectal variation in Spanish: The case of the Focalizing Ser structure. *Sociolinguistics Symposium 22*. Auckland, New Zealand. 2018.
- Engaging Critical Thinking in the Elementary and Intermediate L2 Classroom Using an Online Platform, (with A. Faber, A. Holgado Lage, A. Merino & L. A. Spino-Seijas). *49th Annual NeMLA Convention*. Pittsburgh, PA. 2018.
- Syntactic variation of focus marking: The case of the Focalizing Ser in Colombia. *XXI Deutscher Hispanistentag*. Munich, Germany. 2017.

Honors and Awards

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| 2024 | <i>ProCES Community Engagement Support</i> . SPA-LIN-LAS 233 project. Princeton University. |
| 2016 | <i>250th Anniversary Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education</i> . Aprendo project. Princeton University. |
| 2015 | UCRHSS research grant. Research trip to Colombia. Princeton University. |
| 2013 | <i>250th Anniversary Fund for Innovation in Undergraduate Education</i> . SPA 211 course development. Princeton University. |
| 2012 | <i>Philpott-Pérez Research Award</i> . Research trip to the Dominican Republic. Department of Modern Languages & Literatures. College of William & Mary. Williamsburg, VA. |

Research and Fieldwork experience

Summer 2015	Linguistic variation in Colombia: The case of the Focalizing Ser (FS) structure. Data collection in five Colombian cities.
Summer 2013	Focus marking in Dominican Spanish. Conducted acceptability judgments and semi-production tests to analyze focus structures. Data collected in Santiago de Los Caballeros, Sosúa, and Santo Domingo.
Summer 2010	The socio-pragmatic meanings of the word <i>marica</i> ('fag') in Bucaramanga Spanish. Bucaramanga, Colombia. Collected data from university students at Universidad Santo Tomás de Aquino and Universidad Industrial de Santander.
Summer 2008	Dissertation fieldwork. Bucaramanga, Colombia. Conducted acceptability judgments on the focalizing <i>ser</i> ('to be') construction, at Universidad Industrial de Santander.
Summer 2007	The production of requests in Bucaramanga Spanish. Bucaramanga, Colombia. Collected data from young female university students, at Universidad Santo Tomás de Aquino and Universidad Industrial de Santander.

Teaching Experience

Princeton University: Associate Director of the Spanish Language Program (Fall 2013 – present).
Department of Spanish and Portuguese.
Princeton, NJ.

SPA 103: Accelerated beginning/intermediate Spanish (Fall '13, '14, '15, '17, '24).

SPA 105: Intermediate Spanish (Fall '14, Fall '20).

SPA 107: Intermediate/Advanced Spanish (Spring '15, Fall '21, Spring '22).

SPA 108: Advanced Spanish. (Spring '14, '20).

SPA 211: Varieties of Spanish. (Spring '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '22, '23, '24, '25).

SPA 233: Languages of the Americas. (Fall '19, '20, '21, '22, '23, '24).

SPA 307: Advanced Spanish. (Spring '14, '16, '18, '19, '21, '23; Fall '15, '16, '18, '19, '22, '23).

SPA 500: Methodology of SPA and POR Language Teaching. (Spring '17, '21).

College of William & Mary: Visiting Assistant Professor. (2012 – 2013).
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.
Williamsburg, VA

HISP 287: Spanish Phonetics. (Spring 2013). Basic concepts and methods in phonetics and phonology; improvement in pronunciation and fluency.

HISP 305: Advanced Grammar and Composition. (Fall 2012). Advanced study on specific grammar topics. Practice of writing and reading skills.

West Virginia University: Teaching Assistant Professor. (2009 – 2012).
Department of World Languages, Literatures, and
Linguistics. Morgantown, WV

Linguistics 501: Structure of Spanish. (Spring 2010; Spring 2011; Spring 2012).
Previously LING 401. Required course for M.A. students.

Linguistics 393: Language and Gender. (Spring 2012). Cross-listed course for
Linguistics and Women Studies students.

Linguistics 311: Introduction to Structural Linguistics. (Fall 2011). Required course
for all Foreign Language majors. Basic concepts and methods in phonetics,
phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, among other linguistic fields.

Spanish 301: Conversation. (Fall 2009; Spring 2010; Fall 2010; Spring 2011; Fall
2011; Spring 2012). Intermediate level Spanish.

Spanish 393L: Spanish Pronunciation and Phonetics. (Spring 2010, Spring 2011).
Basic concepts and methods in phonetics and phonology.

Spanish 493L: Hispanic Dialectology. (Fall 2010). Hybrid course offered to advanced
Spanish majors and M.A. students. Overview of basic concepts and methodology
regarding Spanish dialects, language contact, and linguistic policies.

Indiana University: Associate Instructor. (2003 – 2009).
Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Bloomington, IN

Linguistics 103: Introduction to the study of language. (Summer 2008). Offered
by the Linguistics Department. Basic concepts and methods in phonetics,
phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, among other linguistic fields.

Spanish 150: First Year Spanish. (Fall 2003; Spring 2004). Elementary level
Spanish: essential grammar and vocabulary.

Spanish 200: Second Year Spanish I. (Fall 2008; Fall 2004). First part of the
intermediate level: Basic grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing.

Spanish 250: Second Year Spanish II. (Spring 2005; Summer 2007). Second part of
the intermediate level: Basic grammar, vocabulary, reading, and writing.

Spanish 275: Introduction to Hispanic Culture. (Spring 2008; Fall 2006; Fall 2005).
Review of the historical and cultural development of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish 310: Spanish Grammar and Composition. (Spring 2006). Advanced study on
specific grammar topics. Practice of writing and reading skills.

Spanish 312: Introduction to Expository Writing in Spanish. (Spring 2007).
Development of stylistic and academic writing. Practice of reading skills.

Spanish 326: Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics. (Fall 2007). Overview of basic
linguistic concepts and topics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax.

Spanish 332 and Spanish 333: The Hispanic World I and II. (Fall 2008).
Introduction to Spanish literature. Prof. Carl Good's grading assistant.

Academic Service

Associate Director. (Since August 2013). Co-directing the Spanish Language Program. Princeton, NJ.

Academic Advisor. (Since Fall 2023). Advising first- and second-year students at Yeh College. Princeton, NJ.

Co-organizer Lunaape Language Camp. (Summer 2023). Helping Prof. Suzanne Akbari from IAS with logistical and administrative tasks. Princeton, NJ.

Member of the Indigenous Language Initiative. (Since Fall 2023). Attending organizational meetings with Dean Rebekah Peeples. Princeton, NJ.

JP and Senior Thesis Advisor. (Since 2018). Supervising JP and Senior theses for undergraduate students in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and in the Program in Linguistics. Princeton, NJ.

Thesis Advisor. (2022). Supervised a senior thesis for students from the English Teaching program at the Universidad Industrial de Santander - Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Fulbright National Screening Committee Member. (Since 2021). Reviewing applications and selecting candidates for the English Assistant Program.

Reviewer. (May 2021). Reviewed abstracts for the Hispanic Linguistic Symposium.

Canvas Advisory Group Member. (2019). Participated in a series of workshops and meetings to help with the implementation of the Canvas LMS on campus.

Aprendo Coordinator. (April 2016-May 2019). Supervising the [Aprendo](#) project and creating materials for SPA 101-103. Princeton, NJ.

Tertulia Lingüística Coordinator. (August 2013-May 2019). Coordinating biweekly meetings with undergraduate and graduate students. Princeton, NJ.

SPA 103 Coordinator. (August 2013-2015). Supervising the SPA 103 course. Princeton, NJ.

Membership in Professional Organizations

Since May 2015	American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Languages
Since April 2014	Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina
Since Sept. 2008	Linguistic Society of America
Since Sept. 2008	Indiana University Linguistics Club

Languages

Spanish	Native speaker.
English	Near-native speaker. Excellent reading/writing proficiency.
French	Intermediate speaker. Good reading/writing proficiency.
German	Intermediate learner.
Portuguese	Intermediate learner.
Hungarian	Elementary learner.
Quechua	Elementary learner.
Arabic	Elementary learner.