

# Rachel Sangster Garza

## Curriculum Vitae

### EDUCATION

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**, Indiana University-Bloomington, *Hispanic Linguistics*

- Dissertation: “Who is *la raza* ('the people') of the RGV?: An exploratory examination of identity, ideologies, and Spanish /b, d, g, s/ reduction in South Texas borderlands”
- Committee: Erik W. Willis, Manuel Díaz-Campos, Leslie Del Carpio, Monica Nesbitt, and Rebecca Ronquest
- Funded by the Center for Research on Race & Ethnicity in Society, Indiana University (2024-2025)

**MASTER OF ARTS**, Baylor University, *Spanish – Linguistics track*, 2020

- Thesis Title: Heritage and second language learner perception of Spanish pronunciation
- Committee: Karol J. Hardin, Alexander McNair, Melisa Dracos

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCES**, Baylor University, *Psychology, Spanish*, 2017

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX*

**Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish**, Department of Languages and Literature  
Spanish for Health Professionals (Fall 2025)  
Spanish 1 – 1411 (Fall 2025)

*Indiana University, Bloomington, IN*

**Instructor of Record**, Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
\*Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics (Spring 2024; Fall 2024)  
Advanced Grammar in Context (Fall 2023)  
Intermediate Spanish II Online (Fall 2022; Summer 2024)  
Intermediate Spanish II In-Person (Fall 2022)  
Intermediate Spanish I (Fall 2021)

*IvyTech Community College, Indianapolis, IN*

**Adjunct Faculty in Spanish**, IvyOnline  
Spanish 101 Online (Fall 2024; Spring 2025; Summer 2025)

*Study Abroad: Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages, León, Spain*

**Instructor of Record; Logistics Coordinator**  
\*Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics (Summer 2023)

*Baylor University, Waco, TX*

**Instructor of Record**, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures  
\*Elementary Spanish (Fall 2019; Spring 2020)

\*Note: Responsible for creation of course syllabi and materials

### CERTIFICATES & TRAINING

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- 2024 **Canvas Basics for Faculty**  
Training for optimizing Canvas format for online teaching
- 2018 **Designing for Online Teaching Success**  
Certification for formatting and designing an online course
- 2018 **Preparing Researchers, Educators and Scholars to Teach Online**  
Certification for effective organization and methods in online teaching

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Languages in Contact, Borderlands Spanish  
Bilingual Language Acquisition  
Phonetics and Phonology  
Sociolinguistics

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- 2024 **Garza, R.**, Willis, E. W., Melero-García, F. (2024). More than occlusions: The role of duration in perceiving the Spanish tap-trill contrast by heritage speakers of Spanish. In M. Gradoville and S. McKinnon (Eds.), *Recent Developments in Hispanic Linguistics: Studies in Structure, Variation, and Bilingualism* (pp. 122-150).
- 2023 Solon, M., Park, H. I., Pandža, N. B., & **Garza, R.** (2023). The influence of raters and scoring procedures on EIT outcomes: An exploratory study. *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*, 2(3), 100056.

## **PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW**

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**Garza, R.** & Willis, E. W. (*Under review*). Duration as a secondary cue in Spanish rhotics: Sliding to understand perceptual categorization among heritage and L2 learners of Spanish. *Isogloss: Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone world: Theoretical and Experimental Approaches*.

## **PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS**

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- Del Carpio, L. & **Garza, R.** (*In progress*). The case for community as a pedagogical goal: Insights from SHL students and instructors in the Midwest. *To be submitted to the Heritage Language Journal*.
- Roman, M. & **Garza, R.** (*In progress*). ‘¡A[K]á no, pero aquí usamos la elle!’ Assessing language attitudes towards lleísmo in Bolivia. *To be submitted to Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistic*.

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS**

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*Indiana University, Bloomington, IN*

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|-----------|---|----------|
| 2020-2025 | University Graduate School Scholar  | \$25,000 |
| 2024      | Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society<br>Graduate Student Research Award | \$1000   |
| 2023      | College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant   | \$800    |
| 2023      | Latino Faculty and Staff Council Event Award  |          |

2022	Doctoral Student Academic Achievement Award	
2022	Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS) Award	\$5000
2022	Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) Travel Award	\$50
2022	Department of Spanish & Portuguese Travel Grant	\$350
2021	Spanish in Health Care Stipend	\$500

*Baylor University, Waco, TX*

2019	Veterans of Baylor Coin Recognition for Supporting Veteran Students	
2019	University Graduate School Spring Travel Award	\$600
2019	University Graduate School Fall Travel Award	\$600
2018	Graduate School Fellowship	\$10,000

## **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

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- 2023 **Diálogos**  
Indiana University, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>
- 2019 **Christian Association of World Languages**  
Baylor University, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, April 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

## **CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2025 **Garza, R.** (2025). /s/-voicing, identity, and language attitudes in the South Texas Borderlands. *Diálogos Graduate Student Conference*. Indiana University, March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2024 **Garza, R.** (2024). Fonología via *Lotería*: Connecting *Lotería* picture naming with sociolinguistic interviews and heritage identity in South Texas borderlands. *53rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest*. University of Texas at San Antonio Downtown Campus, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 **Garza, R.** & Willis, E. W. (2024). Más allá de las oclusiones: El rol de la duración segmental en la percepción de las vibrantes en español por oyentes bilingües español-inglés. *Bilingualism in the Hispanic and Lusophone World*. Benémerita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- 2023 Del Carpio, L. & **Garza, R.** (2023). The switch: First-time experiences in a university Spanish as a heritage language course. *The 10<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language*. Harvard University, April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 Roman, M. & **Garza, R.** (2023). ‘¡A[ʎ]á no, pero aquí usamos la elle!’ Assessing language attitudes towards lleísmo in Bolivia. *51<sup>st</sup> New Ways of Analyzing Variation*. Queens College, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 Del Carpio, L. & **Garza, R.** (2023). The switch: First-time experiences in a university Spanish as a heritage language course. *The 10<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language*. Harvard University, April 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 Solon, M., Park, L., Pandža, N., & **Garza, R.** (2023). The influence of raters and scoring procedures on EIT outcomes: an exploratory studies. *American Association of Applied Linguistics*. Portland, Oregon, March 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.

- 2022 **Garza, R. S.** & Willis, E. W. (2022). More than occlusions: The role of segmental duration in perceiving the Spanish tap-trill contrast by Heritage speakers of Spanish. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium*, Arizona State University, November 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 **Garza, R. S.** (2022). *Cuando quieras*: The choice for subjunctive in Spanish heritage speakers of Texas. *South Central Modern Language Association*. Memphis, TN, October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 **Garza, R. S.** & Melero-García, F. (Duolingo) (2022). It's not just about the occlusions: Tap-trill perception by Spanish Heritage speakers using segmental duration. *Diálogos Graduate Student Conference*. Indiana University, March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2022 **Garza, R. S.** (2022). *Tienes que tomar la troca*: A sociolinguistic study on articles, borrowed words and gender agreement in Spanish heritage speakers of Texas. *The 9<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language*. Florida State University, February 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.
- 2021 **Garza, R.** (2021). Bilingual integration of Spanish-English code-meshing on TikTok. *Diálogos Graduate Student Conference*. Indiana University, February 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.
- 2021 **Garza, R.** (2021). Spanish heritage perception of intervocalic [z] in Spanish-English cognates versus non-cognates. *The 8<sup>th</sup> National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language*. City University of New York, May 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>.
- 2019 **Garza, R. S.** (2019). Perception and judgment of spoken Spanish in hispanic heritage speakers and second language learners in the United States. *48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest*. Louisiana State University, October 31<sup>st</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2019 **Garza, R. S.** (2019). Adapting new pedagogy for Spanish heritage speakers. *Céfiro: Enlace Hispano Cultural y Literario, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*. Texas Tech University, March 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 2019 **Garza, R. S.** (2019). The Tower of Babel and a Christian perspective on second language teaching. *29<sup>th</sup> Annual Christian Association of World Languages Conference*. Baylor University, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>.

## CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024 **Garza, R.** & Willis, E. (2024). When does a closure have phonological vibes?: How linguistic confidence & proficiency predict learners' attention to tap-trill closure duration. *Current Approaches to Spanish and Portuguese Second Language Phonology*.

## INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS & PANELS

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- 2025 **Garza, R.** (2025). Language in the borderlands: Exploring ideologies of Spanglish, Critical Language Awareness, and Community Identity in South Texas. *Hispanic Linguistics Research Series*, Indiana University, April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024 **Invited Workshop – Heritage Spanish and Teaching Methods**  
 Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Workshop provided for Graduate Teaching Methods (S517) instructed by Prof. Laura Gurzynski-Weiss

- 2024 **Invited Alumni Panel**  
Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, Baylor University, Waco, TX, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>
- Panel provided for graduate students enrolled in Literary Theory, Research, and Writing
- 2023 Roman, M. & **Garza, R.** ‘¡A[ʎ]á no, pero aquí usamos la elle!’ Assessing language attitudes towards lleísmo in Bolivia. *Hispanic Linguistics Brown Bag*. Indiana University, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 2023 **Invited Alumni Panel**  
Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, Baylor University, Waco, TX, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>
- Panel provided for graduate students enrolled in Literary Theory, Research, and Writing
- 2022 **Garza, R.** & Bruun, S. (UT-Austin). More than Occlusions: Heritage and L2 perception of Spanish taps and trills. *Hispanic Linguistics Brown Bag*. Indiana University, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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- 2024 – 2025 **Leader - “Fonemi”**  
Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Graduate phonetics/phonology group, overseeing student research sharing, organizing talks, group projects, and invited speaker events
- 2023 – 2024 **Leader – Doctoral Student Writing Group**  
Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Organized, outreached for, and guided weekly three-hour graduate student group
- 2022 – 2023 **Graduate Student Advisory Committee – Communications Officer**  
Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Organized annual *Diálogos* graduate conference, awarded with the Latino Faculty and Staff Council Event Award
  - Liaison between graduate students and faculty in Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese by representing interests of graduate students within department
- 2019-2020 **Graduate Student Association Ambassador**  
Baylor University, Waco, TX
- Represented the interests of the graduate students of the Dept. of Modern Languages and Cultures
  - Served on academic committee to aid in the organization of the Graduate Research Showcase event and the 3-Minute Thesis event

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2022-Present **Fonemi member**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Collaborative graduate group sharing research, discussing Hispanic phonetics/phonology and research methods, presenting papers, and inviting speakers
- 2020-Present **Phonology Research Assistant**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Analyze Dominican Spanish phonology using Praat for Dr. Erik Willis
  - Conducted literature searches

- 2022-Present **Spanish as a Heritage Language Research Assistant**  
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Assisted Dr. Leslie Del Carpio with grant searches, heritage Spanish research, and statistical data analysis
- 2022 **Instructed SLA Research Assistant**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Coded Spanish language tasks for elementary learners under direction of Dr. Laura Gurzynski-Weiss
- 2020-2022 **Phlegme member**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
- Phonology group fostering faculty-graduate collaboration, preparing for conferences, and discussing research papers
- 2016-2017 **Psycholinguistics Research Lab Assistant**, Baylor University, Waco, TX
- Facilitated participation in psycholinguistic studies related to direction-giving and gender studies
  - Coded data to ensure interrater reliability and conducted literature results

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

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### REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS, BOOKS, AND CONFERENCES

- 2024 **Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics – Anonymous article reviewer**
- Edited by Eric Holt
- 2024 **Studies in Second Language Acquisition – Anonymous article reviewer**
- Edited by Luke Plonsky
- 2024 **Book Chapter – Anonymous reviewer**  
*Enciclopedia Concisa de los Dialectos del Español*
- Edited by Manuel Díaz-Campos and Juan M. Hernández Campoy
- 2024 **Hispanic Linguistic Symposium - Abstract reviewer**
- 2023 **National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language - Abstract reviewer**
- 2022 **Heritage Language Journal – Anonymous article reviewer**
- Special issue edited by Josh Prada and Meagan Driver

### EDITORSHIP

- 2018-2019 **Graduate Editorial Assistant** – Baylor University, Waco, TX  
Assisted in editing the Journal of Christianity and World Languages

## **SKILLS**

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### LANGUAGES

- English** – Native competency
- Spanish** – Native-like/Advanced competency
- Portuguese** – OPIc Intermediate-High Ranking
- French** – Intermediate reading competency

## SELECT COMPETENCIES

**Blackboard and Canvas** – Proficient in use of multiple Learning Management Systems for modern language pedagogy

**RStudio** - Proficient in data analysis, statistical modeling, hypothesis testing, and interpreting results using packages such as ggplot, ggplot2, lmer, glm packages

**Praat** - Skilled in using Praat for analyzing a wide range of sound phenomena, interpreting results, and incorporating scripts for efficient data analysis

**SPSS** - Experienced in performing data analysis, conducting tests, and interpreting outcomes