M. Gabriela Puscama

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CURRENT POSITION

2022 | Coordinator of SPN 1130 Beginner Spanish I | University of Florida
Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies

2022 | Lecturer of Spanish Language and Culture | University of Florida
Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies

EDUCATION

2022 | PhD | The Pennsylvania State University
Spanish and Language Science

> **Dissertation**: *Semantic network development in a second language and its impact on comprehension and production skills: A training study using Eye-Tracking*
>
> Vocabulary is one of the most important aspects of second language (L2) acquisition. During instruction, learners are exposed to large amounts of L2 words, but they often struggle retrieving vocabulary during spontaneous communication. Evidence from network science suggests that it is not only the size of the lexicon that matters, but also the connections established between words in the lexicon. An effective lexicon influences how the network is navigated and how words are retrieved. My dissertation studies how different types of exposure to L2 words affects how vocabulary is stored and interconnected in the lexicon. I use semantic network modeling and eye-tracking to assess vocabulary comprehension and production after training in computer-based tasks.
>
> Committee: Dr. Matthew Carlson (co-chair), Dr. Paola E. Dussias (co-chair), Dr. Elisabeth Karuza, Dr. Navin Viswanathan, and Dr. Manuel Pulido-Azpíroz.

2019 | MA | The Pennsylvania State University
Spanish (Advisers: Matthew T. Carlson & Paola E. Dussias)

2016 | MA | Louisiana State University
Hispanic Studies (Advisers: Dorian Dorado & Irina Shport)

2013 | BA | Universidad Nacional de Cuyo
Language and Literature (Highest GPA in my major)

FUNDING & AWARDS

2023 | Linguistics Professor of the Year
Recognition awarded by the graduate students in the Hispanics Linguistics program at the University of Florida.

2022 | Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund
A $10,000 award by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida to support research publication.

2021 | Duolingo Dissertation Research Grant
A $5,000 grant awarded by Duolingo to support dissertation research.

2021 | Best Arts & Humanities Research Presentation
Second place winner of Penn State's 36th Annual Graduate Student Exhibition for the presentation: *Acoustic correlates of diphthong/hiatus contrast in L2 Spanish learners*.

2020 | External Funding Incentive Award
A $500 scholarship awarded by the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State University.

2020 | Liberal Arts Teaching and Research Scholarship
A $1,000 scholarship awarded by the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State University.

2020 | Iquaçu Excellence Award Honoring Carmen and Laurentino Gomes
A $630 scholarship awarded by the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State University.

2019 | Superior Teaching and Research Award
A $1,500 scholarship awarded by the College of Liberal Arts at Penn State University.

2012 - 2013 | Research Scholarship for Advanced Undergraduate Students
A $672 scholarship awarded by Universidad Nacional de Cuyo.

MANUSCRIPTS & PUBLICATIONS

Puscama, M. G., Connell, K., Pinzon-Coimbra, J., Rembalsky, J., Xu, G., Valdés Kroff, J., Bajo Molina, M. T., & Dussias, P. E. (in prep). Anticipatory processing in L2 English Learners: An eye-tracking study.

Puscama, M. G., & Carlson, M. T. (revising to resubmit). Acoustic correlates of diphthong/hiatus contrast in L2 Spanish Learners. *Language & Speech*.

Connell, K., **Puscama, M. G.**, Pinzon-Coimbra, J., Rembalsky, J., Xu, G., Valdés Kroff, J., Bajo Molina, M. T., & Dussias, P. E. (2021). Phonologically cued lexical anticipation in L2 English: A visual world eye-tracking study. *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*. (Eds. D. Dionne and L. A. Vidal Covas). Boston University, Boston, MA, 171-183.

Puscama, M. G. (2020). [Review of *Language aggression in public debates on immigration* by A. Musolff]. *Language in Society*, *49*(2), 311-312. doi:https://doi.org/10.1017/S0047404519001027.

Shport, I., Dorado, D., & **Puscama, M. G.** (2018). Lexical access in English-Spanish bilinguals: A comparison of heritage speakers and late learners. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism 8*(3), 372-392. doi:http://doi.org/10.1075/lab.17039.shp.

Puscama, M. G. (2013). Aproximación al estudio de la écfrasis en *The Rape of Lucrece* de William Shakespeare, y algunas implicancias para su traducción [A preliminary study of ekphrasis in William Shakespeare's *The Rape of Lucrece*, and some implications for its translation]. *Miranda VII*, 117-128.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

Puscama, M. G. (March 2023). Semantic network development in second language Spanish and its impact on processing skills. Poster presentation at *Conference in Human Sentence Processing (HSP 2023)*, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Connell, K., **Puscama, M. G.**, Pinzon-Coimbra, J., Rembalsky, J., Xu, G., Valdés Kroff, J., Bajo, M. T., & Dussias, P. E. (November 2020). Phonologically cued lexical anticipation in L2 English: A visual world eye-tracking study. Poster presentation at *The 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD)*, Boston University, Boston, MA [Note: Conference was held online due to COVID-19].

Puscama, M. G., & Carlson, M. T. (February 2020). The production of diphthong/hiatus contrast in L2 Spanish learners. Oral presentation at *Current Approaches to Spanish and Portuguese Second Language Phonology 2020 (CASPSLaP 2020)*, San José State University, San José, CA.

Johns, M., **Puscama, M. G.**, & Carlson, M. T. (June 2019). It just takes time: Refining asymmetric switch costs using pupillometry. Oral presentation at *12th International Symposium on Bilingualism*, University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada.

Puscama, M. G. (October 2018). A preliminary study of diphthong/hiatus contrast in L2 Spanish learners. Poster presentation at *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (HLS)*, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

Puscama, M. G., Shport, I., & Dorado, D. (January 2017). Lexical retrieval in adult bilinguals is affected by second language proficiency, not heritage context of acquisition. Poster presentation at *Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting*, Austin, TX.

Puscama, M. G., & Dorado, D. (October 2016). El español como segunda lengua: ¿Cuán válida es la autoevaluación? [Spanish as a second language: How valid is self-assessment?]. Oral presentation at *Simposio de la Asociación Argentina de Lingüística Cognitiva*, Mendoza, Argentina.

Puscama, M. G., Shport, I., & Dorado, D. (April 2016). Spanish as a heritage language and as an L2: Representation and processing of nouns in the lexicon of different types of bilinguals. Oral presentation at *Northwest Linguistics Conference*, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Puscama, M. G., Shport, I., & Dorado, D. (March 2016). Investigating the effects of second language learning context and proficiency on lexical access. Oral presentation at *South Eastern Conference of Linguistics 83 – Linguistic Gumbo: Challenges in Multilanguage Contact*, New Orleans, LA.

Puscama, M. G. (November 2013). Aproximación al estudio de la écfrasis en The Rape of Lucrece de William Shakespeare, y algunas implicancias para su traducción [A preliminary study of ekphrasis in William Shakespeare's *The Rape of Lucrece*, and some implications for its translation]. Oral presentation at *Simposio Ecos de la Literatura Renacentista Inglesa*, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Puscama, M. G. (August 2013). Traducir a Capote: Análisis comparativo de tres traducciones al español de 'Ischia' de *Local Color* [Translating Capote: A comparative analysis of three Spanish translation of 'Ischia' from *Local Color*]. Oral presentation at *XLV Jornadas de Estudios Americanos*, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Puscama, M. G. (March 2013). La cita de autoridad en un discurso y en un tratado ciceronianos [Citation of authorities in a discourse and a treatise by Cicero]. Oral presentation at *II Coloquio Nacional de Retórica-I Congreso Internacional de Retórica e Interdisciplina*, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

INVITED TALKS

Puscama, M. G. (December 2022). Teaching word connections through computer-based instruction. Invited presentation at *Duolingo Research Day*, Duolingo, Pittsburgh, PA.

Bianco, F., & **Puscama, M. G.** (May 2018). El financiamiento de la investigación social: Acercamiento a instituciones no tradicionales [Funding for social research: Approaching non-traditional institutions]. Invited panel presentation at *Foro Primeros Pasos en Investigación*, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

Puscama, M. G. (February 2016). Word processing in bilinguals is affected by second language proficiency, not by context of acquisition. Invited presentation at *Brown Bag Series*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Puscama, M. G. (November 2015). The bilingual lexicon: A comparative study. Invited presentation at *Hispanic Studies Roundtable*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Puscama, M. G. & Severiche, G. A. (June 2015). La enseñanza de español como lengua extranjera en Estados Unidos [Teaching Spanish as a foreign language in the U.S.]. Invited presentation at *Seminario de Español como Lengua Extranjera*, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-Present | The Bilingujal Sentence Processing Lab | Dr. Jorge Valdés Kroff (director)
Researcher, investigating second language acquisition and anticipatory processing using eye-tracking, production, and behavioral data.

2021-2022| Community Engagement Committee | Dr. Judith Sierra-Rivera (Principal Investigator)
Research Assistant for the oral history project on Hispanic, Italian, and Brazilian migrant women in Center County, Pennsylvania.

2019-2022 | The Brain-Tracking Lab, Penn State | Dr. Paola E. Dussias (advisor)
Graduate Researcher, investigating second language acquisition and anticipatory processing using eye-tracking, production, and behavioral data.

2017-2022 | The MultiGrammar Lab, Penn State | Dr. Matthew Carlson (advisor)
Graduate Researcher, investigating second language phonology using production and behavioral data.

2021 | Center for Language Science, Penn State | Dr. Frances Blanchette (Assistant Director) and Dr. Karen Miller (Co-Director)
Research Assistant, contributing to the research repository *Uncovering Linguistic Discrimination*, and to the *Linguistic Experiments* website for online outreach.

2016-2017 | Instituto de Ciencias Humanas, Sociales y Ambientales, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Argentina | Dr. Luis París (advisor)
Research Assistant, investigating child language development using production data.

2016-2017 | Universidad Nacional de Cuyo | Prof. Estela Di Lorenzo (advisor)
Research Assistant, analyzing the correlation between reading comprehension and overall academic performance.

2014-2015 | Louisiana State University | Dr. Dorian Dorado (advisor)
Research Assistant, studying bilingualism in heritage and native Spanish speakers using sociolinguistic interviews.

2012-2016 | Universidad Nacional de Cuyo | Prof. Elena A. Duplancic (advisor)
Research Team Member, analyzing English to Spanish literary translations and translating bibliography about anglophone literature.

2012-2013 | Universidad Nacional de Cuyo | Dr. Cristina Salatino (advisor)
Undergraduate Researcher, analyzing and translating Latin texts into Spanish.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

2023-Present | University of Florida
Mentored 1 undergraduate student research course credit, and 14 graduate teaching assistants.

2018-2022 | Penn State University
Mentored 11 undergraduate students for research course credit.

Presentations by mentees*

*Pinzon-Coimbra, J., *Rembalski, J., *Xu, G., Puscama, M. G., Bajo, M. T., Guo, T., Connell, K., & Dussias, P. E. (2020). English proficiency and the understanding/use of articles. Poster presentation for *Young Language Science Scholar Speaker Series*, Pennsylvania State University, PA.

*Pinzon-Coimbra, J., *Rembalski, J. & *Xu, G. (2020). English proficiency and the understanding/use of articles. Oral presentation for Penn State Undergraduate Research Talks, Pennsylvania State University, PA.

Awards received by mentees

College of Liberal Arts Scholars Program. A $2,000 stipend plus $1,000 in research funds awarded to my mentee Julia Charske to conduct and disseminate research during the 2023-2024 academic year.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-Present | **University of Florida**
Lecturer teaching undergraduate and graduate courses.

2017-2022 | **Penn State University**
Graduate teaching assistant, instructor of record and recitation instructor.

2017 | **Colegio Norbridge (Mendoza, Argentina)**
Middle school literature teacher.

2016-2017 | **Instituto Leonardo Murialdo (Mendoza, Argentina)**
Middle school and high school literature teacher.

2016-2017 | **Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina)**
Recitation Instructor.

2015-2016 | **Louisiana State University**
Graduate teaching assistant, instructor of record.

2014-2015 | **Louisiana State University**
Beginner and intermediate Spanish tutor.

2013-2014 | **Universidad del Aconcagua (Mendoza, Argentina)**
Teaching assistant and recitation Instructor.

SUMMARY OF COURSES TAUGHT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*Denotes course taught at least partially online.

SPN 1130 Beginner Spanish I | **University of Florida**
Instructor, prepared lectures, assignments, and exams.

SPN 2240 Intensive Communication Skills in Spanish | **University of Florida**
Instructor, prepared lectures, graded assignments, and exams.

SPN 4811 Bilingual Language and Thought | **University of Florida**
Instructor, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

SPN 6735 Approaches to Second Language Vocabulary Learning (Graduate Seminar) | **University of Florida**
Instructor, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

SPAN 001* Beginner Spanish Language | **Penn State University**
Instructor, graded assignments and exams.

SPAN 002 Beginner Spanish Language | **Penn State University**
Instructor, graded assignments and exams.

SPAN 003 Intermediate Spanish Language | **Penn State University**
Instructor, graded assignments and exams.

SPAN 215 Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics* | **Penn State University**
Recitation instructor, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

SPAN 412 Translation | **Penn State University**
Instructor, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

ITAL 001 Beginner Italian Language* | **Penn State University**
Instructor, prepared lectures, assignments, and exams.

SPAN 1102 Intermediate Spanish Language | Louisiana State University
Instructor, prepared lectures, assignments, and exams.

Academic Reading and Writing – Preparatory course for undergraduate applicants | Law School, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina)
Instructor, prepared assignments and class lectures.

Academic Reading and Writing – Preparatory course for undergraduate applicants | Med School, Universidad del Aconcagua (Mendoza, Argentina)
Teaching Assistant, prepared assignments, class lectures, and exams.

Introduction to Linguistics for Speech Pathology Majors | Med School, Universidad del Aconcagua (Mendoza, Argentina)
Recitation instructor, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

Middle School Language and Literature | Colegio Norbridge (Mendoza, Argentina)
Teacher, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

Middle School and High School Language and Literature | Instituto Leonardo Murialdo (Mendoza, Argentina)
Teacher, prepared course syllabi, assignments, class lectures, and exams.

WORKSHOPS OFFERED AND OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Digital Presence: Creating your Professional Website | Psycholinguistics Reading Group
A workshop about designing a professional website using HTML/CSS and online templates.

Introduction to eye-tracking | Psycholinguistics Reading Group
A workshop co-taught with Joshua Higdon and Hannah Treadway on the basics of eye-tracking experimental design.

Job Market Preparedness Workshop Series | Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies
A series of workshops for MA and PhD students who are preparing their application materials for the job market.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2022-Present | SPN 1130 Coordinator | University of Florida
Training and mentoring new graduate teaching assistants in the department, assisting the Language Program Director in course design and material creation, supervising SPN 1130 instructors' policy compliance, mediating between students and instructors in various administrative and academic issues.

2021 | Center for Language Science, Penn State | Dr. Frances Blanchette (Assistant Director) and Dr. Karen Miller (Co-Director)
Webmaster maintaining the Center for Language Science's website.

2019-2020 | Spanish 3 Content Supervisor | Penn State University
Reviewing and creating teaching materials for Spanish 3 (intermediate level Spanish), working as liaison between instructors and directors of the Spanish Basic Language Program, observing classes and creating reports.

2018-2020 | Spanish 2 Content Supervisor | Penn State University
Reviewing and creating teaching materials for Spanish 2 (beginner level Spanish), working as liaison between instructors and directors of the Spanish Basic Language Program, observing classes and creating reports.

2017 | Language and Literature Department Coordinator | Colegio Norbridge
Serving as liaison between teachers and the directive board, and between middle school and high school teachers; observing and supervising classes, creating reports and department-level policy.

2008-2015 | Administrative Employee | Poder Judicial de Mendoza (a branch of Argentina's judicial system)
Working on various cases in the criminal justice system, assisting prosecutors with investigation, typing oral testimonies from victims, witnesses, and defendants; mediating conflict between parties, keeping track of the status of cases and updating lawyers and interested parties upon request.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 | Great Teaching for New Faculty Certificate | University of Florida
A series of workshops on course design, assessment, mentoring, experiential learning, and DEI.

2022 | Professional Certificate in Data Science | HarvardX (Partial Completion)
8 of 9 courses completed towards the professional certificate degree.

2021 | Structuring the Classroom for Inclusive Teaching | University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Interactive workshop on pedagogical techniques to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom.

2021 | Grounding in Racial Resilience: Building a Solid Anti-Racist Foundation | Graduate Alliance for Diversity and Inclusion at Penn State University
Workshop on critical race theory and anti-racism, held virtually.

2021 | Data Science | Le Wagon & Universidad Nacional de Cuyo
Introductory workshop on data science and web scraping using Python, held virtually.

2021 | Web Development – Front End | Le Wagon & Universidad Nacional de Cuyo
Workshop on web development using HTML and CSS, held virtually.

2021 | Presencia, persuasión e impacto en la presentación pública [Presence, persuasion, and impact during public speaking] | Penn State University
Workshop on public speaking skills and techniques, held virtually.

2020-2021 | What R we doing? | Penn State University
Workshop on RStudio (RStudio Team, 2020) and the visual world experimental paradigm.

2020 | How to create meaningful online learning communities | National Humanities Center
Residency program on student engagement, inclusive syllabi design, and online tools to improve virtual instruction, held virtually.

2019 | Experiment Builder and Pupillometry | Penn State University
Workshop on Experiment Builder (SR Research) and designing pupillometry studies.

2017 | SPAN 501 Modern Methods of Teaching Spanish | Penn State University
Class on instruction and assessment techniques for beginner and intermediate Spanish classes.

2016 | Del cerebro infantil al cerebro adulto: Desarrollo de la cognición basada en conceptos desde una cognición basada en detalles [From the child brain to the adult brain: Developing a concept-based cognition from a detail-based cognition] | Centro Científico Tecnológico – Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Argentina
Course on brain and cognition development with an emphasis on language development.

2016 | Creative Uses of Web 2.0 Technologies in Language Learning | Cengage
Workshop on online tools applied to the second language classroom, through Louisiana State University.

2015 | Course Fundamentos neurobiológicos y computacionales de la cognición y el lenguaje [Neurobiological and computational bases for cognition and language] | Centro Científico Tecnológico – Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Argentina
Course on neural and computational aspects of language.

2014 | SPAN 4603 Applied Spanish Linguistics | Louisiana State University
Class on instruction and assessment techniques for beginner and intermediate Spanish classes.

2013 | Aspectos neurocognitivos de la traducción [Neurocognitive aspects of translation] | Universidad Nacional de Cuyo
Course on neurological and cognitive processes involved in translation, in healthy individuals and patients with language disorders.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2023-Present | *Committee Member* | Humanities and Artificial Intelligence Working Group | Strategic Initiatives in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida

2022-Present | *Committee Member* | Advisory Committee | Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies at the University of Florida

2022-Present | *Committee Member* | Professional Communications Working Group | Dean's Office in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida

2021 | *Organizer* | 2021 Penn State Marathon Read

2021-2022 | *Committee Member* | Community Engagement Committee

2019-2020 | *Organizer* | PSUxLing Undergraduate Research Exhibition

2019-2020 | *Linguistics Faculty Liaison* | Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Grad. Student Organization

2019-2020 | *Secretary* | Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese Grad. Student Organization

2019 | *Judge* | 34th Annual Graduate Student Exhibition

2018 | *Collaborator* | Hazleton Integration Project Visits Penn State

2017-2019 | *Collaborator* | Penn State Liberal Arts Fair

2012-2013 | *Organizer* | II Coloquio Nacional de Retórica

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2017-Present | *Center for Language Science*

2016-Present | *Asociación Argentina de Lingüística Cognitiva (AALiCo)*

2015-Present | *Sigma Delta Delta Pi National College Hispanic Honor Society - Alpha Lambda Chapter*

LANGUAGE SKILLS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | **Spanish**   native
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ | **English**   near-native
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ | **Italian**   good oral and written proficiency
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ | **Portuguese**   basic communication skills
★ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | **Latin**   elementary knowledge

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

R, HTML, CSS, Basic Python, Basic Unix

TECHNOLOGY AND SOFTWARE SKILLS

Data Collection

| **E-Prime**   software for experiment design, data collection and analysis

| **EyeLink Experiment Builder**   stimulus presentation software for eye-tracking experiments

| **PsychoPy**   software for experiment design and data collection

| **SR Research EyeLink**   high-speed, high-resolution eye-tracking solution

| **Qualtrics**   online survey software

Coding and Data Analysis

| **Audacity**   audio editing and recording software

| **EyeLink Data Viewer**   software for viewing, filtering, and processing eye-tracking data

| **Git**   software for file management, tracking, and version control

| **GoldVarb**   statistical software for variable rule analysis

| **IBM SPSS**   statistical computing and graphics software

| **Praat**   speech analysis and manipulation software

| **RStudio**   statistical computing and graphics software

| **Sublime Text**   source code editing software

Engagement Tools and Pedagogical Resources

| **Canvas**   learning management system

| **iClicker**   student response collection system

| **Moodle**   learning management system

| **Slack**   group communication and engagement tool

| **Top Hat**   student response collection system and classroom engagement tool