

# SARA SAEZ-FAJARDO

---

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Spanish and Portuguese  
4080 Foreign Languages Building  
Urbana, IL 61801

[saras5@illinois.edu](mailto:saras5@illinois.edu) | [sarasfajardo@gmail.com](mailto:sarasfajardo@gmail.com)

## EDUCATION

- in progress  
(expected Spring 2022) **Ph.D. Hispanic Linguistics**  
**Concentration in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE)**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Advisor: Melissa A. Bowles
- 2017 **M.A. Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language**  
University of Salamanca, Spain  
Advisor: María del Rosario Llorente Pinto  
M.A. Thesis: 'Assessment and Feedback on Virtual Platforms for Foreign Language Learning and Teaching' ("Evaluación y feedback en los entornos virtuales de enseñanza/aprendizaje de ELE").
- 2016 **B.A. Hispanic Philology**  
University of Salamanca, Spain

## PRESENTATIONS

### PAPERS

- 2019 RESHAPING HISPANIC CULTURES: INSTITUTO CERVANTES SYMPOSIUM FOR NEW RESEARCH 2019. Observatory of the Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures in the United States. Harvard University. May 10-11. "Modality and Task Effects in Grammatical Gender Production by Spanish Heritage Speakers and L2 Learners."
- 2018 V CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DEL ESPAÑOL EN CASTILLA Y LEÓN. Salamanca. June 25-28. 'Assessment and feedback on virtual platforms for foreign language learning and teaching' ("Evaluación y feedback en los entornos virtuales de enseñanza/apredizaje de ELE").

### POSTERS

- 2019 SECOND LANGUAGE RESEARCH FORUM 2019. Michigan State University. September, 20-22. "Modality and Task Effects in Grammatical Gender Production by Spanish Heritage Speakers and L2 Learners".

- 2019 THE 11TH ANNUAL SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND TEACHER EDUCATION (SLATE) GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. May 2. "Modality and Task Effects in Grammatical Gender Processing by Spanish Heritage Speakers and L2 Learners."

### CAMPUS EVENTS

- 2021 LANGUAGE TEACHING SHARE FAIR. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. March, 3. "Zooming Out: Finding Alternatives for Students Interaction in the Age of Virtual Learning."
- 2018 LANGUAGE TEACHING SHARE FAIR. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. November, 2. "Game-Based Language Learning: Learning Through Simulations."

## ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

### FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 **DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP** |  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
-Project: "An equitable proficiency assessment for heritage speakers and second language learners: An elicited imitation task to test heritage speakers and second language learners of Spanish."

2016-17 **DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC LINGUISTICS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP.** University of Salamanca | Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (Spain)  
-Developed 2 items for the SIELE computerized adaptive test (“International Assessment Service for the Spanish Language”). Developed a reading comprehension item, which involved the adaptation of published texts, and a listening comprehension item, which involved the creation of original texts.

#### **GRANTS**

2019 **DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARD** | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

#### **HONORS**

2019 LIST OF TEACHERS RANKED AS EXCELLENT BY THEIR STUDENTS: Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019 | Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2019 “OUTSTANDING” MENTION ON THE LIST OF TEACHERS RANKED AS EXCELLENT BY THEIR STUDENTS: Spring 2019, Summer 2019 | Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

### **GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

Fall 2018 Child and Adult Language Acquisition (LING 426)  
Spanish Morphology (SPAN 431)  
Proseminar for Language Teaching (SPAN 571)

Spring 2019 Educational Statistics (EPSY 480)  
Psycholinguistics (LING 525)  
The Acquisition of Spanish (SPAN 437) (Auditor)  
Seminar in Second Language Learning. Second language acquisition: theoretical and classroom research (SPAN 588)

Fall 2019 Special Topics in Linguistics. Intro to Statistical Analyses for Linguistic Research (LING 490)  
Syntax I (LING 501)  
Design and Methodology in Linguistic Research (LING 514)  
Seminar in Bilingualism (LING 560) (Auditor)

Spring 2020 Spanish Syntax (SPAN 432)  
Principles of Language Testing (SPAN 460)  
Instructed Heritage Language Acquisition (SPAN 588)

Summer 2020 Introduction to TESL Methodology (EIL 411)  
Theoretical Foundations of SLA (LING 489)

Fall 2020 Sociolinguistics I (LING 450)  
English Grammar for ESL Teachers (EIL 422) (Auditor)

Spring 2021 Second Language Reading and Writing (EIL 445)

### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

2018 - present **TEACHING ASSISTANT**, Department of Spanish & Portuguese | **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**  
**Intensive Elementary Spanish** (SPAN 122): Fall 2018.  
**Intermediate Spanish** (SPAN 130): Spring 2019, Summer 2019.  
**Introduction to Spanish Grammar** (SPAN 141): Fall 2019.  
**Spanish Composition** (SPAN 228): Spring 2021.  
**The Sounds of Spanish** (SPAN 303): Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

- 2019-20 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**, Dr. Melissa A. Bowles, Department of Spanish & Portuguese | **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** | RA in the project *The Bilingual Advantage Starts at Home: Raising Awareness of Home Language Maintenance Among Illinois Teachers and Families*. Awarded the Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and the Humanities (2019).  
 Developed and managed the project's website and social media presence.  
 Created a brochure on bilingualism and home language maintenance.  
 Reached out to K-5 educators and administrators at over 500 schools across Illinois.  
 Organized and coordinated four Zoom webinars (Summer 2020).
- 2017-present **TEST DEVELOPER - DELE TEST (SPANISH LANGUAGE DIPLOMAS) | University of Salamanca – International Courses**, Salamanca (Spain)  
 -Developed 7 Reading and Listening Comprehension items from texts in different Spanish dialects (e.g., Spain, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic) as well as created original texts for listening comprehension items.
- 2017-present **DELE TEST EXAMINER | University of Salamanca – International Courses**, Salamanca (Spain)  
 -Evaluated 949 Writing Expression and Interaction Items. CEFR Levels: B1, C1
- 2018-19 **SPANISH INSTRUCTOR - TEEN SUMMER PROGRAM | AIP Language Institute**, Valencia (Spain)  
 -Taught 4 general Spanish language courses and co-organized 10 cultural and extracurricular activities.  
**CEFR Levels taught: A1-B2.** July 2018, July 2019.
- 2017-18 **VISITING TEACHING ASSOCIATE**, Department of Hispanic Studies | **Brown University**  
**Advanced Spanish I** (HISP500): Spring 2018.  
**Advanced Spanish II** (HISP600): Fall 2017, Spring 2018.  
**Writing Consultant** at *La Pluma. Writing Center*: Fall 2017, Spring 2018.
- 2017 **SPANISH INSTRUCTOR | University of Salamanca - International Courses**, Salamanca (Spain)  
**Spanish Grammar (CEFR Levels B1-B2):** July 2017.

## **PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND TRAINING**

- 2020 **CERTIFICATE IN “3 MODES COLLAB FOR 2020 TEACHING”**. Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ICTFL).  
 Received training on the creation of language teaching virtual resources for interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication.  
 Created three virtual resources centered in each mode of communication.  
 Shared and exchanged ideas and resources with other instructors.
- 2018 **CERTIFICATE IN “CONTEXTUALIZED LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION”**. Center for Language Instruction and Coordination. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2017 **DELE EXAMINER CERTIFICATE: WRITTEN EXPRESSION AND INTERACTION ITEMS**. Cervantes Institute & University of Salamanca - International Courses, Spain. 20 hours.
- 2016 **CERTIFICATE IN INTRODUCTION TO THE METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE [“Iniciación a la metodología de ELE”]**. Cervantes Institute & Fundación Instituto Castellano y Leonés de la Lengua. Palencia, Spain. 20 hours.
- 2015-16 **CERTIFICATE IN TEACHING SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**. Tía Tula: School of Spanish, Salamanca, Spain. 70 hours.  
 Training in instruction of CEFR Levels A1-C2.  
 Training in creation of pedagogical materials.  
 Class observations and supervised instruction of a B1-level course.

- 2014 CERTIFICATE IN “FORMACIÓN ESPECÍFICA EN INNOVACIÓN EDUCATIVA EN EL AULA DE LENGUA Y LITERATURA (3ªED.)” [Specific Training on Pedagogical Innovation in the Spanish (L1) Classroom (3<sup>RD</sup> edition)]. Universidad de Salamanca. Salamanca, Spain. 20 hours.

## **SERVICE**

### **CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZER**

- 2020-21 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS SOCIETY, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Feb. 26-27, 2021.  
*Topic.* “Minoritized Language in a Globalized World”  
-Managed the meeting’s website. Chaired two sessions.
- 2019-20 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS SOCIETY, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Feb. 18-19, 2020.  
*Topic.* “Language across the Lifespan”

### **DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATION**

- 2019-21 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN CAMPUS SENATE. Graduate College Senator. Academic Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021.
- 2019-21 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN ILLINOIS STUDENT GOVERNMENT. Graduate College Senator. Academic Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021.
- 2019-21 SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
Social Chair, Academic Years 2019-2020, 2020-2021
- 2014-15 STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF PHILOLOGY. Universidad de Salamanca. Salamanca, Spain.  
Vice-president, academic year 2014-2015.  
President, July – October 2015.

### **VOLUNTEERISM**

- 2016-17 PUNTAL: PROJECT FOR INNOVATION IN TEACHING. Universidad de Salamanca. Salamanca, Spain.  
Teaching training platform for the students of the M.A. in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language. Instruction of free Spanish courses for the international students in the University.  
Co-ordinator. January-June 2017  
Instructed CEFR levels A2, B2. Academic year 2016-17.  
Co-developed a virtual proficiency test for the students of the program.

## **LANGUAGES**

<b>Spanish</b>	Native
<b>Catalan</b>	Native
<b>English</b>	Near-native
<b>French</b>	Advanced
<b>Italian</b>	Reading knowledge

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE CERTIFICATIONS**

- 2017 INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM (IELTS) TEST. Overall Band Score: 8/9 (CEFR: C1). British Council.
- 2017 DIPLÔME D'ÉTUDES EN LANGUE FRANÇAISE (DELF) B2. CIEP and Ministère de l'éducation nationale.
- 2013 CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED ENGLISH (CAE). CEFR: C1. University of Cambridge.

2013 CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED VALENCIAN [CATALAN]. CEFR: C1. Junta Qualificadora de Coneixements de València.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2021-Present THE COMPUTER-ASSISTED LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION CONSORTIUM (CALICO)  
2020-Present AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE (AATSP)  
2020-Present THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (ACTFL)  
2018-19 ASOCIACIÓN PARA LA ENSEÑANZA DEL ESPAÑOL COMO LENGUA EXTRANJERA (ASELE)  
[ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF SPANISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE]

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

**COURSE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE:** BLACKBOARD, MOODLE, CANVAS

**PEDAGOGICAL SOFTWARE:** PADLET, QUIZLET, PEAR DECK, SMART NOTEBOOK, DUOLINGO FOR SCHOOLS

**DATA ANALYSIS:** EXCEL, R, R STUDIO & R MARKDOWN

**ACOUSTIC PHONETIC ANALYSIS:** PRAAT

**EXPERIMENT MANAGEMENT:** QUALTRICS, SURVEYGIZMO, AMAZON MECHANICAL TURK, GORILLA