

CURRICULUM VITAE

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Personal

Name: Owen R. Ward

Department of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies (ISPLAS, formerly Spanish and Portuguese)
 Victoria College
 University of Toronto
 Toronto, ON

E-mail: owen.ward@mail.utoronto.ca

Website: <https://owen-ward.github.io>

2. Degrees

2026	Ph.D. (Defended: 1 October 2025, Conferral: June 2026) Spanish, University of Toronto <i>The role of vowel reduction in the perception and production of English lexical stress by Colombian Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese speakers</i> Committee: Anabela Rato (supervisor), Philip Monahan, Laura Colantoni, Jessamyn Schertz (external reader), Esther Gómez-Lacabex (external reader)
2017	M.A. Hispanic Studies, University of Western Ontario
2015	B.A. Honours Spanish (Spanish/English Translation Specialization, French Minor), University of Waterloo

3. Employment

2018-	Graduate Research Assistant ISPLAS
2021-2025	Course Instructor ISPLAS
2023-2024	Online Data Analyst (Core Satisfaction) Telus International AI Solutions
2017-2023	Teaching Assistant ISPLAS
2020-2022	Course Designer

	North American Canadian English Academy (NACEA)
2022	Grader
	ISPLAS
2016-2017	Community Service Learning (CSL) Cuba Coordinator University of Western Ontario

4. Awards & Honours (in CAD)

2021-2023	Doctoral Completion Award: Faculty of Arts & Science (\$12,200) University of Toronto
2020-2023	Department of Spanish Graduate Program Award (\$2,685) University of Toronto
2017-2022	University of Toronto Fellowship, Faculty of Arts & Science (\$35,606) University of Toronto
2022	Faculty of Arts & Science Covid-19 Program Completion Award (\$4600) University of Toronto
2022	Department of Spanish Graduate Program Travel and Conference Award (\$1000) University of Toronto
2017-2021	University of Toronto Tuition Fellowship, Faculty of Arts and Science (\$32,681) University of Toronto
2017-2021	Faculty of Arts & Science Program-level Fellowship (\$3,808) University of Toronto
2021	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Faculty of Arts & Science (\$15,000) University of Toronto
2020	Research Development Award (\$300) University of Toronto
2017	WSRC Entrance Scholarship (\$8000) University of Toronto
2013	Laura López Kok Memorial Scholarship (\$300) University of Waterloo

5. PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Member

2018	Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA)
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Conference & Workshop Organization

23-25 April 2025	New Sounds 2025 (Local Organizing Committee) University of Toronto
23-24 April 2021	EXPORTLI 2021 (Local Organizing Committee) University of Toronto
15 February 2019	2019 Intonation Workshop (Local Organizing Committee) University of Toronto, Canada
30 April 2018	EXPORTLI 2018 (Local Organizing Committee) University of Toronto

B. ACADEMIC HISTORY

6. Research Endeavours

- Speech Perception and Production, Second Language Acquisition, Phonetics, Phonology, Lexical Stress, Intonation, Bilingualism, Language Contact, Heritage Languages, Training, Teaching Methodology
- Research Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese, French

C. SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL WORK

7. Refereed Publications

Machado, V. & Ward, O. (2024) “¿Soy de Ribera o Rivera?: Sociolinguistic [b]/[v] variation in Rivera Spanish. *Languages Journal Special Issue: Language Contact in Borderlands* 9(10): 308. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages9100308>

8. Manuscripts Submitted or in Preparation

Machado, V. & Ward, O. “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”.

Rato, A. & Ward, O. “The role of cross-language phonetic similarity and articulatory difficulty in L2 Speech Learning”.

9. Refereed Presentations & Posters

Ward, O. “L1 Vowel Systems and Their Impact on English Vowel Reduction and Stress Acquisition in Colombian Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese Speakers”, *New Sounds 2025*, University of Toronto, Canada, 23-25 April 2025.

Rato, A., Oliveira, D. & Ward, O. “Generalization and retention as measures of L2 speech learning robustness: A systematic review of perceptual training research”, *New Sounds 2022*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 20-22 April 2022.

Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”, *New Sounds 2022*, University of Barcelona, Spain, 20-22 April 2022 (Poster).

Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”, *Montreal-Ottawa-Toronto Phonology/Phonetics Workshop 2022*, University of Ottawa, Canada, 25-26 March 2022 (Virtual).

Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “The predictive role of cross-language phonetic similarity in L2 consonant learning”, *New Sounds 2019*, Waseda University, Japan, 30 August-1 September 2019 (Poster).

Ward, O. “Perception of L2 Spanish Lexical Stress by L1 English Listeners”, *New Sounds 2019*, Waseda University, Japan, 30 August-1 September 2019 (Poster).

Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “Predicting difficulty in the perception of non-native consonants: The role of crosslinguistic perceptual similarity”, *II Experimental Portuguese Linguistics Workshop*, University of Toronto, Canada, 26 April 2019.

Ward, O. “Effects of perceptual training on the acquisition of Spanish lexical stress”, *Quebec Ontario Dialogues on the Acquisition of Spanish*, University of Toronto, Canada, 24 April 2018.

Ward, O. “The production of English /z/ and /s/ by Mexican Spanish speakers in ambiguous orthographic conditions”, *Quebec Ontario Dialogues on the Acquisition of Spanish*, University of Western Ontario, Canada, 7 April 2017.

Ward, O. “Las raíces y los orígenes de Cuba: Un estudio léxico de la cultura cubana”, *Quebec Ontario Dialogues on the Acquisition of Spanish*, University of Montreal, Canada, 22 April 2016.

10. Invited Talks

Ward, O. “La adquisición del acento léxico y la reducción vocálica del inglés como L2 por colombianos y brasileños”, California State University – Channel Islands, California, United States, 5 November 2024 (Virtual).

11. Other Presentations

Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”, *NLT L2 Phonology Research Forum 2023*, NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal; University of Toronto, Canada; University of Lancaster, United Kingdom, 8 December 2023 (Virtual).

Ward, O. “The role of vowel reduction in the perception and production of L2 English lexical stress by Colombian Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese speakers – Preliminary Results”, *Summer Phonetics Forum*, University of Toronto, Canada, 5 July 2023.

Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “Non-native perception of European Portuguese consonants by Canadian English speakers”, *NLT L2 Phonology Research Forum*, NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal; University of Toronto, Canada; University of Lancaster, United Kingdom, 26 May 2023 (Virtual).

Ward, O. “Preliminary results from thesis: *The role of vowel reduction in the perception and production of English lexical stress by Spanish and Portuguese speakers*”, University of Toronto Speech Group, 25 November 2022.

Ward, O. “El empleo de las actividades culturales en la enseñanza del español”, *Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues*, University of Toronto, Canada, 9 February 2018.

Ward, O. “CSL Cuba: El aprendizaje através de la experiencia”, *Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues*, University of Western Ontario, Canada, 10 February 2017.

D. LIST OF COURSES

12. Courses

a. Course Instructor

University of Toronto

SPA100/102	Intro to Spanish 2023, 2024, 2025
SPA221	Spanish Pronunciation 2021 (x2), 2023
SPA320	Advanced Spanish 2022

University of Western Ontario

SPA1030	Spanish for Beginners 2015-2016
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b. Teaching Assistant

University of Toronto

SPA100	Intro to Spanish 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023
SPA220	Intermediate Spanish 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
SPA326	Latin American Spanish Varieties Through Media 2021

University of Waterloo

SPA101	Introduction to Spanish
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2014, 2015

c. **Grader**

University of Toronto

SPA420 Advanced Spanish Grammar
 2022

E. TECHNICAL SKILLS

13. Languages Spoken

English	Native
Spanish	Near-native proficiency (C2)
French	Intermediate/conversational proficiency (B2)
Portuguese	High-level beginner proficiency (A2)

14. Experiment Design and Creation

Canvas	Proficient
Google Applications Suite	Proficient
Gorilla	Proficient
Microsoft Office Suite	Proficient
LabVanced	Working knowledge
Praat scripting	Working knowledge
PsychoPy	Working knowledge

15. Data Collection, Analysis and Visualization

Praat	Proficient
Prolific	Proficient
R	Proficient
Python	Working knowledge

F. REFEREES

Available upon request