

OWEN WARD
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy – Hispanic Linguistics, University of Toronto (expected defence date: June 2023)

Thesis: *The role of vowel reduction in the perception and production of English lexical stress by Spanish and Portuguese speakers*

Supervisor: Dr. Anabela Rato

Master of Arts – Hispanic Studies, Western University (2017)

Bachelor of Arts – Honours Spanish – Spanish/English Translation Specialization – French Minor, University of Waterloo (2015)

Research

Research Assistant – University of Toronto (February 2022-present)

- Research Assistant for funded project: *"When our mouth carries two worlds": The case of heritage speakers of European Portuguese in Canada* (PI: A. Rato)
- Experiment design

Research Assistant – University of Toronto (September 2021-April 2022)

- Research Assistant for project: *A fast online language assessment tool for Spanish learners* (PI: A. Pérez-Leroux)
- Designed and implemented vocabulary and auditory comprehension tasks
- Recruited participants enrolled in SPA courses

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- Visited classes as part of recruitment
- Organized data spreadsheets

Research Assistant – University of Toronto (November 2020-present)

- Research Assistant for funded project: *Assessing the robustness of L2 phonetic training: a meta-analysis of generalization and retention of learning* (PI: A. Rato)
- Bibliographic research

Research Assistant – University of Toronto (February 2018-May 2019)

- Research Assistant for funded project: *The role of cross-language phonetic similarity and articulatory difficulty in L2 Speech Learning* (PI: A. Rato)
- Scheduling data collection
- Perception and production data collection
- Organization and analysis of production data

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “¿Soy de Ribera o Rivera?: Sociolinguistic [b]/[v] variation in Rivera Spanish, *Languages Journal*.
- Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”.
- Pérez-Leroux, A & **Ward, O.** “A fast online language assessment tool for Spanish learners” .
- Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “Assessing the robustness of L2 phonetic training: a meta-analysis of generalization and retention of learning”.
- Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “The role of cross-language phonetic similarity and articulatory difficulty in L2 Speech Learning” .

Conference Presentations

- Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “Assessing the robustness of L2 phonetic training: a meta-analysis of generalization and retention of learning”, *New Sounds 2022*, University of Barcelona, Spain, April 2022, 2022.
- Machado, V. & **Ward, O.** “Bilingual perception of voicing contrasts in English and Spanish pseudowords”, *New Sounds 2022*, University of Barcelona, Spain, April 20-22, 2022.
- 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, March 25-26, 2022.
- Rato, A. & **Ward, O.** “The predictive role of cross-language phonetic similarity in L2 consonant learning”, *New Sounds 2019*, Waseda University, Japan, August 30-September 1, 2019.

- **Ward, O.** “Perception of L2 Spanish Lexical Stress by L1 English Listeners”, *New Sounds 2019*, Waseda University, Japan, August 30-September 1, 2019.
- 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, April 26, 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, April 24, 2018.
- **Ward, O.** “El empleo de las actividades culturales en la enseñanza del español”, *Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues*, University of Toronto, Canada, February 9, 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, April 7, 2017.
- **Ward, O.** “CSL Cuba: El aprendizaje através de la experiencia”, *Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues*, University of Western Ontario, Canada, February 10, 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, April 22, 2016.

Other Presentations:

- **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, November 25, 2022.

Courses Taught

Course Instructor

- **SPA100: Intro to Spanish, University of Toronto (2023)**
- **SPA320: Advanced Spanish, University of Toronto (2022)**
- **SPA221: Spanish Pronunciation, University of Toronto (2021, 2021)**
- **SPA1030: Spanish for Beginners, Western University (2015)**

Teaching Assistant

- **SPA220: Intermediate Spanish, University of Toronto (2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019)**
- **SPA100: Intro to Spanish, University of Toronto (2021, 2020, 2018, 2017)**
- **SPA326: Latin American Spanish Variation Through Media, University of Toronto (2021)**
- **SPA101: Introduction to Spanish 1, University of Waterloo (2014)**

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Other Experience**Grader****SPA420: Advanced Spanish Grammar, University of Toronto (2022)****North American Canadian English Academy (NACEA) – Course Designer (2020-2022)**

- Designed courses in CELPIP and IELTS for NACEA
- Created lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations and testing materials

Community Service Learning (CSL) Cuba Coordinator – Western University (2016-2017)

- Organized trip to Holguín, Cuba for second and third-year Spanish students in February 2017 (including booking flights, arranging accommodation, liaising with program director in Cuba and organizing meetings for students)
- Assessed assignments, recorded attendance and provided feedback to students in program
- Acted as a resource to assist students and answers questions

Freelance Translator (2015-2018)

- Translated documents from Spanish to English
- Transcribed recordings in Spanish and then translated to English

Academic Awards

Doctoral Completion Award (2022) - \$8100

Faculty of Arts & Science Covid-19 Program Completion Award (2022) – \$4600

Doctoral Completion Award (2021) - \$4000

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (2021) - \$15,000

Research Development Award (2020) - \$300

University of Toronto Fellowship (2017-2022) - \$35,606

University of Toronto Tuition Fellowship (2017-2021) - \$32,681

Faculty of Arts and Science Program-Level Fellowship (2017-2021) - \$3808.53

WSRC Entrance Scholarship (2017) - \$8000

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Laura López Kok Memorial Scholarship (2013) - \$300

Spanish Embassy Book Prize in Intermediate Level Spanish (2011-2012) – No monetary value

Organization of Conferences & Workshops

Local Organizing Committee of EXPORTLI 2021, April 23-24, 2021, University of Toronto, Canada

Local Organizing Committee of *2019 Intonation Workshop*, 15 February 2019, University of Toronto, Canada

Local Organizing Committee of EXPORTLI 2018, April 2018, University of Toronto, Canada

Professional Affiliations

Canadian Linguistics Association (CLA)

Languages Spoken

English – Native

Spanish – Near Native

French – Intermediate

Portuguese – Intermediate

