

Marisabel Cabrera (Isa)

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Department of Linguistics
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Education

- SEP 2022 - **University of California, Los Angeles**
Ph.D., Linguistics (ongoing)
Thesis: *On cumulative markedness effects*
Committee: Tim Hunter, Claire Moore-Cantwell (co-chairs)
Bruce Hayes, Megha Sundara, Canaan Breiss (external)
- JUN 2022 **University of California, Los Angeles**
M.A., Linguistics
Thesis: *Nasal harmony in Paraguayan Guarani: Positional effects and the representation of nasality*
Committee: Claire Moore-Cantwell, Benjamin Eischens (co-chairs),
Harold Torrence, Kie Zuraw
- MAY 2021 **Cornell University**
B.A. in Linguistics, *Magna cum laude*
Honors Thesis: *Functional trade-offs between morphology and syntax: An empirical study*
Advisors: Marten van Schijndel, John Whitman

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- DEC 2024 Suffix independence in Paraguayan Guarani: stress, nasality, and nasalization.
Revise and Resubmit at *Phonological Data and Analysis*.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- MAR 2025 One-shot vs. competitions phonotactics in modeling constraint cumulativity.
In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting in Phonology (AMP)*.
- AUG 2023 Jun, Sun-Ah, Jian-Leat Siah, **Marisabel Cabrera** & Hunter Johnson. Realizations of the tri-tonal pitch accent in Guarani.
In *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*.

MANUSCRIPTS

- JUN 2023 Nasal harmony in Paraguayan Guarani: Positional effects and the representation of nasality.
MA Thesis, UCLA.

Presentations

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- NOV 2024 Suffix independence in Paraguayan Guarani nasal harmony: stress, nasality, and nasalization.
Colloquium talk at *California State University, Fresno*.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

- MAY 2025 Paraguayan Guarani progressive nasalization as phonologically conditioned allomorphy.
Manchester Phonology Meeting (mfm).
- NOV 2024 One-shot vs. competitions phonotactics in modeling constraint cumulativity.
Annual Meeting in Phonology (AMP).
- JAN 2024 Suffix independence in Paraguayan Guarani nasal harmony.
Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA).
- JAN 2024 Johnson, Hunter & **Marisabel Cabrera**. Wh-question formation strategies in Guarani.
Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA).

NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- JUN 2024 Cumulative phonotactics effects in probabilistic phonological grammars: issues with linearity.
Computational / Psycholinguistics Seminar, UCLA.
- MAY 2023 Unifying regressive and progressive nasalization in Paraguayan Guarani.
Phonology Seminar, UCLA.
- MAR 2023 Nasal harmony in Paraguayan Guarani: Analyzing regressive nasalization.
Phonology Seminar, UCLA.
- MAY 2021 Engst, Tristan & **Marisabel Cabrera**. 2021. *LASER: Lingusitically Aware Subword Embeddings for Recurrent Neural Networks*.
Computational Psycholinguistics Discussions Lab (C.PsyD), Cornell University.
- APR 2021 Functional trade-offs between morphology and syntax: an empirical study.
Cornell Undergraduate Linguistics Colloquium (CULC), Cornell University.
- APR 2021 Functional trade-offs between morphology and syntax: an empirical study.
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Conference.

Fellowships, honors & awards

SEP 2025	Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA
APR 2024	Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM), UCLA Project: <i>Infants' sensitivity to cumulative violations of sound patterns</i>
MAY 2023	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM), UCLA Project: <i>Investigating cumulative constraint interactions of faithfulness constraints</i>
AUG 2021	Edward L. Keenan Fellowship for Mathematics and Language, UCLA
MAR 2021	<i>Honorable Mention:</i> Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation (NSF)
APR 2020	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF), Cornell University Project: <i>Functional trade-offs between morphology and syntax: an empirical study</i>

Teaching

UCLA

SUM 2025	Primary Instructor for LING 132: <i>Language Processing Remote instruction.</i>
SPR 2025	Teaching Fellow for LING 132: <i>Language Processing</i> Instructor: Jesse Harris
WIN 2025	Teaching Associate for LING 20: <i>Introduction to Linguistic Analysis</i> Instructor: Thomas Motter
SUM 2024	Primary Instructor for LING 132: <i>Language Processing Remote instruction.</i>
SPR 2024	Teaching Associate for LING 119A: <i>Applied Phonology</i> Instructor: Sam Zukoff <i>Skills-based grading.</i>
WIN 2024	Teaching Associate for LING 185A: <i>Computational Linguistics I</i> Instructor: Dylan Bumford
FALL 2023	Teaching Assistant for LING 120: <i>Phonology I</i> Instructor: Benjamin Eischens
SPR 2023	Teaching Assistant for LING 20: <i>Introduction to Linguistic Analysis</i> Instructor: Stefan Keine
WIN 2023	Teaching Assistant for LING 132: <i>Language Processing</i> Instructor: Jesse Harris
JAN 2022	<i>PC Ibex Tutorial</i> Computational / Psycholinguistics Seminar

Research experience

UCLA

- SEP- DEC '22 *Graduate Student Researcher: Claire Moore-Cantwell*
Assisted in installing the department's new EEG (electroencephalogram) machine and in developing experimental protocols. Ran pilot experiments for configuring and troubleshooting.
- JUN 2022 - *Fieldwork on Paraguayan Guarani*
Conducted in-situ fieldwork on Paraguayan Guarani in Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay for six weeks during the summer of 2022. Collected data on the indigenous language in consultation with 8 native speakers; virtual fieldwork still ongoing. Advised by Harold Torrence.
- JAN - JUN '22 *Fieldwork on Cantel K'iche'*
Conducted virtual and in-person fieldwork on K'iche', an indigenous Mayan language spoken in Guatemala, through UCLA's Field Methods course. Described new findings on the ergative extraction constraint.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

- '20 - '21 *Undergraduate Researcher: Computational Psycholinguistics Discussions (C.PsyD)*
Investigated the learning of morphological information of deep learning language models by assessing their performance on agreement attraction errors. Compared performance of English, Russian, Italian, and Hebrew language models. In collaboration with Tristan Engst, advised by Marten van Schijndel.
- JAN - JUN '20 *Undergraduate Researcher: Language Documentation Lab*
Organized a digital database of linguistically annotated and analyzed Cheyenne language texts and resources, in collaboration with Chief Dull-Knight College in the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana. Advised by Sarah Murray, under NSF grant

Relevant work experience

UCLA

- FEB 2024 *Graduate Student Researcher for Megha Sundara*
Transcribed the intonational patterns of Spanish child directed speech corpora using the Spanish TOBI transcription system.
- JUN 2023 *Graduate Student Researcher for Sun-Ah Jun*
Transcribed the intonation of English spoken language data corpora using the English TOBI transcription system.
- JAN 2023 *Graduate Student Researcher for Jessica Rett*
Developed the website for the Semantics of Cancer project.

JAN 2022 *Graduate Student Researcher* for Hilda Koopman
Developed the website for the Morphology as Syntax II workshop hosted at UCLA. Aided conference presenters in their submissions and provided technological support during the conference.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

JAN 2020 *Undergraduate Assistant* for Abigail Cohn
Developed website for linguistic conferences in Indonesia and resources about Indo-Pacific languages. Created course bibliographies and assisted in running errands.

Service

'25 - '26 Open House Committee Chair
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2025 Abstract reviewer, Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA)

2025 Organizing Committee
Southern California Annual Meeting in Phonology (SCAMP)

'24 - '25 Open House Committee Chair
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

'23 - '24 Phonology Job Search Committee
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

'23 - '24 Open House Committee Chair
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2023 Abstract reviewer, Annual Conference of African Linguistics (ACAL)
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2023 - Graduate Student Association Representative
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2021 - Climate Committee
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

AD HOC President, Secretary of the Puerto Rican Student Association
Cornell University

Membership & affiliations

2025 - Member, UCLA Language Acquisition Lab

2023 - Member, UCLA Phonology Lab

2020 - Member, Linguistic Society of America

- 2020 - Member, Association for Computational Linguistics
'18 - '20 Member, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity

Natural language & technical skills

NATURAL LANGUAGES

Native: Spanish and English

Fieldwork: Paraguayan Guarani, Cantel K'iche'

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistics & Computation: Python, R, Haskell, Matlab, Java, PyTorch, command line

Experiment methods and software: BioSemi EEG and ERP technique, phonological productivity experiments, speech perception experiments, preference paradigms for language acquisition, TOBI intonation transcription, PCibex, Labvanced, Prolific, OTSoft, OTHelp, Praat phonetic analysis

Other: \LaTeX , WordPress, Jekyll, Microsoft Suite

Last updated: November 2025