Marisabel Cabrera (Isa)

Department of Linguistics
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, C.A. 90095 USA

Email: isacabrera@ucla.edu
Website: isacabrera.com

Research Interests

→ Probing the representational and computational commitments that phonological theories make through experimental and computational investigations.

→ Interfaces of phonological processes and representations with speech perception and lexical access.

→ Phonological learning and acquisition.

→ Fieldwork and nasal harmony.

Education

SEP 2022 - **University of California, Los Angeles**
Ph.D., Linguistics (ongoing)

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

Fellowships, honors & awards

APR 2024   Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM), UCLA

MAY 2023   Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM), UCLA
Project: *Investigating cumulative constraint interactions of faithfulness constraints*

AUG 2021   Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, UCLA

AUG 2021   Edward L. Keenan Fellowship for Mathematics and Language, UCLA

MAR 2021   *Honorable Mention:* Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation

APR 2020   Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF), Cornell University
Project: *Functional trade-offs between morphology and syntax: an empirical study*

Publications and manucripts

Manuscripts

DEC 2024   Suffix independence in Paraguayan Guarani: stress, nasality, and nasalization.
Under review.

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

Conference Proceedings

MAR 2025   One-shot vs. competitions phonotactics in modeling constraint cumulativity.
In *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting in Phonology (AMP)*.

to appear   Jun, Sun-Ah, Jian-Leat Siah, **Marisabel Cabrera** & Hunter Johnson. 2023. Realizations of
the tri-tonal pitch accent in Guarani.
In *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences (ICPhS)*.

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.
Upcoming, *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. *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*: Linguisitically 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.

Teaching

UCLA

SPR 2025   Teaching Assistant for *LING 132: Language Processing*
Instructor: Jesse Harris

WIN 2025   Teaching Assistant for *LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
Instructor: Thomas Motter

SUMM 2024   Primary Instructor for *LING 132: Language Processing*

SPR 2024   Teaching Assistant for *LING 119A: Applied Phonology*
Instructor: Sam Zukoff

Skills-based grading

WIN 2024   Teaching Assistant for *LING 185A: Computational Linguistics I*
Instructor: Dylan Bumford

FALL 2023   Teaching Assistant for *LING 120: Phonology I*
Instructor: Benjamin Eischens

SPR 2023   Teaching Assistant for *LING 20: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis*
Instructor: Stefan Keine

WIN 2023   Teaching Assistant for *LING 132: Language Processing*
Instructor: Jesse Harris

JAN 2022 *PC Ibex Tutorial*
Computational / Psycholinguistics Seminar

Research experience

UCLA

SEP 2022 *Graduate Student Researcher*: Claire Moore-Cantwell
Assisted in installing the department's new EEG (electroencephalogram) machine. Developed experimental protocols; ran pilot experiments and preliminary analyses 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 2022 *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

AUG 2020 *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 the performance of English, Russian, Italian, and Hebrew language models. In collaboration with Tristan Engst, advised by Marten van Schijndel.

JAN 2020 *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.

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 technical 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

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

2024 - 2025 Open House Committee Chair
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2023 - 2024 Phonology Job Search Committee
UCLA, Department of Linguistics

2023 - 2024 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

2020 -   Member, Linguistic Society of America
2020 -   Member, Association for Computational Linguistics
2018 - 2020 Member, Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity
2017 - 2020 Member, Shin Hwang and Morton Wan Piano Studios - Cornell University

Natural languages & 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
Experimental: PCIbex, EEG and ERP technique, OTSoft, OTHelp, Praat phonetic analysis
Other: LaTeX, WordPress, Jekyll, Microsoft Suite

Last updated: April 2025