

# Laura Escobar

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## Education

University of Toronto | **PhD Linguistics** (in progress)

*Sept 2024 - present*

University of Toronto | **M.A. Linguistics**

*Sept 2023 - Aug 2024*

University of Toronto | **B.A. Linguistics** 3.9/4.0 GPA

*Sept 2019 - June 2023*

*Dean's list scholar (2021-2023); High Distinction*

## Awards

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

*(\$15,000, Sept 2025)*

Department Of Linguistics Graduate Fellowship

*(\$6,000, Sept 2025)*

Department Of Linguistics Graduate Award

*(\$2,100, Sept 2025)*

Keren Rice Award Of Linguistics Excellence

*(\$400 July 2025)*

Department Of Linguistics Graduate Program Award

*(\$4,250 April 2024)*

SSHRC - Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's Program

*(\$17,500, Sept 2023)*

University Of Toronto Fellowship, Faculty Of Arts And Science

*(\$10,300, Sept 2023)*

## Research contributions

### Refereed contributions

#### *Journal articles*

Escobar, L. (Accepted). What makes Kirara sound different from Lyney? Gender Differences in Conversation and Performative Speech in Japanese. *Journal of Japanese Linguistics* (29 pages).

### Non-refereed contributions

#### *Conference proceedings*

Machado, V. and Escobar, L. (2023). The prosody of Montevideo Spanish: An intonational, rhythmic and tempo description. *2023 Canadian Linguistic Association (CLA) Conference Proceedings* (18 pages). (Co-author; manuscript writing and formatting, data annotation)

#### *Conference oral presentations*

Escobar, L. (2025). Feminine performance: Gender differences in performative and conversational speech in Japanese *anime* and video games. *New Ways of Analysing Variation Asia Pacific 8 (NWAV-AP8)*, Singapore, August. (Accepted)

Escobar, L. (2025). The voice of the anime girl: How Japanese women's voices are perceived and performed on and off the screen. *Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Phonology/Phonetics Workshop ([mot<sup>h</sup>] 2025)*, Toronto, April.

Escobar, L., Colantoni, L., Pérez Leroux, A. T. & Thomas, D. (2025). Phonetic aspects of gender acquisition in Spanish-English bilinguals. *New Sounds 2025 (The 11th International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech)*, Toronto, April.

### ***Conference poster presentations***

Machado, V. and Escobar, L. (2023). The Prosody of Montevideo Spanish: an Intonational and Rhythmic Description. 2023 CLA, Toronto, June.

Escobar, L. (2023). The intonation of statements in the casual spontaneous speech of Tokyo Japanese. TULCON16, Toronto, March.

### ***Workshop presentations***

Escobar, L. (2024). Gender differences in f0, intonation and particle use in conversation and performative speech in Japanese. Summer Phonetics/Phonology Forum 2024, Toronto, August.

## **Work Experience**

### **Research Assistant**

**University of Toronto, Spanish & Portuguese Dept., Linguistics Dept.** *Sept 2020 - present*

Contributed to research projects as a research assistant for three projects:

1. Research on syntax and phonetics in Spanish heritage speakers  
(*Prof. Laura Colantoni and Prof. Ana Perez Leroux*)
  - Transcribed spontaneous speech (2-4 mins) from 24 participants ages 6-11 in CHILDES format using Praat
  - Aided in the creation of experimental material and procedure
  - Tested participants in person following lab procedure
  - Ran linear mixed effects models in R Statistical Software
2. Research on the intonation of Spanish speakers near the border of Uruguay and Brazil  
(*Prof. Laura Colantoni and PhD candidate Vanina Machado*)
  - Transcribed spontaneous, semi-spontaneous and controlled speech from 60 participants (40 mins each; 160-230 tokens per participant)
  - Created Praat scripts to automate workflow
3. Research on the prosody of canonical and non-canonical questions in Italian  
(*Prof. Laura Colantoni and Prof. Michela Ippolito*)
  - Transcribe, phonetically segment and code semi-spontaneous speech of 24 participants for pitch accents and nuclear contours of questions in Italian in Praat

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Teaching Assistant**

*Sept 2023 - present*

**University of Toronto, Linguistics Dept.**

LIN203 - English Words

LIN200 - Introduction to Language

LIN101 - Introduction to Linguistics I

LIN102 - Introduction to Linguistics II

## **Academic Service**

Organizing committee member for Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Syntax Workshop (MOTH), *April 2025*

Organizing committee member for Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto-Hamilton Phonology/Phonetics Workshop ([mot<sup>h</sup>] 2025), *April 2025*

### **Research Interests**

- Sociolinguistics
- Prosody and intonation
- Bilingualism and L2 acquisition
- Japanese and Hispanic linguistics

### **Skills**

- Fluent in English, French and Spanish, advanced in Japanese
- Praat scripting and Rstudio
- Digital illustration