

Lee-Ann Vidal-Covas | Ph.D.

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Profile

Ph.D. in Linguistics with over a decade of experience in teaching, mentoring, and curriculum design across secondary and higher education. My teaching spans Spanish language instruction, sociolinguistics, phonetics/phonology, and introductory linguistics for non-specialists. I have supervised and trained undergraduate research assistants, supported BA/MA student projects, and developed innovative course materials, including syllabus redesigns for remote delivery and interactive activities that integrate real-world data. My research expertise in sociolinguistics and language variation complements my commitment to research-led teaching, and I bring strong skills in R, Praat, and data visualization that enrich both instruction and student research. I am dedicated to inclusive pedagogy, reproducible research practices, and fostering student engagement through active, collaborative learning.

Education

- 2025 **Ph.D.**, *Boston University*, Linguistics
Dissertation: *Covariation & Salience in Linguistic Contact: A Sociophonetic Study of Liquid Variation in Spanish in Boston*
Committee: Daniel G. Erker (Chair), Neil J. Myler & Kate Lynn Lindsey
- 2021 **M.A.**, *Boston University*, Linguistics
- 2013 **M.A.**, *Louisiana State University*, Hispanic Studies/Spanish Linguistics
Thesis: *El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos en el castellano puertorriqueño hablado en Luisiana y Puerto Rico*
Committee: Rafael Orozco, Jeremy King & Andrea Morris
- 2011 **B.A.**, *Louisiana State University*, Hispanic Studies and Literatures
- 2020 **The New York - St. Petersburg Institute of Linguistics, Cognition, and Culture**, Coursework in writing systems and phonology, morphology, experimental linguistics & syntax

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2024 Erker, Daniel G. & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Variation, Contact, and Change in Boston Spanish: How social meaning shapes stylistic practice and bilingual optimization. *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*, 17(2), 223–249.

Refereed Proceedings

- 2023 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** ¿Va primero el verbo? or ¿El sujeto va primero?: Subject-verb order in Latin American Spanish. *Proceedings of the Linguistic Society of America*, 8(1), Article 5542, pp. 1–17.
- 2014 Orozco, Rafael; Méndez Vallejo, Catalina; & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Los efectos condicionantes del verbo en el uso variable de los pronombres personales de sujeto. *Actas del XVII Congreso Internacional de la Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de la América Latina*, pp. 1–17.

Contributions to Edited Volumes (invited)

- 2022 Erker, Daniel G. & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** What we say when we say nothing at all: Clues to contact-induced language change in Spanish conversational pause-fillers. *Estudios del Observatorio / Observatorio Studies*, 80, pp. 1–29.
Erker, Daniel G. & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Qué decimos cuando no decimos nada: Claves del cambio lingüístico inducido por contacto en las pausas llenas del español conversacional. *Estudios del Observatorio / Observatorio Studies*, 80, pp. 1–31.

Edited Volumes

- 2021 Dionne, Danielle & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** (Eds). *Proceedings of the 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*. Somerville, MA, Cascadia Press.

Other Publications

- 2013 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos en el castellano puertorriqueño hablado en Luisiana y Puerto Rico. *LSU Master's Theses*, 3876.

Presentations

Refereed Papers

- 2024 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** How Saliency Influences Dialectal Persistence and Covariation: Insights from Boston's Spanish-Speaking Community, *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 52, Miami, Florida, November 7th – 9th.
- Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Investigating Saliency and Ideologies in Greater Boston: a Sociophonetic Analysis of Liquid Variation, *International Symposium on Language Ideologies and Attitudes*, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, October 17th – 19th.
- Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Riding the Waves of Saliency: Exploring Spanish Liquid Variation among Boston Spanish speakers, *LSA 2024*, NYC, New York, January 4th – 7th.
- 2023 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Making a Splash: The Saliency of Liquid Variation among Boston Spanish speakers, *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 51, NYC, New York, October 13th – 15th.
- 2014 Orozco, Rafael; Méndez Vallejo, Catalina; & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** The Verb as a Predictor of Variable Pronominal Use in Spanish, *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 43, Chicago, Illinois, October 23rd – 26th.
- Orozco, Rafael; Méndez Vallejo, Catalina; & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Los efectos condicionantes del verbo en el uso variable de los pronombres personales de sujeto, *The Association of Linguistics and Philology Latin America Conference*, Paraíba, João Pessoa, Brazil, July 14th – 19th.
- Orozco, R., Méndez Vallejo, Catalina, & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Verb-related Constraints on Variable Pronominal Use: Do we have all the Answers?, *7th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*, Madison, Wisconsin, April 3rd – 5th.
- Orozco, Rafael; Méndez Vallejo, Catalina; & **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** The Effects of Verb Semantics on Pronominal Expression: A Preliminary Study, *XXIX Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages & Literatures*, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Feb 27th - March 1st.
- Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos en el castellano puertorriqueño hablado en Luisiana y Puerto Rico, *XXIX Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages & Literatures*, Baton Rouge, LA, Feb 27th – March 1st.
- 2013 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Variable use of subject pronouns in the Spanish in Louisiana, *2nd Graduate Symposium Universidad de Puerto Rico*, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico, April.
- Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** & Linder, Cali. Variable use of subject pronouns in Spanish, *Southeastern Conference on Linguistics LXXX*, Spartanburg, South Carolina, April 4th – 6th.

Invited Talks

- 2024 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Salient Features, Strong Identities: Social Meaning and Stylistic Choices in Boston Spanish, *World Languages, Literatures & Cultures Department - Louisiana State University*, New Orleans, LA, Dec 3rd.
- 2023 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Making a Splash: The Saliency of Liquid Variation among Boston Spanish speakers, *Linguistics Program - Northeastern University*, Boston, MA, March 23rd.
- 2020 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Guest Lecture: English/Spanish Contrastive Phonology & Filled Pauses, *Intro to Sounds - Boston University*, Boston, MA, October 15th.
- 2017 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Teaching Foreign Language in the 21st Century Classroom, *Louisiana Education Technology Consortium*, Baton Rouge, LA, March.

Refereed Posters

- 2023 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** ¿Va primero el verbo OR El sujeto va primero?: Subject-Verb order in Latin American Spanish, *LSA 2023*, Denver, CO, January 5th– 8th.
- 2021 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Filled pauses as a site of language contact among Spanish-speaking Bostonians, *LSA 2021*, Virtual, January 9th.

Campus/Departmental Talks

- 2025 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Covariation & saliency in linguistic contact: A sociophonetic study of liquid variation in Boston Spanish, *Dissertation Defense - Boston University*, Boston, MA, April 7th.
- 2023 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Making a Splash: The Saliency of Liquid Variation among Boston Spanish speakers, *Graduate Research Forum - Boston University*, Boston, MA, March 20th.
- 2020 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** Filled pauses as a site of language contact among Spanish-speaking Bostonians, *Graduate Research Forum - Boston University*, Virtual, December 2nd.

- 2013 **Vidal-Covas, Lee-Ann M.** El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos en el castellano puertorriqueño hablado en Luisiana y Puerto Rico, *LSU Spanish Roundtable*, Baton Rouge, LA, October.

Grants and Fellowships

Extramural

- October 2024 **Student Registration Award**, *IDEOLING Organizing Committee*, Fundació Universitat Empresa de les Illes Balears, EUR 100
- 2021 **LSA Registration Award**, Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL), *Linguistic Society of America* (LSA2021)
- 2013 **Graduate Presentation Award**, 2nd *Graduate Symposium*, Universidad de Puerto Rico - Río Piedras, April, USD 200

Intramural

- Nov 2024 **Travel Grant**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*, USD 894
- October 2024 **Travel Grant**, *Boston University Graduate Student Organization (GSO)*, USD 700
- January 2024 **Travel Grant**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*, USD 796
- Fall – Spring 2023 – 2024 **Graduate Student Fellowship**, *Boston University GRS & Office of the Provost*
tuition + stipend
- October 2023 **Travel Grant**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*, USD 817
- January 2023 **Travel Grant**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*, USD 910
- Spring 2019, 2022 – 2023 **Graduate Student Fellowship**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*
tuition + stipend
- Sum–Fall 2019, Sm 2020–F 2021 **Research Fellowship**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*
tuition + stipend
- Fall 2018, Spring 2020 **Teaching Fellowship**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*
tuition + stipend
- Spring 2021 **Graduate Research Grant**, *Boston University Linguistics Department*, USD 1,000
- 2016 – 2017 **21st Century Classroom Implementation Grant**, *Saint Joseph's Academy*, USD 10,000
- Spring 2012 – Fall 2013 **Teaching Assistanship**, *Louisiana State University*, Foreign Languages and Literatures Department
tuition + stipend
- April 2013 **Travel Grant** (To deliver paper at SECOL LXXX, Spartanburg, SC), *Louisiana State University*
- April 2013 **Travel Grant** (To deliver paper at 2nd Graduate Symposium UPRRP, Río Piedras, PR), *Louisiana State University*

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher

- 2021 – 2025 **Dissertation**
Covariation & Saliency in Linguistic Contact: A Sociophonetic Study of Liquid Variation in Spanish in Boston
Committee: Daniel G. Erker (Chair), Neil J. Myler & Kate Lynn Lindsey
- 2020 – 2021 **2nd Ph.D. Qualifying Paper**
Subject-Verb Order in Latin American Spanish
Committee: Neil Myler (1st Reader), Danny Erker, & Paul Hagstrom
- 2019 – 2020 **1st Ph.D. Qualifying Paper**
Filled Pauses as a site of dialectal and language contact among Spanish-speaking Bostonians
Committee: Danny Erker (1st Reader), Neil Myler, & Jon Barnes
- 2011 – 2013 **M.A. Thesis**
El uso variable de los pronombres sujetos en el castellano puertorriqueño hablado en Luisiana y Puerto Rico
Committee: Rafael Orozco (Chair), Jeremy King, & Andrea Morris

Research Assistanships

- 2018 – 2025 **Sociolinguistics Lab**, *Spanish in Boston Project*
Directed by Dr. Daniel Erker

- 2020 – 2021 **Structures of Under-researched Languages Lab**, *The Mirror Principle Violations Project*
Directed by Dr. Neil Myler
Linguistic Fieldwork
- 2012 – 2013 **Puerto Rican Spanish**, in Puerto Rico (DEC – JAN)
in Louisiana

Teaching Experience

Boston University

- Fall 2021 **Language and Music**, CAS LX 120
Grader for Daniel G. Erker
- Fall 2020 **Introduction to Sound Systems**, CAS LX 301/601
Course Assistant for Kate Lynn Lindsey
- Fall 2018 & Spring 2020 **Say what? Accents, Dialects, and Society**, CAS LX 110
Teaching Fellow for Neil J. Myler

Academy of the Sacred Heart (Middle School)

- 2017 – 2018 **Introductory Spanish & Basic Technology**
Instructor of Record
Saint Joseph's Academy (High School)
- 2014 – 2017 **Elementary Spanish I & II; Computer & Software Orientation**
Instructor of Record
Louisiana State University
- 2012 – 2013 **Elementary Spanish I & II**, Span 1101 & 1102
Instructor of Record

Service

To the Department

- 2021 – 2022 **Graduate Student Organizer**, *Linguistics Department Colloquium Series*, Boston University
- Summer 2019 **Lab Manager**, *Sociolinguistics Lab (Spanish in Boston Project)*, Boston University

To the Discipline: Committee

- 2020 **Co-Organizer**, 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development
Sponsorship Chair, 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development
- 2019 **Volunteer Chair**, 44th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development

To the Discipline: Other Work

- 2021 **Panelist**, *Virtual Open House for MA/PhD Linguistics Programs*, Boston University, December 13th
Volunteer, 95th Annual Meeting Linguistic Society of America (LSA2021), Boston University, January
- 2020 **Panelist**, *Panel on PhD Applications*, Boston University, November 4th
- Fall 2018 **Volunteer**, 43rd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development, Boston University
- February 2014 **Volunteer**, XXIX Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages & Literatures, LSU
- April 2013 **Volunteer**, LXXX SouthEastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), Spartanburg, SC
- February 2012 **Volunteer**, XXVIII Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages & Literatures, LSU

Other Service

- 2014 – 2017 **Co-Organizer**, *Louisiana Association of High School Spanish Clubs' Annual Conference*

Languages

- Native English, Spanish
- Elementary Brazilian Portuguese
- Fieldwork Indonesian, West Greenlandic, Wichita, Yagua, Zulu

Technology

- R ●●●● Praat ●●●●
- GitHub ●●●● L^AT_EX ●●●●
- Python ●●●● ELAN ●●●●