

Lee-Ann Vidal-Covas | Ph.D.

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About me

Ph.D. in Linguistics with 10+ years of experience in research, teaching, and data-driven problem solving. Built reproducible pipelines to clean and analyze large-scale datasets, improving data quality and enabling actionable insights for cross-functional teams. Experienced in workflow automation, data visualization, and speech ML annotation, with technical expertise in R, Praat, LaTeX, and growing knowledge of Python. Strengths include project management, instructional design, and team leadership, with a proven ability to translate abstract concepts into practical applications, communicate technical insights clearly to diverse audiences, and adapt quickly to new tools and challenges. Committed to leveraging language, data, and design thinking to create meaningful impact across education, technology, and research-focused industries.

Professional Experience

Cogito Corporation

2022 – 2023 **Data Annotator | Machine Learning Annotation**

- Produced high-quality annotated speech datasets to support ML model training.
- Labeled conversational audio (*engagement, energy, pace*), boosting model calibration.
- Evaluated pre-trained models & provided actionable feedback, boosting accuracy.
- Suggested workflow improvements, reducing annotation turnaround time.

Boston University

2018 – 2025 **Doctoral Researcher | Project & Lab Manager**

- Built reproducible R pipelines to clean & analyze 20k+ token speech datasets, supporting multiple publications & international conference presentations.
- Designed annotation schemes & trained 10+ student researchers, improving data quality & workflow consistency.
- Automated dataset updates with custom scripts, reducing manual processing by 15+ hours/week.
- Co-organized conference (~1,000 participants), successfully transitioning the international event to virtual format during COVID-19.

St. Joseph's Academy & Academy of the Sacred Heart

2014 – 2018 **Secondary Spanish & Technology Educator**

- Automated assessments by coding self-grading grammar quizzes, improving feedback speed & freeing class time for project-based learning.
- Designed & delivered a middle school digital literacy curriculum, training students in productivity tools, safe online practices, & collaborative workflows.
- Implemented onboarding workshops for 250+ incoming high school students per year, guiding digital setup & proficiency in Microsoft Office & school platforms.
- Leveraged instructional technology to streamline lesson delivery, enhance student engagement, & modernize evaluation processes.
- Planned & led multiple international immersion programs for 40+ students, ensuring safety, cultural exchange, & logistical coordination.
- Organized statewide Spanish conferences with 200+ participants annually, raising interest in Spanish learning across Louisiana schools.
- Moderated extracurricular programs, expanding student engagement opportunities & leading teams to national-level competitions.
- Full teaching record available on [website](#) | [Academic CV](#).

Communications on Hold

2007 – 2017 **Administrative Coordinator | Office & Production Manager**

- Managed office operations, finances, and client workflows, ensuring efficient project delivery while cutting turnaround time and boosting client retention.

Tech Tools

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|--------|------|-------|------|
| R | ●●●● | Praat | ●●●● |
| GitHub | ●●●● | LaTeX | ●●●● |
| Python | ●●●● | ELAN | ●●●● |

Skills

Data Science & Research

QA
Statistical analysis
Experiment design
Workflow automation
Data creation, cleaning & sampling
Data processing & visualization

Project Management

Problem-solving
Strategic thinking
Event coordination
Stakeholder communication
Interdisciplinary collaboration
Long-term team management

Annotation

Data labeling
Guideline creation
Linguistic data analysis

Languages

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Native | English, Spanish |
| Elementary | Brazilian Portuguese |

Education

2025 Ph.D., Linguistics, Boston University
2021 M.A., Linguistics, Boston University
2013 M.A., Hispanic Studies & Ling., LSU
2011 B.A., Hispanic Studies & Lit., LSU

Research

Published in peer-reviewed venues; presented at international conferences. See [Academic CV](#) or [website](#) for full list.