

Las Coordenadas

News from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at University of Toronto
Fall 2016

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Upcoming events

A Luncheon Series Lecture/Book Launch with Dr. Rodrigo Laguarda

January 13. About the book “De Sur a Norte: Chilangos Gays En Toronto.” This book shows the experience of a group of gay men that used to live in Mexico City and, due to their sexual orientation, decided to move up and begin a new life in Toronto. Based on oral history and ethnography, this work describes the experience of these individuals as they navigate a set of cultural differences that have led to encounters and conflicts, leading them to important reflections.

Intonation workshop

February 16 and 17. Researchers interested in the form-meaning mapping in L1 and L2 intonation are invited to submit their proposals for poster presentations at the second University of Toronto prosody workshop. The goal of this workshop is to promote a dialogue among a vibrant group of local experts, including graduate students, faculty and alumni, and researchers from around the world. The meeting will include presentations from three invited speakers and from members of the UofT community, as well as posters from scholars from other institutions.

The Spanish “Oscars”

March 10. Videos created by students currently taking SPA100Y will be selected to win amazing prizes! Categories include funniest video, best acting, and best special effects. The winning videos will be screened.

Department News & activity

The department of Spanish & Portuguese, together with the community association Latin@s en Toronto has been hosting a series of events throughout the semester. On September 28th, we organized the event MEMORIA/ DESMEMORIA, DIÁLOGO Y BILINGÜISMO, at which, Laura García (Alzheimer's society) and Prof. A. T. Pérez Leroux gave talks. Latin@s en Toronto

also participated in our first Día de los Muertos celebration on November 1. On November 24, together we organized a “Cine Forum,” where the movie “Ixcanul” was screened.

Announcements & awards

Congratulations to Tara Downs on her thesis defense!

She defended “A Violent Spectacle: Terrorism in Contemporary Peninsular Drama” on August 24, 2016.

Congratulations to Malina Radu!

Malina won the award for the best poster presented at the Canadian Linguistic Association annual meeting last May. The meeting took place at the University of Calgary.

Congratulations to Prof. María Cristina Cuervo on her JHI Fellowship!

Prof. María Cristina Cuervo received a 6-month Jackman Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship for her project entitled, "The Domain of the Idiosyncratic".

List of guest speakers & dates

- September 29: Azores Roundtable (Maria João Dodman, Rodrigo Oliveira, Paulo Teves)
- October 6: Maria João Dodman
- October 20: Josiah Blackmore and Emanuel Melo
- October 27: Maria João Lopo de Carvalho
- November 3: Anthony De Sa

Events this semester

- **October 21: Tango Masterclass with Roxanna and Fabián**
- **November 1: El Día de los Muertos at UofT**
 - The Day of the Dead celebrations are based on the belief that the souls of the deceased can return to this world on November 1st and 2nd, and altars are the most important element in the celebration because they are made to show the souls their way to their old home or to the cemetery where their families are waiting for them to show them that they have not been forgotten. Altars contain many different symbolic elements as well as favourite belongings of the deceased. An altar, created by some students of Spanish 100Y, was placed on the second floor foyer of Victoria College from Oct 31-Nov 3.

Chats with new professors

This year we welcomed 3 new professors to our department: Suzi Lima, Anabela Rato and Juan Carlos Rocha Osornio. At the end of their first semester, we interviewed them about their work and their first semester at U of T.

1) Where were you working/teaching before coming to the University of Toronto?

Suzi Lima:

“I did my Ph.D. and postdoc in the United States (UMass Amherst [Linguistics] and Harvard [Developmental Psychology], respectively) and I am an assistant professor (research stream, tenure track) in the Linguistics Department at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Currently, I am on leave while working at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.”

Anabela Rato:

“I was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal.”

Juan Carlos Rocha Osornio:

“Right before I came to the U of T, I was working in Vancouver at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. I had been hired there as Special Project Advisor to develop and implement a new program in Global Competency through the office of International Students and Scholars. Previously, I worked at the same institution as visiting professor of Spanish. In the recent past, I have also been employed by Trent University, Acadia University, and The University of Western University as a faculty member.”

2) If you were to compare working here and working in your previous city/country, in what way do they differ the most?

SL:

“Instead of highlighting the differences, I prefer to highlight the similarities: in previous universities and here at UofT I have had terrific students. Some of my undergraduate students are now starting projects on Brazilian languages. I am truly supportive of undergraduate research so I am thrilled by their interest. At UFRJ I also coordinate a terrific research group (the SEPE-Lab (Laboratory for Experimental Semantics and Pragmatics), partially formed by undergraduate students so this is a similarity between the two situations. Regardless of the professional interest of the students, of whether they plan to stay in academia or not, the experience of building one's own research project is very rewarding to them, and I am glad to contribute to their education outside the classroom.”

AR:

“The two main aspects that are different and that have a major impact on my work is the wide range of human, technical, and capital resources that are available at the University of Toronto, and the support that is given both to teaching and to research.”

JCRO:

“Multiculturalism. Working at the U of T and living in the city of Toronto has been a tremendous opportunity filled with excitement, not only professionally, but also at a personal level. Toronto is definitely the city in which I have felt most comfortable and welcomed ever since I arrived in Canada in 2009. Needless to say, it is a tremendous honor to be part of the UofT and to see many of our students who come from all over the world acquire the necessary skills to thrive in a society where Spanish continues to become an essential language.”

3) Do you like working in Toronto?

SL:

“Yes, I especially like the fact that I can talk about Brazilian languages with specialists of Canadian indigenous languages and with scholars who work in related fields. Much of the discussion of bilingual education for speakers of Brazilian indigenous languages, for example, is relevant to scholars interested in bilingualism and heritage languages in different settings so I believe that the field of indigenous studies is highly relevant to scholars working on Portuguese and Spanish as a second language.”

AR:

“Due to the linguistic diversity of Toronto, the city is, in my opinion, a paradise for a linguist. Thus, I could not be in working in a better place.”

JCRO:

“I love working in Toronto! I consider myself very lucky to be part of such an amazing and opened- minded city. I have lived in several parts of Canada and can honestly attest to the fact that Toronto is the best place to be in Canada, just saying...”

4) What research have you done, or are working on currently, or wish to pursue in the future?

SL:

“I work in formal semantics, language acquisition and language documentation. In a nutshell, most of my research is on quantification (interpretation and acquisition of numeral constructions, nominal quantifiers, noun phrases and container/measure phrases) in Brazilian languages and Brazilian Portuguese. I am also very much involved in language maintenance and revitalization projects in Brazilian communities. This year, I finished a monolingual pedagogical grammar on Kawaiwete that will be published soon. I am currently leading a large research project on the count-mass distinction in Brazilian languages with Susan Rothstein. Approximately 30 scholars are applying a questionnaire that Susan and I wrote on mass and count nouns in a variety of Brazilian languages. The project will culminate with a conference where the researchers will present the result of their investigations. This will lead to the publication of a book where we will discuss the typology of counting and measuring in Brazilian languages. I am also the co-PI of

another project with Uli Sauerland (ZAS) on complex structures on Brazilian Indigenous Languages, and I have other projects in progress on the acquisition of object-denoting nouns and numerals in Yudja (with Peggy Li and Jesse Snedeker, both from Harvard). Anyone who is interested in reading more about this can check [my website](#).”

AR:

“My main research interest is the acquisition of L2 speech, and thus I have investigated the learning of the sounds of L2 English by Portuguese speakers and the perceived accent of Portuguese heritage speakers. I also have an interest in language variation and change, and therefore I have worked on L1 Portuguese vowel production. Currently, I am interested in the perception and production of L2 Portuguese sounds by Canadian English speakers.”

JCRO:

“I have mainly worked on issues of gender and sexuality in Mexican literature, though, lately my research is becoming more oriented towards the field of applied linguistics, specifically the teaching and learning of Spanish as a second language.”

5) If possible, include a fun fact about yourself.

AR:

“If you learn Portuguese, you may find my last name rather “funny”.”

JCRO:

“I wish I was a Mariachi singer or a telenovela actor, preferably a villain.”

Retirement: Prof. Manuela Marujo

December 1st was a very happy and sad day at the department. Professora Manuela Marujo taught her last class at U of T, and she is now going into retirement. We had a surprise gettogether to thank her for all that she has done for our faculty, students, and staff. Her presence and work will never be forgotten! Thank you Manuela, U of T will miss you greatly!

Student life

Graduate

This September, the department’s graduate students hosted the 34th Levy-Wasteney Symposium, titled “Languages of the Revolution”. The event brought together graduate students and researchers from various parts of the Americas to reflect on the changing landscapes of the modern world through literary, linguistic, artistic and poetic expressions. Keynote speakers included renowned sociolinguist, Anna María Escobar (University of Illinois), and Mexican writer and poet, Malva Flores (Universidad Veracruzana).

Undergraduate

A message from the Spanish Student's Organization:

The Spanish Student Organization (SSO) serves as a social and academic resource for all students learning the Spanish language. We consistently offer successful conversation labs on a bi-weekly basis and help many of our members improve their Spanish oral and writing skills through these peer-to-peer workshops. We are one of the few campus clubs that offer our executive members and mentors co-curricular validation through the University, in return for their great efforts to improve our club with their individual contributions. We also target the greater student body by engaging and uniting them through cultural events like Latin Night, which we plan on hosting once again in February 2017. Students interested in getting involved with the SSO are encouraged to contact us at spanishorganization.uoft@gmail.com to learn more about available volunteer and executive positions. To stay updated on all of our upcoming events and academic labs, make sure to join our mailing list either on our website (<https://utspanishstudentorganization.wordpress.com>) or Facebook page (you can find us under Spanish Student Organization - U of T).

Best, The SSO Executive Team

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