

Natalia Mazzaro

Associate Professor of Spanish and Linguistics
University of Texas at El Paso
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UPDATED: November 28th, 2022

EDUCATION

- 2005-2011 **Ph.D.**, Hispanic Linguistics, University of Toronto.
Thesis: *Experimental Approaches to Language Variation: A Sociophonetic Study of Labial and Velar Fricatives and Approximants in Argentine Spanish*
Supervisor: Laura Colantoni
Committee Members: María Cristina Cuervo, Sali Tagliamonte, Jack Chambers
- 2001 – 2003 **Master of Arts**, Linguistics, York University
Dissertation: *Speaking Spanish with Style: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of /s/ in Corrientes Argentina*
Supervisor: James Walker
- 1999 - 2001 **Licenciatura en Inglés**
Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017 - present Associate Professor, Department of Languages and Linguistics, University of Texas at El Paso
- 2019 - 2022 Linguistics Program Director and Graduate Advisor
- 2011 - 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Languages and Linguistics, University of Texas at El Paso

GRANTS & HONOURS

- 2020 Co-recipient Research Grant. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) The phonetic dimension in variable grammatical systems: The case of heritage Spanish (USD \$145,000)
- 2021 Summer Research Assistantship
- 2016 Summer Research Assistantship
- 2015 Library Information Literacy Course Enhancement Grant
- 2014 Provost's Summer Student Research Assistant
- 2013 University Research Institute Grant
- 2013 Provost's Summer Student Research Assistant
- 2008 Ontario Graduate Scholarship
- 2007 Metcalf Grant, University of Toronto

2007

Buchanan Fellowship, Dpt. of Spanish and Portuguese, Univ. of Toronto

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

*graduate mentee **undergraduate mentee

- **Mazzaro, N.** (2022). The Effect of Language Contact on /tʃ/ Deaffrication in Spanish from the US–Mexico Borderland. *Languages*, 7(2), 101.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/languages7020101>
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González de Anda, R. (2020) Men Finally Got It! Rhotic Assibilation in Mexican Spanish in Chihuahua. *Languages* 5, no. 4: 38.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/languages5040038>
- Colantoni, L.; Martínez, R.; **Mazzaro, N.**; Pérez-Leroux, A.T.; Rinaldi, N. (2020) A Phonetic Account of Spanish-English Bilinguals' Divergence with Agreement. *Languages* 5, 58. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages5040058>
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González de Anda, R. (2019) The perception-production connection: /tʃ/ deaffrication and rhotic assibilation in Chihuahua Spanish. In Chappell, W. (ed.) *Issues in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics series: Recent Advances in the Study of Spanish Sociophonetic Perception*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Esparza, S.* & **Mazzaro N.** (2018) /s/ Variation and Speech Accommodation in New and Old Settlements of Veracruzanos in Ciudad Juárez. In Beale-Rivaya, Y. and Gragera A. (eds.) *Revista Iberoamericana de Lingüística: Special issue on Spanish in the US-Mexico border*.
- **Mazzaro, N.**, Cuza A. & Colantoni L. (2016) Perception of consonantal and vocalic contrasts in heritage and native Spanish speakers. In Tortora, C., den Dikken M., Montoya, I. L. and O'Neil, T. (eds.) *Selected Papers from the 43rd Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL)*. New York: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Colantoni, L., Cuza, A. & **Mazzaro, N.** (2016) Task related effects in the prosody of Spanish heritage speakers. In Armstrong, M., Henrikssen N., Vanrell M. (Eds) *Intonational Grammar in Ibero-Romance*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 3-24.
- **Mazzaro, N.** (2014). Explaining variation and change in Spanish peripheral fricatives. *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*. Volume 7, Issue 2.
- **Mazzaro, N.** (2013) Análisis sociofonético de las fricativas y aproximantes del español de Corrientes. In Colantoni, L. and C. Rodríguez Louro, (eds.) *Perspectivas teóricas y experimentales sobre el español de la Argentina*
- Cuervo, M. C. and **Mazzaro N.** (2013). Duplicación de la negación en español de Corrientes. In Colantoni, L. and C. Rodríguez Louro, (eds.) *Perspectivas teóricas y experimentales sobre el español de la Argentina*
- **Mazzaro, N.** (2010). Changing Perceptions: The Sociophonetic Motivations of the Labiovelar Alternation in Spanish. In Ortega Llebaria, M. (ed.) *Selected Proceedings of the 4th Conference on Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology*. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Press, pp. 128-145.

Non-Refereed Publications

- **Mazzaro, N.**, Colantoni, L. & Cuza, A. (2015) The production of Spanish vowels by early and late Spanish-English bilinguals. In Botinis A. (ed.) Proceedings of the 6th ISEL Conference on Experimental Linguistics. Athens, Greece: ISEL Editions.
- **Mazzaro, N.** (2005). Aspiration and Velarization of /f/ in Argentine Spanish. *Toronto Working Papers in Linguistics*. Volume 25, pp. 58-67.
- **Mazzaro, N.** (2005). Speaking Spanish with Style: /s/ Deletion in Argentine Spanish and Labov's Decision Tree. *Penn Working Papers in Linguistics*. Volume 10.2, pp. 171-190.

Manuscripts

- **Mazzaro, N.** & Raquel González de Anda (in preparation) Socio-economic Status and Language Prestige in the Linguistic Landscape of El Paso, TX. To be submitted to the journal of *Linguistic Landscape*.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & Lesley Rodríguez (in preparation) Is it “pera” or “perra”? The perception of rhotics in Spanish-English bilinguals. To be submitted to the *International Journal of Bilingualism*.

Invited Lectures and Colloquia

- **Mazzaro, N.** 2022. *Language Power and Prestige on the U.S.-Mexican border*. Invited colloquium at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Toronto, Canada.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2022. *Socio-economic Status and Language Prestige in the Linguistic Landscape of El Paso, TX*. Colloquium presented at the University of Texas at El Paso.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2022. *Linguistic attitudes and language vitality on the US-Mexico border*. Invited colloquium at the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, The University of Western Ontario, Canada.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2019. *Investigating the Effect of Time on Speech Accommodation of First Generation Immigrants*. Invited colloquium at the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, The University of Western Ontario, Canada.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2016. *Studying the Bilingual Mind through the Lens of the First Language*. Invited colloquium at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Texas at Austin.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2016. *Estudio acústico y perceptual de la asibilación de róticas en el español de Chihuahua*. Invited keynote talk given at the International Day of the Mother Tongue meeting, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez.

Conference presentations

*graduate mentee **undergraduate mentee

- **Mazzaro, N.** and Rodríguez L. * 2022. *Evaluating Spanish rhotic perception in bilingual speakers*. Hispanic Linguistic Symposium. Arizona State University.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2022. *The Linguistic landscape of the border city of El Paso, TX*. Alfalito. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2021. *The effect of language contact on (ch) deaffrication in the Spanish from the US-Mexico borderland*. Linguistic Association of the Southwest (virtual conference).

- **Mazzaro, N.** 2021. *An acoustic account of Rhotic assibilation in Chihuahua Spanish*. *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages 52*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2020. *Heritage Speaker's Grammar*. Intuition, theory and quantification in Hispanic Studies. Rome, Italy.
- Colantoni, L; Martínez, R*; **Mazzaro, N**; Pérez-Leroux, AT & Rinaldi, N.* 2020. *Gender marking under disguise: phonetics and grammar in Spanish-English bilinguals*. *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages 50*. University of Texas at Austin.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2019. *When the L1 and the L2 Phonologies Conflate*. Intuition, theory and quantification in Hispanic Studies. Samaná, Dominican Republic.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2018. *Pride and Prejudice: The Sociolinguistic Perception of two Variables in Mexican Spanish*. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium 2018*. University of Texas at Austin.
- Esparza, S.* & **Mazzaro N.** 2018. */s/ Variation and Speech Accommodation in New and Old Settlements of Veracruzanos in Ciudad Juárez*. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium 2018*. University of Texas at Austin.
- González, R. and **Mazzaro, N.** 2017. *The Linguistic Landscape of a U.S. – Mexico Border City*. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium 2017*. Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2017. *The impact of L2 English on the sound system of L1 Spanish*. *International Symposium on Bilingualism 2017*. University of Limerick, Ireland.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2016. *A Border Line Spanish: The Effect of L2 Experience on the Perception and Production of L1 Sounds*. ARMADILLO, the Southwest Cognition Conference. University of Texas at El Paso.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2016. *A receding variation: Rhotic assibilation in Chihuahua Spanish*. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium 2016*. Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2016. *Age of acquisition and frequency effects on the perception and production of sounds in Spanish-English bilinguals*. *New Sounds 2016*. Aarhus University, Denmark.
- **Mazzaro, N.**; Colantoni L. & Cuza A. 2015. *The production of stops in heritage and native Spanish speakers*. *Hispanic Linguistic Symposium 2015*. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- **Mazzaro, N.**; Colantoni L. & Cuza A. 2015. *The production of Spanish vowels by early and late Spanish-English bilinguals*. *ExLing 2015 - 6th International Conference on Experimental Linguistics*. Athens, Greece.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2015. *The linguistic competence of heritage speakers and how it varies across language tasks*. *International Society for Language Studies Conference*. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- **Mazzaro, N.** & González, R. 2014. *Acoustic analysis of rhotic assibilation in Ciudad Juárez Mexican Spanish*. *XIII Encuentro Internacional de Lingüística en el Noroeste de México*. Hermosillo, Sonora, México.
- **Mazzaro, N.**; Cuza A. & Colantoni L. 2013. *Perception of consonantal and vocalic contrasts in heritage and native Spanish speakers*. *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages 43*. CUNY.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2011. *Double Negative: Morphology in Contact*. With M. Cristina Cuervo. *Linguistic Symposium of Romance Languages 41*. University of Ottawa.

- **Mazzaro, N.** 2010. *The role of perception in sound variation: The labiovelar alternation in Spanish*. Laboratory Approaches to Romance Phonology (LARP). Provo, Utah, USA
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2010. *The influence of literacy on speech perception in adults*. Quebec-Ontario Dialogues in the Acquisition of Spanish. University of Toronto.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2010. *Acoustic cues to the identification of place of articulation in approximants* Speech Research Forum. University of Toronto.
- **Cuervo, M. C. & Mazzaro N.** 2009. *Double negative: Morphology in contact*. Diálogos Ontarios. University of Western Ontario. London, Ontario.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2008. *The sounds of literacy and how they affect the perception and production of speech*. Hispanic Linguistic Symposium. University of Laval at Quebec.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2008. *Operation-approximant and how they change identities: The acoustic and perceptual analysis of Spanish labial and velar approximants*. Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology. University of Texas at Austin.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2008. *Beyond negative concord: negative doubling in a variety of Spanish*. With M. Cristina Cuervo. Canadian Linguistics Association. University of British Columbia.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2008. *Lost in transmission: the role of coarticulation and perception in sound change*. Levy-Wastenev Graduate Symposium. University of Toronto.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2007. *A language made from 100% recycled material: A sociophonetic research of the velarization of /f/ and /b/ in Argentine Spanish*. Hispanic Linguistic Symposium. University of San Antonio, Texas.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2007. *Spanish fricatives and approximants: An acoustic analysis*. Speech Research Forum. University of Toronto.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2007. *Changing perceptions: investigating the motivations of [f] > [x] and [β] > [ɣ] variation in Argentine Spanish*. International Summer School of Sociolinguistics. University of Copenhagen.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2006. *The acquisition of sociolinguistic variation by advanced second language learners of Spanish: The case of /s/ deletion and aspiration*. Ontario Dialogues on Acquisition. University of Toronto.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2005. *As time goes by ... it's still the same old story. Aspiration and velarization of /f/ in Argentine Spanish*. Canadian Linguistics Association. London, Ontario.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2005. *Aspiration and velarization of /f/ in Argentine Spanish*. Niagara Linguistics Society. University of Toronto.
- **Mazzaro, N.** 2003. *Speaking Spanish with style: /s/ deletion in Argentine Spanish and Labov's Decision Tree*. NWAVE XXXII. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

TEACHING

Undergraduate Courses

LING 2320 Introduction to Linguistics (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 3307 English Phonetics and Phonology (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 3309 Structure of Spanish (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 3311 & LING 5381 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 3312 Pedagogical Issues in Spanish (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 3357 Sociolinguistics (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 4371 Studies in Linguistics – Lab Research (University of Texas at El Paso)

LING 4371 Studies in Linguistics – Spanish in the US (University of Texas at El Paso)
 SPA 220 Intermediate Spanish (University of Toronto)
 SPA 321 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology (University of Toronto)

Graduate Courses

LING 5373 Linguistic Variation (University of Texas at El Paso)
 LING 5370 Study in Language – Lab Research (University of Texas at El Paso)
 LING 5370 Study in Language – Spanish in the U.S. (University of Texas at El Paso)
 LING 5381 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology (University of Texas at El Paso)
 LING 5388 Bilingualism (University of Texas at El Paso)

Graduate Student Advisor

Primary Advisor (MA)

- Juan D'Avila (in progress) "Vowel weakening in Spanish-English bilingual speakers"
- Lesley Rodriguez (2022) "The Perception of Trill and Taps in Heritage Spanish Speakers", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Sandra Regina Zavala Rivas (2021) "A model for /s/ lenition under Optimality Theory and Emergent Phonology", Department of Languages and Linguistics
- Alma, Armendariz. 2020. "The Sociophonetic Analysis of Labiodental [v] in the Spanish of Ciudad Juárez", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Susana Arzate. 2019. "Gender differences in English-Spanish Code Switching in Bilingual Speakers from Texas", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Layla Yamah. 2018. "The Future of the Arabic Language in the United States", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Michelle Aguilar. 2018. "Language Attitudes toward Hispanic-Accented and Standard Varieties of English", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Roberto Ortega 2018. "The labiodental voiced fricative [v] in the Spanish of El Paso Texas", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Sandra Esparza. 2017. "Speech Accommodation and the Aspiration of /s/ in the Spanish of Ciudad Juárez", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Luis Méndez. 2016. "Weakening of the affricate /tʃ/ in the Spanish of Ciudad Juárez", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Noelle Molinar. 2016. "Constructed Languages in Film and Television", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Gisela Simental. 2014. "The phonetic realization of /p, t, k/ in Spanish-English code-switching", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Sevda Rahymov. 2014. "A Variationist Sociolinguistic Analysis of /r/ deletion in Turkish", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Raquel, González. 2013. "A phonological and phonetic analysis of vowel opening in Mexican Spanish", Department of Languages and Linguistics.

Committee Member (MA)

- Armida Hernandez. 2016. "The Role of Language Attitude in Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo's Language Revitalization Effort", Department of Languages and Linguistics.
- Majd, Sarah. 2016. "English-Spanish Cognates and Their Effect on Referential Choice in Bilingual Speakers", Department of Languages and Linguistics.

- Elizabeth Wilcoxon. 2014. “A corpus-based study of the use of prepositional verbs in second language emergent academic writing”, Department of Languages and Linguistics.

Committee Member (PhD)

- Jonathan Avila (in progress) “Towards a model of the mapping between English and Spanish prosody”, Department of Computer Science, UTEP.
- Nicholas D. Evans. 2022. “Language dependent effects of nostalgia, via mental transportation, among bilinguals”, Psychology Department, UTEP.
- Maria de la Esperanza Ruiz-Peña. 2021. “Second Dialect Imitation of Ecuadorian Spanish Assibilated Rhotics by Speakers of Andalusian Spanish from Seville”, Department of Languages and Cultures, The University of Western Ontario, Canada.
- Cenaida Gomez. 2020. “Aproximación al modelo de adquisición del habla de un segundo dialecto: la producción de la variante [s] por hablantes de tres variedades del español colombiano en contacto en Ciudad Bolívar, Bogotá”, Department of Languages and Cultures, The University of Western Ontario, Canada.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Linguistics Program Director & Graduate Advisor. January 2020-August 2022.

Director of the Language Acquisition & Linguistics Research (LALR) Lab. Spring 2015 - present.

Co-director of the Language Acquisition & Linguistics Research (LALR) Lab. Fall 2012.

Member of Liberal Arts College Tenure and Promotion Committee. October -November 2021

PARF’s lecturers’ committee. 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021.

Member of the Bylaw committee. September 2018 – 2019.

Linguistics section meetings – minutes’ recorder. September 1, 2011 – February 15, 2015.

Departmental advising. September 2011 – 2015.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (native)
- English (near-native)
- French and Portuguese (reading knowledge)