

Sol Magalí López Cortez

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EDUCATION

University at Buffalo (NY, USA)

Ph.D. in Linguistics

2019 - Present

Qualifying Paper:

Towards a Semantic Representation of Space as Conceptualized in Yucatec Dispositional Roots

M.S. in Computational Linguistics

2019 - 2022

Capstone Project:

An Exploratory Approach to Discourse Relations Classification based on Genres

Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina)

Bachelor's in Teaching English as a Foreign Language

2009 - 2013

4-and-a-half-year professional degree program

Highest GPA of class 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS/AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Lexical and Discourse Semantics, Discourse Pragmatics, Computational Linguistics

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Computational linguistics (Intro and Advanced), Corpus Linguistics, Experimental Semantics and Pragmatics, Formal Semantics, HPSG, Independent Study: Vector Semantics and Embeddings, Information Retrieval, Intro to Machine Learning, Computer Science for Non-Majors, Lexical Semantics, Linguistic Anthropology, Phonetics, Psycholinguistics, Quantitative Methods, Role and Reference Grammar, Sociolinguistics, Typology and Evolution

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING SKILLS

R, LaTeX, Python, Bash, Sketch Engine (comfortable); Praat, Perl, Prolog (working knowledge)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (native), English (proficient - TOEFL iBT score: 110)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE - ACADEMIC

October 2020 -

University at Buffalo.

August 2021

Research Assistant: "Causality Across Languages". NSF Linguistics grant #1535846. PI: Dr. Juergen Bohnemeyer.

- Ran Hierarchical Clustering and Multidimensional Scaling Analyses in R Studio
- Implemented parameter selection on Random Forests
- Incorporated new data to models and edited code when necessary
- Summarized Random Forest models
- Assisted researchers with model interpretation
- Prepared demographic data for publication
- Created maps of languages in R for publication

May 2011 - July 2019

School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Member of Research Projects: "Dictionary for Learners of Spanish as a Foreign Language" and "Collocations Dictionary for Learners of Spanish as a Foreign Language". Director: M.A. Laura Hlavacka.

- Co-wrote the bilingual English-Spanish index to be included at the end of the dictionary
- Registered collocations for Spanish nouns, verbs and adjectives within the Professions and Crime domains
- Investigated the combinatory properties of a group of Spanish lexical adverbs derived from adjectives which encode dimension (*extensamente, ampliamente, largamente, estrechamente*) and quantity (*enormemente, excesivamente, moderadamente*)
- Analyzed the semantic properties of the adverbs and the predicative resources they combine with to find out which features determine the collocational restrictions identified
- Presented results in national and international conferences
- Co-authored a chapter of a book

November 2013 - July 2016

School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Member of Research Project: "GraDeR: Grammar Development Resource". Director: Dr. Víctor Castel.

- Studied regular expressions with the goal of using them in the underlying definition of system network rules for a micro-grammar of English (Fawcett 2007) within the framework of the Cardiff Grammar Generator (CGG)
- Designed tables for the decomposition of realization rules of a mini-grammar of English within the CGG
- Tested computational implementations to the CGG
- Wrote a tutorial on the reading and interpretation of the CGG semantic and form rules

RESEARCH/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - INDUSTRY

Jul 2021 - August 2021

Cambridge University Press.

Corpus Linguist Intern (Cambridge Dictionaries Team)

- Identified text resources to be turned into research corpora for lexicographers;
- Identified and extracted relevant metadata for texts;
- Created and configured corpora in Sketch Engine;
- Identified common learner errors for a variety of learner types using the Cambridge Learner Corpus;
- Created documentation on methodology for topic-specific corpora creation and corpus extraction of learner errors

April 2021 - August 2021

Correlation One.

DS4A/Empowerment Fellow

- 3% admission rate, trained with full-stack data science skills

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 2021 - Present

University at Buffalo.

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2022: LIN-CSE 467-567 Computational Linguistics

Fall 2021: LIN 106 Languages of the World

- April 2017 - June 2019* Intercultural Institute. Mendoza, Argentina.
EFL Teacher
- Taught EFL in adults courses - CEFR levels B1 and B2
 - Taught EFL at Boart Longyear company - CEFR levels A2, B1 and B2
 - Taught IELTS course
- June 2015 - June 2019* San Nicolás School
EFL Teacher
- Taught EFL in first and second grades
 - Trained students for Trinity College examinations
- August 2015 - July 2017* English Department. School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Graduate Teaching Assistant to the Computational Linguistics chair
- Prepared class material
 - Collaborated in the development of the classes
 - Tutored students
 - Assessed exams and assignments
 - Prepared and taught an open lecture evaluated by a board of professors from the School (Grade: A+)
- October - December 2015* Champagnat University. Godoy Cruz, Mendoza, Argentina.
EFL Teacher
- Taught EFL in the second year of the Real Estate Agent Program
 - Designed, administered and evaluated final exams
- August 2014 - May 2015* Webster University. St Louis, MO, USA.
Spanish Teaching Assistant
- Taught the SPAN 1100, SPAN 2090, SPAN 2091 and SPAN 2100 courses
 - Tutored students during office hours
 - Helped organize the Spanish Weekend
 - Held weekly Spanish Tables
 - Promoted cultural understanding through activities and talks about Argentina
- August 2013 - July 2014* English Department. School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant to the Computational Linguistics chair
- Prepared class material
 - Tutored students
 - Offered students help on the preparation of the final exam
- March 2012 - February 2013* English Department. School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant to the Grammar IV chair
- Reviewed and adjusted the bibliography
 - Prepared task sheets for students
 - Offered weekly revision and practice sessions to students
- June 2011 - May 2013* English Department. School of Philosophy and Literature. National University of Cuyo. Mendoza, Argentina.
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant to the Grammar III chair
- Reviewed and adjusted the bibliography
 - Prepared task sheets for students
 - Offered weekly revision and practice sessions to students

SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

- June 2019*
- Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a Master/PhD's degree in the United States starting Fall 2019. Administered by the Argentine Fulbright Commission with support from the International Institute of Education.
- October 2018*
- Scholarship funded by the Research Department of the National University of Cuyo to conduct research on Spanish degree adverbs for the research project "Collocations Dictionary for Learners of Spanish as a Foreign Language".
- April 2017 - March 2018*
- Scholarship funded by the Research Department of the National University of Cuyo to conduct research on Spanish degree adverbs for the research project "Collocations Dictionary for Learners of Spanish as a Foreign Language".
- August 2014 - May 2015*
- Exchange Program to Webster University for achieving the highest GPA of every graduate from the class of 2013 of the English Department of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo.
- December 2014*
- Argentine Federation of University Women Honor for achieving the highest GPA of every graduate from the class of 2013 of the English Department of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo.
- November 2013*
- Silver Medal on Academic Merit for achieving the highest GPA of every English graduate from the class of 2013 of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo.
- October 2012*
- Appointed Second Escort of the National Flag of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo from 2012 to 2013 for achieving the fourth highest GPA of the School of Philosophy and Literature.
- September - December 2012*
- Scholarship funded by the Research Department of the National University of Cuyo to conduct research on computational linguistics, focusing on regular expressions, for the Institute of Foreign Languages and Cultures of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo.
- September - December 2011*
- Scholarship funded by the Student Welfare Division of the National University of Cuyo to conduct research on lexicography with a pedagogical orientation.

PUBLICATIONS

- Hlavacka, Laura, et al. (In press). *Diccionario de español como lengua extranjera por dominios léxicos (Dictionary of Spanish as a Foreign Language by Lexical Domains)*, vol. 1 and 2.
- López Cortez, Magalí. (Under review). "Restricciones de combinatoria léxica de 'enormemente', 'excesivamente' y 'moderadamente': estudio probabilístico y léxico-semántico (Restrictions on the combinatorial properties of 'enormously', 'excessively' and 'moderately': a probabilistic and lexical semantic study)". *LyCE Estudios*.

- Hlavacka, Laura, Magalí López Cortez and Agustina Minini (2019). “Restricciones de combinatoria léxica de adverbios de intensificación: estudio probabilístico y léxico semántico (Restrictions on the combinatory properties of intensification adverbs: probabilistic and lexical semantic study)” in M. L. Perasi and M. Tapia Kwiecien (Eds.): *Palabras como puentes. Estudios lexicológicos, lexicográficos y terminológicos desde el Cono Sur* (pp. 189-205). Córdoba: Buena Vista Editores.
- López Cortez, Magalí. “Adverbs of degree derived from adjectives which encode dimensions. The case of ‘widely’ and ‘extensively’: probabilistic and semantic study of their lexical combinatory properties and of the systemic oppositions they establish” . *I Science, Technology and Graduate Dissemination Sessions of the School of Philosophy and Literature, Conference Proceedings, DVD ROM format*, 2017. ISSN: 978-950-774-320-7.
- López Cortez, Magalí, and Susana Ocampo. “Exploring the Constraints on Verbs Occurring in so-called ‘Collapsed Structures’ from the Perspective of the Systemic Functional Model of Transitivity.” *LyCE Estudios*, vol. 16, 2013, pp. 119-137. ISSN: 2314-2529.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- November 2018*
- **XXV Dissemination Sessions of the Research Department of the National University of Cuyo.** Poster presentation: López Cortez, M. “Combinatory properties of lexical adverbs of gradation derived from adjectives which encode dimension and quantity”. Mendoza, Argentina.
- November 2017*
- **I Science, Technology and Graduate Dissemination Sessions of the School of Philosophy and Literature, National University of Cuyo.** Paper: López Cortez, M. “Adverbs of degree derived from adjectives which encode dimensions. The case of “widely” and “extensively”: probabilistic and semantic study of their lexical combinatory properties and of the systemic oppositions they establish”. Mendoza, Argentina.
 - **XIII ALSFAL Congress: “Dialogues among disciplines, approaches and practices”.** Panel: López Cortez, M., A. Minini, J. Ortiz, M. B. Salas, and L. Hlavacka. “Study of the lexical combinatory properties of degree adverbs with processes and other predicative resources with lexicological and lexicographical purposes”. Córdoba, Argentina.
- July 2017*
- **I Lexicology, Lexicography and Terminology International Congress: “Building bridges towards new lexicological, lexicographical and terminological scenarios”.** Paper: López Cortez, M., A. Minini, and L. Hlavacka. “Restrictions on the combinatory properties of degree adverbs which derive from adjectives which encode dimension: a probabilistic and lexical semantic study”. Córdoba, Argentina.
- May 2017*
- **IX PELSE Colloquium: “Celebrating 25 years of regional academic integration: languages in the AUGM”.** Paper: López Cortez, M., A. Minini, J. Ortiz, M. B. Salas, and L. Hlavacka. “Probabilistic-semantic study of the lexical combinatory properties of degree adverbs with verbs and other predicative resources”. Mendoza, Argentina.
- April 2014*
- **41° Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress and X ALSFAL Congress: “Systemic Functional Linguistics and Language(s) Education: new applications to the Education of Languages from traditional and recent lines of development in SFL”.** Invited Teacher: “Modelling Systemic Functional Grammars: A Systemic Functional Approach”. Mendoza, Argentina.

- **41° Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress and X ALSFAL Congress: “Systemic Functional Linguistics and Language(s) Education: new applications to the Education of Languages from traditional and recent lines of development in SFL”.** Member of the organizing committee. Mendoza, Argentina.

October 2013

- **IX ALSFAL Congress: “Grammar, discourse and literacy”.** Paper: López Cortez, M., and S. Ocampo. “Exploring the constraints on verbs occurring in so-called “collapsed structures” from the perspective of the systemic functional model of Transitivity”. Santiago, Chile.
- **IX ALSFAL Congress: “Grammar, discourse and literacy.** Paper: Castel, V. and M. López Cortez. “The role of regular expressions on the writing of systemic functional formal grammars”. Santiago, Chile.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, ETC.

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| <i>September 2021 - Present</i> | • Treasurer, Latin American Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo |
| <i>August 2019 - Present</i> | • Member, Semantic Typology Lab, University at Buffalo |
| <i>September 2020 - August 2021</i> | • President, Latin American Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo |
| <i>September 2020 - August 2021</i> | • Treasurer, Graduate Linguistics Association, University at Buffalo |
| <i>March 2014 - July 2019</i> | • Member of the Institute of Foreign Languages and Cultures of the School of Philosophy and Literature from the National University of Cuyo. |