New Perspectives and Techniques for Teaching Spanish as a Heritage Language

Monday, June 10, 2019 - Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Glickman Conference Center (Patton Hall - RLP 1.302B), The University of Texas at Austin

Registration is $50 for teachers and faculty, $20 for grad students. Register here:
http://links.utexas.edu/bvtxym

Day 1 – Monday June 10, 2019

8:30-9:00  Registration and Breakfast
9:00-9:15  Welcome
9:15-11:15 Sociolinguistics approaches to SHL for grammar and vocabulary development
José Esteban Hernández (UT Rio Grande Valley) & Flavia Belpoliti (Texas A&M Commerce)
This workshop introduces participants to sociolinguistic approaches to teaching Spanish as a Heritage Language, considering key issues on language variation, language contact, and standardization. A brief introduction describes diverse sociolinguistic profiles of Spanish Heritage Speakers (SHS), in comparison with second-/foreign language learners. Considering SHS competences and needs, the second part of the workshop presents language resources and activities which focus on grammar and vocabulary instruction from sociolinguistic perspectives. Participants are encouraged to bring their digital devices to access materials and Spanish corpora.

11:30-12:30 Orthography as a thermometer in the SHL classroom
Encarna Bermejo (Houston Baptist University)
Spanish orthography continues to be an unnoticed area in heritage language research and teaching, even though it presents particular challenges for students and instructors. The workshop aims to present some general assumptions about heritage learners’ (SHL) orthography and provide participants with hands on activities, aiming to bridge the gap between research and instruction. Participants will work, in small groups, with three different approaches for teaching orthography-discovery techniques, focus on form, and digital technologies-considering the needs of middle, high school and university students.

12:30-2:00 Lunch and Graduate Student Poster Presentations
Several graduate students from universities in Texas will showcase their research on topics related to Spanish as a heritage language. See what areas of SHL are being explored by the new generation of SHL researchers!

2:00-3:30 Communicating ideas through language: a language arts and metalinguistic approach for teaching SHL
Delia Montesinos (UT Austin)
Understanding and discussing the fundamentals of a language not only prepares learners to meet academic standards, but more importantly it enables them to think more critically and abstractly about the information they receive and communicate. In this workshop participants will discuss how developing learners’ ability to think and discuss their heritage language augments their literacy skills and self-esteem, will comment on metalinguistic activities, and will outline an activity or strategy they can use in the classroom.

3:45-5:15  
**Challenges and strategies to create a Heritage Spanish program**  
*Karen López Alonso & Alex McNair (Baylor University)*

This presentation shares the struggles experienced and strategies taken to create a Heritage Spanish (HS) program and courses that will accommodate the HS student population. In order to assess the proficiency level and percentage of the Heritage Spanish students’ population in our program, we created a survey for our first- and second-year Spanish courses. Our first goal was to identify students’ strengths and weaknesses in Spanish communication in order to design curricula that better serve the student population in our program. We will share preliminary results that will help our department decide the levels of courses needed for this student population. At the same time, we hope to open a discussion that will allow programs to share their experiences and provide feedback to all.

5:30-6:00  
**Undergraduate Student Panel**  
*Moderator: Jocelly Meiners (UT Austin)*

We will have the opportunity to hear from several undergraduate students who are heritage learners from the University of Texas at Austin. These students have been through some heritage Spanish courses and will speak about their experiences in their K-12 and college education, and will provide some feedback as to what have been the most valuable aspects of the SHL courses for their bilingual, bicultural, and academic development, as well as their sense of identity and community. Workshop participants will be welcome to ask questions.

6:30  
**Social Event**
produce, and publish a podcast with simple, easy-to-follow directions that can be modified to fit different age-groups, linguistic levels, and content areas. In order to demystify the perceived technical difficulties of podcasting, the presentation will give participants hands-on experience with audio digital storytelling; the result will be a mini-episode ready to upload onto a podcasting platform. Finally, instructors will assess the effectiveness of podcasting by using a rubric to evaluate authentic examples taken from an authentic student podcast, and by reading students’ reflections on their linguistic and personal growth through the process of audio narrative creation.

10:00-11:00  The use of technology in the SHL Classroom: Some apps to create multimodal activities and projects
Yanina Hernández (UT Rio Grande Valley)

This workshop will present some of the most commonly used apps to design multimodal activities and projects and show some ways that these apps can be integrated in the Heritage Spanish classroom. Participants will be involved in a hands-on activity.

11:00-11:45  Q&A Panel with all of the presenters

11:45-12:00  Closing Statements & Workshop survey
About the Workshop Facilitators

Karen López Alonzo is from Western/Central Nicaragua. She is an Assistant Professor of Hispanic Linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at Baylor University. She teaches Hispanic Linguistic courses (e.g. Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics, Phonetics/Phonology), and Spanish for Heritage Speakers. Her research focuses on Spanish in language contact situations in Nicaragua and the U.S. Spanish dialectology, Spanish Phonetics/Phonology, and Heritage Spanish Teaching.

Flavia Belpoliti (PhD), was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is Assistant Professor of Spanish and the Director of the Spanish Graduate Studies at the Department of Literature and Languages at Texas A&M-Commerce. Her undergraduate and graduate courses are related to the areas of Spanish Language Pedagogy, Teaching Methods, and Hispanic Linguistics. Her primary areas of research include Spanish as a Second and as Heritage language, Curriculum Design, and Spanish Sociolinguistics.

Encarna Bermejo, a native of Spain, is an Associate Professor of Spanish and the Study Abroad (Spain) Program Coordinator at Houston Baptist University (HBU). Her primary areas of teaching are Spanish as a Second and Heritage language, and Bilingual Education. She oversees, develops and maintains the L2 Spanish Placement and the Heritage Spanish Credit by Examination at HBU. Her field of study explores Heritage Language Education, Second Language Education, Bilingual Education, and Sociolinguistics with a strong interest on U.S. Spanish.

José Esteban Hernández is Professor of Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. His research interests include sociolinguistic variation, dialect and language contact in a U.S. setting, and the study of discourse analysis and discourse markers. Most recently, he has focused on language and identity issues under language contact situations. He has taught courses on the dynamics of language variation and change, and the sociolinguistics of U.S Latina/o communities.

Yanina Hernández is a lecturer in the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She holds an M.A. from the University of New Mexico, and has taught beginning-level Spanish courses for more than 15 years, including face-to-face and online courses. Her experience includes teaching at the University of New Mexico, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College, Texas State Technical College, and University of Texas Pan American (now UTRGV). She was the co-ordinator of COERLL’s User-Generated Materials for Heritage Spanish project from 2014-2018.

Dr. Alexander McNair is Associate Professor and Division Director of Spanish and Portuguese at Baylor University.
**Jocely Guie Meinerts** is a native of San José, Costa Rica. She is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and specializes in teaching courses for Heritage Spanish learners. Her research interests include pragmatics and emotion in second language acquisition, heritage Spanish learners and pedagogy, as well as linguistic attitudes and language maintenance regarding Spanish in the US. Jocely currently serves as co-director for the Texas Coalition for Heritage Spanish (TeCHS).

**Delia Montesinos** was born on the Mexico US border. She received a BA with a major in Spanish from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She lived in Valencia and Castellón, Spain, for sixteen years. She taught Spanish with the Brownsville Independent School district for several years and received an MAIS from the University of Texas Pan American. In 2000 she received a PhD in Spanish Literature from the University of Texas at Austin where she is currently a Senior Lecturer in heritage courses. She is the author of two textbooks for teaching Spanish as a heritage language.

**Maria Irene Moyna** holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Florida. Her research explores variation and change in Spanish, particularly in word formation, personal address systems, and the history of Spanish in the United States. Dr. Moyna teaches phonology, morphology, dialectology, Spanish in the United States, bilingualism, linguistic methods, as well as advanced grammar, Spanish for the professions, and translation. She has taught Spanish for heritage learners in the US Southwest for nearly two decades.