

CURRICULUM VITAE

WILL TRAVERS, PH.D.

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

L3 acquisition, multilingualism, metalinguistic awareness, L3 teaching / pedagogy, crosslinguistic influence, linguistic / metalinguistic abilities of heritage speakers

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Since 2025** Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish Linguistics
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
University at Albany, State University of New York (Albany, NY)
- 2023 – 2025** Visiting Assistant Professor
Hispanic Studies Department
Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
- 2020 – 2023** Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Emory University (Atlanta, GA)
- 2019 – 2020** Visiting Researcher / Fulbright Stipendiat
Department of Linguistics and Multilingualism
Technische Universität Darmstadt (Darmstadt, Germany)
- 2016 – 2018** Adjunct Lecturer
Department of French and Francophone Studies
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)

EDUCATION

- 2016 – 2024** **Ph.D., Spanish Linguistics (May 2024)**
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
Dissertation: *Prior language experience and metalinguistic awareness in the learning of a third language*
([Publication No. 31235937](https://pubsonline.informaworld.com/doi/10.1080/00222689.2023.2235937))
Advisor and committee chair: Cristina Sanz
Committee: Britta Hufeisen, Robert DeKeyser, Michael Ferreira
- 2014 – 2016** **M.S., Spanish Linguistics (May 2016)**
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
- Summer 2013** Linguistic Society of America (LSA) Linguistic Institute
University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)
- 2003 – 2004** Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Paris, France)
- 2001 – 2005** **B.A., Individualized Studies (April 2005)**
Concentration: *The Philosophy and Practice of Nonviolence*
Minors: French and Francophone Studies, Political Science
University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

PUBLICATIONS

- 2026** Fiorenza, E. & **Travers, W.** Meta competences in plurilingual education. In C. Ollivier & S. Melo-Pfeifer (Eds.), *Encyclopédie de l'éducation plurilingue / Encyclopaedia of plurilingual education* (pp. 217-219). Brussels, Belgium: Peter Lang. doi:10.3726/b23455
- 2025** Fiorenza, E. & **Travers, W.** Measuring metalinguistic awareness among heritage speakers in the US-based L3 context. *Frontiers in Language Sciences*, 3. doi:10.3389/flang.2024.1515766
- 2024** **Travers, W.** Universitärer L3-Unterricht in den USA: Zur Geschichte und zum Konzept. In J. Schlabach, C. Bradlaw, & B. Hufeisen (Eds.), *Mehrsprachenlernen in gesellschaftlichen und institutionellen Kontexten: Deutsch als Fremd- und Zweitsprache im Fokus der Mehrsprachendebatte* (pp. 88-101). Tübingen, Germany: Narr Francke Attempto Verlag. doi:10.24053/9783823394396
- 2022** **Travers, W.** Inside the L3 classroom: Learner reflections on university-level foreign language classes for bilinguals in the United States. In A. Krulatz, A. Dahl, & G. Neokleous (Eds.), *Theoretical and applied perspectives on teaching foreign languages in multilingual settings: Pedagogical implications* (pp. 170-185). Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters. doi:10.21832/9781788926423-015
- 2018** **Travers, W.** Review of the book *Perspectivas: Português para falantes de espanhol* (by B. Bateman, M. Mattos, M. Brasileiro, & N. Pérez Knapp). *Hispania*, 101(4), 658-659. doi:10.1353/hpn.2018.0194
- 2017** **Travers, W.** Spanish as a pivot language for third language learning in the United States. *Hispania*, 100(5), 279-284. doi:10.1353/hpn.2018.0068

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- March 25, 2025** "Target-language development and individual learner differences in the L3 classroom"
2025 American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference (Denver, CO)
- April 4, 2024** "Measuring metalinguistic awareness among heritage speakers of Spanish in the US-based L3 context: Problems and proposals"
(Co-presenter: Elisa Fiorenza)
2024 Convegno Internazionale: Riflessione e competenza metalinguistica nel processo di insegnamento e apprendimento delle lingue
Università degli Studi di Perugia (Perugia, Italy)
- October 5, 2023** "Coding for accuracy in L3 written production"
2023 Virtuelles Kolloquium der externen Doktorand*innen von Prof. Dr. Britta Hufeisen
Technische Universität Darmstadt (Darmstadt, Germany)

- April 3, 2023** “Quantifying L3 transfer: Comparing beginning learners of French, Italian, and Portuguese”
UGA Romance Languages GSO Colloquium Series
University of Georgia (Athens, GA)
- July 19, 2021** “Prior language experience and metalinguistic awareness in the learning of a third language”
2021 Virtuelles Kolloquium der externen Doktorand*innen von Prof. Dr. Britta Hufeisen (Doki-Kolloq)
Technische Universität Darmstadt (Darmstadt, Germany)
- October 27, 2018** “Predictors of success among bilinguals in the L3 classroom”
37th Second Language Research Forum (SLRF)
Université de Québec à Montréal (Montreal, Canada)
- June 12, 2017** “The effects of multilingualism and linguistic distance on additional-language learning”
11th International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB)
University of Limerick (Limerick, Ireland)
- November 19, 2016** “Creating a French for Spanish Speakers curriculum at the university level”
2016 ACTFL Annual Convention & World Languages Expo (Boston, MA)
Also organized and moderated session 574
Co-presenters: Clorinda Donato, Cedric Oliva
- November 21, 2015** “The promising field of French for Spanish Speakers, from its origins to present day”
2015 ACTFL Annual Convention & World Languages Expo (San Diego, CA)
Also organized and moderated session 431: *French for Spanish Speakers: Perspectives on an Emerging Field*
Co-presenters: Clorinda Donato, Anita Alkhas, Jacqueline Thomas
- November 20, 2015** “Spanish as a pivot language for L3 learning across the US”
2015 ACTFL Annual Convention & World Languages Expo (San Diego, CA)
Also organized and moderated session 317: *“X for Spanish Speakers” – L3 Courses for an Increasingly Multilingual US*
Co-presenters: Clorinda Donato, Michael Child, Giuseppe Tosi
- May 29, 2015** “Teaching cognate languages and assessing linguistic distance at the US Foreign Service Institute”
Conference on Receptive Multilingualism (REMU 2015)
University of Eastern Finland (Joensuu, Finland)
- February 28, 2015** “Instructed third-language acquisition in the United States”
Graduate Student Conference: Conceptualizing, Investigating, and Practicing Multilingualism and Multiculturalism
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)

INVITED TALKS

- Nov. 21, 2025** “Laying an L3 foundation: A comparison of two approaches to teaching *French for Spanish Speakers*”
Languages, Literatures, and Cultures Department, University at Albany, SUNY (Albany, NY)
- Oct. 24, 2025** “Approaches to environmentalism for students of Intermediate Spanish” (Workshop)
UAlbany in the High School’s Spanish Workshop (Albany, NY)
- April 23, 2025** Guest lecture for Dr. Rebeca Fernández’s class: *Foundations of Second-Language Acquisition*, Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
- Mar. 27, 2025** “Foreign-language classroom management techniques” (Workshop)
Continuing education series for Apprentice Teachers, Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
- Mar. 21, 2024** “Classroom-based strategies for teaching foreign-language vocabulary” (Workshop)
Continuing education series for Apprentice Teachers, Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
- April 30, 2022** “Atelier: L’enseignement du français pour hispanophones” (Hybrid panel discussion)
European Languages and Studies, University of California, Irvine (Irvine, CA)
- April 17, 2021** “L3 learning and teaching: Cognitive bases and pedagogical considerations for bilinguals learning a third language”
Guest lecture for Dr. Nuria Sagarra’s class: *Language Learning and the Brain*, Rutgers University (New Brunswick, NJ)
- Mar. 26, 2019** “Teaching cognate L3 languages at GU: Challenges and triumphs” (Panel discussion)
Initiative for Multilingual Studies, Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
- Mar. 20, 2019** “Developing accelerated language classes for bilingual students”
World Languages and Cultures Department, American University (Washington, DC)
- Jan. 24, 2019** Guest lecture for Dr. Nicholas Subtirelu’s class: *How Languages are Learned*, Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
- April 7, 2018** “What makes a successful language learner?” (Panel discussion)
Office of Global Services Language Exchange Program, Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
- Nov. 3, 2017** “Developing accelerated language classes for bilingual students”
Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, University of Maryland (College Park, MD)
- Sept. 19, 2017** “Current trends in multilingualism research: A report from the Poznań Workshop” (Panel discussion)
Initiative for Multilingual Studies, Georgetown University (Washington, DC)

July 19, 2017 “L'insegnamento delle terze lingue nelle università statunitensi”
Centro Linguistico di Ateneo, Università degli Studi Roma Tre
(Rome, Italy)

TEACHING

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

AY 2025-26 *Spanish Second Language Acquisition* (to graduate students and advanced undergraduates)
History of the Spanish Language (to graduate students and advanced undergraduates)
Basic Spanish for Heritage Speakers
Spanish for Health Professions
Elementary Spanish I

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

AY 2023-25 *Learning a Third Language: French (for Spanish Speakers)*
Dialectal Variation in the Spanish-Speaking World
Elementary Spanish II
Intermediate Spanish

EMORY UNIVERSITY

AY 2020-23 *Introduction to Third Language Acquisition*
Teaching a Third Language
Introduction to Hispanic Texts and Contexts
Elementary Spanish I & II
Intermediate Spanish I & II

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

AY 2015-19 *Introduction to Spanish Linguistics*
Gateway to Linguistics
French for Spanish Speakers
Beginning Spanish
Intermediate Spanish I
Advanced Spanish I

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Spring 2005, *Creative Musicianship* (RC HUMS 351)
Spring 2003 (Taught under curriculum coordinator Mark Kirschenmann)

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY, SUNY

2026 *Spanish Second Language Acquisition* (ASPN 408 / 558)
Basic Spanish for Heritage Speakers (ASPN 105)
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

2025 *History of the Spanish Language* (ASPN 405 / 505)
Spanish for Health Professions (ASPN 304)
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

- 2025** *Learning a Third Language: French for Spanish Speakers* (SPA 358)
Hybrid French language / Spanish linguistics course
(Taught 2/3 in French, 1/3 in Spanish)
Hispanic Studies Department
- 2024** *Dialectal Variation in the Spanish-Speaking World* (SPA 358)
Hispanic Studies Department

EMORY UNIVERSITY

- 2021** *Introduction to Third Language Acquisition* (SPAN 385-02)
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
- 2021** *Teaching a Third Language* (SPAN 410-02)
(Cross-listed with LING 410-02)
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Website design and content creation:
<https://willtravers.com/survey-of-l3-teaching/>

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

- 2017** Integrated Language Exchange program between FREN 009 and
SPAN 009 (*Spanish for French Speakers*)
Website design and content creation for a class WordPress site,
now defunct: <https://ile.georgetown.domains>
- 2016** *French for Spanish Speakers* (FREN 009)
Department of French and Francophone Studies

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2024 – 2025** *Exceptional Teaching by Visiting Faculty Award – Davidson College*
As formal recognition of excellence in the classroom – \$750
- 2024 – 2025** *Publication Grant – Davidson College*
To publish an article in an open-source academic journal – \$975
- 2024 – 2025** *Curriculum Development Grant – John Crosland Jr. Center for
Teaching and Learning (Davidson College)*
To design a semester's worth of online French exercises for SPA
358 students to complete as homework – \$2000
- 2024 – 2025** *Faculty Study and Research Grant – Davidson College*
To design and carry out a study of metalinguistic awareness among
L3 learners during the Spring 2025 semester – \$4905
- 2022 – 2023** *Supplemental Research Funding – Emory University Department of
Spanish and Portuguese*
For a professional statistician to help me analyze my dissertation
data and interpret the results – \$1000
- 2019 – 2020** *Fulbright Open Study/Research Award – U.S. Dept. of State*
Six months of study and research under Britta Hufeisen,
investigating the teaching of German as a second foreign language

- 2015 – 2019** *Conference Travel Grant – Georgetown University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences*
To attend academic conferences in Atlanta, GA (2019), Montreal, Canada (2019), Limerick, Ireland (2017), San Diego, CA (2016), and Joensuu, Finland (2015)
- 2019** *NFMLTA/NCOLCTL Graduate Students Research Support Award – National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations / National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages*
For dissertation and dissertation pilot study participant compensation – \$2500
- 2017** *Graduate Research Project Award – Georgetown University Graduate Student Government (GradGov)*
For summer travel to Innsbruck, Austria and Darmstadt, Germany – \$500
- 2017** *Summer Language Scholarship – ACTFL*
For a month's worth of Italian classes at a private language school in Rome, Italy – \$1000
- 2017** *Travel Award – Georgetown Initiative for Multilingual Studies*
To attend the 5th International Workshop on Multilingual Language Acquisition, Processing and Use in Poznań, Poland – \$1750
- 2015** *CLS Alumni Development Fund Award – U.S. Dept. of State*
To start a weekly Hindi-Urdu conversation hour and pay for a semester's worth of small-group, on-site Hindi-Urdu lessons at Georgetown University – \$1400
- 2015** *Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) – U.S. Dept. of State*
Two months of summer living expenses, travel costs, and academic fees for the study of Urdu in Lucknow, India
- 2005** *University Honors Designation – University of Michigan*
For a GPA higher than 3.5 earned last semester senior year
- 2003 – 2004** *Study Abroad Grant – University of Michigan Office of International Programs*
To study abroad for a year at Sciences Po, Paris – \$10,000

MANUSCRIPT EVALUATION / PEER REVIEW

- 2025** *Frontiers in Language Sciences*
- 2023** Chappelle, C. A. (Ed.), (2023). *The Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics, 2nd edition*. Oxford, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2022** *Hispania*
- 2020** Pinto, J. & Alexandre, N. (Eds.), (2021). *Multilingualism and Third Language Acquisition: Learning and Teaching Trends*. Berlin, Germany: Language Science Press.
- 2016, 2019** *Hispania*

- 2017** Morales-Front, A., Ferreira, M. J., Leow, R. P., & Sanz, C. (Eds.), (2020). *Hispanic Linguistics: Current Issues and New Directions*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: John Benjamins Publishing.
- 2015** Lunn, P. V. & Alkhas, A. J. (2017) *Learning French from Spanish and Spanish from French*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- 2014 – 2015** Dr. Héctor Campos
Edited the English-language portions of *Advancing in Albanian*, an intermediate Albanian textbook published by Slavica Publishers
- 2014 – 2015** Dr. Alfonso Morales-Front
Researched the history of stress placement throughout the Romance languages

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2025** Proctored language exams for PhD students in the humanities at the University at Albany, SUNY
- 2025** Designed a position for and supervised an undergraduate Teaching Assistant (TA) who helped out with the class I taught at Davidson College, *Learning a Third Language: French (for Spanish Speakers)*
- 2023 – 2025** Supervised 14 undergraduate Apprentice Teachers (ATs) who worked teaching smaller sections of each of my beginning- and intermediate-level Spanish and French classes at Davidson
- 2024 – 2025** Organized the *Mesa portuguesa* weekly lunch-hour conversation table at Davidson College
- 2023** Co-coordinated two sections of *Introduction to Hispanic Texts and Contexts* (SPAN 212) at Emory University
- 2022** Served as a Fulbright mentor for an undergraduate student through the Georgetown Center for Research and Fellowships
- 2017 – 2019** Co-coordinator, cross-departmental collaboration facilitator FREN 009 / SPAN 009 Integrated Language Exchange (ILE)
- 2017 – 2018** At-large member, graduate student representative
Georgetown University Provost's Student Advisory Committee
- Spring 2018** Co-founder and organizer, *Bilingual French-Spanish Coffee Hour*, open to all students and faculty at Georgetown University
- 2016 – 2017** Department of Spanish and Portuguese representative to Georgetown's Graduate Student Government (GradGov)
- 2016** Session chair; Keynote Q&A facilitator for Dr. Marlyse Baptista 2016 Hispanic Linguistics Symposium (HLS), Georgetown University
- Spring 2016** Founder and organizer of a weekly *Hindi-Urdu Conversation Hour*, open to all students and faculty at Georgetown University

- Spring 2016, Spring 2015** Founder and facilitator, *L3 Acquisition Group*, a reading/study group meeting triweekly, organized through Georgetown University's Department of Linguistics
- 2015** Panel moderator and conference planning committee, Georgetown University's *Graduate Student Conference: Conceptualizing, Investigating, and Practicing Multilingualism and Multiculturalism*.
- 2015** Organizing committee, Georgetown University's 8th Annual *Graduate Portuguese and Hispanic Symposium (GRAPHSY): Bridging the Gap*

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2013** Created and taught 3-month-long English and Spanish courses Emmaus House of Harlem (New York, NY)
- Spring 2012** Created and taught beginning-level adult computer classes in Spanish, and one-on-one English for Spanish Speakers classes Dominican Sunday (New York, NY)
- Fall 2007** Substitute teacher, grades 9 – 12, classes taught in French International School of Boston (Cambridge, MA)
- Spring 2007** Substitute teacher, elementary / middle school, classes taught in French; organized and taught after-school guitar lessons Portland French School (Portland, OR)
- Spring 2007** Substitute teacher, pre-K – grade 12, classes taught in French French-American International School (Portland, OR)
- Spring 2005** Tutor; language lunch / conversation hour facilitator in the Residential College French program University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL)
Since February 2025
- American Association of Teachers of Portuguese (AATP)
Since March 2024
- National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL)
Since March 2019
- Sigma Delta Pi National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society (Lambda Beta chapter)
Since April 2018
- American Association of Teachers of French (AATF)
Since March 2017
- International Association of Multilingualism (IAM)
Since February 2017
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)
Since September 2015
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP)
Since September 2014

TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE**ALBERT EINSTEIN INSTITUTION (EAST BOSTON, MA)**

Supervised official French translations of three books:

Sharp, G. (2009). *La force sans la violence*. Paris, France: L'Harmattan.

Sharp, G. (2009). *De la dictature à la démocratie*. Paris, France: L'Harmattan.

Sharp, G. & Jenkins B. (2009). *L'anti coup d'État*. Paris, France: L'Harmattan.

GRADUATE COURSEWORK**TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT (DARMSTADT, GERMANY)**

Theories of language acquisition, taught in German (Britta Hufeisen)

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY (WASHINGTON, DC)*Formal linguistics*

Generative syntax (Héctor Campos)

Phonetics and phonology, taught in Spanish (Alfonso Morales-Front)

Semantics and pragmatics (Elena Herburger)

Variation

History of the Spanish language, taught in Spanish (Tom Walsh)

Spanish dialectology and variation, taught in Spanish (Israel Sanz Sánchez)

Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy

Foreign language teaching methodology (Ron Leow)

Instructed second language acquisition, taught in Spanish (Cristina Sanz)

Language acquisition (Donna Lardiere)

Multilingual learning and teaching (Lourdes Ortega)

Connections between SLA and music (Jessica Phillips-Silver)

Neurological bases of language (P. Turkeltaub, R. Friedman, M. Ullman)

Research Methods

Inferential statistics (Rusan Chen)

SLA research methods (Alison Mackey)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK (COLLEGE PARK, MD)

Task-based language teaching (Michael Long)

Linguistic field methods (Maria Polinsky, Omer Preminger)

Individual differences in SLA (Robert DeKeyser)

2013 LSA SUMMER INSTITUTE (ANN ARBOR, MI)

Phonology (Gillian Gallagher)

Usage-based SLA (Nick Ellis)

Historical linguistics (Andrew Garrett)

Neuropsychological aspects of bilingualism (Loraine Obler)

ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE CLASSES TAKEN**TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DARMSTADT (DARMSTADT, GERMANY)**

Introductory Danish II (Fall 2019)

CLUB ITALIANO DANTE ALIGHIERI ROMA (ROME, ITALY)

Advanced Italian (Summer 2017)

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Intermediate German I (June 2018)

Advanced Italian for Spanish Speakers (Spring 2017)

Introductory German I and II (June-July 2016)
Sanskrit (Fall 2015)
Advanced Portuguese I (Fall 2014)

JOHNS HOPKINS, SCHOOL OF ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Hindi-Urdu (Fall 2016)

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDIAN STUDIES (LUCKNOW, INDIA)
Intensive Intermediate Urdu (Summer 2015)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
Intermediate Urdu (Spring 2015)
Beginning Urdu – Audited (Spring 2015)

THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
Portuguese for Spanish Speakers (Fall 2013)

LANGUAGES

English (native language)
Spanish, French (near-native)
Portuguese, Italian (advanced)
German, Hindustani (intermediate)
Hindi script (read, write), Urdu script (read, write)
ACTFL-certified OPI score for Urdu (August 6, 2015): Intermediate-High
Danish (beginner)

REFERENCES

Dr. Cristina Sanz
Professor of Spanish and Applied Linguistics
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
cristina.sanz@georgetown.edu

Dr. Deborah Lesko Baker
Professor and Chair Emerita
Department of French and Francophone Studies
Georgetown University (Washington, DC)
leskobad@georgetown.edu

Prof. Dr. Britta Hufeisen
Professor and Chair
Department of Linguistics and Multilingualism
Technische Universität Darmstadt (Darmstadt, Germany)
britta.hufeisen@tu-darmstadt.de

Dr. Kyra Kietrys
Professor of Hispanic Studies and Global Literary Theory
Department of Hispanic Studies
Davidson College (Davidson, NC)
kykietrys@davidson.edu