

Maribel Pedraza Rojas

M.A. in Spanish | The University of Texas at San Antonio
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Hispanic linguistics; sociolinguistics; language variation and change; perceptual dialectology; heritage Spanish; bilingualism; Spanish in the United States; technology-enhanced language learning (CALL); AI-powered feedback in virtual reality simulations; language and identity.

EDUCATION

M.A. in Spanish, The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) May 2026

College of Liberal and Fine Arts | GPA: 3.89

Thesis: "Just Tex-Mex": Un estudio de dialectología perceptual sobre el español en Texas entre hablantes de herencia e hispanohablantes de primera generación en San Antonio

Advisor: Dr. Whitney Chappell

Graduate Certificate in Linguistics, The University of Texas at San Antonio May 2026

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Especialista en Lingüística Aplicada a la Enseñanza del Inglés 2004–2005

Universidad La Gran Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia

U.S. Equivalency: 24 semester graduate credit hours |

Licenciada en Educación Preescolar 1998

Universidad Antonio Nariño, Bogotá, Colombia

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Research Assistant Summer 2024 – Spring 2025

Language Acquisition Group, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, UTSA

Supervisor: Dr. Pablo Requena

Assisted with data collection, coding, and analysis for research on Spanish language acquisition.

Teaching Assistant — Spanish Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, UTSA, San Antonio, Texas

Fall 2025: SPN-1014 — Elementary Spanish I (Heritage Track)

Spring 2026: SPN-1014 — Heritage Spanish | SPN-1014-021 — Elementary Spanish I

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer in Spanish June 1 – August 31, 2026

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

The University of Texas at San Antonio

SPN-1014 — Elementary Spanish I, L2 Track (Online Asynchronous)

ESL Instructor — Adult Education January 2024 – Present

Northside Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas

English as a Second Language instruction for adult learners.

Teacher — Colombian Army Schools System

February 1998 – 2014

16 years of K–12 and adult education at prestigious military institution schools, Colombia.

- Liceos del Ejército. English Teacher.
- Escuela de Idiomas y Dialectos del Ejército Nacional — Adult Education / Language Instructor

RESEARCH

M.A. Thesis (completed)

May 2026

“Just Tex-Mex”: Un estudio de dialectología perceptual sobre el español en Texas entre hablantes de herencia e hispanohablantes de primera generación en San Antonio.

The University of Texas at San Antonio. Advisor: Dr. Whitney Chappell.

Conference Paper (co-authored, submitted)

2026

Pedraza-Rojas, M., Morehead, J., Hirschi, K., Rios, A., Flores, M., Rushforth, M., & Quarles, J.

Spanish for Navigating Airport Customs: AI-Powered Feedback in a Virtual Reality Simulation.

Abstract submitted to EuroCALL 2026.

Topic: Emerging Trends Around AI in CALL. Keywords: Virtual Reality, Large Language Models, Spanish for Specific Purposes, Oral Communication Skills.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

COLFA Research Conference & Showcase, UTSA

San Antonio, TX, 2025

3MT — Three Minute Thesis Presentation.

“Just Tex-Mex”: Un estudio de dialectología perceptual sobre el español en Texas entre hablantes de herencia e hispanohablantes de primera generación en San Antonio.

COLFA Research Conference & Showcase, UTSA

San Antonio, TX, 2025

Poster Presentation.

Shakira: Identidad, Hibridez y Empoderamiento en la Música Latina Contemporánea.

COLFA Research Conference & Showcase, UTSA

San Antonio, TX, 2024

Poster Presentation — 2nd Place, Graduate Category.

Parody and Language Online: Sociolinguistic Reflections on “La Tía Resentilia” and Her Critique of Colombian Sociopolitical Realities.

AWARDS & HONORS

2nd Place, Graduate Poster Presentation - COLFA Research Conference & Showcase, UTSA 2025

Parody and Language Online: Sociolinguistic Reflections on “La Tía Resentilia” and Her Critique of Colombian Sociopolitical Realities.

COURSES TAUGHT

The University of Texas at San Antonio

- SPN-1014-038 — Elementary Spanish I (Heritage Track) — Fall 2025
- SPN-1014-04H — Heritage Spanish — Spring 2026

- SPN-1014-021 — Elementary Spanish I — Spring 2026
- SPN-1014-06F — Elementary Spanish I — Summer 2026

Northside Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas

- ESL Adult Education — January 2024–Present

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

IBM AI Certificate Program via Coursera

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) — IBM / Coursera	<i>Feb 25, 2025</i>
Generative AI: Introduction and Applications — IBM / Coursera	<i>Feb 22, 2025</i>
Generative AI: Prompt Engineering Basics — IBM / Coursera	<i>Mar 10, 2025</i>
Building AI Powered Chatbots Without Programming — IBM / Coursera	<i>Mar 11, 2025</i>
Python for Data Science, AI & Development — IBM / Coursera	<i>May 6, 2025</i>

LANGUAGES

Spanish	<i>Native</i>
English	<i>Near-Native (Professional Proficiency)</i>

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & HONOR SOCIETIES

- Sociedad Nacional Honoraria Hispánica (SNHH)
- International Foreign Language Honor Society (Phi Sigma Iota)

REFERENCES

Dr. Whitney Chappell Full Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Romo
Endowed Professor, Honors College - The University of Texas at San Antonio
whitney.chappell@utsa.edu (*Thesis Advisor*)

Dr. Michael Rushforth Assistant Dean for Experiential Learning Initiatives Professor of Instruction,
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures - The University of Texas at San Antonio
Michael.Rushforth@utsa.edu

Dr. Stephanie Brock Gonzalez, PhD

Assistant Professor of Spanish, Modern Languages & Literatures Department
Undergraduate Advisor of Record (UGAR), Spanish Program
Director, Spanish as a Heritage Language Program at The University of Texas at San Antonio
stephanie.gonzalez4@utsa.edu