



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Second Language  
Acquisition & Teaching

Graduate Interdisciplinary Program

## SLAT COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**September 8, 2022**  
**4:00 - 5:00 pm**  
**(Arizona time)**

**Collecting clues and connecting dots: The common  
ground between research and practice**

**Dr. Florencia Henshaw**  
**University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

*Please note that this event is taking place on a Thursday, rather than the usual Friday.*

**Please register for this event at:**  
<https://arizona.zoom.us/j/91234567890>  
The Zoom link will be sent to you after registration.

*If you don't receive the Zoom information by the date of the event, please email*  
[GIDP-SLAT@arizona.edu](mailto:GIDP-SLAT@arizona.edu).

In this talk, I will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with the connection between what we know from research and what we do in practice. I will start by underscoring the importance of understanding the “why” behind the “what and how,” not only because doing so may improve practice, but also because competence increases confidence in educators (when making decisions, participating in professional communities, consuming information, etc.). Then, I will discuss what factors have been shown to limit teachers’ access to research, such as time constraints, discourse differences, and perceived irrelevance to their own context. I will conclude with suggestions of possible steps to take to overcome those barriers and empower language educators in connecting the dots and collecting clues from research findings in a way that goes beyond summaries or including pedagogical implications in journal articles.



Florencia Henshaw has a Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she is now the Director of Advanced Spanish. Dr. Henshaw has published and presented nationally and internationally on technology integration, heritage language instruction, and proficiency-based pedagogy. Her new co-authored book, “Common Ground: Second Language Acquisition Theory Goes to the Classroom” aims to help educators visualize how to put principles into action. Dr. Henshaw’s work has been recognized through a number of awards, including the Postsecondary Award for Excellence in World Language Instruction Using Technology, granted by ACTFL and IALLT, as well as two competitive campus awards at the University of Illinois: the Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence Award and the Campus Award for Excellence in Online & Distance Teaching.