

The SLAT Communicator

The Official SLAT Newsletter August 2025

It is an honor to write to you as the new Chair of SLAT and to warmly welcome you to the 2025-2026 academic year. I step into this role with deep gratitude and admiration for Dr. Suzanne Panferov Reese, whose leadership has left a legacy of innovation, empathy, and dedication. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to both Suzanne and Debbie Shon Buhler for their incredible generosity and support during this transition. I look forward to working closely with all of you in the years ahead.



If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, let me introduce myself. I am a sociolinguist whose research focuses on language contact, language variation and change, and dialect and language acquisition. I was born and raised in Brazil and joined the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Arizona in 1998 after completing my doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley. Since becoming a SLAT affiliate shortly thereafter, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with SLAT as a professor, researcher, and community member. I hope that my experiences - as a Latina, a speaker of English as a second language, as a former international student, and as a longtime member of this academic community - will help shape a leadership approach that is inclusive, collaborative, and grounded in respect for diversity and peace.

As we begin this new academic year, please join me in welcoming our incoming cohort to the SLAT family: **Henry Aberle, Sara Leila, Sylvie Mawuena, Serdar Sen, Brillana Temaat, and Lucia Velazquez Encinas.** We are excited to support you on this new journey.

(Cont'd next page)

At the same time, we celebrate our 2024-2025 graduates - **Michelle Vonie, Amable Custodio Ribeiro, Mariana Centanin Bertho, Hanyu Jia, Wei Xu, Onur Ural Burns, Kate Shea, Seungmin Eum, and Hongni Gou** - and wish them continued success in their paths ahead. To our returning students and faculty, welcome back! I encourage you to reach out to me at any time with your ideas, concerns, or suggestions. I am eager to listen and to collaborate.

I am grateful for the steady guidance of our graduate program coordinator, Debbie Shon Buhler, and for the partnership of our dedicated 2025-2026 Executive Council members: **Dwight Atkinson, Mahmoud Azaz, Betul Czerkowski, Robert Henderson, Hayriye Kayi-Aydar, Liudmila Klimanova, Tania Leal, Miquel Simonet, and Chris Tardy**. I also want to thank our student representatives, **Angus Leydic and Sara Matsumura**. SLAT thrives because of your commitment. You can follow the hard work of SLAT ExCo this year at <https://slat.arizona.edu/people/executive-council>.

Much appreciation and thanks goes out to **Julieta Fernandez** and **Mike Hammond**, and former student representative **Lincoln Bain**, who all rotated off the SLAT Executive Council

at the end of Spring 2025. We're grateful for the time and effort they gave to SLAT leadership over the years.

In times of uncertainty or challenge, communities like SLAT remind us of the strength that comes from connection. Our program continues to offer many opportunities for engagement through colloquia, webinars, workshops, and roundtables. I especially hope you'll join us for the annual **SLAT Community Meet and Greet on September 5th at 4:00 pm at Cork and Craft**, where we'll welcome the new cohort and reconnect as a community. I know how full everyone's calendars are -- but these events are a chance to step away from the daily routine, enjoy intellectually stimulating conversations, and renew our sense of purpose together.

With hopes for a productive, peaceful, and



Ana M. Carvalho
Chair, SLAT
Professor, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese
Courtesy Appointment, Dept. of Linguistics
Faculty Affiliate, Latin American Studies

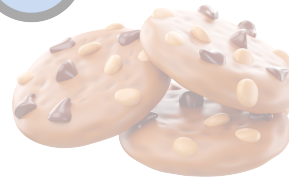
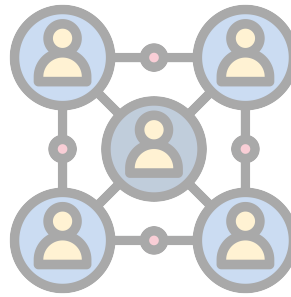
Save the dates & Updates:

SLAT COMMUNITY MEET & GREET:

September 5, 2025
4:00 PM
Cork and Craft
(Student Union, Main Level)

Refreshments & light snacks will
be offered.

We'd love to see you there!



Check out our [events page](#) to see
more upcoming events!



SLAT Proseminar Research Poster Session

Save the date for the **SLAT Proseminar Research Poster Session**, taking place on the **morning of Friday, December 5th**! Our first-year SLAT Major students and our new SLAT Minor students will showcase their posters of the research agendas they'd potentially like to focus on during their doctoral programs.

All SLAT faculty, students, and alumni who are in Tucson are welcome! Come talk with our new students about their ideas and research agendas, and help them make connections they can build on.

The location of the poster session and the specific start time will be sent out a little later in the semester. We look forward to seeing you!

Welcome to our 2025-2026 cohort!

Henry Aberle

Henry Aberle is a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's Master's in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, and he graduated with a double major in East Asian Studies and Musical Studies from Oberlin College. Over the last ten years, Henry has taught English as a Shansi Fellow to J.F. Oberlin University in Tokyo, and Japanese as an Adjunct Instructor for Carnegie Mellon and Virginia Tech. In response to his teaching experience in Japan, Henry founded the startup Poptalk, which sought to make language learning fun and relevant through affinity-based, small group language lessons. Outside of academia, Henry has worked extensively in the restaurant industry and managed a popular Izakaya-style restaurant in New York City.



As a researcher, Henry is interested in the interplay between learners' personal interests and their linguistic development. With his own learning journey in French and Japanese, and his diverse interests, Henry hopes to explore the potential for personalized, affinity-based instruction to help multilinguals maintain their skills across languages. Outside of work, Henry loves going out with friends, swimming, and playing tennis, pickleball, and the Japanese game "Karuta".



Sara Leila

Sara Leila is originally from Egypt and has an academic background in English Applied Linguistics, more specifically in TESOL. She earned her BA degree in English Language and Literature from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt. She recently completed her M.A. degree in TESL at the University of Arizona. In 2022, she received the Fulbright FLTA Scholarship to teach Arabic at the University of New Hampshire for

one academic year. Her research interests are second language writing, corpus linguistics, technology in second language teaching, and linguistic anthropology. Outside of academia, she enjoys cooking, baking, reflective walks, and meaningful conversations that foster insight and connection.

Welcome our 2025-2026 cohort!

Sylvie Mawuena

Sylvie Mawuena is originally from Ghana, where she began her career as a French teacher and language education trainer. She holds a Bachelor's degree in French Education from the University of Education, Winneba, and a M.Phil. in French Linguistics and Didactics from the University of Cape Coast. She also recently completed a second Master's in French Linguistics and Second Language Teaching and Learning at the University of Arizona. She's thrilled to be joining the SLAT PhD program this Fall.



Sylvie's research interests focus on the use of drama and other multimodal strategies to develop multiliteracies in L2/FL education. She's particularly interested in how these approaches support communicative competence, cultural understanding, and learner engagement.

Outside of academics, Sylvie enjoys traveling, meeting new people, and discovering different cultures. She's excited to continue this journey with the SLAT community and looks forward to the collaborations and discoveries ahead!



Serdar Sen

Serdar Sen is from Türkiye and is joining the SLAT PhD program as a proud Fulbrighter. He completed his Masters degree at Bolu Abant İzzet Baysal University, where he focused on the identity formation of Turkish pre-service English language teachers. His research involved a telecollaboration project with participants from the U.S. and Türkiye, exploring both the teachers' and their professors' experiences and perceptions of transnational learning environments.

As someone who learned English by playing The Sims 3 and listening to Taylor Swift, Serdar's academic interests naturally gravitate towards computer-assisted language learning (CALL), gamification, and online collaboration. He is also passionate about identity work, critical pedagogy, and has recently been exploring trauma-informed approaches to education.

Beyond academics, Serdar loves cooking and trying new foods, staying active through all kinds of exercise, playing video games, and sharing those passions with friends. He is excited to be part of such a vibrant and welcoming community!

Welcome our 2025-2026 cohort!

Brillana Temaat

Brillana Temaat joins SLAT from Indiana, and is passionate about finding ways to use music to help with language learning. This passion has carried her through Bachelor's programs in Psychology, Humanities, and Music, as well as through a Master's program in Linguistics. She is excited to continue this track with SLAT by looking more into the neural processes involved in language learning.



Outside of school, Brillana loves exploring and learning from those she lives around. She doesn't consider herself from any one place. She was born in Denver, CO, but grew up a third-culture kid, moving around often, a trend which continued into her adult life. Because of this, it's important to her to get to know each place she lives and the things that make each place special. From hiking to trying new cuisines, to joining the local music/dance scene, and even to sharing adventures between the covers of a recommended book, Brillana loves exploring all the places she's called home.



Lucia Velazquez Encinas

Lucia Velazquez Encinas is originally from Sonora, Mexico and holds a Bachelor's degree in English Language Teaching from Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa, and a Master's degree in TESL from the University of Arizona. For the past year, she has been working as an English Language Development Teacher at Palo Verde High Magnet School in Tucson. Her current research interests

focus on the relationship between language acquisition and culture shock.

Lucia has been living in Tucson for 3 years, and loves everything the city has to offer. In her free time, she goes to ranches to be with horses, dogs, and donkeys, and to embrace her love of animals and nature.

Congratulations to our newest alumni!

AY 2024-2025



Congratulations to the newest SLAT graduates!

Mariana Centanin Bertho (Advisor Dr. Shelley Staples)
Amable Custodio Ribeiro (Advisor: Dr. Hayriye Kayi-Aydar)
Seungmin Eum (Advisor Dr. Janet Nicol)
Hongni Gou (Advisor: Dr. Wenhao Diao)
Hanyu Jia (Advisor: Dr. Liudmila Klimanova)
Kate Shea (Advisor Dr. Hayriye Kayi-Aydar)
Onur Ural Burns (Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Panferov Reese)
Michelle Vonie (Advisor: Dr. Jon Reinhardt)
Wei Xu (Advisor: Dr. Christine Tardy)

SLAT Student News: Awards, Honors, Presentations, and Updates:

Mourad Abdennebi was the grand prize winner of the 2024-2025 Grad Slam Competition, hosted by the Graduate Center. He went on to represent the University of Arizona and win the grand prize at the 3-Minute Thesis Competition at the Western Association of Graduate Schools. He'll compete at the national Council of Graduate Schools 3-Minute Thesis Competition in December 2025. Mourad was also elected the Graduate and Professional Student Council (GPSC) President for the 2025-2026 academic year. Mourad received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver.

Dilara Avci received a Collaborative Teaching Award from the English Writing Program at the University of Arizona in Spring 2025, and she won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver. She will start a position as the Graduate Assistant Director of International Foundations Writing in Fall 2025.

Lincoln Bain won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese 2025 Conference in Portugal.

Betsy Carter won a Bilinski Fellowship for 2025-2026.

Bernard Cassie received a GPSC Research Grant to support his research project in Ghana. He presented at the Discourse-Pragmatic Variation in Postcolonial Contexts Workshop in Essen, Germany, on the topic of Discourse Pragmatic Markers in Ghanaian Pidgin. He also received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present his project Hybrid Game-Based Language Learning through Oware: Exploring Lexical Awareness and Student Motivation at the 2025 CALICO Conference in San Diego.

Nena Choi won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 Second Language Research Forum at Northern Arizona University.

Mukaddes Coban Postaci received a Collaborative Teaching Award from the English Writing Program at the University of Arizona in Spring 2025. She presented a poster on her research at the GIDP Student Research Showcase in Fall 2024. Mukaddes presented one of her papers, titled Fostering Rhetorical Agency in L2 Writers through Multimodal Writing, at the 2024 Symposium on Second Language Writing. She received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present another paper, titled Projecting Social Media Identities: An Analysis of an International Graduate Student's Social Media Posts, at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver.

SLAT Student News: Awards, Honors, Presentations, and Updates:

Anh Dang won a 2025 Scholars for the Dream Travel Award to attend the College Composition and Communication Conference's annual convention. She also won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 IWAC Conference at Colorado State University.

Helena Escalera Lopez (Spanish & Portuguese PhD major/SLAT PhD minor) won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 6th Phonetics and Phonology in Europe (PaPE 2025) Conference in Spain.

Gozde Durgut was awarded the ICPSR Opportunity Scholarship by the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan, and attended their summer program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research earlier this summer. She presented at the 2025 CALICO Conference and at the Frontiers in Adult Education Research Conference at Georgetown University in May 2025, where she shared her work in AI integration in higher education. Gozde also presented her study *AI Literacy Frameworks for Foreign Language Classrooms: From Theory to Practice* at the EDMedia Conference, hosted by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education.

Asya Gorlova won a 2024 TIRF Dissertation Award, and she received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2024 ACTFL Convention in Philadelphia. Asya was also the recipient of a 2024 University of Arizona Centennial Achievement Award, which recognizes academic achievement while demonstrating outstanding persistence and integrity and contributing to community.

Dee Hunter (Linguistics PhD major/SLAT PhD minor) won a Bilinski Fellowship for 2025-2026.

Alona Kladieva received a Collaborative Teaching Award from the English Writing Program at the University of Arizona.

Angus Leydic won a Bilinski Fellowship for 2025-2026. He also received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2024 ACTFL Convention in Philadelphia.

Sara Matsumura received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver.

SLAT Student News: Awards, Honors, Presentations, and Updates:

Yulia Mikheeva presented a poster on her research at the GIDP Student Research Showcase in Fall 2024. She also won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 Annual Conference of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages in Chicago.

Giulia Negretto won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver.

Msafiri Otonya won a Dissertation Research Grant from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute (SBSRI) at the University of Arizona.

Issam Rian won a Fall 2024 English Graduate Student Research Fund Award for his research project "AI-Powered Metacognition: ChatGPT's Influence on L2 Writers' Genre Awareness and Self-Regulated Learning". He received a GPSC Research and Project Grant in Fall 2024 and a AAAL Graduate Student Award in Spring 2025. Issam also won a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 CALICO Conference.

Caroline Scheuer Neves received a Willock Library Research Award from the UA Libraries in Spring 2025.

Lorraine Turpault d'Huve received a Summer 2025 internship for the American branch of the Center for the Advancement of Languages, Education, and Communities (CALEC). By serving as a Development Lead, she supported their multilingual education, translation initiatives, and literacy programs by leading development efforts focused on grant writing, partnership building, and long-term fundraising strategy.

Hui Wang won a 2025 Scholars for the Dream Travel Award to attend the College Composition and Communication Conference's annual convention. She defended her dissertation earlier this summer, and in Fall 2025 she will start work as a lecturer in the Writing and Rhetoric Program at Stony Brook University while she completes dissertation revisions.



SLAT Student Publications

Cassie, B. (forthcoming). Review Essay: The Big Beasts of English Grammar: An Exploration of Form and Function in Conversations. *Corpora*, 21 (1).

Hunter, D. (2025). Morphosyntax and me: The reflections of a non-binary linguist on English gendered language. In D. Schmitz, S. Stein & V. Schneider (Ed.), *Linguistic intersections of language and gender: Of gender bias and gender fairness* (pp. 219-238). Berlin, Boston: düsseldorf university press.
<https://doi-org.ezproxy2.library.arizona.edu/10.1515/9783111388694-013>

Leydic, A. (2025). Review Essay: Redoing Linguistic Worlds: Unmaking Gender Binaries, Remaking Gender Pluralities. *Critical Multilingualism Studies*, 12(1).
<https://doi.org/10.2458/cms.9504>

Üzüm, B. , Uştuk, Ö. , Yazan, B. , Maviş, S. , **Şen, S.** , Akayoglu, S. , & Turnbull, J. (2025). Language Teacher Agency in a Transnational Telecollaborative Project between Türkiye and the United States. In L. Veliz, M.H. Nguyen, Y. Slaughter & G. Bonar (Ed.). *Language Teacher Agency: Navigating Complex and Diverse Educational Contexts* (pp. 69-87). London,: Bloomsbury Academic.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781350454811.ch-4>

SLAT Alumni Awards, Honors, Presentations and Updates

Dr. Natalie Amgott (2022) started a new position as a Teaching Assistant Professor of French at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Theresa Catalano (2011) gave the keynote talk at the 2025 SLAT Roundtable. Her talk was titled *Interdisciplinarity in Applied Linguistics Research, Teaching, and Leadership: A Joyful Talk*.

Dr. Jody Cripps (2008) was a finalist for Clemson University's 2025 Researcher of the Year Award. Dr. Cripps also developed a study abroad program for American Sign Language students going to New Zealand and Australia.

SLAT Alumni Awards, Honors, Presentations and Updates

Dr. Rachel Floyd (2023) started a new position as Associate Director of Online Language Instruction at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dr. Senta Goertler (2006) was selected as a Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Leadership Program Fellow for 2024-2025. Dr. Goertler was also awarded a Mellon Leadership Grant for 2024-2026 from the BTAA.

Dr. Hongni Gou (2025) received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver. Dr. Gou's presentation was titled " 'We are bilinguals. Of course this is how we speak!': Heritage language and identity development on social media".

Dr. Tara Hashemi (2019) was promoted with tenure to the rank of Associate Professor of French at California State University, Fresno.

Dr. Brian Hibbs (2014) was promoted to the rank of Professor of Education/ESOL at Dalton State University.

Dr. Anna Kamenetski (2021) is now working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Language Comprehension Lab in the Cognitive Science Department at Central European University (Vienna, Austria).

Dr. Rachel Kraut (2016) presented at the 2025 TESOL International Conference as part of a panel on the topic of *Hot Topics in Post-Secondary English Language Programs*. She continued service on the EnglishUSA Board of Directors, and was selected as the Chair of the Membership Development and Engagement Committee for 2025-2026. Dr. Kraut also delivered professional development workshops about AI in the language classroom for ESL faculty at Rice University, and for international groups online.

Dr. Jorge Mejia Laguna (2022) has started a new position as Assistant Research Professor of English in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures at Universidad del Valle (Colombia).

Dr. Yoshiko Okuyama (2000) was selected for the 2025-2026 Fulbright-Nehru (U.S.-India) Distinguished Scholar Award.

SLAT Alumni Awards, Honors, Presentations, and Updates

Dr. Kacy Peckenpaugh (2013) was promoted to the rank of Professor of German and French in the Department of World Languages & Cultures at Weber State University.

Dr. Steve Przymus (2016) has started a new position as Associate Professor of TESOL/Bilingual Dual Language Education within the Feinstein College of Education at the University of Rhode Island.

Dr. Kate Shea (2025) received a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference in Denver. Dr. Shea's presentation was titled "Engaging students in an English-medium STEM classroom: Positioning learners through teacher-directed questioning."

Dr. Osman Solmaz (2015) received the 2025 TESOL Teacher of the Year Award from the TESOL International Association. This award was created to recognize and honor exceptional English language teachers who make significant contributions to local and global English language teaching initiatives.

Dr. Onur Ural Burns (2025) won a University of Arizona Centennial Award in his last year as a doctoral student, in recognition of his academic achievement while demonstrating outstanding persistence and integrity. He also received a Collaborative Teaching Award from the English Writing Program at the University of Arizona, and a GIDP Carter Travel Award to present at the 2025 AAAL Conference.

Dr. Wei Xu (2025) has started a new position as an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies (specialization: Second Language Writing) at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Xu was also awarded the Comrie Interdisciplinary Fellowship in 2024-2025, to support her last year as a doctoral student.



SLAT Alumni Publications

Burns, K.E. (2025). Challenging standard language ideology in L2 learning contexts for endangered and minority languages. In W. Wei & J. Schnell (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Endangered and Minority Languages*, 274-287. Routledge. [Peer-reviewed] <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003439493-21>

Han, Y. & Wen, W. (2025). Meme Literacy. In McCallum, L. & Tafazoli, D. (Eds.), *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Computer-Assisted Language Learning*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-51447-0_265-1

Przymus, S.D. (2025). The language of reality: a semiotic guide for shaping thought about American education. *Social Semiotics*, 1–15.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10350330.2025.2522703>

Przymus, S.D. & Mendoza, M. (2025). Now you see me, now you don't: Unveiling adolescent multilingual identities through magic, storytelling, and translanguaging. *Linguistics and Education*, 86, 101383.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.linged.2025.101383>

Przymus, S. D., Solmaz, O., Cal y Mayor Turbull, A., Rodriguez Rosales, M. E., & Dominguez, A. M. (2025). Leveraging glocal linguistic landscapes to raise preservice teacher candidates' critical language awareness: Pitfalls and potential from three international telecollaboration projects. *Journal of Multilingual Theories and Practices*.

Przymus, S.D. & Solmaz, O. (2025). Developing Educational Linguistic Landscape (EdLL) Materials and Learning Methods. In D. Gorter & J. Cenoz (Eds.), *Handbook of Linguistic Landscapes and Multilingualism*, 537-544. Wiley-Blackwell.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781394231805.ch32>

Ekpe, L., Weinberg, N., Daley G., **Przymus, S.D.**, Hernandez, F., Huddleston, G., Kyzar, K. (2025). Navigating the Educational Landscape: Experiences of Hispanic Male Teachers in Texas K-12 Schools. *Journal of Education*, 205(3), 185-198.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00220574251318295>

SLAT Alumni Publications

Przymus, S.D. & Mendoza, M. (2024). We barely wrote this paper: Sociolinguistic relativity in Southwestern U.S. schools and its impact on English language teaching. *Focus on ELT Journal*, 6(3), 124-147. <https://doi.org/10.14744/felt.6.3.8>

Przymus, S.D. & Mendoza, M. (2024). Easy de traducir: Geomapping Spanish Billboards across Forth Worth, Texas. *Bilingual Review/Revista Bilingue*

Przymus, S.D. (2024). Semiotically deconstructing parental and adolescent failed communication: It's not what they're saying, it's their words. *American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*

Przymus, S.D. & Mendoza, M. (2024). "I saw the sign": Increasing inclusivity with multimodal, community-based literacy practices. *Literacy Today*.

Shintaku, K. (2025). Gaming Literacies and LLT. In McCallum, L. & Tafazoli, D. (Eds.), *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Computer-Assisted Language Learning*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-51447-0_126-1

Qiao, X. (2025). A psycholinguistic perspective on SLA/T. *The Modern Language Journal*, 109(S1), 119-120. <https://doi.org/10.1111/modl.12973>

Xu, W. & Jia, H. (2025). Scientific knowledge dissemination in the multilingual and digital era: A multimodality-enhanced genre analysis of Chinese epidemiologists' COVID-19 posts on Sina Weibo. *Ibérica*, 49, 133-156. <https://doi.org/10.17398/2340-2784.49.133>

SLAT Faculty Awards, Honors, and Presentations

Dr. Yousra Abourehab (Home Department: TLS) received a 2025 Faculty Research Fellowship from the Center for Educational Resources in Culture, Language and Literacy (CERCLL) for her project *Multilingual Peace Education and Global Competence Across Disciplines*.

Dr. Dwight Atkinson (Home Department: English) presented research at the 2025 AAAL Conference, along with presentations in Shanghai and Tokyo during the summer. He will also be presenting at the 2025 Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) in Flagstaff, AZ.

Dr. Tom Bever (Home Department: Linguistics) will be a named Chair in the Consciousness Studies undergraduate minor, which is housed in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Ana Carvalho (Home Department: Spanish & Portuguese) directed a documentary titled *Vozes das Margens* to spotlight and celebrate Uruguayan Portuguese, a unique dialect, while exploring how language, place, and society intertwine in border living. The documentary premiered in 2024 in Uruguay, was screened at Portugal's film festival Doclisboa, receiving a finalist award. The documentary will be shown on the University of Arizona campus in Fall 2025.

Dr. Wenhao Diao (Home Department: EAS) was appointed the Head of the Department of East Asian Studies.

Dr. Beatrice Dupuy (Home Departments: French & Italian, PAH) gave a presentation at the conference French for the Future: Innovating French Language Study in the Modern U.S. University, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Interdisciplinary French Studies. Dr. Dupuy's presentation was titled *Facing Headwinds, Finding Tailwinds: Leading for Innovation in French Language Education*. Dr. Dupuy also gave the plenary talk at the 2025 SLAT Roundtable, titled *Digital Multimodal Literacies in Second/Additional Languages: Implications for Instruction, Assessment, and Teacher Education*.

Dr. Peter Ecke (Home Department: German Studies) has been selected as a 2025 Fulbright Scholar and will study at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. His work will inform new and existing courses in international communication and study abroad programs at the University of Arizona. Additionally, Dr. Ecke received a grant from the University of Arizona Foundation to fund his (cont'd.)

SLAT Faculty Awards, Honors, and Presentations

project *Improvement and Assessment of "Becoming Transcultural: Maximizing Study Abroad" - A General Education Course to Strengthen Arizona Global*.

Dr. Borbi Gaspar (Home Department: French & Italian) received the Spring 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Humanities at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Hayriye Kayi-Aydar (Home Department: English) received the 2024 University of Arizona Mentoring Future Scholars Award. Dr. Kayi-Aydar gave a plenary talk at the 2025 AAAL Conference on the topic of *An Intersectional Look at Critical Applied Linguistics: Current Research, Future Directions, and Some Skeptical Remarks*.

Dr. Liudmila Klimanova (Home Department: Russian & Slavic Studies) received the 2024 Innovation in Language Program Direction Award from the American Association of University Supervisors, Coordinators, and Directors of Language Programs (AAUSC).

Dr. Suzanne Panferov Reese (Home Department: PAH) received the 2025 James E. Alatis Award for Service to TESOL, which was presented at the 2025 TESOL Conference. Dr. Panferov Reese also received the 2025 Graduate Mentoring & Teaching Award for her outstanding commitment to the success of the graduate students she has worked with.

Dr. Jonathon Reinhardt (Home Department: English) presented at an invited lecture at the Center for Language Acquisition at Penn State University in September 2024. He also presented a talk at the University of Arizona College of Information Science in February 2025, and he gave a workshop for the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES). Dr. Reinhardt also presented the keynote talk at the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning at MIT, and he presented two talks and two workshops at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore). Dr. Reinhardt recently completed his term as President of CALICO in May 2025.

SLAT Faculty Awards, Honors, and Presentations

Dr. Shelley Staples (Home Department: English) presented and co-presented 9 talks at 3 different conferences this year, including the Symposium on Second Language Writing (SSLW) and the American Association for Corpus Linguistics (AACL) Conference. She presented an online webinar for the University of Murcia (Spain), and has shared her work on Corpus Cast, a YouTube series from Aston University (United Kingdom) on topics in corpus linguistics. To learn more about her work, watch online [here](#). In May 2025, Dr. Staples led a series of workshops and talks sponsored by the U.S. Department of State on corpus-based materials development at 3 universities in Brazil. She has received a Research Initiative Grant from the Conference on College Communication & Composition (CCCC) for "Understanding Community College Instructors' Perceptions of Corpus-informed Writing Instruction".



Promotions and Tenure



SLAT is pleased to announce that 3 of our wonderful faculty members have received promotions.

- Dr. Nick Ferdinandt has been promoted to Full Professor of Practice
- Dr. Sandiway Fong has been promoted to Full Professor with tenure
- Dr. Hayriye Kayi-Aydar has been promoted to Full Professor with tenure.

Congratulations to all!

SLAT Faculty Publications

Atkinson, D., & Taylor, E. (Eds.). (2026). *Alternative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Ayoun, D. (2025). The Second Language Acquisition of English Tense, Aspect and Modality. John Benjamins Publishing Company. <https://doi.org/10.1075/z.243>

Kayi-Aydar, H. (2024). Doing research in culturally and linguistically diverse K-12 classrooms: Ethical considerations, critical reflections, and future directions. In P.I. De Costa, A. Rabie-Ahmed, & C. Cinaglia (Eds.), *Ethical Issues in Applied Linguistics Scholarship* (pp. 59-71). John Benjamins Publishing Company. <https://benjamins.com/catalog/rmal.7.04kay>

Klimanova, L., & Murphy-Judy, K. (2024). Critical CALL: Towards Social Justice and Equity in Language Education. In R. Hampel & U. Stickler (Eds.), *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Language Teaching and Technology*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

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Tardy, C. (2025). *Teaching Second Language Academic Writing*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009638326>

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https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-51447-0_25-1

SLAT Collaborative Awards, Honors, and Presentations

Dr. Sandiway Fong and **Dr. Liudmila Klimanova** received a 2025 Faculty Research Fellowship from the Center for Educational Resources, Language and Learning (CERCLL) for their project *LLM-Powered Voice Chatbots for ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviews: Assessing the Feasibility of AI-Driven Automated Language Assessment*. They also received a World Language 360 AI Grant to support their project *AI-Powered Oralynx: Evaluating the Feasibility of AI-Administered and Scored OPI Interviews in High-Stakes Language Assessment*.

The 2024 Symposium on Second Language Writing (SSLW) was held at the University of Arizona in November 2024, and was co-organized by **Dr. Shelley Staples**, **Dr. Chris Tardy**, **Dr. Dwight Atkinson**, and **Dilara Avci**. **Dr. Sheilah Nicholas** gave a talk during the symposium on Indigenous activist-educator voices and local ecologies.

Dr. Chris Tardy, **Dr. Emily Palese**, and **Dr. Wei Xu** co-presented at SSLW 2024 on the topic of *Shifting to Asynchronous Teaching in a Transnational Writing Program: Opportunities, Challenges, and Considerations*.

Dr. Chris Tardy and **Dilara Avci** co-presented at AAAL 2025 on the topic of *Metaphor as an Engagement Tool: A Multimodal Analysis of 3MT Presentations*.

Dr. M'Balia Thomas and **Maryam Jahangiri Babadi**, along with their colleagues Maria Rojas Vargas and Thais Rodrigues Cons, co-presented at AAAL 2025.

Dr. Chris Tardy, **Dr. Emily Palese**, and **Dr. Abdul Hakim** co-presented at SSLW 2024 on the topic of *SLW teachers' pedagogical knowledge and instructional practices with mentor texts*.

Dr. Shelley Staples, **Dr. Wei Xu**, **Dilara Avci**, **Bernard Cassie**, **Anh Dang**, **Gozde Durgut**, **Alona Kladieva**, and **Hui Wang** co-presented at AACL 2024 on the topic of *Annotating Multimodal Corpus of College First-Year Writing (FYW) Students' Work*.

Dr. Shelley Staples and **Asya Gorlova** co-presented an online webinar for CATESOL.

SLAT Collaborative Awards, Honors, and Presentations

Dr. Shelley Staples, Anh Dang, and Hui Wang co-presented at SSLW 2024.

Dr. Shelley Staples, Dr. Chris Tardy, Dr. Julieta Fernandez, and Dr. Ana Carvalho received a Center for University Education Scholarship (CUES) Spanning Boundaries Grant for *Evaluating an interdisciplinary, collaborative training model for teaching assistants*.

Dr. Julieta Fernandez and **Dr. Tania Leal** were awarded a NSF Grant to help fund the Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, which will be held on November 13 - 15, 2025, with the theme of *Theorizing Methods in Hispanic Linguistics*. The organizing committee for the symposium also includes **Dr. Ana Carvalho** and **Dr. Miquel Simonet**.

Hui Wang and **Anh Dang** co-presented at the Conference on College Composition (CCCC) on the topic of *Generative Artificial Intelligence in Second Language Writing: A Systematic Review of Pedagogical Applications and Impacts*.

Hui Wang, Anh Dang, and Sara Leila co-presented at the Studies in Second Language Writing Conference.

Dr. Wei Xu and **Dr. Hanyu Jia** co-authored a publication that was awarded as one of the two winners for the Asia-Pacific LSPPC Association's Christopher N. Candlin Award for the Best Paper by Early Career Scholars (2025). This award will be presented at the closing of the LSPPC Association Conference in December in Hong Kong.

SLAT Collaborative Publications

Atkinson, D., Sagre Barboza, A., & Burhan-Horasanli, E. (2024). Sociocognitive perspectives on second language acquisition, teaching, and use. In B. Paltridge & M.T. Prior (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Discourse*. Routledge.

Atkinson, D., Michel, M., Ribeiro, A.C. (2025). Introduction to the guest-edited issue: Synergies in second language acquisition and teaching (SLA/T). *Modern Language Journal*, 109(S1), 3-14.

Atkinson, D., Mejia-Laguna, J., Ribeiro, A.C., Cappellini, M., Kayi-Aydar, H., & Lowie, W. (2025). Relationality, interconnectedness, and identity: A process-focused approach to second language acquisition and teaching (SLA/T). *Modern Language Journal*, 109(S1), 39-63.

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Brown, A., Crane, C., Dupuy, B., & Ene, E. (2025). *The Routledge Handbook of Language Program Development and Administration*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Cassie, B. & Staples, S. (2024). Applications of the Register-Functional Approach to Grammatical Complexity to Academic Writing Instruction. *CATESOL Newsletter*, 57(4), 12-15.

Coban-Postaci, M. & Kayi-Aydar, H. (forthcoming). Intersectional identities, intersectional advocacy, and multilingual international students. In *An assets-based approach to serving multilingual international students in higher education*. Teachers College Press.

SLAT Collaborative Publications

Dupuy, B. & Hashemi, T. (2025). Infographics by Design: Beginning French Learners' Multimodal Composition and Authorial Agency. In Reyes Torres, A., Brisk, M.E. & Lacorte, M. (Eds.), *Multiliteracies, Multimodality, and Learning by Design in Second Language Learning and Teacher Education*, 67-85. Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Herb, A., Vaezi, M., **Coban-Postaci, M., & Kayi-Aydar, H.** (forthcoming). Enhancing relational agency in the multilingual college writing classroom: A reflexive dialogical narrative approach. In H. Uysal & X.A. Gao (Eds.), *Reimagining language teacher agency: Transperspectival insights and actionable strategies*. Springer Nature.

Michel, M., **Atkinson, D., Ribeiro, A. C.,** Alexopoulou, T., Cappellini, M., Eskildsen, S. W., Gao, X., Hellermann, J., **Kayi-Aydar, H.,** Lowie, W., **Mejía-Laguna, J. A.,** Ortega, L., Pekarek Doehler, S., Sasaki, M., Sato, M., Thorne, S. L., & Zheng, Y. (2025). Forging common ground in second language acquisition and teaching: A combined synergy statement. *Modern Language Journal*, 109(S1), 90–103.

Solmaz, O. & Reinhardt, J. (2024). Engaging Turkish Learners in Digital Participatory Culture Through Social Media-Enhanced Language Instruction. *CALICO Journal*, 41(1), 48-70. <https://doi.org/10.1558/cj.25514>

Staples, S., Dang, A., & Wang, H. (2024). Learner Corpora in Corpus-Informed Instruction: Moving Toward an Asset- and Genre-Based Model. *TESOL Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tesq.3293>

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Tardy, C. & Gevers, J. (2024). Genre, discourse, and second language research. In B. Paltridge & M.T. Prior (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Second Language Acquisition and Discourse*. Routledge.

Honorable Mentions

Thank you to **Dr. Suzanne Panferov Reese, Dr. Chris Tardy, Dr. M'Balia Thomas, Debbie Shon Buhler, Dilara Avci, and Lorraine Turpault d'Huve** for serving as members of the SLAT Academic Program Review Self-Study Committee in 2024-2025.

Thank you to **Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Betul Czerkowski, Dr. Chris Tardy, Dr. Dwight Atkinson, Dr. Robert Henderson, Debbie Shon Buhler, Alona Kladieva and Mukaddes Coban Postaci** for serving as members of the SLAT Chair Search Committee in Spring 2025.

Big thanks to the outgoing **SLAT Student Association (SLATSA) committee members** and the **outgoing JSLAT co-editors**. Thank you to **Dr. M'Balia Thomas** for serving as the SLATSA and JSLAT Faculty Advisor in the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years.

Visit the **Journal of Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (JSLAT)**! To view the past, present, and future editions of the student-run publication, [click here](#).

SLAT was thrilled to see the annual Roundtable conference return to a 2-day event under the excellent organization of the SLATSA Roundtable Committee: **Lorraine Turpault d'Huve, Subin Oh, Bernard Cassie, and Sara Matsumura**. The conference had attendees and presenters from several different universities, and was a huge success!

The SLAT Program is incredibly grateful to **Dr. Linda Waugh** for her continuous support of SLAT student research projects. Thank you, Dr. Waugh!

A special thank you to SLAT Student **Angus Leydic** for formatting and helping create this year's SLAT Newsletter.

Thank you to all the SLAT faculty, alumni, and students who participated in SLAT colloquia, webinars, and workshops this past year. Our program would not be as great as it is without you.

In Memoriam

With sadness, we report the loss of two of our affiliated faculty members this year, Dr. David B. Yaden, Jr. and Dr. LouAnn Gerken.



Dr. Yaden was a beloved colleague, dedicated educator, and pioneering scholar in the Department of TLS and in the SLAT Program. His legacy will live on in the generations of students, educators, and researchers he mentored and inspired. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and began a distinguished academic career that included faculty appointments at Emory University, the University of Houston, and the University of Southern California. In 2005, he joined the University of Arizona College of Education as a Professor of Language, Reading,

and Culture—a position he held with distinction for two decades. Throughout his tenure at the university, Dr. Yaden was a committed teacher, prolific researcher, and active contributor to the life of the college. He served on numerous committees and task forces and was a consistent advocate for early childhood education. His leadership helped shape key initiatives, including the proposal for an Early Childhood Development Center and the development of a cross-university master's program. His research centered on early childhood literacy, biliteracy acquisition, family literacy, and reading disabilities. To learn more about Dr. Yaden's legacy and to read additional tributes, please go [here](#).



Dr. Gerken was a dedicated colleague and educator, and a beloved colleague in the Departments of Psychology, Linguistics, Cognitive Science and in the SLAT Program. She completed her B.A. at the University of Rochester and earned her Ph.D. in psychology at Columbia University. She previously served there as the Director of Cognitive Science and played a key role in establishing the School of Mind, Brain and Behavior. She won continuous federal funding for 35 years to support her innovative research on language development in young children, resulting in more than 100 scientific publications. She taught courses on children's learning and animal cognition. Dr. Gerken will be remembered for her generosity and wit, her abiding concern for the welfare of others, and her courage.

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