



LASSO

THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHWEST

Newsletter

Volume 45, No.1

<https://lassoling.org/>

Spring 2026

THANK YOU, WICHITA, FOR LASSO 2025!

The 54TH Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest took place in Wichita, Kansas from October 9-11, 2025. The theme of the conference was Borderless Language, and the plenary speaker was Dr. Rena Torres Cacoullos (Penn State University) who presented on “Explaining Language Contact Without Grammatical Convergence.” Our LASSO President Dr. Mark Waltermire (New Mexico State University) delivered the Presidential Address “Discrimination of Bilingual Dialects in the Americas.” The conference began with the opening session “Engaging Communities and the Schoolscape: Challenges and Opportunities to Latine Student Success.” Sixty-two of our members presented their work in addition to four panels and two workshops. We continue to hold our workshops on Promotion and Tenure and IJLASSO.

Many thanks again to the organizing team and all the volunteers who helped make the conference a success!

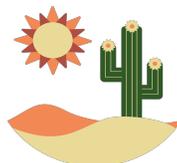
We also announced the Helmut Esau Award. Nicolás Chávez of the University of New Mexico, received the award for his paper “Spanish Conquistadors as God’s Chosen People: Metaphor, iconographic reference, and the framing of historical interpretation in Fray Angélico Chávez.”

CONGRATULATIONS, NICHOLÁS CHÁVEZ!

FUTURE LASSO MEETINGS

LASSOvians who would like to host a future LASSO Conference should contact Executive Director Rachel Showstack, lasso.executive.director@gmail.com for more information.

Proposals may be presented at the Business Meeting. You do not have to be on the Executive or any other committee to present a proposal to host a LASSO Conference. If you are interested in hosting a conference, we encourage you to let us know!



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

LASSO President **Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley (Western Washington University)** and LASSOvian **Alba Arias-Álvarez (University of Sussex)** published an article in *Linguistics and Education* titled “Language Visibility and Minority Languages in the Schoolscape: Challenges and Opportunities in a Hispanic-Serving Institution.”

LASSOvian **Drew Colcher (Wichita State University)** and LASSO Executive Director **Rachel Showstack (Wichita State University)** received a \$30,000 grant from Blue Health Initiatives to develop a language access plan for a rural hospital in Kansas and a \$1000 grant from the ACLU of Kansas to fund the Alce su Voz student coalition.

LASSOvian **Rafael Jiménez-Baralt (The University of Texas at Austin)** and Sandro Sessarego (The University of Texas at Austin) published the book chapter “*Language conflict and the linguistic landscape: Exploring language, identity, and socio-political dynamics in Puerto Rico*” in S. Dubinsky, M. Gavin, & H. Starr (Eds.), *Handbook of Language and Political Conflict* (Cambridge University Press, 2026).

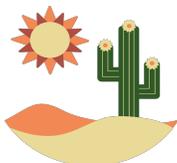
LASSO Vice President **R. Mata (Western Washington University)** co-authored the book chapter “Spanish in the United States / El español de los Estados Unidos” with Ana Celia Zentella for *Dialectología hispánica aplicada: variación, enseñanza, interdisciplinariedad* (Routledge, 2025). He is also co-author of the articles “Embracing Linguistic Diversity: A Comprehensive Study of Bi-multilingual Education in Spain” and “Bridging the Divide: The Research–Policy–Practice Nexus in Bilingual Education and Bilingual Teacher Education in the United States” in *Bilingual Review / La revista bilingüe* (2025).

LASSOvian **Gonzalo Maestro (Masaryk University)** has been granted a European scholarship for a six-month research period at the University of Malta beginning in September 2026. His work there will focus on the lexicographical management of dialectal variation and comparative linguistic contact.

LASSOvian **María Sánchez Paraíso (Johns Hopkins University)** published the book *Cambios inducidos por contacto en el español andino peruano: los sistemas pronominales átonos de tercera persona* (Routledge, 2025), and the book Chapter “El español andino peruano: una variedad consolidada” in Gómez Seibane, Sara (ed.), *Espacios de contacto lingüístico y cambios en el español* (Peter Lang, 2025).

LASSO Executive Director **Rachel Showstack (Wichita State University)** delivered the keynote presentation “Spanish Heritage Speakers and Multilingual Community Engagement Beyond the Language Course” at the 13th National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language in Lubbock, TX in February.

On Saturday, Feb 28, LASSOvian **Damián Vergara Wilson (University of New Mexico)** delivered a plenary at the Fifth International Conference on Community/Heritage Languages sponsored by the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA entitled, *Antes no pensaba mucho en eso: Student and teacher voices in the articulation of Critical Language Awareness*.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS ON THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

If you have published a book, other news to report about yourself, or if you would like to publicize an event that would be of interest to other LASSO members, please send a message to: Rachel Showstack at lasso.executive.director@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

There is no better time than the present time to renew your membership. If you prefer to renew by check, there is a Membership Renewal Form at the end of this newsletter that you can print and send. You can also renew your membership online:

<https://lassoling.org/membership/>

Membership in LASSO demonstrates commitment to the study of linguistics and provides scholars and students alike the opportunity to develop professional friendships, to obtain information about teaching and research, and to exchange ideas and network with each other. LASSO members receive two newsletters per year and two issues of the International Journal of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest. Presentation of papers at the annual LASSO conference is a privilege of membership, and only those who are LASSO members may have their work published in IJLASSO. Members in good standing may vote and hold office



2025 HELMUT ESAU AWARD

DESCRIPTION

This award is named in honor of Helmut Esau, who was active in the early days of LASSO. Professor Esau died in an automobile accident shortly after he was elected to the LASSO presidency. His colleagues at the time established the Esau Award to commemorate his contributions to the Linguistic Association of the Southwest and the profession at large.

ELIGIBILITY

Undergraduate and graduate student presenters can submit their revised, polished paper for consideration for the Helmut Esau Award for best student paper. In order to be eligible for the Helmut Esau Award, an applicant must:

- Be an undergraduate or graduate student
- Have presented a paper at the 2025 Annual Meeting
- Be the sole author of the paper or have co-authored it with other student(s).

Now is an excellent time to revise your paper!

AWARD

The award is given to the best of all high-quality submissions received. Recipients of this prestigious accolade receive a \$400 cash award (more directions on our LASSO website <https://lassoling.org/conference/>).

SUBMISSION

Submit your polished paper to this year's LASSO President, Dr. Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley (bernars3@wwu.edu). Papers must be submitted to the President by March 15th, 2026. In your email subject line, please write YOUR NAME - LASSO HELMUT ESAU AWARD. Please submit your paper and information in two separate documents as follows:

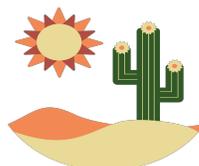
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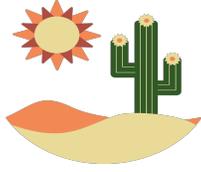
1. Your name(s)
2. Title of your paper
3. School Affiliation
4. Contact e-mail
5. Paper Title

Before submitting, make sure to:

- Eliminate any references to you within the paper
- Omit the acknowledgments
- Use the preferred format: Language Style (see Language Style Sheet)
- Papers should not exceed 8,000 words including footnotes and references, but not including the appendix.

The award recipient will be announced in our LASSO Annual Meeting 2026.





55th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE LINGUISTIC ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHWEST (LASSO)

Language as Political Action and as Social Practice

CALL FOR PAPERS

October 8-10, 2026

Towson University

Towson, Maryland

The Linguistic Association of the Southwest (LASSO) invites abstract submission for papers and group panels for its 55th Annual Meeting. LASSO is a U.S.-based organization dedicated to promoting the scientific study of language. Although many of our members focus on the languages spoken in the southwestern United States, LASSO maintains a global perspective. We welcome members and research on all languages and regions worldwide.

For this year's conference, we welcome papers in all areas of linguistic inquiry, including but not limited to:

Language attitudes and ideologies

Linguistic landscape

Indigenous, heritage, and world language education

Language policy and planning

Language variation and change

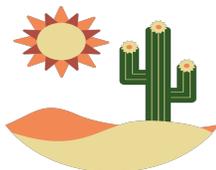
Sociolinguistics and anthropological linguistics

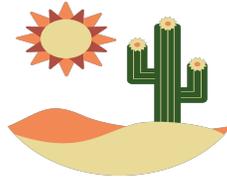
Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

The theme for this year is Language as Political Action and as Social Practice. As such, we especially encourage papers that examine how language shapes—and is shaped by—structures of power, resistance, and community. From sociolinguistics and discourse studies to education, translation, and applied linguistics, we will explore how language practices enact identity, challenge inequality, and foster change. We strongly encourage junior faculty and graduate students to submit.

Keynote Speaker: José Del Valle (CUNY Graduate Center).

Professor José del Valle specializes in the politics of language representation and glottopolitical theory, with research spanning Spain, Latin America, and the USA. He is a faculty member in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures, Linguistics, and Urban Education at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Since earning his Ph.D. from Georgetown University in 1994, he has published extensively on linguistic ideologies and the political history of the Spanish language. He is the co-founder of *Anuario de Glotopolítica*, a journal that promotes critical language studies. In 2010, he received the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.





Submission instructions:

Abstracts may be written in English or Spanish. Presentations should be delivered primarily in the same language as the abstract, though we do not discourage the use of either language for examples or discussion. Only one abstract as single author and a second as co-author will be accepted from any one individual. Presentation time for papers will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion. Proposals for complete panels with multiple speakers are also welcome but must fit within a 90-minute time frame that includes discussion.

Abstracts should be between 250 to 500 words, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font. Use of special fonts should be kept to a minimum. In general, omit the bibliography. Abstracts must include the title of the paper and clearly show the importance of the study, previous research, the gap in existing literature, the objective of the study, and indicate key aspects of data and methodology.

To preserve anonymity during the review process, authors should not include their names, academic affiliation, email address or any other identifier or reveal their identity anywhere in the abstract. This information will be completed as part of the submission form in EasyAbs where the document is uploaded. Include the title of the paper, area of research, author names, academic affiliations, and email addresses in the form within the EasyAbs submission system, but not in the abstract document. Submissions should be in PDF format.

Submissions and membership in LASSO:

Participation in LASSO is a privilege of membership. This means that an individual must be a current member in order to present a paper and be listed in the conference program. You may fill out a membership form at the same time as you register for the conference at <http://www.lassoling.org/membership/>.

Conference website: <https://www.towson.edu/cla/departments/languages-literatures-cultures/events/linguistic-association-southwest.html>

Submissions open: January 15, 2026 - May 15, 2026

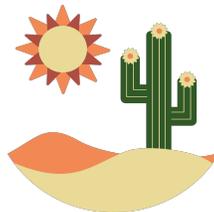
Abstract review period: May 25, 2026 – June 15, 2026

Program Chair: Dr. R. Mata, Western Washington University

Contact Email: matar@wwu.edu

Submission link available in the Linguist List website here:

<https://easyabs.linguistlist.org/conference/LASSO55/>



Call for Papers!

**Submit your papers to IJLASSO
Volume 45 (2026)**

Number 1-Summer 2026-Special Issue (closed)

**Number 2-Winter 2026
(Submit your article no later that September 30)**

**You do not need to be a member of LASSO to
submit; however, publication is only for
members of the association.**

For submissions:

<https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/ijlasw/>

**Questions: A. Medina-Rivera
a.medinarivera@csuohio.edu**

Interested in collaborating on a Special Issue for IJLASSO 2027 ?

Contact me, let's talk about it!

LASSO



**Linguistic Association
of the Southwest**

LASSO ACCOUNT: 2024 - 2025
As presented at the LASSO Conference 2025

Financial report 2024-2025

Balance 2024 \$74,243.32
Helmut Essau Award 2024 \$ 400.00
Keynote Sessarego \$ 700.00
Website \$18.00
Balance carried forward \$73,125.32
Initial balance 2025 \$73,125.32
Memberships as of 10/8/25 \$ 5,617.47
Total balance \$78,742.79
Bank of America \$65,852.47 // Paypal \$12,890.32



Sincere **Thanks** are extended to those named below who contribute their time and talents as officers
volunteers for the Linguistic Association of the Southwest.

President

Sheryl Bernardo-Hinesley, Western Washington University (2026)

Past President

Mark Waltermire, New Mexico State University (2026)

Vice President / Program Chair

R. Mata, Western Washington University (2026)

Executive Director

Rachel Showstack, Wichita State University (2028)

Secretary

Mark Waltermire, New Mexico State University (2028)

Treasurer

Israel Sanz-Sánchez, West Chester University (2026)

Executive Committee

Damián Vergara Wilson, University of New Mexico (2026)

Jens Clegg, Purdue University Fort Wayne (2027)

Daniela Narváez Burbano, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2028)

Nominating Committee

Daniela Narváez, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2026)

Francisco Martínez-Ibarra, Towson University (2027)

Claudia Matachana López, Bentley University (2028)

Local Organizing Committee for the 2026 Conference

Program Chair: R. Mata, Western Washington University (2026)

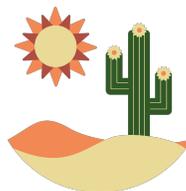
Local Arrangements Chair: Francisco Martínez-Ibarra, Towson University (2026)

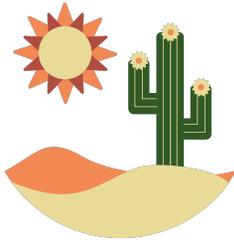
Development Committee

Christian Puma Ninacuri, Bowdoin College (2026)

Alexander Campana Zapata, University of Massachusetts Amherst (2026)

María Sánchez Paraíso, Johns Hopkins University (2026)





LASSO The Linguistic Association of the
Southwest

2026 Membership Application____or **Membership Renewal**____

(Please print)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Institutional Affiliation (if not given above): _____

Telephone: Home: (_____) _____ - _____ Fax: (_____) _____ - _____

Office: (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

Annual Dues: Regular -- \$75 US _____

Student/retired/unemployed -- \$30 US _____

Institutional -- \$60 US _____

Overseas postage surcharge: \$15 annually _____

Life membership: \$600 US _____

Tax-deductible contribution _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to “LASSO.” Your canceled check will be your receipt. Return this form with your remittance to:

Dr. Israel Sanz-Sánchez, LASSO Treasurer
126 Mitchell Hall
West Chester University
675 S Church St
West Chester, PA 19383