

HILTON ALERS-VALENTÍN, PH. D.

Linguistics and Cognitive Science Program • University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez
Call Box 9000, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 00681 • Tel/Fax 01.787.265.3843
hilton.alers@upr.edu

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 2000 **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Linguistics**
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
Dissertation: *The Prosodic Structure of the Spanish Verb: Evolution and Configuration*
Directed by Dr. Juan Clemente Zamora-Munné
- 1994 **Master in Arts (M.A.T.) in Classical Studies**
Comparative grammar of Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit
University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- 1987 **Baccalaureate of Arts in Philosophy and Mathematics, *Magna Cum Laude***
Minors in History of Music and Classical Languages
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

TEACHING AND RESEARCH AREAS

- Bilingualism: Minimalism; Theoretical Linguistics; language evolution and development
- Cognitive Science: Symbolic systems; Cognitive modeling and hybrid architectures
- Computational and Mathematical Linguistics: Parsing; Recursion; Formal Language Theory
- Generative Syntax: Clitics; Negation; Functional categories; Syntactic Islands
- Formal Semantics: Compositionality; Quantification; Modality
- Phonological Theory: Metrical Stress Theory; Optimality Theory; Substance-Free Phonology
- Philosophy of Mind; History and Philosophy of Science

APPOINTMENTS

- 2014-*present* **Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science**
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
- 2009-2014 **Associate Professor of Linguistics**
University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
- 2005-2014 **Visiting Professor**
Graduate Linguistics Program, University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras
- 1997-2003 **Assistant Professor of Linguistics**
Department of Hispanic Studies, Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce
- 1996-1997 **Instructor**
Department of Hispanic Studies, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

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GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2022-2024 Collaborative Research: CISE-MSI: DP: IIS: Hybrid-Architecture Symbolic Parser with Neural Lexicon. Principal Investigator (PI). National Science Foundation (NSF) Awards No. 2219712 and 2219713 (University of Arizona): \$600,000.
- 2020 UPR-Mayagüez Arts and Sciences Dean's Office Research Award. *A computational model of syntactic analysis and semantic composition*. Three-credit time release.
- 2016 UPR Mayagüez Chancellor's Research Award. *Towards a computational model of syntactic knowledge*. \$10,000.
- 2014 UPR-Mayagüez Arts and Sciences Dean's Office Research Award. *Scope of indefinite quantificational determiners in Spanish*. Three-credit time release.
- 2008 UPR-Mayagüez Arts and Sciences Dean's Office Research Award. *Lengua y Lenguaje: Un acercamiento al estudio del español de Puerto Rico*. Three-credit time release.
- 2005-2006 UPR-Mayagüez Arts and Sciences Dean's Office Research Award. *Syntax of Negation in Spanish Clauses*. Six-credit time release.
- 2004-2005 UPR-Mayagüez Arts and Sciences Dean's Office Research Award. *A Generative Grammar of Spanish*. Twelve-credit time release.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS

- 2024 Alers-Valentín, H. and Fong, S. (2024). Towards a Biologically-Plausible Computational Model of Human Language Cognition. In *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence - Volume 3*, pages 1108-1118. DOI: 10.5220/0012436400003636
- 2023 Alers-Valentín, H.; Fong, S. & Vega-Riveros, J.F. (2023). Modeling Syntactic Knowledge With Neuro-Symbolic Computation. In *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence - Volume 3*, pages 608-616. DOI: 10.5220/0011718500003393
- 2020 *Manual introductorio de semántica formal*. Ms. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- 2019 Towards a Principled Computational System of Syntactic Ambiguity Detection and Representation. With Rivera-Velázquez, C., Vega-Riveros, J. y Santiago, N. SCITEPRESS, *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART 2019) - Volume 2*, pages 980-987. DOI: 10.5220/0007698709800987.

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- 2019 El problema lingüístico de una teoría del significado. PUCPR, *Actas del 1er Congreso de Filosofía y Ciencia*, PUCPR.
- 2014 “Análisis contrastivo de la entonación del español bogotano y del español de San Juan en frases entonativas simples” (with S. M. Hernández Rodríguez & J. Soto-Barba). *Forma y Función*, 27(2), 157-181.
- 2013 “Lengua y lenguaje: Un acercamiento al conocimiento humano a través del estudio del español de Puerto Rico.” In *Leer para escribir*, 2nd. ed.. Editorial Plaza Mayor, San Juan, PR.
- 2012 *Manual introductorio de sintaxis generativa*. Ms. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- 2011 *Manual de fonética y fonología del español*. Ms. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez
- 2010 *Interacción de restricciones en la acentuación verbal del español*. Rutgers Optimality Archive (roa.rutgers.edu)
- 2009 Some remarks on Spanish Sentential Negation.” *UPR Working Papers in Linguistics*
- 2008 “Legitimación de sujeto en cláusulas infinitivas adjuntas.” *UPR Working Papers in Linguistics*.
- 2003 “La lingüística actual: enfoques y reflexiones.” *Revista Horizontes* 89.
- 2002 “Subyacencia y el Principio de la Categoría Vacía en español.” *Revista Horizontes* 86.
- 1999 “La lengua sánscrita o el umbral de una revolución lingüística.” *Milenio* 3: 138-145.
- 1999 “Lingüística diacrónica: nuevos retos para una vieja disciplina.” *Revista Horizontes* 81: 75-96.
- 1999 “La r velar en Puerto Rico: a 50 años del atlas lingüístico de Tomás Navarro Tomás.” *Revista Horizontes* 80.
- 1998 ‘Eternidad, Trinidad y Predestinación: Concepciones del tiempo en Jorge Luis Borges.’ *Revista Horizontes* 78: 37-53.

CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP, AND MEETING PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Conversations with ChatGPT: How intelligent is Artificial Intelligence? Conference Cycle on Philosophy and Science. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce.
- 2023 Modeling Syntactic Knowledge With Neuro-Symbolic Computation. *15th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART 2023)*, Lisbon.

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- 2023 Capabilities, Limitations, and Ethical Issues of Large Language Models (LLMs). With Dr. Anderson Brown (UPRM), Dr. Ana Nieves (UPRM) and Dr. Omar Florez (Twitter).
- 2023 La revolución chomskyana sobre el conocimiento del lenguaje. Workshop on Philosophy of Language. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce.
- 2021 Recursion in Phonology? Keynote speaker. *XI North American Phonology Conference (NAPhCxi), Workshop in Theoretical Phonology*, Montreal. June 2021. (<https://sites.google.com/view/naphc2021/home>)
- 2020 Inteligencia Artificial, Computación y Lenguaje. Discussion panel with Dr. J. Fernando Vega-Riveros (UPRM). *Working Seminars on Transhumanism*. PUCPR, Ponce.
- 2019 Towards a Principled Computational System of Syntactic Ambiguity Detection and Representation. *11th International Conference on Agents and Artificial Intelligence (ICAART 2019)*, Prague.
- 2019 Los límites de la Inteligencia Artificial. Discussion panel with Dr. J. Fernando Vega (UPRM) Organization for the Development of Neuroscience (Neuro-RUM).
- 2018 El problema lingüístico de una teoría del significado. *1er Congreso de Filosofía y Ciencia*, PUCPR.
- 2018 Los límites de la Inteligencia Artificial. Discussion panel with Dr. J. Fernando Vega (UPRM). Organization for the Development of Neuroscience Neuro-RUM.
- 2016 *Arrival*: ¿Puede el lenguaje afectar la percepción? Discussion panel with Dr. Yolanda Rivera and Dr. Robin Schafer (UPR-RP). Linguistics Program, UPR-M.
- 2015 *Lenguaje y Cerebro: Una introducción a la Neurolingüística*. Organization for the Development of Neuroscience (Neuro-RUM).
- 2013 *Lengua y género: ¿Tiene sentido una "lingüística feminista"?* Discussion with Dra. Elsa Arroyo (UPR-M). Asociación de Lingüística y Filología Académica (ALFA). UPR-Mayagüez (noviembre).
- 2013 *Bilingüismo y Adquisición de lengua*. Discussion panel with Rosa Guzzardo y Catherine Mazak. Semana de la Lengua 2013. Department of Hispanic Studies, UPR-Mayagüez (April).
- 2012 *Open Forum on Bilingual Children, Schools and Communities* (with Ana Celia Zentella y Catherine Mazak). Department of English and CeIBA, UPR-Mayagüez.
- 2012 *El Instinto del Lenguaje: Fundamentos conceptuales de la lingüística como ciencia cognitiva*. Asociación de Lingüística y Filología Académica (ALFA). UPR-Mayagüez.

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- 2011 *El Órgano de Lenguaje: Acercamientos biológicos y cognitivos*. Department of Hispanic Studies, UPR-Mayagüez.
- 2011 *Lenguaje y Cognición: Aspectos de la biología del lenguaje*. Invited by *Semana de la Lengua* organizing committee. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce
- 2010 *Teoría de la Optimalidad*. Workshop for the Linguistics Graduate Program. UPR-Río Piedras (March and April).
- 2009 *Interacción de restricciones en la acentuación verbal del español*. Hispanic Linguistics Symposium 2009. UPR-Río Piedras.
- 2007 *Principios y Parámetros en la adquisición de la fonología*. Presented at the Annual convention of the Organización Puertorriqueña de Patología del Habla, Lenguaje y Audiología (OPPHLA).
- 2006 *Some remarks on Spanish sentential negation*. Presented at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, KY.
- 2005 *Objetivos y métodos de la lingüística contemporánea*. Presented at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez.
- 2005 *Nociones sobre el español de América y Puerto Rico*. Presented at Academia Cristo Rey, Ponce PR..
- 2005 *Spanglish and Slang*. Participant in the monthly ‘Tertulia’ organized by the Department of Hispanic Studies, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez..
- 2002 *Licenciamiento de sujeto en cláusulas infinitivas adjuntas*. Presented at the Second International Conference on Writing, Individual, and Society in Spain, the Americas, and Puerto Rico. University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo.
- 2001 *¿Es correcto ser tan correcto? Mitos y realidades del lenguaje*. Presented at the University of Puerto Rico, Ponce.
- 2001 *Sintaxis y Optimalidad: Nuevos acercamientos a la asignación de caso y papel temático*. Presented at the 54th Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. University of Kentucky.
- 2000 *El parámetro de subyacencia en español*. Presented at the Modern Language Association 116th Annual Convention, Washington, D.C. December 2000.
- 2000 *Barreras y el Principio de la Categoría Vacía: Problemas de sintaxis hispánica*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.

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- 2000 *Restricciones en la acentuación del sistema verbal español*. Presented at the Massachusetts Symposium on Hispanic Linguistics: In Honor of Juan Clemente Zamora Munné. University of Massachusetts at Amherst.
- 1999 *Phonological and Morphological Constraints in Spanish Verb Stress*. Presented at the Modern Language Association 115th Annual Convention, Chicago.
- 1999 *Lingüística diacrónica: nuevos retos para una vieja disciplina*. Presented at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras.
- 1998 *La r velar en Puerto Rico: a 50 años del atlas lingüístico de Tomás Navarro Tomás*. Presented at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND SEMINAR PARTICIPATION

- Seminar on Hopf Algebras. Organized by Prof. Andras Kornai, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (course number BMETE91MM23). 2023.
- 33rd European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information. National University of Ireland, Galway. 2022
- 32nd European Summer School in Logic, Language, and Information. 2021

SUPERVISION AND MENTORING

RESEARCH GROUPS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing Research Group (GILC-NLP-RUM). 2012-*present*.
- Organization for the Development of Neuroscience (Neuro-RUM). 2015-2020.
- Asociación de Lingüística y Filología Académica (ALFA). UPR-Mayagüez. 2012-2013.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Maldonado-Torres, José D. In progress. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Flórez-Coronel, Juan E. In progress. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Bermejo, José. 2022. Recognizing Textual Entailment. MSc Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Jiménez-Baralt, Rafael 2016. La focalización y el orden de sus constituyentes: un acercamiento teórico. MA Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras.
- Gómez-Marco, Oscar. 2015. Towards an X-Bar Parser: A Model of English Syntactic Performance. MSc Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Rivera-Zengotita, Ana M. 2014. Cuantificadores en posición objeto: Análisis teórico sobre su comportamiento semántico dentro de islas sintácticas. MA Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras.

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- Pérez-Méndez, Ernesto A. 2013. Morphological Analysis of Spanish Words Using Genetic Algorithms. MSc Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Córdoba-Rodas, Angie P. 2013. Semantic Metadata Extraction from Open Domain Texts in Natural Language. MSc Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- González-Bonilla, Dorián. 2013. Diferencias por razón de sexo en la producción de líquidas en niños de entre 3 y 4 años. MA Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Hernández-Rodríguez, Sonia M. 2012. Estudio comparativo de la entonación de enunciados interrogativos y declarativos en el español bogotano y en el español puertorriqueño. MA Thesis. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Borrero, Patria. 2009. Uso de los pronombres de cortesía en el español de Puerto Rico. MA Thesis. Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, Ponce.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS (HONORS THESIS AND RESEARCH)

- Leyva-Capote, Carlos A. In progress. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Rivera-Serrano, Michael J. 2023. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Ferrer-Suárez, Giovanni. 2020. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Irizarry-Figueroa, Luis A. 2019. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
- Rivera-Velázquez, Carlos G. 2019. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Linguistics and Cognitive Science Program Coordinator. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. 2020-*present*.
- Elected Faculty Representative and Member of the University Board. University of Puerto Rico System. 2021-2022.
- Elected Faculty Representative and Member of the Administrative Board. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. 2020-*present*.
- Elected Faculty Representative and Member of the Academic Senate. University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. 2018-*present*.
- Department Head (interim). Department of Hispanic Studies, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. 2015-2018.

REVIEWING

- 2024 Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. 2023.
- *UPR Working Papers in Linguistics*. 2009-2014.

LANGUAGES

- Spanish (native speaker)
- English (near-native proficiency)
- Latin (advanced level)
- Classical Greek (intermediate level)

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- Sanskrit (elementary level)
- French (intermediate level)
- Italian (elementary level)
- German (elementary level)