

Spanish Lecture Series

The Sound of Teaching: Pronunciation and Teacher Development in Spanish Language Education

(By Dr. Germán Zárate-Sández)

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
1028 Brown

Understanding how teachers use and perceive pronunciation can support effective and inclusive second-language instruction, as teachers' voices—literally and figuratively—shape learning and classroom practice. This talk presents two studies that investigate different aspects of pronunciation and teacher development among instructors of Spanish. The first, conducted at WMU, examines how novice instructors' pitch range evolves over their first semester of teaching, shedding light on the expressive dimensions of teacher talk.



The second, carried out with preservice Spanish teachers in Brazil, explores how targeted pronunciation training can foster awareness of dialectal diversity and challenge linguistic stereotypes. Together, these projects highlight how research on second-language phonetics informs teacher preparation, promotes linguistic inclusivity, and connects empirical research with pedagogical practice.



Department of Spanish