

# ALEXANDRA LOPEZ VERA, PHD

**Assistant Professor of Medical Education**  
**Director of Vida Medical Spanish Program**  
California University of Science and Medicine  
Department of Medical Education

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## EDUCATION

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- 2024 **Master's of Public Health**, Claremont Graduate University (*expected*)  
2022 **Ph.D.** in Hispanic Languages and Literatures, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2018 **M.A** in World Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, West Virginia University  
2016 **B.A** in English Studies, University of Murcia (Spain)  
2012 **B.Ed.** in Elementary Education, University of Murcia (Spain)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 2022-Present Assistant Professor of Medical Education, California University of Science and Medicine  
2022-Present Director of Vida Medical Spanish program, California University of Science and Medicine  
2018-2022 Teaching Assistant of Spanish, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2019-2022 Engaging Humanities Mentor, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2020-2021 Lead Teaching Assistant Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2019-2021 Spanish Fluency Evaluator, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2019-2020 Spanish Tutor for NCAA, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2018-2019 Instructor and Mentor in the SKILLS program, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2016-2018 Teaching Assistant of Spanish, West Virginia University

## COURSES AS PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR

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(\*denotes fully online course, \*\*denotes hybrid course)

- 2022-Present **California University of Science and Medicine**  
Spanish for Healthcare Professionals I (Beginner level)  
Spanish for Healthcare Professionals II (Intermediate level)  
Strategies for Effective Spanish Communication in Medical Settings (Advanced level)  
2022-Present **Arrowhead Regional Medical Center**

Medical Spanish for Residents

2018-2022. **University of California, Santa Barbara**, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Elementary Spanish 1 (SPAN 1)

Elementary Spanish W1 (SPAN W1)\*

Elementary Spanish 2 (SPAN 2)

Elementary Spanish W2 (SPAN W2)\*

Accelerated Elementary Spanish 1 (SPAN 2HY)\*\*

Elementary Spanish 3 (SPAN 3)

Intermediate Spanish 1 (SPAN 4)

Intermediate Spanish 1 (SPAN 4)\*\*

Beyond Advanced Proficiency (SPAN 103)\* *Upper Division*

Language and Society (LING 103)

2016-2018 **West Virginia University**, Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics

Elementary Spanish 1 (SPAN 101)

Elementary Spanish 2 (SPAN 102)

Intermediary Spanish 1 (SPAN 203)

## COURSES AS LECTURE PRESENTER

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2020-2021 **University of California, Santa Barbara**, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Teaching Methodology (SPAN 590) *Graduate Level*

## FELLOWSHIPS / AWARDS

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### **University of California, Santa Barbara**

- 2023 – Excellence in Teaching Award for Advancing the Mission of CUSM
- 2022 – Modern Language Association (MLA) Fellow (Summer Institute 2022)
- 2022 – Excellence in Teaching Award, UCSB Graduate Student Association
- 2022 – Applied Linguistics Fellowship Award, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2021 – Graduate Dissertation Fellowship Award, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 – Excellence in Teaching Award: Honorable Mention, UCSB Graduate Student Association
- 2020 – Engaging Humanities Fellowship Recipient University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 – Tim McGovern Research and Professional Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2020 – Wofsy Award - Travel Grant, Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Santa Barbara

## University of Murcia (Spain)

- 2015-2016 International Student Exchange Program, University of Regina Canada
- 2014-2015 Erasmus Exchange Program, Newcastle University (U.K)
- 2013-2014 Bilateral Exchange Program, Millikin University (IL)

## RESEARCH INTEREST

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Medical Spanish

Public Health

Applied Linguistics

Technological tools for language teaching and learning

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Lopez Vera A.** Enhancing Medical Spanish Education and Proficiency to Bridge Healthcare Disparities: A Comprehensive Assessment and Call to Action. *Cureus*. 2023;15(11):e48512. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.48512>.
- Chang, K.E., Lewis, J. & **Lopez Vera, A.** A comprehensive medical Spanish curriculum model: the Vida Medical Spanish Curriculum. *BMC Med Educ* 23, 488 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-023-04473-0>
- Lopez Vera, A.**, Thomas, K., Trinh, C., & Nausheen, F. (2023). A Case Study of the Impact of Language Concordance on Patient Care, Satisfaction, and Comfort with Sharing Sensitive Information During Medical Care. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10903-023-01463-8>
- Lopez Vera, A.** (2023). Instruction of Spanish Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns through Task-Supported Videoconferencing Instruction. *Huarte de San Juan. Filología Y Didáctica de La Lengua*, 22, 99–125. <https://doi.org/10.48035/rhsj-fd.22.6>
- Lopez Vera, A.** *Implicit Instruction of Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns in Spanish through Technology-Mediated Task-Based Language Teaching* - ProQuest. (2022). [www.proquest.com](https://www.proquest.com/docview/2658279768). Retrieved March 31, 2023, from <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2658279768>
- Carter, M., De Frutos, S., **López Vera, A.**, Lozano, K. O., Ferreira, A., Barbosa, G., & Guerra, D. (2020). Translating the Violent Content of Grimm Brothers' Fairy Tales: An Eye-Tracker Experiment. *Cadernos de Tradução*, 40(1), 17–33. <https://doi.org/10.5007/2175-7968.2020v40n1p17>

**Lopez Vera, A.** (2019). The vowel nasalization found in Murcia, Spain: A case study of this phenomenon. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 146(4), 3012–3012. <https://doi.org/10.1121/1.5137435>

In preparation:

- Kyle Thomas, Nicole Jacobs, Lizette Silva, Texeira, A., Andrade, A., & **Lopez Vera, A.** A Proposal to Teach Medical Students How to Use Interpreters, 10 April 2023, PREPRINT (Version 1) available at Research Square <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2729680/v1>
- *Gender Affirming Endocrine System Module*. **Lopez Vera, A.**, Ramos, C., Ahmad, J., Kao, K., Flores, F.
- *The impact of racial/ethnic concordance on patient satisfaction*. Choi, A., Benites, B. C., **Lopez Vera, A.**

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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### **A comprehensive medical Spanish curriculum model: the Vida Medical Spanish Curriculum**

- VII MOLA Latinx Health Symposium 2023 and IV Medical Spanish Summit at Rush University (Chicago), October 2023
- American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) SoCal Conference at California State University Northridge, April 2023)

### **The impact of Spanish Language Skills of Student Doctors on Patient Satisfaction at a Free Clinic in the Inland Empire**

- Third Medical Spanish Summit (3MSS)

### **Instruction of Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns in Spanish through Technology-Mediated TBLT:**

- 8th Annual Language Symposium at UC Davis, May 2022
- Applied Linguistics Colloquium, University of California Santa Barbara, May 2022
- The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), April 2022

### **Humanizing Academia: Teaching and Mentoring During the Pandemic:**

- Engaging Teaching Symposium, University of California, Santa Barbara, October 2021

### **The Vowel Nasalization Found in Murcia, Spain: A Pilot Case Study of this Phenomenon:**

- Acoustic Association of American (ASA), San Diego, December 2019

### **Translating the Violent Content of Grimm Brothers' Fairy Tales: An Eye-Tracker Experiment:**

- The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), University of Southern California, November 2019

### **La Aspiración de /s/: Un Fenómeno Presente en el Habla de Murcia:**

- 19th Hispanic & Lusophone Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 2019

### **Pronombre Sujeto Explícito en Inglés vs Pronombre Sujeto Nulo en Español:**

- Crossroads Conference, University of Georgia, February 2018

### **Forever Waiting: From Beckett to Richard Gere:**

- 29th FWPCA (Far West Popular Culture Association), Las Vegas, Nevada, February 2017

## **PEDAGOGICAL MATERIALS (ONLINE)**

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- [Online Task-Based Language Teaching Module for the implicit teaching of Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns in Spanish](#)

## **LANGUAGES**

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Spanish (native speaker)  
English (bilingual proficiency)  
Catalan (intermediate level)

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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2022 Certificate in College and University Teaching, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2020 Online Teaching and Design Certificate, Online Network of Educators  
2018 Certificate in College and University Teaching, West Virginia University

## **RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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2020 Research Assistant for Dr. Marques-Pascual, Language Program Coordinator, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2016 Research Assistant for Dr. Criado Sánchez, Department of English, University of Murcia (Spain)  
2015 Research Assistant for Dr. Criado Sánchez, Department of English, University of Murcia (Spain)  
2014 Research Assistant for Dr. Marqués Aguado, Department of English, University of Murcia (Spain)  
2013 Research Assistant for Dr. Murphy, Department of English, University of Murcia (Spain)