

Lourdes E. Schmader

Michele Bowman Underwood Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
University of Miami
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Curriculum Vitae May 16, 2026

EDUCATION

2021-2026 PhD in Literary, Cultural, and Linguistics Studies, University of Miami.

Dissertation:

“*Ñañapura*: Embodied Resistance to Epistemic Erasure and Extractivist Development Among Kichwa Women in the Ecuadorian Amazon.”

Committee Members:

Tracy Devine Guzmán, Associate Professor of Latin American Studies,
University of Miami (Chair)

Steve Butterman, Professor of Portuguese, University of Miami

Viviana Díaz Balsera, Professor of Spanish, University of Miami

Andrew Lynch, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies,
University of Miami

Graduate certificates:

Digital Humanities Certificate
Second Language Acquisition and Teaching

2020 MA Spanish, Texas State University

Thesis: “Ese brote de llanto y melancolía: Una indagación emocional sobre el suicidio en la obra de Medardo Ángel Silva.”

2011 BS Criminal Justice, University of Maryland Global Campus

2001 BS Political and Social Studies Universidad Católica de Santiago de
Guayaquil Law School

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS / ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-present Spanish Adjunct Faculty (Part-Time, Summer Terms), Northwest Vista
College.

2020-21 Spanish Adjunct Faculty, Texas Lutheran University.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Field and Archival Researcher, Ecuadorian Amazon, 2023-24.

Conducted fieldwork in Tena, Venecia Derecha, Archidona, Puyo, Cotundo, focusing on Kichwa women's activism and environmental protection efforts.

Research Assistant, Native American and Global Indigenous Studies, University of Miami, spring 2023.

Institutional Review Boards Approval for Ecuadorian Kichwa Women of the Amazon Study. University of Miami. Approval Date: November 22, 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

"Producciones culturales como herramientas de defensa del medio ambiente: Una exploración a la cosmovisión amazónica ecuatoriana del *kawsak sacha* (la selva viviente)." *Pie de Página*, 15 (2025): 55-92.

"Colectivo LasTesis: Cuerpo, calle y movilidad." *Alba de América*, 41 (2024): 151-166.

"¡Mujer, levántate!", "Carta a un humano." Sigma Delta Pi (Épsilon Beta Chapter) *Revista Al principio*, 34 (2019): 12-13.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Schmader, Lourdes, and Sisa Andy. "Devuélvannos el oro: La defensa territorial de las mujeres Kichwa, extractivismo y epistemologías relacionales en diálogo con el Colectivo Ayllu." *Decolonial Disruptions: Queer and Trans Art and Activism from the Caribbean and Latin American Diaspora*, University of Miami, 9 Apr. 2026.

Schmader, Lourdes. "Teaching Ancestral Time: Introducing Kichwa Epistemologies in the Spanish Classroom." *Decolonial Disruptions: Queer and Trans Art and Activism from the Caribbean and Latin American Diaspora*, University of Miami, 8 Apr. 2026.

"Ñañapura: Embodied Resistance and Collaboration Among Kichwa Women in the Ecuadorian Amazon for the Protection of Territories and Life." Latin American Studies Association Conference. San Francisco, California. May 25, 2025.

"Cultural Productions as Environmental Advocacy Tools: Exploring the Amazonian Cosmvision od *Kawsak Sacha* (Living Forest)." 23rd Annual South Florida Tri-University Conference. Hemispheric Dialogues: Advancing Research in the Americas. University of Miami. March 28, 2025.

"Ñañapura: Exploring Sisterhood and Collaboration Among Ecuadorian Kichwa Women of the Amazon and Their Struggle to Protect Their Environment." Congress of Ecuadorianists. Loja, Ecuador. July 19, 2024.

"Amazonian Women Defenders of the Rainforest Collective: Perspectives on Self-Determination and the Defense of Their Territories." Latin American Studies Association Conference. Bogotá, Colombia. June 14, 2024.

"Helena from Sarayaku: Bridging the Divide between Legal Ideals and Environmental Reality in Ecuador." Conference Rethinking Latin America: New Journeys Across Film and Literature. University of Warwick, United Kingdom. April 27, 2024 (Online).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (continued)

“La representación del cuerpo violentado en ‘Cuerpo presente’ de Siomara España.” Latin American Studies Association Conference. Vancouver, Canada. May 25, 2023.

“Indigenous Women of the Ecuadorian Amazon: The First Line of Defense of Their Territory.” Interdisciplinary Conference on a New Era in Native American and Global Indigenous Studies (NAGIS) at the University of Miami. April 25, 2023.

“The Kichwa Diaspora in New York: An Identity on the Move.” Graduate Student Conference Transcultural Expressions: Conflict, Identity and Revitalization in Multicultural Spheres at University of Miami. March 2, 2023.

“Colectivo LasTesis: Cuerpo, calle y movilidad.” Symposium on Gender, History, and Sexuality at University of Texas at Austin. October 1, 2023 (Online).

“¿Puede el pueblo Waorani interceder en favor de su tierra y evitar que el capitalismo la destruya?” XXIII Congreso de Ecuatorianistas. Azogues, Ecuador. July 22, 2022.

Invited Speaker

2025 Panel on “Indigenous Grammatical Substrates of Quechuan Discourse Communities.” American Society for Ethnohistory Conference. San Antonio, Texas. October 9, 2025.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025 2024-25 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Miami.

2025 2024-25 Teaching Academy Fellow, University of Miami Graduate School.

2025 AELS All-Around Award for Academic Excellence, Leadership, and Service. University of Miami Graduate Student Association.

2020 Teaching Award of Honor. Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

2020 Outstanding Graduate Student, Master of Spanish Program. Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

2011 College Dean’s List, University of Maryland University College, Adelphi, Maryland.

FUNDING

Grants and Fellowships

External funding

2025 American Association of University Women (AAUW) Dissertation Fellowship 2025-26. \$25,000.00

FUNDING (continued)

- 2024 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, United States Department of Education. \$8,500.00
- 2023 Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, United States Department of Education. \$8,500.00

Grants and Fellowships (continued)**Internal funding**

- 2025 University of Miami College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Dissertation Fellowship AY 2025-26. \$16,600.00
- 2025 American Studies Teaching Fellowship. (Respectfully declined offer to accept Dean's Dissertation Fellowship).
- 2025 University of Miami College of Arts & Sciences Summer Research Fellowship. \$5,000.00
- 2024 University of Miami Graduate School Summer Doctoral Research Grant. \$5,000.00
- 2024 University of Miami Institute for the Advanced Study of the Americas Doctoral Field Research Grant. \$2,000.00
- 2019 Texas State University Daniel P. Frouman Graduate Spanish Scholarship. \$1,000.00
- 2019 Texas State University Graduate College Conference Travel Grant. \$500.00

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching

- 2021-25 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Miami, Modern Languages and Literatures Department.

Courses taught:

SPA 353 *Colonial Spanish American Topics: The Struggle for Representation: Writing Indigenous Peoples during the Spanish-American Colonial Period (Section Q)*, Spring 2025. Co-Teaching with Dr. Viviana Díaz Balsera.

SPA 202 Intermediate Spanish II, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

SPA 201 Intermediate Spanish I, Summer 2025, Fall 2023

SPA 102 Elementary Spanish II, Spring 2023

SPA 101 Elementary Spanish I, Fall 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Teaching (continued)

- 2021-25 Spanish Adjunct Faculty (Part-Time, Summer Terms), Northwest Vista College, World Languages Department.
Courses taught:

SPA 1412 Elementary Spanish II, Summer 2022, Spring 2021
SPA 1411 Elementary Spanish I, Fall 2025, Summer 2025, Summer 2024, Summer 2023, Summer 2022, Spring 2021, Summer 2021
Courses taught online in both synchronous and asynchronous formats.
- 2020-21 Spanish Adjunct Faculty, Texas Lutheran University, Department of Communication, Cultures, English, and World Languages.
Courses taught:
SPA 131 Elementary Spanish I, Spring 2021(three sections), Fall 2020 (two sections)
Courses taught online in a synchronous format.
- 2018-2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Texas State University, Department of World Languages and Literatures
Courses taught:
SPA 1420 Beginning Spanish II, Summer 2020 (two sections)
SPA 1410 Beginning Spanish I, Spring, 2020 (two sections), Fall 2019 (two sections)
Courses taught in person and in online synchronous formats.

Roundtable

- 2025 Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Engagement & Advocacy. Resilience 365 Conference. Organized by the University of Miami Climate Resilience Institute. March 25, 2025

Invited Guest Teaching

- 2024 “Horizontal Collaboration with the Achimamas of Amupakin: The Ñañaapura Theory in Action.” Discussion on Violence Against Women. Universidad Técnica de Cotopaxi, Pujilí Extensión, Ecuador. August 1, 2024
- 2024 Screening of the “Ñañaapura” Documentary Trailer: A Special Session in SPA 322, “Latin America and the Environment” Sponsored by NAGIS (Native American and Global Indigenous Studies). University of Miami. April 11, 2024

Guest Lecture

- 2024 MLL Lectures Series Spring 2024: “Ñañaapura: Exploring Sisterhood and Collaboration Among Ecuadorian Kichwa Women of the Amazon and Their Struggle to Protect their Environment.” The Michele Bowman Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and the Joseph Carter Memorial Fund at the University of Miami. April 5, 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

Research Symposium

2024 Presented research on “Indigenous Women’s Collaboration and Activism in Ecuador” at the University of Miami's Institute for Advanced Study of the Americas during the 5th Graduate Research Symposium. November 18, 2024

Mentored Teaching Experience

2024 SPA 307: Interpreting Literary and Cultural Texts for Spanish Heritage / Native Speakers – Dr. Viviana Díaz Balsera, University of Miami

2024 SPA 322: El ganado es un legado colonial, o ... América “Latina” y el medio ambiente – Dr. Tracy Devine Guzmán, University of Miami

PEDAGOGICAL, INSTRUCTIONAL AND ONLINE TRAINING

2024 University of Miami Graduate School Teaching Academy Program, Fall 2024
2021 Northwest Vista College Online Teaching Certification, Summer 2021
2020 Texas Lutheran University Online Training, Fall 2020
2020 Texas State University Quality Matters Workshop, “Designing Your Online Course,” Summer 2020
2020 Texas State University “Teaching Online at Texas State – Supplemental” Workshop, Summer 2020
2018-19 Texas State University, Department of World Languages and Literatures, Educational Practicum, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

ACADEMIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University of Miami Climate Resilience Institute

Member of the Climate Resilience Institute Student Advisory Council – 2025-26

University of Miami Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL) Graduate Student Association Chair 2025-26

Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL) Graduate Student Association Communications Officer 2024-25

Graduate Student Representative in Lecturer Committee. 2022-23

MLL Graduate Student Conference organizing committee member. “Transcultural Expressions: Conflict, Identity and Revitalization in multicultural spheres.” University of Miami. March 2-3, 2023

University of Miami Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies

Simultaneous Translator (Spanish to English) for feminist Argentine leader Marta Alanis at the Reproductive Justice Symposium, organized by The University of Miami’s Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Latinas en Marcha and Florida Rising. Sep.13, 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES (continued)

University of Miami Native American and Global Indigenous Studies

Simultaneous Translator (Spanish to English) for Indigenous Film Director Eriberto Gualinga of the Sarayaku Community of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Event organized by Native American and Global Indigenous Studies at the University of Miami. April 25, 2023

Texas State University Department of World Languages and Literatures

Graduate Recruiter Team Leader. 2019-20

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Latin America Studies Association (2023-present)
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (lifetime membership)
Sigma Delta Pi, Spanish Honors Society (lifetime membership)
Asociación de ecuatorianistas (2022-present)

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Native speaker)
English (superior)
Portuguese (advanced high)
Kichwa (intermediate mid)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ArcGIS and ArcGIS Online
- GitHub web projects
- Story Maps
- Omeka digital collections system
- Academic booklet, posters, and flyer design
- Microsoft Suite (Word, Office, Outlook, and PowerPoint)
- Virtual education & Online Teaching
- Online learning platforms (e.g., Canvas, Blackboard, TRACS, e-Racer)
- Capcut Video Editor

REFERENCES

Dr. Tracy Devine Guzmán
Associate Professor of Latin American Studies
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 284-5585
tdguzman@miami.edu

Dr. Viviana Díaz Balsera
Professor of Spanish
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
University of Miami
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REFERENCES (continued)

Dr. Andrew Lynch
Professor of Sociolinguistics, Spanish & Latin American Studies
Associate Dean for Program Development
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
University of Miami
Coral Gables, FL
a.lynch@miami.edu

Dr. Steven Butterman
Professor and Director of Portuguese Program
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures & Gender and Sexuality Studies
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