

The Doctoral Lab for Linguistic & Cultural Diversity

The Lab for Linguistic & Cultural Diversity is situated in the Colorado Consortium of Dual Language Programs. The Consortium provides doctoral students with access to a wide variety of schools, communities and programs. The doctoral student's work in the lab can or cannot be focused on the bilingual aspect of these programs. Since these programs serve urban and rural; middle class and low SES; AND Spanish and English speaking groups, the doctoral student can pursue inquiry within a broad range of issues.

The lab's relationship to the Consortium is one of being the action research site. The benefit to the Consortium that the lab provides is ongoing reflection with analysis and synthesis to fine tune the programs.

Meetings

The lab meets regularly throughout the semester. The amount of time we spend depends on the number of students active in the lab and progress of individual's projects. The lab also meets with the Consortium on a semester basis (or more often if the need arises). These meetings take place on site of a dual language program and are hosted by that school.

Students in the Lab

Natasha Watson is a second year doctoral student. In the lab she is interested in applying cognitive psychology theory and methodology to questions about the second language acquisition of English speaking adolescents. She is exploring these questions through the Consortium by contacting graduates of dual language elementary programs who are now in high school. A native of Russia, Natasha has also conducted research on the second language acquisition of children of Russian immigrants. She compares some of those findings to what the more extensive literature has to say about Spanish speakers in the U.S. acquiring English. (NataWat@aol.com)

Silvana Carlos is a first year doctoral student. She is also the projects director for 4 Title VII grants, some of which supports the Consortium. Silvana comes from the field of School Psychology for which she holds a specialist's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. Silvana is the daughter of immigrants from Guatemala. In the lab, Silvana would like to explore issues related to the psychological development of bilingual children. (Silvana_Carlos@ceo.cudenver.edu)

Elma Ruiz is also a first year doctoral student. She is currently a Teacher on Special Assignment for the Denver Public Schools. Elma's work in the lab currently has a focus on parent involvement and teacher professional development. (Elma_Ruiz@ceo.cudenver.edu)

Other Faculty Members

Dr. Honorine Nocon, teachers in the Initial Professional Teacher Education Program and is a site professor at Fairmont Elementary School in Denver. Fairmont is looking toward developing a dual language program. (Honorine_Nocon@ceo.cudenver.edu)

Dr. Madeline Milian of the University of Northern Colorado is an active participant in the Consortium. Dr. Milian's expertise is in bilingual education in general and in second language acquisition of children with special needs in particular. (madeline.milian@unco.edu)