

Daniel G. Erker

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Education

New York University, Ph.D., Linguistics 2012
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, M.A. Linguistics 2005
Marquette University, B.A. Spanish & English literatures, *summa cum laude* 2002

Academic Appointments

Boston University, Associate Professor of Linguistics 2019-present
Boston University, Assistant Professor of Spanish & Linguistics 2012-2019

Grants & Fellowships

National Science Foundation, BCS-1423840 ("A Corpus-Based Sociolinguistic Study of Language and Dialect Contact in the Spanish of the Metro-Boston Area"), \$175,617. 2014-2018
Boston University, Center for the Humanities Junior Faculty Fellowship 2017

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

Erker, Daniel & Ricardo Otheguy. (2021). [American Myths of Linguistic Assimilation: A Sociolinguistic Rebuttal](#). *Language in Society*, 50(2): 197-233.

Erker, Daniel & Joanna Brusco. (2017). [Uh, bueno, em... Filled pauses as a site of contact-induced change in Boston Spanish](#). *Language Variation and Change*, 29(2): 205-244.

Erker, Daniel. (2017). [The limits of named language varieties and the role of social salience in dialectal contact: The case of Spanish in the U.S.](#) *Language and Linguistics Compass* 11(1).

Erker, Daniel & Ricardo Otheguy. (2016). [Contact and coherence: Dialectal leveling and structural convergence in NYC Spanish](#). *Lingua*, 172: 131-146.

Davidson, Lisa & **Daniel Erker**. (2014). [Hiatus resolution in American English: the case against glide insertion](#). *Language* 90(2): 482-514.

Erker, Daniel & Gregory R. Guy. (2012). [The role of lexical frequency in syntactic variability: Variable subject personal pronoun expression in Spanish](#). *Language* 88(3): 526-557.

Erker, Daniel. (2010). [A subsegmental approach to coda /s/ weakening in Dominican Spanish](#). *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*. 203:9-26.

Contributions to Edited Volumes (invited)

Erker, Daniel (*In press*). How social salience can illuminate the outcomes of linguistic contact: data from Spanish in Boston. In Guy, Gregory R. and Karen Beaman, Eds., *The coherence of linguistic communities: Orderly heterogeneity and social meaning* Routledge Studies in Sociolinguistics.

Erker, Daniel & Madeline Reffel. (2021). The Persistence of Dialectal Differences in U.S. Spanish: /s/ deletion in Boston and New York City. In Perez, Danae M., Marianne Hundt, Johannes Kabatek, and Daniel Schreier, Eds., *English and Spanish: World Languages in Interaction*. Cambridge University Press. 312-334.

Erker, Daniel & Madeline Reffel. (2021). Describing and analyzing variability in Spanish /s/: A case study of Caribbeans in Boston and NYC. In *Sibilants in Spanish: diachronic and sociolinguistic analysis*. Nuñez, Eva, Ed. Routledge. 131-163.

Erker, Daniel, Eduardo Ho-Fernández, Ricardo Otheguy, & Naomi Shin. (2017). Continuity and change in Spanish among Cubans in New York: A study of placement of subjects of finite verbs. In Cuza, Alejandro, Ed., *Cuban Spanish Dialectology: Variation, Contact and Change*, Georgetown University Press. 63-82

Lapidus Shin, Naomi & **Daniel Erker**. (2015). The Emergence of structured variability in morphosyntax: Childhood acquisition of Spanish subject pronouns. In Carvalho, Ana Maria, Orozco, Rafael, and Lapidus Shin, Eds., *Subject Pronoun Expression in Spanish: A Cross-dialectal perspective*, Georgetown University Press. 171-191.

Refereed Proceedings

Erker, Daniel. (2017). [Contact, Co-Variation, and Sociolinguistic Salience: What Mr. Rogers Knows about Language Change](#). *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 23(2): 68-77.

Erker, Daniel. (2012). [Of categories and continua: relating discrete and gradient properties of sociophonetic variation](#). *University of Pennsylvania Working Papers in Linguistics* 18(2):11-19.

Contributions to Handbooks (refereed)

Otheguy, Ricardo, Naomi Lapidus Shin, & **Daniel Erker**. (*In Press*). On the idiolectal nature of linguistic contact: Spaniards in contact with Nahuas and Yorubas in the New World. *Handbook of Language Contact*. In Mufwene, Salikoko & Anna María Escobar, Eds., Cambridge University Press.

Erker, Daniel. (2018). Sociolinguistic approaches to dialectal, sociolectal, and idiolectal variation in the Hispanophone world. *The Cambridge Handbook of Spanish Linguistics*. In Geeslin, Kimberly, Ed., Cambridge University Press. 529-562.

Erker, Daniel. (2018). Spanish dialectal contact in the United States. *Routledge Handbook of Spanish as a Heritage/Minority Language*. In Potowski, Kimberly, Ed., Routledge. 269-283.

Edited Volumes

Lapidus Shin, Naomi & **Daniel Erker** Eds. (2018). [Questioning theoretical primitives in linguistic inquiry](#). *Papers in honor of Ricardo Otheguy*. John Benjamins.

Presentations

Refereed Papers

Erker, D. (2021). Filled pauses and the conservative contours of contact-induced change - Data from Spanish in Boston. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 49, Austin, TX. October 20-24.

Guy, G., Orozco, R., and **Erker, D.** (2021). Homogeneity and heterogeneity in null subjects: A cross-linguistic and cross-community comparison. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 49, Austin, TX. October 20-24.

Erker, D. (2019). Is lexical frequency overrated? *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 48, Eugene, OR. October 9-11.

Waughtal, D., **Erker, D.** (2018). Nosotros somos de la ciudad y hablamos muy diferente. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, Austin, TX. October 25-27.

Erker, D. (2018). Assimilation and Acquisition Failure – A Comparative Variationist test of two hypotheses about U.S. Spanish. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation* 47, New York City. October 18-21.

- Erker, D.** (2018). Will greater ethnic diversity challenge the hegemony of English in the United States? Spanish speakers in NYC & Boston suggest otherwise. *9th International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*, Queens College, The City University of New York. April 5-7.
- Erker, D.,** Reffel, M. (2018). Dialectal persistence in U.S. Spanish: Lenition of syllable-final /s/ in Boston and NYC. *92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Salt Lake City, UT. January 4-7.
- Erker, D.,** Reffel, M. (2017). The persistence of dialectal differences in U.S. Spanish: /s/ weakening in Boston and NYC. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 46*, Madison Wisconsin. November 2-5.
- Erker, D.** (2016). Contact, convergence, and covariation: What Mr. Rogers knows about language change. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 45*, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 3-6.
- Erker, D.** (2016). Social salience as a determinant of contact-induced change: The view from Spanish in the United States. Colloquium on Dialectal variation, contact and change: Historical and non-historical approaches, organized by Israel Sanz-Sánchez. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, Georgetown University, October 7-9.
- Erker, D.,** Bruso, J. (2016). Filled pauses as sites of variation and barometers of contact-induced change in Boston Spanish. *90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, D.C. January 6-10.
- Erker, D.,** Otheguy, R., Lapidus Shin, N. (2015). The order and expression of subjects among first and second generation Cubans in the United States. *25th Conference on Spanish in the United States*, City College CUNY. March 26.
- Erker, D.,** Bruso, J. (2014). Umm... Filled pauses as sites of variation and barometers of contact-induced change. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, Purdue University. October 15.
- Erker, D.,** (2013). Twin trends in nascent language change: Morphosyntactic and phonological evidence of an emerging NYC Spanish. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 42*, University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. October 17-20.
- Erker, D.** (2011). Change in Progres/s/: Phonological Evidence for the Convergence of Regional Dialects in the Spanish of NYC. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, University of Georgia. October 6.
- Davidson, L., **Erker, D.** (2011). Hiatus in American English: Experimental evidence for and against resolution. *87th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Boston. January 3-6.
- Erker, D.** (2011). Of Categories and Continua – Discrete and Gradient Properties of Socio-Phonetic Variation. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 40*, Georgetown University. November 2-5.
- Erker, D.** (2010). A closer look at subject pronouns in the Spanish of New York City: Frequency of use and contact-induced change at the individual verb level. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, Indiana University, Bloomington. October 14-17.
- Erker, D.,** Rohena-Madrazo, M. (2010). Socially conditioned sub-phonemic differences in variable fricative production in Spanish. *Hispanic Linguistics Symposium*, Indiana University, Bloomington. October 14-17.
- Erker, D.,** Guy, G. (2010). Exemplar Theory and variable syntax: how lexical frequency conditions subject pronoun use in Spanish. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 39*, University of Texas-San Antonio. November 4-6.
- Blake, R., Cavallaro, M., Cogshall, E., **Erker, D.,** Taylor, M. (2009). New York City English: Perceptual Dialectology and Research Design. *17th Annual Meeting of the American Dialect Society*, San Francisco. January 8-10.
- Erker, D.** (2005). The Role of Morphological Ambiguity as a Constraint on Subject Pronoun Expression in the Spanish of New York City. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 34*, New York University, October 20-23.
- Otheguy, R., **Erker, D.** (2005). Initial Stages and Apparent Changes in the Variable Use of Subject Personal Pronouns in the Spanish of New York. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 34*, New York University, October 20-23.

Erker, D. (2005). Why Do Bilinguals Borrow? A Case for Rethinking Simplification and Overgeneralization. *20th Conference on Spanish in the US/Spanish in Contact with Other Languages*, University of Illinois at Chicago, March 24.

Refereed Posters

Myler, N., **Erker, D.** (2016). Combinatorial Variability and the Final-over-Final Constraint in Quechua-Spanish Contact. *90th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America*, Washington, D.C. January 6-10.

Erker, D., Brusco, J. (2015). Could the road to schwa be paved by /a/? Filled pauses as sites of variation and barometers of contact-induced change in Boston Spanish. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44*, Toronto, Ontario. October 22-25. 2015.

Erker, D., Otheguy, R. (2015). Closing the generation gap: How speaker-level behavior can illuminate contact data. *New Ways of Analyzing Variation 44*, Toronto. October 22-25.

Lapidus Shin, N., **Erker, D.** (2013). The acquisition of a variable grammar: Evidence from Spanish morphosyntax. *38th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development*, Boston. November 1-3.

Invited Talks & Colloquia

Erker, D. (2021). How Social Salience can Illuminate the Outcomes of Linguistic Contact: Data from Spanish in Boston. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Spanish and Portuguese. March 4.

Erker, D. (2019). First-Year Student Outreach Project, closing ceremony speaker. Boston University. August 30.

Erker, D. (2019). American Myths of Linguistic Assimilation. Center for Language Science, Penn State University. September 27.

Erker, D. (2018). Stability in the Speech Community: Why speaking Spanish in the U.S. isn't a zero-sum game. Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature, Texas Tech University. September 26.

Erker, D. (2018). From the "polyglot boarding house" to the RAISE Act – America's past and present suspicion of multilingualism. Linguistics Program, Princeton University. April 4.

Erker, D. (2018). Spanish in the U.S. and American myths of linguistic (non-)assimilation – A Variationist rebuttal. The Annual Hispanic and Lusophone Studies Symposium and the Annual Congress on Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics (OSUCHiLL). *Keynote Speaker*. Ohio State University. March 30.

Erker, D. (2017). Language is a Bridge not a Barrier. *8th Annual TEDx Conference Middlebury College*. November 11.

Erker, D. (2016). Islands of Dialectal Persistence in a Sea of Structural Convergence: Mapping Contact Outcomes in Spanish in Boston. Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University at Albany, State University of New York. December 13.

Erker, D. (2016). Assessing linguistic change among Spanish speakers in New York City and Boston. *Spanish and English in Interaction Symposium*, University of Zurich, June 27-29.

Erker, D. (2015). How and why do languages change? Insights from Spanish in Boston. *35th Annual Darwin Festival*, Salem State University. February 12.

Otheguy, R., **Erker, D.** (2015). Conversaciones en el Observatorio: Boston vs. New York, Spanish in Big Cities, *Instituto Cervantes at Harvard University*. May 6.

Silva-Corvalán, C., Parra M. L., **Erker, D.** (2014). Conversations in the Observatorio: Bilingual Language Acquisition. *Instituto Cervantes at Harvard University*. November 6.

Erker, D. (2014). Language and Dialect Contact in the Spanish of Boston. *Annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages*. May 9.

Erker, D. (2014). Twin trends in nascent language change: Morphosyntactic and phonological evidence of an emerging NYC Spanish. *International workshop on Dialect Coherence*, Meertens Instituut, Amsterdam. January 16-17.

Erker, D. (2010). Re-thinking the sociolinguistic analysis of variable coda /s/ weakening: an instrumental acoustic phonetic approach. *Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society Research Forum*.

Teaching

The Sounds of Spanish (CAS LX 383 / GRS LX 683 / CAS LS 507) undergraduate/graduate.
- Fall 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, Spring 2018.

The Structure of Spanish (CAS LX 384 / GRS LX 684 / CAS LS 508) undergraduate/graduate.
- Spring 2013, 2014, 2015.

Spanish in the United States (CAS LX 381 / GRS LX 681 / CAS LS 420) undergraduate/graduate.
- Fall 2013.

Languages in Contact (CAS LX 345 / GRS LX 645) undergraduate/graduate.
- Fall 2014.

Language Race and Gender (CAS LX 342 / GRS LX 642) undergraduate/graduate, approved *BU Hub* course.
- Fall 2016, Spring 2014, 2019.

Language Variation and Change (CAS LX 346 / GRS LX 646) undergraduate/graduate, approved *BU Hub* course. - Spring 2020

Quantitative Methods in Linguistics (GRS LX 795) graduate.
- Spring 2018, 2019, 2020

Mutant Tongues (KHC RS 104) freshman seminar Boston University Kilachand Honors College.
- Spring 2015, Fall 2015.

Language and Music (CAS LX 120) undergraduate, approved *BU Hub* course.
- Fall 2019 (co-taught with Charles Chang)

Advising

Graduate Research Supervision

2017-2018. Deborah Waughtal. "Nosotros somos de la ciudad y hablamos muy diferente: A sociophonetic case study of intra-speaker variation in Spanish coda /s/ and /theta/ production" *submitted in satisfaction of requirements for the M.A. in Applied Linguistics*. Boston University.

2016-2017. Lauren Gerrish. "F-zero of Spanish in Boston: A sociolinguistic study of fundamental frequency in the speech of Salvadorans and Spaniards in Boston" *submitted in satisfaction of requirements for the M.A. in Applied Linguistics*. Boston University.

2016-17. Nina Hrebenko. "An Exploration of Rhythm in a Spanish-English Contact Setting" *submitted in satisfaction of requirements for the M.A. in Applied Linguistics*. Boston University.

2015-16. Kendra Dickinson. "¡Mira, te dice vos! A study of pronominal variation in the Spanish of Salvadorans in the Greater Boston Area" *submitted in satisfaction of requirements for the M.A. in Applied Linguistics*. Boston University.

2014-15. Joanna Bruso. "Eh, Bueno, Um... A Sociolinguistic Investigation of Spanish Filled Pauses in a Contact Environment" *submitted in satisfaction of requirements for the M.A. in Applied Linguistics*. Boston University.

Undergraduate Supervision and Mentoring

2020-2021. Natalie Swiacki. "Does morphology compensate for variable phonology? – A case study of Spanish subject pronoun use in the context of /s/ deletion". *Keystone Project* faculty advisor. Boston University Kilachand Honors College.

2017-2018. Rachel Poppe. "Reawakening a Sleeping Language: The Wampanoag and Their Linguistic Revolution". *Keystone Project* faculty advisor. Boston University Kilachand Honors College.

2017-18. Madeline Reffel. "A sociolinguistic study of the variation in production of the sound /s/ by Puerto Ricans and Dominicans in the Boston area." Faculty mentor, *Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program*.

2016-17. Rachel Poppe. "Contact-induced linguistic innovation in Spanish in Boston". Faculty mentor, *Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program*.

2014-15. Alison Parker. "Traditional Japanese Purity: Elders and the Indexicality of English Loanwords". *Keystone Project* faculty advisor. Boston University Kilachand Honors College.

2014-15. Tre Pina. "Navigating the linguistic borderlands between AAVE and Gay Speech". Faculty mentor, *Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program*.

2013-14. Emma Temkin. "A Sociolinguistic Study of Language and Dialect Contact among Salvadorans in the Metro Boston Area". Faculty mentor, *Boston University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program*.

Service

To the Department and University

2019-2020 *Academic Conduct Committee*. Boston University College of Arts and Sciences.

2019 *Committee member*: Chair Search Committee, Boston University Department of Linguistics.

2018-2020 *Director of Graduate Admissions*. Boston University program in Linguistics.

2016 (Fall) *Director of Graduate Studies*. Boston University program in Linguistics.

2015 *Search Committee member*: Lecturer in Spanish, Boston University Spanish program.

2013 *Search Committee member*: Assistant Professor of Linguistics (two positions), Boston University program in Linguistics.

2013-2020 *Admissions committee member*: Boston University Graduate Programs in Applied Linguistics/Linguistics.

2012 *Committee member*: Initiative to revise Spanish major, Boston University Spanish program.

To the Discipline

2014–present **6 grant proposal reviews** for: *National Science Foundation* (3 doctoral dissertation and 2 full proposals), *Marsden Fund* (full proposal).

2012–present **50+ journal manuscript reviews** for: *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, *Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory*, *Hispanic Studies Review*, *International Journal of Bilingualism*, *Laboratory Phonology*, *Language and Linguistics Compass*, *Language Variation and Change*, *Linguistics and Education*, *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*, *Sociolinguistic Studies*, *Spanish in Context*, *Studies in Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics*, *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, *Verba*.

2012–present **2 book proposal reviews** for: *Georgetown University Press*, *Yale University Press*.

Press & Public Engagement

[“How *ums* and *ers* are changing Bostonian Spanish”](#). Feature on *Spanish in Boston Project* in the *Boston Globe*. September 27, 2015.

[“Hear how Spanish in Boston is changing”](#). Discussion of preliminary results of *Spanish in Boston Project* with interviewer Meghna Chakrabarti. *WBUR 90.9 “Radio Boston”*. November 12, 2015.

[“New Year, New Mayor, New Boston? Under The Radar Previews 2014”](#). Discussion of Spanish in Boston with interviewer Callie Crossley on *WGBH 89.7 “Boston’s local NPR”*. January 5, 2014.

[“A Language Evolves. CAS linguist studies how Spanish is spoken, and changing, in the United States”](#). Feature in *BU Today*, the news and information website of Boston University. September 9, 2013.

[“Spanish dialects Merging in Boston”](#). Audio and print feature of *Spanish in Boston Project* in *WGBH 89.7 News “Boston’s local NPR”*. December 13, 2013.

Awards & Honors

2017. Boston University Templeton Award for Excellence in Advising.