

Brian Rocca

Indiana University, Bloomington
brocca@iu.edu



Education

- PhD in Second Language Studies (Linguistics minor)** May 2024
Indiana University (IU) (Projected)
Advisor: Isabelle Darcy
Dissertation title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*
- M.A. in Linguistics (TESOL Specialization)** May 2016
University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
Advisor: Jessica Williams
- B.A. in English (Creative Writing minor)** May 2011
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Studied abroad at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy Spring 2010

Publications

- Llompart, M., Rocca, B., & Darcy, I. (2023). Is the effect of vocabulary size on lexical encoding modulated by L1-L2 similarity [Accepted]? *Proceedings of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences*.
- Darcy, I., & Rocca, B. (2022). Improving pronunciation in spontaneous Speech: A comparison of two instructional methods. *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation*, 8(3), pp. 328-362. <https://doi.org/10.1075/jslp.21035.dar>
- Darcy, I., Rocca, B., & Hancock, Z. (2021). A Window into the Classroom: How Teachers Integrate Pronunciation Instruction. *RELC Journal*, 52(1), 110–127. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0033688220964269>.
- Darcy, I., Rocca, B., Hancock, Z., & Lee, S. S. (2020). Do individual differences in stress perception and in selective attention relate to comprehensibility improvements after pronunciation instruction? *Fremdsprachen Lehren und Lernen (FLuL)*, 49(2), 28-45. DOI 10.2357/FLuL-2020-0017

Presentations (selected)

- Rocca, B., Martino, F., & Darcy, I. (2023, September 6-8). *How misperception affects the structure of the L2 mental lexicon: A re-analysis of Cutler (2005)* [Paper presentation]. The 14th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
<https://web.cvent.com/event/e0861a1b-556f-4a6c-8e1a-3f11196b6380/summary>.

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- Darcy, I., & Rocca, B. (2023, September 6-8). *EVP-Phon: A tool to analyze the L2 English mental lexicon through its phonological network* [Poster presentation]. The 14th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. <https://web.cvent.com/event/e0861a1b-556f-4a6c-8e1a-3f11196b6380/summary>.
- Rocca, B. (2023, April 14). *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations* [Dissertation proposal defense]. Department of Second Language Studies' Colloquium, Indiana University Bloomington.
- Rocca, B., & Llompert, M. (2022, April 20-22). *Updates in advanced L2 learners' phonolexical representations: Do words in dense neighborhoods update first?* [Conference presentation]. New Sounds: 10th International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech, Barcelona, Spain.
- Rocca, B. (2021, August 17). *Lexical updates: Network structure matters* [Colloquium presentation]. Department of Second Language Studies' Colloquium, Indiana University Bloomington.
- Rocca, B. (2021, June 18-19). *Bridging repetition and communication in pronunciation lessons* [Teaching tip presentation]. 12th Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference, Brock University (online conference). <https://brocku.ca/psllt-2021/>.
- Darcy, I. & Rocca, B. (2020, November 13). *A Window into the Classroom: How Teachers Integrate Pronunciation Instruction* [Colloquium presentation]. Department of Second Language Studies' Colloquium, Indiana University Bloomington.
- Rocca, B. (2020, March 13). *Demonstrating pronunciation teaching methods: Communicative versus non-communicative instruction* [Colloquium presentation]. Department of Second Language Studies' Colloquium, Indiana University Bloomington.
- Rocca, B., Hancock, Z., Lee, S. S., & Darcy, I. (2020, April 31-March 3). *Improving Pronunciation in Spontaneous Speech: A Comparison of Instructional Method* [Conference presentation]. TESOL 2020 International Convention & English Language Expo, Denver, Colorado (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).
- Rocca, B. (2020, January 24). *L1 Koreans' perception of [l, t, r] in American English pseudowords* [Paper presentation]. Second Language Psycholinguistics Lab meeting, Indiana University Bloomington.

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Rocca, B., Smith, S., & Williams, A. (2019, June 6-7). *Shedding light on dark //: A case study on teaching English // and /:/* [Poster presentation]. L2 Pronunciation Research Workshop: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice, Barcelona, Spain. <https://sites.google.com/view/l2prw2019/home>

Rocca, B. (2016, September 24). *The dynamic roles of a writing center tutor* [Conference presentation]. Chicagoland Writing Center Fall Gathering 2016, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Workshops led (selected)

Rocca, B. (2021, October 18). *The Communicative Framework for Pronunciation Instruction: An introduction and demonstration* [Workshop]. Presented for IU graduate students enrolled in SLST-S 514: English Phonology for Language Learning and Teaching. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Rocca, B. (2019, October 18). *L2 segmental perception training* [Workshop]. Presented for IU's Intensive English Program fall workshop. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Rocca, B. (2018, February 23). *Teaching pronunciation* [Workshop]. Presented for UIC MA TESOL students in LING 593: Preparation for Practicum in TESOL. University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Rocca, B. & Loebel, V. (2017, February 24). *Teaching suprasegmentals* [Workshop]. Presented for UIC MA TESOL students in LING 593: Preparation for Practicum in TESOL. University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Rocca, B. (2016, November 10 & 2017, November 9). *Email etiquette* [Workshop]. Presented during UIC's graduate student appreciation week. University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Rocca, B. (2012, August 10). *Using a Smartboard in your classroom* [Workshop]. Presented for teachers of English First Depok, Depok, Indonesia.

Teaching Experience (selected)

Associate Instructor

IU

SLST-T501: Academic Writing for International Grad Sts Jan-May 2023

- Teaching a writing course for non-native speakers of English who need to develop their academic writing skills appropriate for the presentation of research at the graduate level in an American university

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SLST-T155: Academic Speaking

Jan-May 2023

- Teaching a communication course for multilingual speakers of English who need to develop the clarity and fluency of their speech to communicate and participate effectively in an undergraduate academic setting

COLL-X101: R for Social Science (asynchronous)

Jan-Feb 2021 & 2022

- Graded and provided feedback on students' R coding

SLST-T501: Advocacy and Communication Skills

Oct-Dec 2021 & 2022

- Designed and taught this course for the IU Law School's pathway program. This content-based course focused on improving students' oral fluency, argumentation, vocabulary, and presentation skills

SLST-T501: English for Law

Aug-Oct 2021 & 2022

- Taught this 4-skills course designed for the IU Law School's pathway program. This content-based course focused on improving students' oral and written fluency, reading speed, vocabulary, and TOEFL listening and reading skills

English Writing 131 Multilingual (asynchronous)

Aug-Dec 2020

- Created recorded lessons, led asynchronous class activities, and provided feedback on academic writing. This course was aimed at serving students whose core educational backgrounds occurred in languages other than English

IU Intensive English Program

Aug 2018-May 2020

March-June 2022

- Taught communication courses in a content-based curriculum aimed at helping students prepare for academic coursework in an English-speaking university

Lecturer

UIC

International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Program

Aug 2016-July 2018

- Instructed ITAs in classes focused on English pronunciation, teaching methods, and presentation skills
- Collaborated with coordinator on curriculum development
- Trained oral proficiency raters
- Developed GC 509: a pronunciation course for ITAs

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Writing Center Graduate Assistant

UIC Writing Center

UIC

Aug 2014-May 2016

- Facilitated groups of first-year composition students in brainstorming and thesis development
- Tutored graduate and undergraduate students from diverse fields of study
- Coordinated the Writing Partners Program, which matched composition students with tutors for 4-week periods to provide continued writing support
- Managed appointments and records in WCOonline®

Research Assistant

Language and Cultural Learning Center, UIC

UIC

Aug 2014-May 2016

- Evaluated software and websites for application in language classrooms
- Provided technical assistance for language instructors and professors
- Edited and wrote technology guides

EFL Instructor

Idiomas Sin Fronteras

Puerto Varas, Chile

Feb-Dec 2013

- Taught small group (2-4 students) and individual classes for adults
- Assessed new students' speaking abilities for course placement

Senior Teacher

English First Depok

Depok, Indonesia

Jan 2012-Jan 2013

- Trained new teachers by leading peer feedback on teaching demonstrations, providing feedback on lesson plans, and giving cultural/course inductions
- Taught general English (4 skills) to all ages, and business and conversational English to adults
- Helped lead a staff of 30 teachers

Funding:

Language Learning Dissertation Grant (2023)

- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Amount: \$1,742. Support: Participant compensation and online testing software.

IU Harry Gradman Research Award (2023)

- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Amount: \$215. Support: Participant compensation.

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IU GPSG Research Award (2023)

- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Amount: Not awarded. Support: Participant compensation.

IU College of Arts & Science Dissertation Research Fellowship (2023)

- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Amount: Not awarded. Support: Participant compensation.

UC Irvine Summer School on [Computational Cognitive Modeling for Language](#) (2022)

- Amount: \$500 and room and board. Support: travel.

Ruth Crymes TESOL Fellowship for Graduate Study (2019)

- Project title: A Window into the Classroom: How Teachers Integrate Pronunciation Instruction. Amount: Not awarded. Support: Rater and coder compensation.

IU Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG) Travel Award (2019)

- Project title: Shedding light on dark /l/: A case study on teaching English /l/ and /ɫ/. Amount: Not awarded. Support: International travel.

Lab Membership

IU [Second Language Psycholinguistics Lab](#)

Principal Investigator: Dr. Isabelle Darcy
Department of Second Language Studies

*Bloomington, IN
Aug 2018-Present*

- Served as the lab meeting organizer from Spring 2020-Fall 2022.
- Acted as the lab manager while Professor Darcy was on sabbatical from July 2021-July 2022. Duties included organizing meetings, coordinating the lab setup after all materials and machines were moved from one building to another, and served as the main point of contact for lab all business.

UIC [Multilingual Phonology Lab](#)

Principal Investigator: Jennifer Cabrelli
Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies

*Chicago, IL
Aug 2017-May 2018*



Experimental & Analytical Tools:

- Audacity (proficient)
- Praat (proficient)
- PsychoPy (proficient)
- Python (novice +)
- R (proficient)

Language Proficiencies (according to ACTFL guidelines):

- American English: Native
- Indonesian: Intermediate Mid
- Spanish: Intermediate Low
- Korean: Novice high

Service activities:

- Associate Editor:
 - The proceedings for the [34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics \(NACCL-34\)](#)
- Application Reviewer:
 - [TESOL 2022 Doctoral Research Forum](#)
- Conference organizing committee member:
 - [Midwestern Association of Language Testers \(MWALT\)](#) 2019
- Manuscript reviewer:
 - Journal of Second Language Pronunciation (2020)
 - English Australia Journal (2019)
- Rater:
 - The IU Test of English Proficiency for International Associate Instructor Candidates (TEPAIC)

Professional Memberships:

- Indiana TESOL (2018-present)
- TESOL International Association (2015-present)