Brian Rocca

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EDUCATION

PhD in Second Language Studies (Linguistics minor)   May 2025
Indiana University (IU)
Advisor: Isabelle Darcy
Dissertation title: The effects of lexical characteristics, phonetic categorization, and
vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations:
A lexical friction account

M.A. in Linguistics (TESOL Specialization)   May 2016
University of Illinois at Chicago
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

Rocca, B., Llompart, M., & Darcy, I. (2024). Phonological neighborhood density, phonetic
categorization, and vocabulary size differentially affect the phonolexical encoding of
easy and difficult L2 segmental contrasts. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition.*
Advanced online publication. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728924000865

- Pre-registration: https://osf.io/5mswh/registrations
- Data and code: https://osf.io/5mswh/

Rocca, B., Martino, F., & Darcy, I. (2024). How misperception affects the structure of the L2
mental lexicon: A conceptual replication of Cutler (2005). *Proceedings of 14th
Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference*, (pp. 1-12).
Purdue University, September 2023. https://doi.org/10.31274/psllt.17573

- Data and code: https://osf.io/vdjhy/

Llompart, M., **Rocca, B**., & Darcy, I. (2023). Is the effect of vocabulary size on lexical
encoding modulated by L1-L2 similarity? In R. Skarnitzl & J. Volín (Eds.), *Proceedings
of the 20th International Congress of Phonetic Sciences – ICPhS 2023* (pp. 2447-2451).
International Phonetic Association.

- Data and code: https://osf.io/e637k/

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
- Teaching materials: https://osf.io/kv8y9/

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. https://doi.org/10.2357/FLuL-2020-0017

PRESENTATIONS (selected)

Rocca, B. (2025, February 3). *The roles of lexical characteristics and individual differences in creating precise L2 phonological representations* [Invited talk]. Language Acquisition from Multilingual Catalonia research group, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain.

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.

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., & Llompart, 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, ɫ, r] in American English pseudowords* [Paper presentation]. Second Language Psycholinguistics Lab meeting, Indiana University Bloomington.

Rocca, B., Smith, S., & Williams, A. (2019, June 6-7). *Shedding light on dark /l/: A case study on teaching English /l/ and /ɹ/* [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. (2024, September 13; 2022, March 4). *An introduction to cleaning and summarizing data in R* [Workshop]. Presented for IU's Psycholinguistics lab. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

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 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 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 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.

RESEARCH LAB MEMBERSHIP

Second Language Psycholinguistics Lab
https://psycholinguistics.indiana.edu/home.htm
Indiana University
Fall 2018-Present

PI: Prof. Isabelle Darcy
Department of Second Language Studies
- 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: organized meetings, coordinated 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.

Multilingual Phonology Lab
https://hip.uic.edu/research-groups/multiphon/
University of Illinois at Chicago
2017-2018

PI: Prof. Jennifer Cabrelli
Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies

TECHNICAL SKILLS
- Audacity
- Gephi (network visualization software)
- Praat
- PsychoPy / Pavlovia
- R

GRANTS & AWARDS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship (2024-2025 academic year)
- Awarded by IU College of Arts and Sciences. Amount: $25,000.

Language Learning Dissertation Grant (2023)
- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Support: Participant compensation and online testing software. Amount: $1,742.

IU Harry Gradman Award (Fall 2023)
- Project title: *How misperception affects the structure of the L2 mental lexicon: A re-analysis of Cutler (2005).* Support: Travel costs and registration fee for the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conference held at Purdue University in September 2023. Amount: $480.

IU Harry Gradman Award (Spring 2023)
- Project title: *The effects of lexical characteristics, vowel identification, and vocabulary size on language learners' phonolexical representations*. Support: Participant compensation. Amount: $215.

UC Irvine Summer School on *Computational Cognitive Modeling for Language* (2022)
    https://www.langsci.uci.edu/summerschool.php
- Support: Travel. Amount: Room and board as well as $500.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES (according to ACTFL guidelines)
- American English: Native
- Indonesian: Intermediate Mid
- Spanish: Intermediate Low
- Italian: Novice high
- Korean: Novice high

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (selected)

Associate Instructor
Indiana University
Fall 2018-Summer 2024

Advocacy and Communication Skills 2 (SLST-T 79)
    Summer 2024
- Designed and taught this course for law professors from Peru who wanted to improve their English so that they could teach in Peru using English as the medium of communication. This course focused on improving students' oral fluency, argumentation, pronunciation, vocabulary, and presentation skills

Foundations of the American Experience for International Students (SLST-T 135)
    Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- Presented introductory lectures on historical events, cultural values, government and politics, racial and ethnic diversity, business and economy, education, religion, and family structures.
- Facilitated group discussions and class activities designed to help engage students in the course material.

Academic Writing for International Grad Sts (SLST-T501)
    Spring 2023
- Taught 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

Academic Speaking (SLST-T155)
    Spring 2023
- Taught 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

R for Social Science (COLL-X101)
    Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- Graded and provided feedback on students' R coding
- Asynchronous, three-week course

Advocacy and Communication Skills (SLST-T501)
    Fall 2021, Fall 2022
- Designed and taught this course for the IU Law School's pathway program. This eight-week content-based course focused on improving students' oral fluency, argumentation, vocabulary, and presentation skills

English for Law (SLST-T501)
    Fall 2021, Fall 2022
- Taught this 4-skills course designed for the IU Law School's pathway program. This eight-week content-based course focused on improving students' oral and written fluency, reading speed, vocabulary, and TOEFL listening and reading skills

Reading, Writing, and Inquiry for Multilingual Students (ENG 131)
    Fall 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
Fall 2018-Spring 2020, Summer 2022, Spring 2023
- Taught communication courses in a content-based curriculum aimed at helping students prepare for academic coursework in an English-speaking university

Lecturer
University of Illinois at Chicago
International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Program
Fall 2016-Summer 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 a pronunciation course for ITAs (GC 509)

Writing Center Graduate Assistant
University of Illinois at Chicago
Writing Center
Fall 2014-Spring 2016
- Facilitated groups of first-year composition students in brainstorming and thesis development
- Tutored graduate and undergraduate students from diverse fields of study

Research Assistant
University of Illinois at Chicago
Language and Cultural Learning Center
Fall 2014-Spring 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
Puerto Varas, Chile
Idiomas Sin Fronteras
2013
- Taught small group (2-4 students) and individual classes for adults
- Assessed new students' speaking abilities for course placement

Senior Teacher
Depok, Indonesia
English First Depok
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

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Associate Editor:
  - The proceedings for the 34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics https://sites.google.com/view/naccl-34/?pli=1

- Application Reviewer:
  - TESOL 2022 Doctoral Research Forum

- Conference organizing committee member:
  - Midwestern Association of Language Testers 2019

- Manuscript reviewer:
  - Journal of Second Language Pronunciation (2020)
  - English Australia Journal (2019)

- Abstract reviewer:
  - New Sounds 2025 (https://newsounds2025.artsci.utoronto.ca/)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Indiana TESOL (2018-2024)
- TESOL International Association (2015-present)
- American Association of Applied Linguists (2023-2024)