

Pragmatic variation across highland and lowland pluricentric varieties

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Pragmatic variation has been analyzed at different levels of pragmatics and across pluricentric languages, including Arabic, English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish, among others (Schneider and Placencia 2017; Nilsson et al. 2022; Schneider and Félix-Brasdefer 2022). The Variational Pragmatic framework has been adopted to examine pragmatic variability in conventions of language use and interaction considering three methodological principles: empiricity, contrastivity, and comparability (Schneider and Barron 2008; Barron 2021; Schneider 2021). Adopting these foundational principles, in this talk I focus on the impact of regional pragmatic variation and its interaction with contextual factors of the situation and macro-social factors, across pluricentric varieties of Spanish in two geographical regions, namely, highland and lowland (coastal) varieties. I will illustrate my analysis with natural data from service encounter interactions at the national and subnational level, highlighting the need to focus on intra-lingual pragmatic variation in coastal varieties. I also present an analysis of metapragmatics with data from intercultural speakers to examine perceptions of inter-varietal pragmatic differences. I conclude my talk with a discussion of innovative research methods to compare, contrast, and analyze cross-dialectal variation and intra-cultural conventions of language use and interaction.

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