

Nicky Macias

[nɪki məˈsiəs]

PhD Student in the Department of Linguistics at University of California, Santa Barbara

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociocultural linguistics; queer and trans studies; trans linguistics; linguistic anthropology; signed language linguistics; embodiment; ASL interpreter education; multilingual (signed) interpreting; cognitive linguistics; linguistic ethnography; social justice; inclusive pedagogy.

EDUCATION

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| In Progress | University of California - Santa Barbara, Doctor of Philosophy Linguistics Emphasis in Language, Interaction and Social Organization Certificate in College & University Teaching |
| Summer 2023 | Stockholm University & Rochester Institute of Technology, Visiting Student/Researcher Inclusive Assessment of Multi-Modal Multilinguals (IAM3) Research Program |
| Graduated | Gallaudet University, Master of Arts Linguistics |
| Graduated | University of South Florida, Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude ASL Interpreter Training Minor: Sociology (Inequality and Social Justice) |
| Graduated | Broward College, Associate of Arts with Highest Honors |

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 2025 – Present | California State University – Northridge, Lecturer of Queer Studies |
| 2025 – Present | El Camino College, Adjunct Professor of ASL Interpreting |
| 2025 – Present | California State University – Northridge, Part-Time Faculty Pool of Deaf Studies |
| 2023 – Present | UC Santa Barbara, Graduate Teaching Assistant |
| 2023 – 2024 | Trans Research in Linguistics Lab (TRILL) at UC Santa Barbara, Lab Manager |
| 2023 | Gallaudet University, Teaching Assistant |
| 2022 – 2023 | Gallaudet University, Undergraduate and Graduate Linguistics Tutor |
| 2022 – 2023 | Baltimore City Community College, Adjunct Languages Professor of ASL |
| 2021 | Florida Virtual School, American Sign Language II Instructor (Grades 6 – 12) |
| 2020 – 2021 | Broward County Public Schools, American Sign Language Teacher (Grades 9 – 12) |

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

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| Summer 2022 | American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, ASL Scholar |
| Spring 2022 | Linguistic Society of America, Graduate Student Intern |

LANGUAGES

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| English Native Fluency | American Sign Language Fluency |
| Spanish Heritage Speaker | International Sign Proficiency |

CREDENTIALS

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| 2021 | National Interpreter Certification | Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf |
| 2021 | Score of 4.6/5 in Secondary (ASL Interpreting) | Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment |
| 2020 | American Sign Language Endorsement | Florida Department of Education |
| 2020 | Teacher Certification in Deaf Education (K-12) | Florida Department of Education |
| 2020 | Teacher Certification in Social Sciences (6-12) | Florida Department of Education |

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor-of-Record

Post-Secondary

LING 187 – Language, Power & Learning | In-Person at University of California, Santa Barbara
 QS 101 – Introduction to Queer Studies | In-Person at California State University - Northridge
 SLAN 234 – ASL/English Interpreting 2 | In-Person at El Camino College
 SLAN 232 – ASL/English Interpreting 1 | In-Person at El Camino College
 ASL 101 – American Sign Language | Online at Baltimore City Community College

Secondary

American Sign Language 2 (Grades 6-12) | Fully Remote at Florida Virtual School
 American Sign Language 1 (Grades 9-12) | Hybrid at Broward County Public Schools

Teaching Assistant

LING 170 – Language in Social Interaction with Prof. Mary Bucholtz at UCSB
 LING 180 – Language, Race & Ethnicity with Cooper Bedin | Online at UCSB
 LING 116 – Language & Sports with Prof. Bob Kennedy | Online at UCSB
 LING 131 – Sociocultural Linguistics with Prof. Lal Zimman | In-Person at UCSB
 LING 132 – Language, Gender & Sexuality with Dozandri Mendonza | Online at UCSB
 LING 194 – Trans Linguistics and Initiatives with Prof. Lal Zimman | In-Person at UCSB
 LIN 731 – Phonology II (Graduate) with Prof. Gaurav Mathur | In-Person at Gallaudet University

PUBLICATIONS

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| in prep | “Representing Signed Embodiment.” in <i>Representing Language and Language Users</i> . Editor: Mary Bucholtz. |
| in prep | “The Cheek.” in <i>Parsing the Body</i> . Editors: Kendra Calhoun, Mary Bucholtz, and Montreal Benesch. |
| 2025 | “Telling a (racio)gender: Morphosyntactic variation and identity attribution in trans english/spanish speakers’ recitation of the pear film.” Authors: Dozandri C. Mendoza, Lal Zimman, Cooper Bedin, Nicky Macias , Kris Ali, and Cedar Brown. <i>Penn Working Papers in Linguistics</i> 31.2. |

ACADEMIC TALKS

Refereed conference presentations

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| 2025 (forthcoming) | “Beyond the binary: stance-taking and language change in trans-affirming asl.” Sign CAFÉ 3. University of Warsaw. Remote. 18 September 2025. Presented in International Sign. |
| 2025 | “(Trans) pear film live!: queering narrative analysis and linguistic performance ethnography.” Society for Linguistic Anthropology Biennial Conference. University of Chicago. Chicago, IL. In-Person. 30 May 2025. Presented in English. |
| 2025 | “Trans-inclusive language change and digital activism in ASL.” 27th Annual Conference on Language, Interaction and Social Organization. UC Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara, CA. In-Person. 23 May 2025. Presented in English. |
| 2024 | “Nonbinary focal sites: online signing communities & trans-inclusive language change.” SIGN10. University of the West Indies. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In-Person. 11 December. Presented in International Sign. |
| 2023 | Co-Presenter, “Cultural (in)equivalence, asl pronouns & intersectional representation: Recognizing the impact of interpreting queer and trans* discourse.” Biennial National Conference of the Registry Interpreters for the Deaf. Baltimore, MD. In-Person. 19 July. Presented in ASL. |
| 2023 | “Mouthing constructions as a social index of gender in ASL pronouns.” Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory (FEAST) 2023. University of Bergen. Bergen, Norway. In-Person. 29 June. Presented in International Sign. |

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| 2023 | “Mouthing constructions as a social index of gender in ASL pronouns.” Challenging the Binary: Non-binary, Genderqueer, and Gender-neutral Language Conference. University College London. Remote. 15 June. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “Mouthing constructions as a social index of gender in ASL pronouns.” Chicago Linguistic Society. Remote. 28 April. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “Exploring ASL language teacher education (LTE) & ASL teacher identity.” The Fifth Second-Language Learning and Disabilities Conference. Boston University. Remote. 17 March. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “Mouth actions as social indexes of gender in ASL.” Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference 29. Boise State University. Boise, ID. In-Person. 11 March. Presented in English. |
| 2022 | “A Cognitive Grammar introduction to the process of deinitialization in ASL.” High Desert Society 15. University of New Mexico. Albuquerque, NM. In-Person. 11 November. Presented in ASL. |

Invited Talks

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| 2025 | “Sign language linguistics & sociohistorical context.” LING 180 (Language, Race & Ethnicity) Undergraduate Course, Instructed by Cooper Bedin. UCSB. Dept of Linguistics. Remote. 27 August. Presented in English. |
| 2024 | “Tenet 7 to beyond: Interpreters pursuing graduate education in sign language linguistics.” ASLD 300 (Professional Development) Undergraduate Course, Instructed by Dr. Wanette Reynolds. CSU-LB, Dept of Linguistics. Remote. 11 December. Presented in English. |
| 2024 | “Overviewing a trans sign language linguistics.” INT 84BY (Trans Linguistics Seminar) Undergraduate Honors Course, Instructed by Dr. Lal Zimman. UCSB, Dept of Linguistics. Remote. 24 October. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “Introducing DTP stories. Deaf, trans and proud stories.” Live Mas Scholarship Summer of Connection Conference. Passion Pitch. Taco Bell Foundation. San Diego, CA. In-Person. 11 July. Presented in ASL (with English recording). |
| 2023 | “Mouthing constructions as a social index of gender in ASL pronouns.” LING 129 (Sign Languages and Signing Communities) Undergraduate Course, Instructed by Dr. Lynn Hou. UCSB, Dept of Linguistics. Remote. 16 May. Presented in English. |
| 2022 | “Pilot testing ASL assessments.” The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Research Report to General ACTFL Staff. Remote. 4 August. Presented in English. |
| 2022 | “Grad school admissions, resources, scholarships and applications.” LIN 4721 (Second Language Acquisition) Undergraduate Course, Instructed by Dr. Judith Bridges. University of South Florida, Department of World Languages. Remote. 23 April. Presented in English. |

Colloquia

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| 2025 | “Representing embodiment: the body, “locational bearings” and phonetic notation of signed languaging.” <i>Representing Language and Its Users</i> LISO Symposium. UC Santa Barbara. Remote. 25 May 2025. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “Proposing a more expansive preliminary study on mouthing constructions as a social indexes of gender.” Inclusive Assessment of Multi-Modal Multilinguals (IAM3). Stockholm University. Stockholm, Sweden. In-Person. 21 June. Presented in International Sign. |
| 2023 | “An introduction to the process of deinitialization in ASL.” Spring Colloquium for the Department of Linguistics. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Remote. 25 March. Presented in English. |
| 2023 | “A Cognitive Grammar introduction to the process of ‘deinitialization’ in ASL.” Workshop in General Linguistics (WiGL) 17. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Remote. 24 March. Presented in English. |
| 2022 | “Exploring the status of ASL LTE and ASL teacher identity (in Postsecondary Settings).” Language Teacher Education Colloquium. Georgetown University. Washington, DC. In-Person. 5 May. Presented in English. |

RESEARCHER POSITIONS

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| 2023 – Present | <i>Researcher</i> “Race and attribution of gender project.” Trans Research in Linguistics Lab (TRILL) at UC Santa Barbara. Principal Investigator: Dr. Lal Zimman |
| 2022 – 2023 | <i>Interpreter Instructor & Researcher</i> “Promoting equity in healthcare interpreting.” Gallaudet University & Idaho State University. Principal Investigators: Dr. Campbell McDermid & Dr. Elizabeth Schniedewind |
| Summer 2022 | <i>ASL Scholar</i> “Bias/Cultural sensitivity intervention and pilot testing of an ASL assessment.” American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (Research Team). Supervisor: Dr. Margaret Malone |
| Summer 2022 | <i>Research Assistant</i> “Advancing STEM online learning by augmenting accessibility with explanatory captions and AI.” Gallaudet University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign & the University of Notre Dame. Principal Investigator: Dr. Qi Wang |
| Spring 2022 | <i>Researcher</i> “Language teacher education. A collection of case studies.” Georgetown University. Principal Investigator: Dr. Lara Bryfonski |
| Spring 2022 | <i>Research Assistant</i> “Code-blending in bilingual bimodal adolescents.” Gallaudet University & the University of Connecticut. Principal Investigators: Dr. Deborah Chen-Pichler & Dr. Diane Lilo-Martin |
| Summer 2021 | <i>Emerging Researcher</i> “Bimodal bilingualism summer research program.” Gallaudet University & the University of Connecticut. Principal Investigators: Dr. Deborah Chen-Pichler & Dr. Diane Lilo-Martin |

ASL INTERPRETING EXPERIENCE

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| 2018 – Present | Nicky Macias Interpreting, LLC., Self-Employed Freelance Interpreter |
| 2025 – Present | CSUN - Department of Deaf Studies, Staff Interpreter (Hourly, Level 2) |
| 2024 – Present | CSUN - National Center on Deafness, Staff Interpreter (Hourly, Level 2) |
| 2022 – Present | Sorenson Communications, Video Relay & Community Interpreter |
| 2022 – 2024 | University of South Florida, Hands on USF, Staff Interpreter (Remote) |
| 2020 – 2023 | Purple/Z Communications, Video Relay & Community Interpreter |
| 2021 | Convo Communications, Video Relay Interpreter |

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2025 - 2026 | Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship | Graduate Division at UC Santa Barbara |
| 2024 - 2025 | Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship | Graduate Division at UC Santa Barbara |
| 2023 | CEDL Travel Grant | Linguistic Society of America |
| 2023 | Startup Grant for “Trans Linguistics in ASL” | LingComm |
| 2022 | onePULSE Legacy Scholarship Award | onePULSE Foundation |
| 2017 – 2022 (4) | Live Mas Scholar (Passion: ASL/Linguistics) | Taco Bell Foundation |
| 2020 | Simon EIPA Performance Test Scholarship | Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf |
| 2020 | Judicial Branch Member of the Year Award | USF, Student Government |
| 2019 | First-Year Student Staff Member of the Year | USF Housing and Residential Education |
| 2018 | Future Takeover Award | Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf |
| 2018 | Study Abroad Scholarship Recipient | USF, Behavioral & Community Sciences |
| 2017 – 2018 (2) | USF LGBTQ+ Scholar | USF, Alumni Association |
| 2017 – 2018 (2) | Global Citizens Scholarship Recipient | USF, Global Citizens Project |
| 2018 | Richard J. Wallace Award | USF, Department of Sociology |
| 2017 | Steve Lotterer Memorial LGBTQ+ Scholar | Gamma Mu Foundation |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity
American Anthropological Association
 Society of Linguistic Anthropology
 Council on Anthropology & Education
 Association for Queer Anthropology
 American Ethnological Society
 Digital Anthropologies Interest Group
 Human Sexuality and Anthropology Interest Group
Linguistic Society of America
 Committee on LGBTQ+[Z] Issues of Linguistics
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
Sign Language Linguistics Society