

# Introduction

**Erik W. Willis, Pedro Martín Butragueño, Esther Herrera Zendejas,  
and Beatriz Sedó**

The sixth meeting of the biannual conference Laboratory Approaches to Romance Linguistics (LARP6) was co-organized by Indiana University and El Colegio de México and was held at El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico, on October 3-5, 2012. The co-organization of the conference reflected a desire to bring together researchers from the United States and Canada and those from Mexico and South America and to increase the exposure to each other's work and to facilitate increased interaction and dialog. The conference was held in Mexico City in part to facilitate the participation for colleagues that face challenges of cost and visa requirements for travel to the US.

The two plenary speakers were Laura Colantoni (University of Toronto) and Cecile Fougeron (Laboratoire de Phonétique et Phonologie, Universidad de Paris 3) and Miquel Simonet (University of Arizona) provided a workshop on perception study software. The conference was truly international in scope with presenters from Canada, France, Spain, Brazil, and Cuba, among others.

The papers in the current volume are arranged in two main groups. The collection begins with Laura Colantoni's paper about the contributions and challenges of Laboratory Phonology approaches to the study of sound variation and change, followed by a series of articles that investigates processes in Spanish: nasal palatalization in Buenos Aires Spanish, /s/ and /h/ voicing in the Basque Country and Puerto Rico, respectively and neutralization of /r/ and /x/ in Puerto Rican Spanish. The second set of papers examines bilingual and learner phenomena: perception of foreign accent in the L2 production of /l/ and voiceless stops, perception and production of lexical stress among heritage speakers, acquisition of stress in French and Spanish, intervocalic voiced stops in Amazonian Spanish and, finally, intonation in Spanish-K'ichee' bilinguals.

As the conference organizers we are especially grateful for the facilities and logistical support provided by El Colegio de México. This current collection has benefited tremendously from the many hours of editorial support and organization from Beatriz Sedó who has served as our editorial assistant. Finally, we wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to the following individuals for reviewing abstracts for the conference and reviewing the papers that comprise this volume of selected papers.

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\* Erik W. Willis, Indiana University; Pedro Martín Butragueño y Esther Herrera Zendejas, El Colegio de México; Beatriz Sedó, Indiana University

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edited by Erik W. Willis,  
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