

Juan David Martinez Zayas

pardez2021@gmail.com • www.linkedin.com/in/dalfos

Lawrence, Kansas • (520) 286-1110

EDUCATION

University of Kansas	United States
Ph.D. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies	May 2026
Overall GPA: 3.960	

Korea National University of Education	South Korea
M.A. in Global Education Leadership	Dec 2020

National University of Asuncion	Paraguay
M.A. in Political Science	Dec 2017

National University of Asuncion	Paraguay
B.A. in Law	Dec 2013

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Kansas	Lawrence, Kansas
Graduate Assistant- Outreach	August 2024-Present
<u>Center for Latin America and Caribbean Studies</u>	

- Coordinated 3 cross-campus collaborations, designing and implementing a multimedia storytelling initiative producing 10 instructional videos and 1 digital guide adopted by 17 universities across the United States. <https://youtu.be/Rs5ddiRazOs?si=Y-jzG3cYSyQGgQ7X>
- Led community engagement initiatives with 3 elementary schools from Lawrence, Ks, delivering cultural programming that introduced students to the linguistic and cultural diversity of Latin America while supporting the university's long-term goals in outreach and future student recruitment.
- Edited videos and coordinated the publication of an international conference bringing together 14 Indigenous leaders from Central America, organized by 3 U.S. universities and one Costa Rican institution, promoting cross-institutional research collaboration and global engagement. Link: <https://youtu.be/XWArhn5mjJs?si=3CLqUkXTcBAQeriO>
- Managed 1 large-scale program operation of language learning workshop as recruitment strategies, working with 8 high school across Kansas, stakeholder communications, and event logistics, increasing visibility of KU programs and promoting future student recruitment.

University of Kansas	Lawrence, Kansas
Graduate Assistant- Outreach	February 2023- June 2024
<u>Institute of Global and International Engagement</u>	

- Directed the strategic planning and execution of 1 Pan American Summit, a multi-institutional initiative engaging 300+ students annually from 2 higher education institutions, fostering regional collaboration in Latin American studies, intercultural dialogue, and global leadership development.
- Developed and led international professional development programs, including 1 English-

language course for teachers and 1 for students from other countries visiting KU, expanding cross-cultural academic partnerships and enhancing the university's global engagement footprint.

- Translated documents from Portuguese and Spanish into English.

Organización de los Estados Iberoamericanos

Asunción, Paraguay

Curriculum Consultant – National Arts Education Initiative

Feb 2020- March 2022

- Contributed to the design of the Paraguay's national theatre education curriculum and instructional strategies that support arts education implementation across 3 grades of the country's elementary school system.
- Development 6 curriculum-aligned textbooks for students and educators, creating nationally distributed instructional resources that guide educational practices.
- Collaborated with 50 national curriculum specialists, educators, and institutional partners to align arts education materials with national standards and broader educational reform initiatives.
- Expanded access to culturally responsive arts education by producing educational resources that integrate national cultural narratives and creative performance into classroom instruction for 3 grades of the Paraguayan elementary school system.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Kansas

Lawrence, Kansas

Course: Guarani I

Summers 2023, 2024, and 2025

- Designed and implemented a semester-long curriculum and online classes for undergraduate and graduate students, introducing learners to the Guaraní language while integrating cultural, historical, and sociolinguistic perspectives from Latin America.
- Developed original instructional materials for 1 intense semester including digital learning resources, multimedia content, exercises, and assessments tailored to varying proficiency levels and delivered through the university's learning management system.
- Facilitated an interactive learning environment for 20+ students per semester, incorporating discussion, collaborative activities, and cultural content to strengthen language acquisition and intercultural communication skills.
- Evaluated student learning process through written assignments, projects, and assessments, providing detailed feedback to support academic progress and improve student performance across the course.
- Promoted awareness of Indigenous languages and cultures in higher education, connecting language instruction with broader themes of multilingualism, migration, and cultural identity.

University of Kansas

Guest Lecturer

CT 347. Social Studies in the Elementary Classroom

Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

- Developing inquiry lesson plans for 50 pre-service teacher students that connect global culture with American curriculum standards.
- Creating culturally relevant class materials such as articles, videos, and portfolio that promote student cultural engagement and empathy.

- Using sensory and experiential components, like beverages, cultural artifacts, and language from Paraguay, promoting student understanding of social studies content.

Universidad Nacional de Asunción

Portuguese III

Asunción, Paraguay

June 2015- June 2018

- Designed and implemented a semester-long educational resources, like texts and exercises, for undergraduate students, introducing learners to the Portuguese language while integrating cultural, historical, and sociolinguistic perspectives from Brazil.
- Led guided discussions and instructional activities for a large lecture course of 50 pre-service teacher students per semester, facilitating dialogue-based learning that reinforced Portuguese language acquisition and intercultural understanding.
- Delivered targeted academic support through tutoring and small-group language practice, strengthening students' speaking, comprehension, and translation skills.
- Assessed student learning through written work and translation assignments, providing detailed feedback that supported skill development and improved academic performance.
- Collaborated with course instructors on curriculum implementation, integrating cultural and regional perspectives to enrich language learning and deepen student engagement with other cultures.

Universidad Nacional de Asunción

Philosophy of Law

Asunción, Paraguay

Feb 2010- June 2018

- Facilitated discussion sections and instructional activities for a large lecture course serving 200 law students, guiding critical analysis of legal philosophy, ethics, and foundational concepts in law.
- Supported student learning through small-group discussions and academic mentoring, helping students interpret complex philosophical texts and apply theoretical frameworks to contemporary legal issues.
- Evaluated student learning through essays, written assignments, and exams, providing detailed feedback to strengthen analytical reasoning, argumentation, and academic writing skills.
- Collaborated with faculty to implement course curriculum and instructional strategies, reinforcing key concepts in legal theory and promoting student engagement in a high-enrollment course environment.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: PARAGUAY, MEXICO, GUATEMALA, AND THE USA

Publications

Martínez, D. (2020). Pedagogical Use of Dramatic Performance for Peace Education in Paraguay. *INSECTA*, 1(2).

<http://jurnal.iaiponorogo.ac.id/index.php/insecta/article/view/2182/1442>

Martínez, D. (2022). Issues and Challenges of the Paraguayan Education System. *INSECTA*, 3(1). <https://jurnal.iaiponorogo.ac.id/index.php/insecta/article/view/3859/2046>

Martínez, D., & Mann, B. (under review). Spatially proximate but culturally distant: Language hierarchies and multicultural education in Paraguayan border schools. *Journal of Latinos and Education*.

Martínez, D. Historias a Ventanas Abiertas. A book that collects stories of victims of

Dictatorship in Paraguay. (in progress).

Editor of the book: *Reflexiones sobre Cinco Siglos de Colonialismo en Centro America*. (in progress). A book for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. The University of Kansas.

Presentations

Martínez, D., & Mann, B. (2025, Mar.). *Educational challenges near the Paraguayan-Brazilian border: What happens to schools in a place where political and cultural boundaries are misaligned?* [Paper session]. KU Department of Spanish & Portuguese 2nd Biennial Graduate Conference, Lawrence, KS.

Martínez, D., (2025, May). *Educational challenges near the Paraguayan-Brazilian border: What happens to schools in a place where political and cultural boundaries are misaligned?* [Paper session]. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). Envisioning Education in a Digital Society. Chicago.

Martínez, D., (2025, May). *The role of Teachers in Addressing Linguicism and Navigating Spatial Imaginaries in Multicultural Educational Contexts in Paraguay.* [Paper session]. Panel entitled: Pedagogías, Etnicidades e Interculturalidad. Latin America Studies Association (LASA) San Francisco- 2025.

Martínez, D. (2025, Nov.). *How education is impacted in transnational communities where linguistic, political and cultural boundaries are misaligned? A case of Brazilian Diaspora in Paraguay.* [Paper session]. KU Latin America Studies Association Oceania Asia (LASA). Melbourne. Australia.

Research Assistantship

University of Kansas

July 2023-Present

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Working under the direction of Dr. Bryan Mann (PI)

- Conducted 10 interviews about spatial imaginaries and linguisticism.
- Translate 10 transcripts from Spanish into English
- Codify 10 transcripts.
- Data analysis and conclusions.

University of Kansas

Feb 2023- Present

Multicultural Education

Working under the direction of Dr. Dean Richard (PI)

- Developed 2 demonstration protocols with 50 undergraduate students.
- Gathered demonstrations for 50 undergraduate students about yerba mate for 3 years.
- Data collection through observation for 3 years.
- Drafting research and writing reports during 3 years.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

University of Kansas

Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Lawrence, Kansas

March 2025- Present

- Helped to organize 3 campus-wide events of promotion of the centers work.
- Collaborated with 2 local elementary school in Lawrence to teach Spanish club.
- Served 3 university events to teach about the culture of Guarani people and language.

Donnelly Community College

Kansas City, Kansas

April 2023

- Organized 1 Panamerican Summit with 300 students from Donnelly Community college and the University of Kansas.
- Collaborated with 20 professionals from Donnelly College and the University of Kansas to organize the Panamerican Summit.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Fulbright Program Award | 2022–2026 |
| • Tinker Field Research Grant | 2024 and 2025 |
| • Emerging Leaders of the Americas Award- Canada | 2021 |
| • KOICA Graduate Scholarships | 2018 - 2020 |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Latin America Studies Association (LASA).
- Comparative and International Education Society (CIES).

LANGUAGES

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Spanish (native) | • German (limited working proficiency) |
| • Guarani (native) | • Italian (limited working proficiency) |
| • English (fluent) | • Korean (limited working proficiency) |
| • French (fluent) | |
| • Portuguese (fluent) | |

REFERENCES

Dr. Bryan Mann
Associate Professor
Dept. of Education
bryanmann@ku.edu
+1 785 864 2097

Dr. Melissa Birch
Associate Professor
Dept. Business
mhbirch@ku.edu
+1 785 864 7571

Mary Raple
Center for Latin America
And Caribbean Studies
mrapple@ku.edu
+1 913-980-9989

WORK AUTHORIZATION

Sponsorship for working authorization will be provided by Fulbright program.