



17th Annual ESL Symposium

Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 8:30–3:00 p.m. CDT

IN PERSON on campus | Grad Ed Building, 751 W. Maple Ave. Fayetteville

Register [here](#) | \$35, \$20 for students – meals included

Eligible for 6 hours of PD!

“Advocating for Multilingual Learners in Policy, Community, and Classroom Practice”

Keynote: “The Dueling Discourses of Dual Language Bilingual Education (DLBE): How to Recognize and Revise them to Build DLBE in Your Community”

In this session, language educators working at all levels—from teachers to program coordinators, instructional coaches, and principals—will expand their definition of policy, learning to view themselves as policymakers. Participants will then examine some common discourses, or narratives, about dual language education (ex: “equity”, “choice”, “accountability”) and the ways these discourses can shape policy. Participants will then get to play “discourse detective,” analyzing which discourses are behind different policy decisions and program structures and reflect on the discourses that work best in their particular contexts.



Lisa M. Dorner, PhD is a Professor in the [Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis](#) (ELPA) and Director of the [Cambio Center](#) at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her research centers on the politics and planning of bilingual education, educational policy enactment, and immigrant childhoods, especially around family-school engagement and language brokering. Striving to work alongside communities to disrupt inequities, she co-founded the Missouri Dual Language Network in 2014, where she connects people and resources for language learning, bilingual education policy development, and understanding the immigrant experience.

From 2017-2022 Lisa co-led the U.S. Department of Education National Professional Development project, *Strengthening Equity and Effectiveness for Teachers of English Learners*, with partners from across Missouri.



Sophia Piral Lee, MPA is a *guatemalteca* Fulbright alumna currently pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri accompanied by a graduate certificate in qualitative research and another one in education policy. She is developing research *with* and *for* immigrant minors from Latin America studying in the U.S.; their access to an education free of stigma, discrimination, and oppression; their families; and teachers. Piral Lee is also a former bilingual teacher.

Agenda

- 8:30-9:00 am Registration
- 9:00-9:10 am Opening Remarks, Arkansas Rep. Diana Gonzales Worthen, Ph.D., Springdale
- 9:10-10:10 am Keynote, Dr. Lisa M. Dorner
- 10:15-11:30 am Hands-on Session, Dr. Lisa M. Dorner and Sophia Piral Lee
- 11:30-12:30 pm Lunch and Graduate Student “Lightning Presentations”
- 12:30-1:30 pm Roundtable Conversations
- 1:40-2:40 pm Community Resource Panel including Albious Lator, Executive Director, Ozark Atolls and Paz Aguilar, Founder and Treasurer, Salvadoreños Unidos Para Arkansas (SUPA)
- 2:40-3:00 pm Closing

Space is limited! First come first served!

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Current and Past ESL Symposia [website](#)