My research focuses on 4 main points:

1. How did Spanish become the dominant language in Spain and in the Spanish-speaking countries of America?
2. What political, social, cultural and ideological developments made the birth and rise of Spanish (the most widely spoken Romance language) possible?
3. The study of the Spanish language in the Pre-Modern and Early Modern Period (800-1700 CE).
4. The relationship between Spanish and its neighboring languages in the Iberian Peninsula during this period: Arabic, Portuguese, Basque, Galician and, in particular, Catalan.

My Method: External History of the Language

There are two ways of studying the History of the Spanish Language:

1. A Formalistic or Internal approach:

   Examines how the sounds and structure of the language changed in time; also known as Historical Grammar. Involves disciplines such as Phonetics, Morphology and Syntax.

2. Contextual or External approach:

   Examines how the Spanish language and the ideas about it changed in relation to particular political, social and cultural circumstances.

Combines: Spanish Linguistics, Political and Intellectual History, Anthropology and Sociology. It implies the study of the History of the Spanish language in the following contexts:

A. Political context: Glotolinguistics.
B. Social context: Sociolinguistics
C. Cultural context: Linguistic Anthropology and Linguistic Ideology.

I focus on linguistic, literary, historical, political and scientific texts, in which there is any reference to Spanish or other Iberian languages.

I pay special attention to issues such as:

1. How kings and governments supported the use of Spanish and/or other Iberian languages: Laws, writings such as historiography, lyric poetry at court, the use of language in administration...etc.

2. How language became associated with nation, religion, social rank, and cultural prestige.

3. How Spanish was standardized, that is, how and why a variety of Spanish became more prestigious than others, was imposed, was developed to be used in science, law, and was accepted by most of the speakers.

4. How certain ideas about Spanish became naturalized and were rarely questioned.

5. How the linguistic ideas of the past still play a role in the present or have changed.

Publications: Book


Book articles: