# Larry D. Thomas, II

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*"better an approximate answer to the right question than an exact answer to the wrong question" - John Tukey*

## Education

2008–Present **Doctor of Philosophy in Education**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.
*Specialization*: Advanced Quantitative Methods in Education Research

2008–2009 **Master of Arts in Education**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.
*Specialization*: Quantitative Research Methodology

2001–2005 **Bachelor of Arts in Spanish (Hispanic Studies)**, *Carnegie Mellon University*, Pittsburgh, PA.
*Specialization*: Spanish Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition

Summer 2002; 2003–2004 **Study Abroad**, *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey*, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México.
Spanish Linguistics and Mathematics

## Professional Experience

March 2011 – Present **Graduate Student Researcher**, *Psychometric Lab, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies, UCLA*, Los Angeles, CA.

- Construct measures of drug recovery using item response theory models;
- Investigate longitudinal change in drug recovery measures using multi-level/multidimensional item response theory models;
- Provide methodological expertise to graduate student staff.

October 2008 – March 2011 **Graduate Student Researcher**, *National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing*, Los Angeles, CA.

- Assisted in the sampling and data collection designs for a state-wide evaluation of after school programs;
- Selected propensity score matching techniques used to create matched treatment and control samples to draw causal inferences;
- Conducted multilevel analyses on the effectiveness of after school participation for English language learners;
- Developed instrument frameworks used to create various surveys and protocols for focus groups and interviews ;
- Performed item and reliability analyses on assessments of discipline specific (History and Biology) reading strategies.

September 2005 – August 2008 **Research Assistant**, *Language Testing Division - Center for Applied Linguistics*, Washington, DC.

- Created and revised rater training materials for the Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview;
- Prepared and conducted live Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview workshops to language educators on the assessment's background and scoring rubric;
- Operationalized computerized oral proficiency assessments of Spanish and Arabic;
- Designed databases containing task information for a semi-adaptive, computer-mediated oral proficiency assessment ;
- Coordinated and assisted in the development of multimedia rater training software for second language assessment in Spanish, French, and German;
- Piloted and field-tested items for a web-delivered oral language assessment of English workplace-readiness for native and nonnative English speakers;
- Wrote and revised both federal and non-federal grant/research proposals and reports;
- Assisted in the development of test frameworks and item specifications;
- Co-coordinated research studies in second language acquisition focusing on the effects of learning context on fluency.

## Honors & Awards

September 2008 – Present **Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Pre-doctoral Training Fellowship**, *Division of Social Research Methodology, Graduate School of Education & Informaation Studies, UCLA*, Los Angeles, CA.

September 2008 – June 2011 **William and Louise Luico Fellowship**, *Division of Social Research Methodology, Graduate School of Education & Informaation Studies, UCLA*, Los Angeles, CA.

## Languages

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| Spanish | **Advanced Proficiency** | *Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening* |
| Brazilian Portuguese | **Basic/Novice Proficiency** | *Speaking, Writing, Reading, and Listening* |

## Computer Skills

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| General | Microsoft Office; Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator; Macromedia Dreamweaver, Authorware, and Flash; Remark Office OMR; SONY Sound Forge |
| Programming/ Statistical | HTML; C; Java; Shell Scripting; Python; SPSS; SAS; R; HLM; WinBugs; JAGS |

## Professional Affiliations

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| *member* | American Association for Applied Linguistics |
| *member* | American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages |
| *member* | American Eduation Research Association |
| *member* | American Statistical Association |
| *member* | International Language Testing Association |
| *member* | Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. |

*member* National Association for Bilingual Education

*member* National Council on Measurement in Education

*member* Psychometric Society

*member* Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

## Presentations & Workshops

**Thomas, L.D., II**, Hansen, M., Silver, D., Martinez, J. (2010, June). *Evaluating Program Effectiveness in the Real World: The Importance of Assessing Treatment Strength in Experiments*. Poster to be presented at IES Research Conference 2010, Washington, DC.

**Thomas, L.D., II**. (2009, April). *Introduction to SPSS*. One-day workshop on basic data analysis techniques using SPSS for master's student at the California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA.

**Thomas, L.D., II**. (2009, January). *Introduction to SPSS*. One-day workshop on basic data analysis techniques using SPSS for master's student at the California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA.

Cavella, C., **Thomas, L.D., II**, & DiCola, A. (2008, April). *Incorporating Examinee Feedback in Test Development*. Poster presented at the meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C.

Malone, M., Cavella, C., & **Thomas, L.D., II**. (2008, March). *Computerized Oral Proficiency Assessment: Test Development and Test Selection*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New York, NY.

**Thomas, L.D., II**, Cavella, C., & Malone, M. (2007, November). *What is Fluency? Applied Research on Gains in Study Abroad*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, San Antonio, TX.

Cavella, C., **Thomas, L.D., II**, & Malone, M. (2007, November). *Computerized Oral Proficiency Assessment: Test Development and Test Selection*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, San Antonio, TX.

Cavella, C., **Thomas, L.D., II**, & Malone, M. (2007, November). *Determining Cut Scores of an English Oral Language Test for Entry-Level Workers*. Paper presented at the meeting of the East Coast Organization of Language Testers, Washington, DC.

Cavella, C., **Thomas, L.D., II**, & Malone, M. (2007, June). *Computerized Oral Proficiency Assessment: Test Development and Test Selection*. Poster presentation at the Interagency Language Roundtable Showcase, Washington, DC.

Cavella, C., Gallagher, C., Montee, M., **Thomas, L.D., II**, Malone, M., & Connor-Linton, J. (2007, April). *Spanish in the U.S. vs. Spanish abroad: How does learning context affect fluency?* Paper presented at the meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics, Costa Mesa, California.

Gallagher, C., Cavella, C., **Thomas, L.D., II**, Montee, M., Connor-Linton, J., & Malone, M. (2006, November). *Does Study Abroad Make a Difference: The Effects of Learning Context on Oral Fluency in Spanish as a Foreign Language*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Nashville, TN.

Malone, M., Cavella, C., & **Thomas, L.D., II**. (2006, November). *Advances in Computer-Delivered Oral Proficiency Assessment*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, Nashville, TN.

**Thomas, L.D., II**. (2006, February). *Rater Training Workshop: Spanish Simulated Oral Proficiency Interview (SOPI)*. One-day workshop on oral proficiency assessment for foreign language teachers and professors given at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.