

Alumni profiles

Questionnaire

- Name: Daniel Morales
 - Nationality: Mexican
 - Course studied at Southampton: MA in Transnational Studies
 - Year of graduation: 2013
 - Current position (job role or title): PhD candidate in Modern Languages.
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Questions about your experience with us

- What did you enjoy about the course?

I appreciated all the guidance and support from the staff that was at all times available and encouraging so that I could pursue my academic interests. For years I had been looking for a challenging postgraduate programme that could help me develop and discover new ways of exploring subjects of global relevance, and the MA in Transnational Studies has been the vehicle through which I have brought my academic plans to fruition. Also I strongly believe that to be taught by and work with leading academics in the study of society, language and culture in the context of globalisation was a constant intellectual stimulus that was conducive to original and innovative research. Undoubtedly the interdisciplinary approach and the academic rigour of the MA in Transnational Studies have been highly inspiring and the corner stone for me to pursue PhD studies in sociolinguistics and migration at the University of Southampton.

- What is Southampton like as a place to study?

Before I came to live and study in Southampton, I had spent some time in South Africa and had done a Fulbright-Teacher Exchange Programme in the United States where I discovered the challenges of living and working abroad. As an international full-time student I anticipated many challenges such as culture shock or homesickness; yet I found it very easy to become a part of the international student community in Southampton as it hosts a culturally diverse student population that gives Southampton its own personality. Besides Southampton offers a wide range of cultural activities organised by an active student population that enables new students to befriend great and interesting people who can help them widen their social and academic networks that eventually will be highly beneficial for their future careers. I highly recommend Southampton as the right place to study as the cost of living is also affordable for university life.

- Tell us about your current job?

Currently I am doing my PhD in the Modern Languages Department at the University of Southampton. In sociolinguistic and migration studies, my thesis concentrates on issues of language and identity in the Latin American community that has been understudied in London. My research has allowed me

to learn more about the linguistic needs, interests and ideologies that Latin American immigrants have, and it has begun to shed light on issues of social class and neoliberal views found in the same population. To collect the information that I am currently analysing, I have drawn on ethnographic methods, life-story interviews, and discourse analysis among other analytical tools within sociolinguistics; tools that I have acquired through interdisciplinary training in Southampton. My supervisors have been academically rigorous and very supportive throughout my PhD life and thanks to their support and encouragement I have also presented my work in major international conferences in Spain, Norway, Italy, and it is soon to be published in a reputable international journal. My experience as a PhD student in Southampton has also been foundational for me to become part of the Fulbright examination board that awards scholarships for postgraduate studies in the area of linguistics and social sciences in Mexico, a responsibility that allows me to keep contributing to the academic development of Mexican students.

- How did your course help you in your current role?

To have studied at the University of Southampton has put me in a vantage point in my academic life as now I can continue to contribute to higher education in my home country with original research and teaching. Also the MA in Transnational Studies has enabled me to keep up to date with sociolinguistic research and deepen my understanding of transnational movements, which clearly exhibit the value of interdisciplinary studies. Unlike other MA programmes, my MA in Transnational Studies focuses on human creativity and cultural movements, which bring to the fore human agency. The MA in Transnational studies at the University of Southampton is certainly a globally transcendental postgraduate programme. I am absolutely convinced that my academic training at the University of Southampton has allowed me to set an academic trend in the study of society and language not only in my home country but in an increasingly globalised world.

- What advice would you give to a student starting their degree at Southampton?

I highly encourage every new student at the University of Southampton to benefit from their lecturers' expertise which eventually will be of great benefit for their future careers. It is important for students to know their lecturers' work and the research that they undertake as students will realise that they are under the tutelage of leading academics that at all times will demand the best of their students. Also new students should try to get involved in the various student societies from which students can get a significant experience for future job projects not only locally but internationally.