

## RIFKA COOK

Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Northwestern  
University 1880 Campus Drive, Kresge Hall 3-548,  
Evanston, IL 60208-2161 [rifka36@northwestern.edu](mailto:rifka36@northwestern.edu)  
(Prepared: May 15, 2022)

### • MAJOR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Spanish language: History. Judeo-Spanish Language and Literature. Culinary traditions of Sephardi Culture. Communities of Crypto Jews' Descendants in Latinoamerica, Language Learning Strategies, and Teaching with Technology.

### • EDUCATION

**Master of Science in Linguistics** Caracas, Venezuela  
**Universidad Pedagógica Libertador**, (1994-1997).  
Thesis: *Production of Expositive Texts: Design, Application and Evaluation of a Pedagogical Strategy* (“Producción de Textos Expositivos: Diseño, aplicación y evaluación de una estrategia pedagógica”).

**Professor in Spanish Language and Spanish Literature** Caracas, Venezuela  
**Universidad Pedagógica Libertador**, (1975-1980).  
(Profesor en Lengua Española y Literatura). (Equivalent to a B.A. in the USA)

**Teacher in Hebrew** Jerusalem, Israel  
**Chaim Greenberg College** (1972-1974)  
(Teacher in Hebrew for the Diaspora). This degree is equivalent to a B.A. in the USA and allows me to teach Jewish Studies and Hebrew Language at any school outside of Israel.

### • OTHER ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Studies about Judeo-Español Jerusalem, Israel  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem with Dr. David Bunis at the Hebrew  
University of Jerusalem (February-June 2010)

### • EMPLOYMENT

**Northwestern University** Evanston, IL  
**Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Spanish and Portuguese** September 2001-present. Beginning Spanish 101-1, 101-2 and 101-3. Accelerate Elementary Spanish 115-1, Intermediate Spanish 121-1, 121-2 and 121-3, Spanish 121-3, Special Topics, Gastronomy and Hispanic Identity, Accelerate Intermediate Spanish 125-0, Spanish 206, Spanish 203, Spanish 208: Spanish and Community.

**School of Continuing Studies, (Northwestern University)** Evanston, IL  
September 2001-August 2019 Elementary Spanish 101-2; Intermediate Spanish 102-2.

**Shepard Residential College, Tutorial Course** Evanston, IL  
Spring 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 GEN LA 280-6 “The Silver Mirror: Latino American Culture in Movies”. Winter 2013, 2014: GEN LA 280-3 “Tell Tale Text: Newspapers’ Headlines”.

**Northeastern Illinois University** Chicago, IL  
Visiting Lecturer (Fall 2001-Spring 2002)  
Spanish 101, and Spanish 224 (Intensive Reading of Spanish), Spanish 230 (Spanish Conversation II), Spanish 325 L, (Business Spanish I and II)

**Law School ((Northwestern University),** Evanston, IL  
Beginning Spanish for Lawyers (Fall 2006-2009), Advanced Spanish for Lawyers (2007-2009)

**Universidad de Oriente, Nueva Esparta,** Margarita, Venezuela  
Associate Professor [Teneure] (September 1994- August 1998), Adjunct Professor (September 1988- August 1994), Assistant Professor (September 1982-August 1988), Lecturer (September 1980-August 1982). Spanish I, II, Composition I and II, Latin and Greek Etymology. Spanish as a Second Language. Coordinator of Spanish (1982-1987). Chair of Humanities Department (September 1988-1990, 1992-1994). During my time at the University my duties included teach, research, being student advisor and to teach, and administrative role. I have a permanent position at this academic institution.

**Universidad Central de Venezuela,** Caracas, Venezuela  
Visiting Faculty (January-July 1991)  
Spanish of XV Century: An introduction to the Judeo-Spanish [Español del S. XV: Introducción al Judeo-Español]

**Yavne Yeshiva** Caracas, Venezuela  
Hebrew Lecturer, (September 1974- July 1979)

**Bucharim 's Religious School** Jerusalem, Israel  
Hebrew Lecturer (September 1973-July 1974)

- **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

**2020-2021** International Classroom Partnering Grant given by The Office of the VicePresident for International Relations and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Northwestern University. Project: *Promoting Community Dialogues in Spanish.* (Northwestern University [Evanston, IL] and Torcuato Di Tella [Buenos Aires, Argentina])

**2020-2021** Fulbright Scholar, Alternate Candidate. Project: The Language Kaleidoscope and Multiethnic Mosaic, UNED (Universidad Nacional Estatal) Costa Rica

**2019-2020** Associate Student Government Faculty and Administrator Honor Roll.

**2018-2019** Associate Student Government Faculty and Administrator Honor Roll.

**2016** T. William Heyck Award. For promoting community and advancing student learning through the residential college.

**2015-2016** Associated Student Government Faculty and Administration Honor Roll.

**2015** Promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction, effective from September 01, 2015.

**2013- 2014** Associated Student Government Faculty and Administration Honor Roll.

**2013 Technology Innovators Nominees Submitted by Readers** –The Digital Campus 2013 - The Chronicle of Higher Education. <http://chronicle.com/article/2013-Technology-Innovators-/138877/>

**2010-2011** Faculty Affiliate of the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities. (Northwestern University)

**2010** Distinguished Educator (Turning Technologies)

**Spring 2006-2016**, Faculty Sports Appreciation, NU Athletic Department.

**1998**. Recognition for Professional Achievement as Associated Professor, Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela.

**1985, 1990, 1995** Recognition for 5, 10 and 15 years working as Professor at Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela.

**1990** Recognition for Professional Achievement, Government of the State Nueva Esparta, Venezuela.

- **GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT**

**Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP) Grant.** Project: The Political Transformation and its Effects on Families, Feelings, and Foods. (Northwestern University, 2019-2020).

**Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (URAP) Grant.** Project: Bolivian Crypto Jews: The Culinary Recovery of Exile. (Northwestern University, 2018-2019).

**Faculty-Student Interaction Grant**, given by the Associated Student Government [ASG], Winter & Spring 2017, Winter & Spring 2016, Fall 2013 and Winter & Spring 2014, Fall 2012, Spring 2013. Each one of them were used with a view towards aiding my efforts to connect and interact with my students

**The Sava Ransavljevic fund** (2015) to support a trip to Argentina to delivery two papers related to Sephardi Studies.

**Residential College Fellow Assistant Research Award (FARA)** project “Merging the Borderline: music of Venezuela and the American West”. (Northwestern University, 2013-2014)

**Residential College Fellow Assistant Research Award (FARA)** project “*Mafalda and El Chavo: Bridging Worlds*”. (Northwestern University, 2011-2012)

**Hewlett grant and the Sava Ransavljevic fund** (2010) to support coursework at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and research related to Shabbat songs in Ladino, using library resources and interviewing people who still speak the language.

**Hewlett grant to develop, with other colleagues, a video program for Spanish 121** (June, 2008)

**Searle Center for Teaching Excellence Innovative Teaching Grant.** (2008) to create a Center for Teaching Foreign Languages with Technology, to support its creation for the CLI (Council on Language Instruction). A Blackboard page was reserved for the CLI to serve as an excellent and useful space in which to upload conference materials and share materials between language faculties from all language departments at Northwestern University. Dr. Margaret Sinclair administrated it.

**Jewish Studies Program Grant,** at Northwestern University (2008, 2010, 2011, 2012) to attend to ~~confer~~ in USA, Israel, Argentina and Brazil.

- **PUBLICATIONS (OR ANALOGOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE ARTS)**

**Related to Jewish Studies:**

Cook, R. The Jewish Community of Margarita Island, Venezuela. January 2020, [In English] [https://dbs.anumuseum.org.il/skn/en/c6/e20536300/Place/Isla\\_de\\_Margarita](https://dbs.anumuseum.org.il/skn/en/c6/e20536300/Place/Isla_de_Margarita)

Cook, R. My Childhood in Caucagua, Venezuela (years: 1955-1960). January 2020, [In English] <https://dbs.anumuseum.org.il/skn/he/c6/e20659503/>

Cook, R. “Sharing Sephardi Heritage Through Food”. Halapid. Society for Crypto- Judaic Studies. Vol. XLVI/XLVII. Autumn/Winter 2019/5780. Issues 27 & 28.

Cook, R. “Las recetas de mis 15 abuelas” (The recipes of my grandmothers by GenieMilgrom) July 25, 2019 [In Spanish] <https://esefarad.com/?p=91180>

Cook, R. “Cinco días sin Nora: Más que un suicidio” (Nora’s will: More than a suicide”) El Djudió. Informativo do Centro Hebraico Riograndense (CHR), [In Spanish]. 2014. Inprint.

Cook, R. “Pinceladas sobre el video Novia que te vea” (Brushstrokes on the video Bride to be). eSefarad. Noticias del Mundo Sefardí. [In Spanish] July 23, 2012. <http://www.esefarad.com/?p=34643>

Cook, R. “Detrás del telón de Novia que te vea”. (Behind the curtain of Like a Bride) Maguen-Escudo N<sup>o</sup> 163. [In Spanish] Caracas, Venezuela. [In Spanish] (April-June 2012). In print

Cook, R. “Los dolientes de Jacobo Sefamí”. eSefarad. Noticias del Mundo Sefardí. September 18, 2011. [In Spanish] <http://www.esefarad.com/?p=26399>

Cook, R. “My language myself”. Sh'ma: A Journal of Jewish Responsibility. [In English]: <http://www.shma.com/2011/03/my-language-my-self/>

Cook, R. “La Buena experiencia de mi año sabático en Israel” (The great experience of my sabbatical year in Israel). Aki Yerushalayim #88, [In Judeo-Spanish]. October 2010.

[http://www.aki-yerushalayim.co.il/ay/088/088\\_13\\_la\\_buena\\_eksperiensa.htm](http://www.aki-yerushalayim.co.il/ay/088/088_13_la_buena_eksperiensa.htm)

**Related to Teaching/ Teaching with technology:**

Cook, R; Calkins, S. "More than recall and opinion: Using "clickers" to promote complex thinking". Journal on Excellence in College Teaching. Publisher: Miami University, Oxford Ohio, [In English] 2013: 24(2).

Cook, R. Clickerim veteoriat Bloom behoraa. [Clickers and Bloom Theory in teaching] in Hed Haulpan hechadash, # 96, [In Hebrew] Winter 2010.

**Related to Linguistics/Language:**

Cook, R. "Rabbi Yehuda Haleví and Ferdinand De Saussure: The Notion of the Language". Raíces. Spain. [In English]. 2005, 88-89.

Cook, R. "El Judeo-Español: El Español del Siglo 15 Vive Aún. (The Judeo-Español: The XV century Spanish is still alive). [In Spanish] [www.elcastellano.org/ns/edicion/ultima/rifka.html](http://www.elcastellano.org/ns/edicion/ultima/rifka.html), 2004.

Cook, R. "Uma Visao Diferente na Analise dos Anuncios de Oferta de Empregos" (A different vision on request job text's analysis). In Os Discursos Jornalísticos: Manchete, Reportages, Classificados & Artigos. Ed. Silvia Inés de Vancocelos, Maringa, Brazil. [In Portuguese] 1990:83-105.

Cook, R. "Evaluación del efecto de una estrategia pedagógica para la producción de algunos textos de orden expositivo" (Assessment of a Pedagogical Strategy for Expositive Texts' Production). Bibliographic Information and News. Teaching of Science (Información Bibliográfica y Noticias. Enseñanza de las ciencias, # 17 [In Spanish] 1999. <http://www.raco.cat/index.php/ensenanza/article/viewFile/21568/21402>. p.148-149

Cook, R. "Análisis de datos en una investigación" (Analysis of data in an investigation) in CLAVE: Specialized Magazine of ASOVELE: Venezuelan Association for Language Teaching, [In Spanish] 1997-1998: 128-136

**Related to Literature:**

Cook, R. "The Humor in Don Quixote de la Mancha". (El Humor en la Obra Don Quijote de la Mancha). Unibásicos. Ed. Universidad de Oriente. Porlamar. Nueva Esparta. Venezuela, [In Spanish] 1989: 23-53

Other topics

Cook, R. Cooking with Rifka. September 10, 2021 [In English] <https://sites.northwestern.edu/cookingwithrifka/>

• **PROFESSIONAL TALKS**

**Related to Jewish Studies:**

*An inner connection: Intertwined Secrets of the Notable figures in Spain.* Paper presented at the Spanish and Portuguese Department, Northwestern University, in ZOOM, Friday, May 6, 2022, [In English and Spanish]

*The Undiscovered discovery of America: The hidden Crypto-Jews.* Presented at North Central College, Naperville, IL, in ZOOM, Tuesday, April 26, 2022. [In English]

*The invencible flame of Porto: Carlos Arturo Barros Basto.* (La llama invencible de Oporto: Carlos Arturo Barros Basto) Presented at Raíces de Sefarad on line, organized by the Centro Cultural Sefarad, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in ZOOM, Thursday, July 29, 2021.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PieOQgEekto> [In Spanish]

*Emerging Communities of Cripto Jew's Descendants in Latino America.* (Comunidades emergentes de descendientes de Crypto Judíos en Latinoamérica) Presented at Raíces de Sefarad On line, organized by the Centro Cultural Sefarad, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in ZOOM, Thursday, August 6, 2020.  
[facebook.com/ccsefarad.youtube.com/watch?v=B0vDPuF9SUE](https://facebook.com/ccsefarad.youtube.com/watch?v=B0vDPuF9SUE) [In Spanish]

*A Psalm of Survival: the Sephardic Jews in Latin-America.* Paper presented at KesserMaariv Synagogue. March 3, 2020.

*Crypto Jews: The Culinary Recovery of Exile.* Paper presented at the 2019 Denver Conference of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, Sunday, June 30 -Tuesday, July 2,2019.

*"The treasure of Tradition".* Paper presented at the Latin-American and CaribbeanStudies, Northwestern University. April 24, 2018. [In English]

*"The Muslin of Mafalda and Djohá: Different Patterns, Common Threads".* Paper presented at the7th Annual ucLADINO Judeo-Spanish Symposium: New Directions, OldRoots, on March 14-15, 2018 at the University of California, Los Angeles. [In English]

*"Preserving Sephardic language against wind and tide".* Paper presented at the Hebrew Club in Panamá, (March 18, 2016) [In Spanish]

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*"Echoes of the Sephardic culture in Hispanic Videos".* Paper presented at the XVII International Congress of Hispanic Literature. (Mérida, México, March 9-11, 2016). [In Spanish]

*"The Iberian Inquisition comes to the Americas".* Paper presented at Oakton College. February 17, 2016 [In English].

*"Las muselinas de Mafalda y de Djoha: Diferentes patrones, hebras communes"* (The Muslin of Mafalda and Djoha: *Different Patterns, Common Threads*). Paper presented atthe VI 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Sephardi Studies The Centre for Research and Promotion of Sephardi Culture CIDICSEF - of FESELA, jointly with Maimonides University of Buenos Aires, August 2015. [In Spanish]

*"Tres periplos ... un horizonte: Los sefardíes"* (Three Journeys towards one Horizon: The Sephardim). Paper presented at the 18 Conference on Judeo-Spanish Studies, Madrid June 30-July3, 2014. [In Spanish]

*"Against Wind and Tide".* Presented at *The Jewish Communities of Latin America Conference*, organized by the Universities of Bar Ilan and of São Paulo, Brazil. University of São Paulo, Brazil. September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2012. [In English]

“*Ashorer shira Lijvod ha-shabat*” [Let’s sing songs in honor of Shabbat] presented on August 2011 at the IV Simposio Internacional de Estudios Sefardíes, Universidad Maimónides, Buenos Aires, Argentina. [In Spanish]

“*Preserving the Ladino language through Zemiroi Shabat [Shabbat songs]*”. Paper presented at the Sephardic Learning Center, Chicago, IL. December 23th, 2010. [In English]

“*Moshe, akí todos son djudios, áma sus vistidos son diferentes*” [Mohe, here everybody is Jewish, but their clothes are different]. Paper presented at the AJS 42nd Annual Conference December 19-21, 2010 in Boston. [In English and some sections in Judeo- Spanish]

#### **Related to Linguistics/Language:**

“*What methodology I used in my research about language and cultural studies?*” at the Humanities Research Workshop –Session 2, Northwestern University, Evanston, January 24, 2011 ([In English].

“*Direct Object Marker in Spanish*”. 48th Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies. San Diego, California, USA, December 2006 . [In English]

“*The Interview as Type of Text*”. (La entrevista como tipo de texto). At the II National Colloquium of Speech Analysis (II Coloquio Nacional de Análisis del Discurso) Mérida, Venezuela. 1998. [In Spanish]

“*Cohesion & Coherence*”. (La Coherencia y la Cohesión), Universidad de Oriente, Venezuela. 1998. [In Spanish]

“*Analysis of job request’s text*”. (Análisis de textos de solicitud de empleos), Universidad de La Plata, Argentina, 1997. [In Spanish]

“*Traces of Hebrew Influence Upon the Spanish Language*”. (El Matiz Hebreo en la Lengua Castellana). Universidad Experimental Pedagógica Libertador. Caracas, Venezuela, 1994. [In Spanish]

#### **Related to Teaching/Teaching with technology:**

*Promoting Community Dialogues in Target Languages: Spanish and English* at TEACHx, May 24, 2021. Northwestern University.

“*Creating a community through Cross-Cultural Conversations*”. SLP\_Charla Divulgativa. Northwestern University\_April 27, 2021

“*Wooden Spoons and Blue Jeans: Spinning Language Threads Beyond the Classroom*”. Paper presented at the Third International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages on February 16-17, 2018 at the University of California, Los Angeles. [In English]

“*Using clickers uniquely in ESL environments*”. Paper presented at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. Minnesota, January 18, 2011. [In English]

“*Language skills with clickers*”. Paper presented at the Turning Point User Conference at Howard University, October 9 -11, 2010. [In English]

“*Clickers and Bloom Taxonomy questions*”. Paper presented at the 2009 conference for the International Association for Language Learning Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, May 26-30,2009. [In English]

“*Clickers in Spanish class*”. Turning Technologies Users Conference. Temple University, Philadelphia. March 12<sup>th</sup> 2009. [In English]

“*How I brought Chefs from around the world into my class with Blue Jeans?*” At the event to celebrate teaching innovation Northwestern University. May 2017. [In English]

“*Outsourcing the Oral Presentation: Making Connections with Native Speakers Beyond the Language Classroom*”. At the second Professional Development Series presentations, Northwestern University, Feb. 2012. [In English]

“*Teaching Spanish as a second language*”. Workshop. Universidad de Panamá, December 12,2011. [In Spanish]

“*Bloom Theory in Teaching*”. Paper presented at the pre-conference of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 2009. [In Hebrew]

“*Written Evaluation*”. Paper presented at the International Reading Association’s Conference, San Francisco, California. 2002 [In English].

- **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE AFFILIATIONS**

2018 Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies (SCJS).  
2008 International Association for Language Learning  
Technology (IALLT).2006 Los Muestrros. Institute Sepharde  
Europeen. Bruxelles.2005 Association of Jewish Studies (AJS),  
New York.  
2004 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).1997  
International Reading Association (IRA).

- **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Crypto-Jewish Cuisine in Early Modern Iberia. This paper will serve as a contribution to a new digital platform, the *Routledge Encyclopedia of the Renaissance World (REWR)*.

“The beauty of Sephardi Life” Translation from English into Spanish. Author Sam Maimon. Edit. Maimon Ideas. Seattle, Washington, USA. Waiting for publication.



- **UNIVERSITY, WCAS, AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE (over at least the last five years)**

- o Memberships and offices on department and program committees.

**SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE DEPARTMENT**

**September 2013- Present**

Coordinator of the Círculo de Lectores, [Spanish Reading Club]. The main objective of this activity is to create a reading friendly environment and to motivate students to continually develop and strengthen their reading and speaking skills. This extra curricular activity will bring together students of 121 and above levels in Spanish.

**September 2014-July 2016**

Technical coordinator Spanish 101-115. My responsibilities included administering on-line video quizzes of 200 + students, troubleshooting student technical difficulties, re-setting of quizzes when necessary, as well as the continual upkeep of the site, the posting of announcements, and the development of the following quarter's site during breaks. Typical time commitment is 15+ hours per week.

**Spring 2012-2018**

Through serving as an evaluator of Spanish Language Proficiency, I collaborate with the School in assessing the language abilities of students who apply for the Journalism Residency Program in Latin America.

**Summer 2005**

Co-coordinator of Teaching, Research and Professional Development Committee.

- o Student relations, e.g., Master or Faculty Associate of a residential college.

**Fall 2017-present**

Faculty in Residence South Area (lives in Allison Hall)

My role as a Faculty-in-Residence in Allison Hall is reflected as a “dedication” to all the residents in the South Area here at NU. I am dedicated to our students, by providing for them several activities and events outside of the classroom (such: inviting faculty for dinner while the faculty shares with the students, field trips (for example to Museums or Bowling), writing Thank you cards, Cooking class, Movie Club, etc). I believe, I am dedicated to the comfort and well-being of each of my residents, individually and in-group, so that they may experience the strength derived from connecting as a community - and the beauty arising from our shared humanity.

**Fall 2009-present**

Faculty Fellow at Shepard Residential College.

Being a Faculty Fellow at Shepard Residential College provides me with opportunities to meet and interact with several students outside the classroom, by offering firesides, tutorial courses. In addition, I have the opportunity to share with them lunch at the dining hall, to invite them to meals during reading week, or to include them in organized trips to the Mexican Museum and neighborhoods in Chicago.