

# **RISLUS Reports**

## ***Linguistic convergence in phrasal calques: structural and semantic innovation***

**Ana Ortigosa**

Universidad de la Rioja  
RISLUS Visiting Scholar

**CUNY Graduate Center, Room C198**

**Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m.**

RISLUS Reports is a forum for RISLUS fellows, associates, and visiting researchers to present their work. This series of occasional talks is intended to foster intellectual exchange between RISLUS researchers and the New York City community. We hope you will be able to attend this talk and future talks in the series. RISLUS is the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society.

**CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY**

On Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m., Ana Ortigosa (Universidad de la Rioja and RISLUS Visiting Scholar) will give a talk in the RISLUS Reports series entitled *Linguistic convergence in phrasal calques: structural and semantic innovation*. A brief abstract is below.

This presentation addresses the issue of lexical transference in the Spanish spoken in New York City. More specifically this work deals with the analysis of phrasal calques such as *llamar para atrás*, *máquina de contestar* or *último nombre*. According to Otheguy & García (1988) and Otheguy (1993, 1995), these kind of calques should be considered only as communicative innovations. That is, they represent new communicative uses without altering the Spanish linguistic system *per se*. However, in this study it is argued that the previous expressions (e.g. *último nombre*) constitute systematic changes in the Spanish language since they are new collocations – group of words that frequently co-occur – stored in the mental lexicon of the contact speaker.

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RISLUS is the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society, located at the CUNY Graduate Center. The CUNY Graduate Center is at 365 Fifth Avenue, between 34<sup>th</sup> Street and 35<sup>th</sup> Street. Visitors must sign in at the security desk upon entering the building. To get to room C198, where the talk will be held, take the elevator down one flight.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Erika Troseth at [rislus@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rislus@gc.cuny.edu).