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My career as a teacher began when, as an undergraduate in Brazil, I switched from Forestry Engineering to Letters. At that point, I was hired as an English instructor at the same place where I had learned the language. I taught there until I left Brazil to pursue an MA (and later a PhD) at the University of Iowa, where I taught Portuguese as a teaching assistant. At Iowa, I also learned Spanish, which I was privileged to teach as well when I went to The Ohio State University as a Senior Lecturer. During my first year at OSU, Dr. Carmen Tesser was also there as a visiting professor. Dr. Tesser, who had been affiliated with the AATSP for a long time, encouraged me to join the association. So I did, and presented at the annual conference for the first time in 2000. I was very happy not only to be able to share my work (and more than a little surprised that others would be interested in it!), but, more importantly, to be able to see so many presentations on teaching as well as different aspects of Portuguese and Spanish linguistics. Since then, I have attended several AATSP conferences, now sharing my work on teaching and learning Portuguese as a Heritage Language, which has been the focus of my research since I moved to UMass Dartmouth in 2005. For a few years now, I have also had the privilege of either presenting alongside my graduate students or seeing them present their own research on Portuguese language teaching and learning. The AATSP annual conference allows me to learn from and to interact with dear colleagues (some of whom I only see in person at that conference) who work both with Portuguese and with Spanish. Both *Hispania* and *Spanish and Portuguese Review* have provided me and my students opportunities to learn and to disseminate our work. More than ever, what we all do—open up worlds to young minds—matters. May we all continue working with the AATSP to promote Portuguese and Spanish in the United States.

Biography

Gláucia Silva is Professor and current Chair of the Department of Portuguese at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, where she also coordinates the Portuguese language program. She is the author of *Word Order in Brazilian Portuguese* (Mouton de Gruyter, 2001) as well as the co-author of *Beginner's Brazilian Portuguese* (Hippocrene, 2011) and *Bons negócios: Português do Brasil para o mundo do trabalho* (Disal, 2013). Another co-authored textbook, *Contextos: Curso intermediário de português* (Routledge), is forthcoming. Her current research addresses various aspects in Portuguese heritage language learning, such as perception and production of linguistic features, and performance in different language skills.