

AATSP Conference Summary , Panama City, Panama

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The 107th AATSP Annual Conference in Panama City was a rewarding and dynamic experience that brought together educators, researchers, and cultural organizations from across the United States, Latin America, and beyond. This year, I had the opportunity to present my session, “Translanguaging in the Digital Wilds: Language Learning Through Video Game Streams on Twitch.TV,” which explored findings from my dissertation research on digital spaces for informal language learning. The session fostered lively discussion among educators seeking to integrate digital platforms and streaming culture into their teaching practices, particularly for fostering authentic, communicative learning environments. Presenting at AATSP allowed me to share my work with a practitioner-focused audience, gain valuable feedback, and build connections with teachers interested in implementing my research into K–12 and higher education contexts.

Beyond my presentation, the conference offered a rich variety of sessions, workshops, and cultural programming. I attended sessions on heritage language instruction, innovative curriculum design, and new approaches to integrating technology and culture in Spanish and Portuguese classrooms. Highlights included learning strategies for leveraging Latin American digital media to engage students and participating in workshops that provided ready-to-use materials for K–16 instruction. I also had the chance to network with colleagues from across the Americas, including educators in Panama, to discuss opportunities for cross-border collaboration and virtual cultural exchanges.

I am deeply grateful to be the recipient of the Carter Travel Award, which made my participation at AATSP 2025 possible. The award allowed me to present my dissertation research, connect with educators and researchers, and return with practical strategies and resources to share with my colleagues and students. I am thankful for this opportunity to contribute to the vibrant exchange of ideas at AATSP and to further my development as a language educator and researcher.

