

Conference Reflection: AAAL 2025 in Denver, Colorado
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Attending the 2025 American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference in Denver, Colorado was an incredibly enriching experience. During my time in Denver, I had the opportunity to attend many interesting talks, colloquiums, workshops and connect with a vibrant community of SLA scholars, researchers, and professionals in from around the world who share a deep commitment to the advancement of applied linguistics. I also had the opportunity to meet previous and current colleagues, professors, and my current advisor Dr. Janet Nicol.

One of the most valuable aspects of the conference was the chance to connect with researchers in the field of multisensory learning and gestures studies, including both emerging and established voices in the field such as Dr. Gale Stam and Laura Morett. Through these conversations, I not only expanded my professional network, but also discovered new opportunities to collaborate on research projects and joining interdisciplinary research teams.

Presenting and discussing my work with Dr. Nicol at AAAL was particularly rewarding. I received thoughtful and constructive feedback that will significantly inform and strengthen our research and expand the scope of our manuscript.

I'm deeply grateful to have received the Herbert E. Carter Award for Spring 2025, which helped offset the cost of travel, accommodation, and other conference-related expenses. This support made it possible for me to fully participate in the conference and make the most of the opportunities available.

Overall, the AAAL Conference was a space for both intellectual growth and community building. I left feeling energized and more connected to the field than ever, with new ideas, collaborations, and perspectives to carry forward.