



# AATSP

American Association of Teachers  
of Spanish & Portuguese • Est. 1917

Gabriela Altomarin, President  
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Gabrielle Pati, Editor

## Professional Learning Recap: film discussion of *Ya no estoy aquí*

On November 17, 2020 the AATSP Metro Chapter hosted a professional learning virtual meeting on the Oscar nominated film *Ya no estoy aquí* with Dr. Gerardo T. Cummings Rendón, Associate Professor of Spanish of the Dept. of World Languages at SUNY Onondaga Community College. The film portrays the life of a young man from Monterrey, Mexico, who is immersed in a world of challenges, and uses the dance of *cumbia rebajada* and the companionship of his close friends to grapple with his life's struggles. Dr. Cummings Rendón also discussed how the themes of immigration, social class, family and “el viaje del héroe” can be used to foster discussion among our students of Spanish, and how the rich lexicon in the film can illustrate vocabulary and “slang” in modern Mexico. Native and non-native speakers of the Spanish language can gain a wealth of cultural and linguistic knowledge from this fascinating film centered on youth and the grit needed to overcome the toughest circumstances life presents to us.



**President's Message.** The year 2020 has opened the door to great opportunities for growth and collaboration. Our chapter's executive board of directors continued virtually meeting to discuss new venues to support the teaching and learning process of Spanish and Portuguese. We have launched our first inaugural podcast and we recently shared our second podcast. Our newsletter has included pedagogical tips from teachers in the field and we have extended our resources on our webpage. We extended to all our members for the first time the Teacher of the Year Award competition. As expected, we had to postpone our Annual Chapter's conference; however, we are looking forward to recognizing in public our 2020 students and teachers awardees at our first virtual “Congreso 2021” this coming April 2021. These are a few examples of how we have persevered as professionals during these incredibly unprecedented times. My duty as a president of this chapter has come to an end but my commitment to the mission of our association continues. I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege to serve our members and to preside over the executive board of directors of AATSP NY Metro Chapter.

**Gabriela Altomarin,**  
**President, AATSP Metro NY Chapter**

AATSP celebrates the accomplishments of our local chapter's students. Below is the artwork of our 2020 Poster Contests winners. ¡Felicidades!

 <p><b>Hand Drawing 1st place winner</b>  <b>Student: Jiahe Wang</b>  <b>Teacher: Anna Monserrat</b>  <b>School: Stuyvesant High School</b>  <b>New York, NY</b></p>	 <p><b>Digital Poster 1st place winner</b>  <b>Student: Michael Santos</b>  <b>Teacher: Lisbeth Paredes</b>  <b>School: Bronx School of Law, Government and Justice</b>  <b>Bronx, NY</b></p>
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## Teachers corner: Creating a successful virtual Spanish classroom Interview with Lised Vigil, Spanish teacher grades 9-12, NYCDOE

**Q: What elements do you incorporate in your virtual classroom?**

**A:** In terms of the lesson, I try to stick to my style of teaching as much as possible and I love a routine. So I plan according to what I would normally do. I'll have an objective, the standards, a "do now", activities and an exit ticket or question. Due to virtual teaching, I find that some parts of the lesson take longer than others on different days so the lesson is given in a span of two days instead of one, so all of these elements are present and the students have a sense of a routine. I allow them to speak to each other and ask each other prompted questions. I feel like when their peers ask they are more likely to respond. In terms of technology, I incorporate everything available to me that I have learned to use and I believe is practical. There are a ton of websites and apps today for teaching.

**Q: How do you make your virtual classroom engaging for your students?**

**A:** In the actual virtual classroom I use Bitmoji, I have a banner with an inspirational quote that I change periodically, I leave them feedback of their exams or of a lesson on the stream. I tag students on the stream if I believe they missed seeing a post. I'll even drop a meme randomly. I organize the classwork section by units and I like to number my lessons so they are easy to look up, I also have a support materials section with virtual word walls and the class zoom link among others. I screencast directions to projects so students can always access it if they were absent or simply need to hear the directions again.

**Q: What advice do you have for Spanish/World Language teachers who want to amp up their virtual classrooms?**

A: Don't be afraid of trying anything new! If it doesn't work, you will know not to use it again; but when some experiments surprisingly turn out well, it is an amazing experience. Use things the students can relate to: a meme here and there could really make a difference. Students love to see comments and feedback, it lets them know you care and they are more likely to continue being active participants.

↪ **SAVE THE DATE!** ↩

**AATSP 2021 Metropolitan NY Chapter Annual Virtual Congreso**  
**The AATSP Metro NY Chapter will host its first Virtual Congreso on April 17, 2021. During this Congreso, the Chapter will recognize 2020 student and teacher awardees. More information to come.**

For more information please contact: [blopez.aatspmetny@gmail.com](mailto:blopez.aatspmetny@gmail.com)

*2021 AATSP Annual National Conference*

*Celebrating diversity: Spanish and Portuguese*

The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) is the United States' leading organization in serving educators to support the teaching and learning of Spanish and Portuguese (K-16+). We provide a forum for educators from the U.S. and abroad during our annual conference that includes over 300 events during 3 1/2 days of discussions, workshops, sessions, exhibits, speeches, excursions, and awards that reflect trends, interests, and the needs of language educators.

**July 8-11, 2021**

**Atlanta Marriott Marquis**

**Atlanta, Georgia**



Register at: <https://www.aatsp.org/>

## ¡No se olviden! - Reminders

- **Renew your membership or join for 2021** at <https://www.aatsp.org/>
- For more information about our programs, contact:  
[blopez.aatspmetny@gmail.com](mailto:blopez.aatspmetny@gmail.com)

AATSP Metro Chapter is proud to announce the creation of our own podcast. The purpose of this Podcast is to provide pedagogues, students, Hispanophiles, and Lusophiles a platform for discussing key topics relating to Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian issues. Our second podcast will be released in December with the topic of Teaching and Learning Modern Languages K-9 during the pandemic.

Link: <https://anchor.fm/aatspmetny>

AATSP announces new logo:



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