About the Authors

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Jacob Larsen is a Ph.D. Student in the Curriculum and Instructional Technology program at Iowa State University. He is a co-founder of the Learning Design Solutions center under the Iowa State University Department of Education, which provides instructional design solutions for area businesses and NGOs. His primary research interests include instructional design and development and the use of technology for language teaching. Currently, he is researching the use of online Blended Learning and Self Managed Learning learning materials to support advanced-level ESL / EFL courses.

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Cristina Pardo-Ballester (Ph.D., University of California, Davis) is Assistant Professor of Spanish in the World Languages and Cultures Department at Iowa State University. Her primary areas of research are second language acquisition (SLA), Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), and Language Assessment. She is currently working on the development of Spanish hybrid courses integrating different uses of technology in Spanish instruction. One of her goals is to create better listening tests by including the use of visual, collaborative listening and computer-based testing. The integration of the hybrid courses into the Spanish curriculum program at ISU is intended to assess students’ performance, students’ attitude and students’ voice about learning with environments, the technology and the contact with humans.

Julio C. Rodriguez (Ph.D., Iowa State University) is director of the Language Studies Resource Center in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Iowa State University. His primary areas of interest include the design, development, and research of CALL instructional materials and computer applications for language learning or language teacher development. He has led and participated in a variety of materials development projects for both blended and distance learning modes. He is currently working on open source software as a means to enable project-based learning in both language learning and language teacher development contexts.

Karina Silva is a doctoral student in the Applied Linguistics and Technology Program at Iowa State University. She holds an MA in TESL/Applied Linguistics from Ohio University. She has taught EFL classes in Brazil as well as first-year composition and ESL classes at Iowa State University. Her research interests include CALL, materials design and teacher education. She is currently focusing on investigating the use of
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