Simon Zuberek

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Education

M.S. Computational Linguistics CUNY Graduate Center (Expected Graduation, Fall 2024)
  Supplemental Coursework in Computer Science. Columbia University School of Professional Studies (In Progress)
M.A. Linguistics University of Illinois at Chicago (2016)
  LSA Linguistic Summer Institute. The University of Chicago (2015)
M.A. Germanic Languages and Literature University of Illinois at Chicago (2015)
B.A. Germanic Languages and Literature University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009)
B.A. Political Science University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009)
  Vienna Diplomatic Program. University of Vienna, Austria (2008)

Current Employment

Senior Educational Technologist
Language Resource Center at Columbia University, New York, NY
(March 2017 - Present)

- Provides leadership in promoting effective use of digital pedagogies for language learning and teaching.
- Assists faculty in designing, developing, and integrating interactive, multimedia-based, and computational solutions into language curricula.
- Organizes regular workshops focusing on creative and pedagogically effective applications of technology in the language classroom.
- Leads seminars focusing on recent trends and scholarship in language pedagogy and applied linguistics.
- Works with leading experts in the field of SLA, helping them share their practices with Columbia's language community.
- Developed and currently manages the Center's website and an array of digital assets supporting language instruction at Columbia.
- Actively participates in the national community of applied linguists by attending relevant conferences and contributing original research.
- Works with the University administration on establishing attainable benchmarks for faculty development, and facilitates their attainment.
- Incentivizes and promotes curricular innovation by managing the Center's Instructional Innovation Grant Program.

Web Manager
New York African Studies Association (NYASA), New York, NY
(May 2021 - Present)

- Developed and manages the NYASA website.
- Manages NYASA's social media presence.
- Produces graphic designs for the organization.
- Maintains an up-to-date mass email list of existing, former, and potential NYASA members and email subscribers.
- Designs flyers for NYASA Monthly Forum and mass email to members.
- Provides logistical and technical support for NYASA's events.

Linguist
Converseon.ai, New York, NY
(May 2021 - Present, CPT)

- Reviewed and annotated data from a variety of sources.
- Provided insights into sentiment, emotion, and topic to improve natural language understanding.
- Collected, annotated, and organized text data from online sources.
- Evaluated the accuracy of output data.
- Collaborated in amending annotation guidelines to accurately capture sentiment and emotion.
- Provided feedback to language engineers and scientists on tool improvements and annotation processes.

Past Employment

Instructor of German at Purdue University Northwest, Hammond IN — 01/2017 – 03/2017
Instructor of ESL at Roosevelt University, International Study Center, Chicago IL — 08/2016 – 12/2016
Instructor of German at DANK Haus German-American Cultural Center, Chicago IL — 08/2016 – 12/2016
Instructor of German at North Park University, Chicago IL — 08/2015 – 03/2017
Graduate Administrator and Researcher at the UIC Institute for the Humanities, Chicago IL — 08/2013 – 05/2016
Graduate Instructor of German at the UIC Germanic Studies Department, Chicago IL — 08/2012 – 05/2013
Graduate Administrative Assistant and Researcher at the UIC Language and Culture Learning Center, Chicago IL — 08/2011 – 12/2011

Accomplishments

Phi Kappa Phi – The National Graduate Honors Society — 10/2016
First Place - National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest (Non-Heritage Learners, Level 1) — 05/2015
Awarded by The American Council of Teachers of Russian
Goethe Zertifikat C2 — 12/2012
Delta Phi Alpha – The National German Honor Society — 11/2008
Pi Sigma Alpha – The National Political Science Honors Society — 11/2007
Phi Eta Sigma – The National Scholastic Honorary Society for Freshmen — 05/2006
Dean's List (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) — 05/2006, 05/2008

Theses and Dissertations

Zuberek, S. E. (2016). The Effectiveness of Pronunciation Training Software in ESL Oral Fluency Development (Thesis, University of Illinois at Chicago).

Professional Affiliations

IALLT (initiator and coordinator of the Immersive Learning Interest Group), CALICO (academic journal reviewer), ACTFL, NERALLT, NEALLT, AAUSC, LSA

Natural Languages

English (Distinguished/Native), Polish (Distinguished/Native), German (Superior), Russian (Advanced), Latin (Intermediate)

Programming Languages

Bash/Shell, HTML/CSS, Java, Python, R, SQL

Talks and Presentations

Zuberek, S. The Emerging Professional Development Landscape for Foreign Language Instructors. Presentation at the 2022 NEALLT Conference hosted virtually

Zuberek, S. Am I your father? - Applying Computational Methods to Detect Grammatical Similarities in the Dialogues between Star Wars Characters. Presentation at the Fall 2020 CIRCL Talk Series at CUNY Graduate Center

Zuberek, S. The Presence Tense: Developing VR Environments for the Multimodal Classroom. Presentation at the 2019 ACTFL Convention in Washington D.C.

Talks and Presentations (Continued)

Zuberek, S, Barbazan, D. If Genes Could Talk: Teaching Video-Mediated Listening in the Multiliteracies Framework. Workshop at the 2019 NERALLT Conference at Yale University

Zuberek, S. From VR to a Multimodal Task – Developing VR Experiences for the Multimodal Language Classroom. Interactive workshop at the 2019 IALLT Conference at the University of Oregon

Zuberek, S. BetterLearningThruTechnology. Interactive workshop at the 2018 Summer Teacher Institute at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign

Zuberek, S. and Momescu, M. #CollaborateBetter: Padlet in Mixed Romanian Elementary and Intermediate Classes. Presentation at the 2018 NEALLT Conference at Cornell University

Zuberek, S. and Gozzi, M. L. Reading through Technology: The Role of Language Technologies in Teaching Academic Foreign Language Reading. Presentation at the 2017 annual NERALLT Conference at Wesleyan University

Zuberek, S. The Effectiveness of CAPT Software in ESL Oral Fluency Development - An Exploratory Study. Presentation at the In/Between Conference "Alterities" at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Zuberek, S. Amerika, Du Hast es Besser? – An Exploration of the Image of America in the Post-Second-World-War German Poetry. Paper at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference "Converging Narratives: The Personal Meets the National" at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Zuberek, S. Adopting a Monster – An Analysis on the Role of the Uncanny in Kleist's "Der Findling". Paper at the 23rd annual Graduate Student Symposium in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Zuberek, S. The Russian and the Birch Tree - An Exploration of Identity Based on Olga Grjasnowa's "Der Russe ist einer der Birken Liebt". Paper at the Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Zuberek, S. Eine Neue Sachlichkeit, die Alte Weiblichkeit – A Critical Interpretation of Gertrud Kolmar's Novel "A Jewish Mother from Berlin". Paper at the Annual Convention of The South-Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, Texas

Ein Springender Brunnen at the Goethe Institut Chicago – Reading and Discussion featuring Martin Walser. Moderated the event and served as an interpreter. Chicago, Illinois

Public Appearances

Upper Levels in English, German, and Italian, with Simon Zuberek
(Said and Done Podcast, June 2, 2023)

IALLT Interview Project Episode 9: Interview about Artificial Intelligence with Cory Duclos, Simon Zuberek, and Anthony Spadafino (The FLTMag , February 23, 2023)

Bilingual Binds in English and Polish, with Simon Zuberek
(Said and Done Podcast , October 24, 2022)

Extended Reality (XR) in the Language Classroom
(Speaking of Language Podcast , April 29, 2020)