Simon Zuberek

ZUBEREK.NET | SIMON@ZUBEREK.NET | (847) 208-7081

Education

M.S. Computational Linguistics CUNY Graduate Center (Expected Graduation, Spring 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.
- Employs machine learning to develop educational solutions in the domain of foreign language teaching.
- Implements natural language processing technologies to develop software solutions assisting in foreign language learning.
- 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.
- Actively participates in the national community of applied linguists by attending relevant conferences and contributing original research.
- Makes frequent guest appearances on podcasts focusing on the use of technology in the foreign language classroom.
- 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.
- Recruits, hires, and manages the Center's undergraduate and graduate staff.

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)

- Reviews and annotates data from a variety of sources.
- Provides insights into sentiment, emotion, and topic to improve natural language understanding.
- Collects, annotated, and organized text data from online sources.
- Evaluates the accuracy of output data.
- Collaborates in amending annotation guidelines to accurately capture sentiment and emotion.
- Provides feedback to language engineers and scientists on tool improvements and annotation processes.

Past Employment

Administrative Assistant
Institute for the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
(August 2013 - May 2016)

- Coordinated and facilitated the work of a team of fellow assistants and graphic designers. Ensured smooth functioning of the office and provided support for various office tasks. Assisted in hiring new graduate assistants.
- Managed and helped organize local and national humanities events taking place at the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- Attended to and facilitated the technical dimension of the organized events (video-recording and editing, web streaming, sound and video setup and editing, networking, computer/data backup and maintenance).
- Managed communication with Institute fellows and all invited guest speakers.
- Arranged for local accommodations of the latter and ensured that their requirements were adequately addressed.
- Actively maintained communication and facilitated collaboration with a number of humanities departments at the University of Illinois as well as other universities and academic institutions (locally, nationally, and internationally).
- Developed and maintained the Institute's website and curated its social media presence.

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 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) Awarded by The American Council of Teachers of Russian	**05/2015**
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

Selected Talks and Presentations

Zuberek, S. Genusidator : A Rule-Based System to Explain Grammatical Gender Assignment in German Nouns. Presented at the 2023 IALLT Conference in New Orleans

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.

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

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)