

Issue 3
May 2018

CALICO

Graduate Student SIG

Edited by Jeffrey Maloney

CALICO 2018
University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, IL
May 29 - June 2

A Message from the Graduate Student SIG Chair

By Fabrizio Fornara

Greetings, CALICO members! I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are ready and excited for the upcoming conference. I am delighted to share with you the third issue of the Graduate Student Special Interest Group Newsletter, edited by our Jeffrey Maloney. This newsletter is all about current and past students and their professional success. It features a section containing information shared from various CALICO members on their involvement in CALICO and a list of tips gathered from both members and student-members.

Our SIG was created three years ago at CALICO 2015 on the initiative of Philip Hubbard and the CALICO executive board. I was there; we all were excited about the possibility to connect graduate student members with the community of scholars in CALICO and to foster opportunities for mentorship and collaboration. Since then, the SIG, led by Nadia Jaramillo Cherez, grew in membership and initiated several projects, including a collaboration with our sister SIG at EUROCALL—see p. 7 for more details.

Over the last year, I had the privilege to collaborate with the CALICO executive board in planning new initiatives geared to graduate students. Specifically, for this conference, we organized a poster session for students seeking advice on their research projects and a networking lunch where graduate students and young professional can informally chat with recognized CALL scholars. Moreover, we laid the foundations for forthcoming initiatives aimed at establishing further connections between young and senior CALL scholars. My friend and colleague Farhana Ahmed will step up as the chair of the Graduate Student SIG and continue working towards further *connecting CALL's past (and present) to its future*. As I complete my term, I would like to thank Esther Horn, Shannon Sauro, and Lara Lomicka Anderson for their continuous support to the SIG.

I would like to conclude this short message with a friendly request and an invitation. On Wednesday evening, please, take a few minutes to stop by the poster session and give feedback to our SIG members as they present their research projects. We will meet more informally on Thursday night for a social at Legends Bar and Grill—you are all invited!

I hope you have a wonderful time at CALICO 2018!

CALL's past connected to its future

This year, the CALICO 2018 theme is "Connecting CALL's past to its future". As a part of this theme, we asked CALICO members how the organization impacted their experiences (starting as a graduate student) and contributed to their current situations. Below are some selected responses from all that we received.

Describe your involvement with CALICO and how the organization has impacted your experiences (starting as a graduate student) and contributed to your current situation.

Kathryn Murphy-Judy

*Director, LSEE Program,
Virginia Commonwealth
University*

When I started, CALL didn't exist. SLA didn't exist. Dinosaurs . . . maybe. Back in the 80s, I attended CALICO supported workshops at Middlebury dealing with emerging multimedia affordances and authentic materials. I met Rick Altman, Sue Otto and Jim Pusack, luminaries in CALL whose connections to CALICO made me take notice of the consortium. By the 90s I was at Carnegie Mellon and started attending CALICO symposia regularly. Then, as now, I called it my annual 'brain candy'. Unlike other professional organizations, CALICO offered me a safe, supportive environment, where I didn't have to deal with the posturing and swagger so common elsewhere. At CALICO, I could share, experiment, make mistakes and continue to be a risk taker, knowing that I had colleagues who recognize that an emerging field is messy, error-prone, but most importantly, dependent on collaboration and mutual support.

CALICO is my intellectual and professional home, in the warmest, truest sense of home and family. A CALICO hug to all of you!

In about 1992, I participated in the first LARC workshop in San Diego-- we learned Toolbook (an early authoring tool for PCs). I was one of two grad students (the other teams were faculty pairs); many were CALICO members. Returning to Northwestern, I taught myself HyperCard (the Mac equivalent of Toolbook). The next summer, Northwestern hosted a CALICO workshop on Libra (a tool to make laser discs interactive) with Bob Fischer and Mike Farris. I loved seeing the possibilities that technology brought to the classroom and I especially appreciated all of the positive support. I'm not sure exactly when I attended my first CALICO conference but meeting this community of professionals who were passionate about learning and who were doing creative things with the technology was important to me personally and professionally.

Terri Nelson

*Professor of French,
California State University,
San Bernardino*

Nina Vyatkina

*Professor
Chair, Department of
Germanic Languages
and Literatures,
The University of Kansas*

I think CALICO has made the greatest impact on my career through its conferences: by providing a venue for presenting my research-in-progress, getting invaluable feedback from peers, and networking with researchers from a variety of US and international institutions. CALICO is my favorite conference due to its perfect size (not too large, not too small) and its uniquely warm and collaborative atmosphere. I have met many of my future research collaborators and co-authors at CALICO, and all my CALICO presentations were eventually developed into publications in top-tier journals. In this way, CALICO was instrumental in my getting tenure and being promoted to an Associate and now Full Professor. I, in turn, have promoted CALICO to my PhD advisees, and was extremely proud when Joe Cunningham won the CALICO Outstanding Graduate Student Award in 2013. Since then, Joe became an Assistant Professor at Georgetown, and this year both Joe and I are delighted to start serving on the CALICO Executive Board. I am looking forward to giving back to the organization, whose impact on my own career and the career of my mentees is hard to overestimate!

I attended my first CALICO conference as a graduate student, where I was introduced to a community of scholars and colleagues that would become my professional home. My first impression of the organization was just how friendly and approachable everyone was, regardless of academic rank or home institution. At the same time, I was thrilled to see the various strands of top-notch research, as well as the many creative applications of technology to language learning and teaching.

Joe Cunningham

*Assistant Professor
Department of German,
Georgetown University*

Lisa Frumkes

*Senior Director,
Content Development,
Rosetta Stone*

It was Karen Kossuth who recommended that we attend CALICO 1990 and see what others in the field were up to. If it hadn't been for that experience, and the realization that so many other linguists and linguaphiles were interested in incorporating technology into language learning, I probably never would have pursued this field as a career. My experience at CALICO gave me the courage to keep experimenting with language-learning content creation throughout graduate school, even when I was advised that "there was no future in it." The camaraderie and generosity of CALICO members to share their time and expertise and passion is truly unique, and graduate students should look to develop and build upon those relationships.

I attended that first CALICO as an English for Academic Purposes (EAP) instructor who was simply curious about the role of technology in her teaching practice and classroom. Since that time, I started and am almost ready to defend a PhD in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies. My research agenda includes exploring how 3D virtual learning environments and ePortfolios (as online learning spaces) might help learners achieve certain learning outcomes based on the affordances of the space. Attending CALICO helped me to connect with like-minded people and helped me meet one of my PhD committee members!

Peggy Hartwick

*Instructor, ESL for
Academic Purposes,
Carleton University*

Paul Sebastian

*Assistant Professor
Department of
Languages, Literatures
& Cultures,
Appalachian State
University*

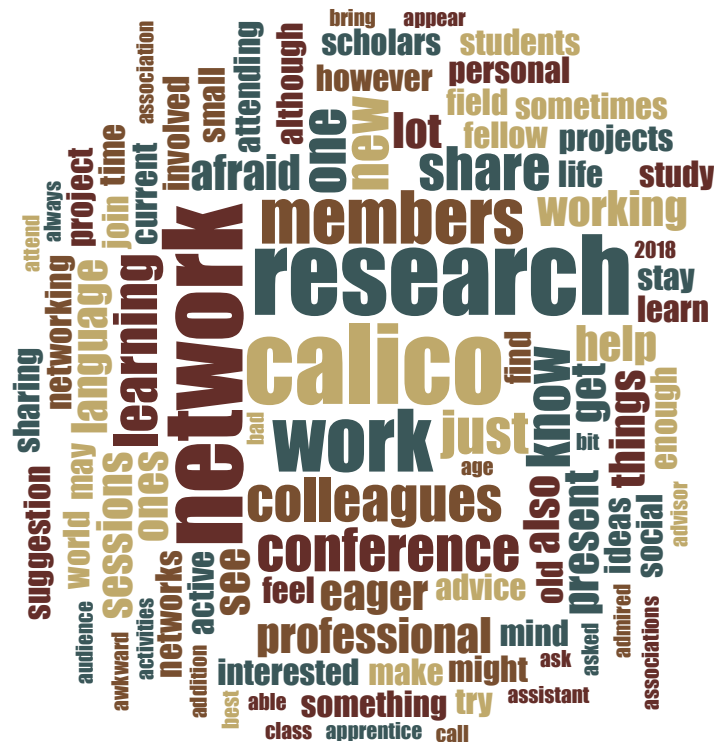
The 2012 CALICO Conference at Notre Dame was my first major academic conference. At that time, I was nearing the end of my MA program at Brigham Young University where, in addition to developing a thesis involving language learners and social media platforms, I had worked on an inter-disciplinary team to develop an in-house streamed video player. Harold Hendricks (previous IALLT president) was one of the driving forces behind that project and it was Harold who invited me to collaborate on a proposal to present our findings at CALICO that year. It was an experience that, without a doubt, contributed strongly to where I am now and the kind of scholarly work that I do.

At the present, I am nearing the end of my first year as an assistant professor of applied linguistics at Appalachian State University. In addition to being a rather typical tenure-track position, I was hired with a specific charge to transform a long-standing language laboratory into a more contemporary language resource center. Having stayed close to CALICO and other similarly minded organizations like IALLT and EUROCALL, I felt well-prepared for the unique and challenging task. This first year has been filled with ups and downs but colleagues and friends (some of which were established during that first year at CALICO) have been a valuable support.

Thank you to all of our contributors!

CALICO Grad-student tips round-up!

Below is a word cloud of the list of suggestions gathered from CALICO members and graduate members on how to take the most advantage of your CALICO student membership. It is followed by the gathered list of all suggestions in random order. Enjoy!



- Don't be shy about talking to CALICO members about your projects and theirs. Many of us teach at places where we don't have colleagues who are equally interested in technology and language learning, so CALICO is a place where we can share ideas. I'm eager to learn from you.
- Read. Just reading papers has helped me a lot understand what teachers and students need in order to improve teaching / learning language.
- One suggestion for current graduate student CALICO members would be to focus on consistency with your professional associations. What I mean by this is that after attending CALICO for two years, I wasn't able to stay involved due to various (and sometimes legit) reasons. Although there will undoubtedly be hurdles to overcome in staying connected (financial, timing, personal life), maintaining an active membership can lead to powerful benefits later on down the road.
- Share. Sharing thoughts and ideas help refine your idea. It is also the biggest reason for attending CALICO 2018 conference.
- One last bit of advice is for those who may find it difficult to "network" with other colleagues. For me, I would often feel awkward when reaching out to more established colleagues whose work I admired and respected. Institutionally, there can be a lot of pressure to network and to seek out key contacts with potential mentors. My advice would be to try not to overthink the whole networking component. Go to sessions that you're interested (not necessarily the ones offered by those who you feel compelled to network with). Try to talk and get to know your fellow colleagues but even if you don't, it's not the end of the world.

I have found that there are enough things to stress about in my professional (and personal) life without having to worry about whether or not I asked the perfect, mind-blowing question to the “leading thinker” in my field.

- Engage with professionals who do work that interests you. See if you can work with them as an intern or a research assistant, formally or informally.
- Attend lots of sessions! It is energizing to see what other people are working on. Not only can you see who is pursuing similar research to your own, but you never know what will inspire you to begin a new project.
- Move beyond your comfort zone. Don't just go to the sessions that deal with your small part of the CALL, TELL, MALL, CMC, AI, Gaming world you're currently working on. Innovation comes from intersections of theories and practices that might appear disparate.
- CALICO has always felt very egalitarian to me. Consider yourself a peer rather than an apprentice. We're all learning new things-- that's what the conference is for!
- Present your own research! You will generally find a supportive audience that is eager to provide constructive feedback. Presenting your research will also help to make you more visible to the other members of the organization.
- Don't be afraid to reach out to other members and stay up to date with the latest developments in this quickly transforming field.
- Don't hesitate to join with scholars and practitioners whose work titillates you intellectually. The kind of work we do requires collaboration and collaborators. Just ask.
- Network. This is the age of networks and networking.
- Don't be afraid to fail. I've learned more from my flops than my successes.
- Present your research at CALICO conferences! It doesn't have to be a fully completed study (although it has to be a rigorous study, however small): it can be work-in-progress; a class project; a paper co-authored with your research advisor or fellow students.
- Share what you know with others. Young scholars have so much to share with each other but also with the old war horses (. . . and old dogs, we can learn new tricks, however bad the mixed metaphor may be:)
- Be creative. My best projects have been the ones that I enjoy spending time on, not the ones that needed to be "cranked out." Sometimes this means going out on a limb and doing something unusual. Those risks can bring great things-- if you keep your goals in mind!
- Network, network, network!
- My suggestion is to get involved - present, chair, help, join, and network!
- At the same time, don't be afraid to dive into something new—if nobody else is working on it, that's completely normal—there are a lot of directions to pursue, and probably not enough of us to do them all justice!
- Being a member of an association such as CALICO certainly provides a forum for enriching one's current research knowledge in the use of Technologies in Language Learning, establishing networks, contributing to and sharing research, be active and proactive through its conference and other organized activities, its journal and any other way one can contribute to all that.
- Be social! Members of the community are eager to get to know you, so plan to participate in the social aspects of the conference as well. In addition to meeting some friendly folks, you might just make a useful professional connection.



COLLABORATION WITH EUROCALL

by Sahar Alzahrani, Ph.D.

Another great event is coming up soon and, as the CALICO-EUROCALL Liaison, I am keeping up the collaborative work of the two grad students SIGs. I am looking forward to CALICO2018 conference and I would like to share with you update on the achievements were able to make within our SIG regarding the two sister associations, CALICO and EUROCALL.

First, beside the different types of activities carried out within the EUROCALL grad students SIG at EUROCALL2017 for its members, the graduate students were provided with a brief introduction to its sister SIG (CALICO grad students SIG) and its activities. An increasing number of graduate students who were attending EUROCALL2017 have joined the CALICO SIG and have been added to the SIG Facebook group.

Second, a new form of collaboration between the two associations have been implemented for the CALICO2018 conference and is under process for EUROCALL conference. An invitation was sent to the members of both SIGs and four volunteering ambassadors have been selected for the CALICO grad SIG. The aim is to have the same number of ambassadors from the EUROCALL grad SIG. Those ambassadors from both SIGs are going to work together especially during the two conferences to share on Twitter or any other preferred social media as much as possible of the information they come across in the sessions they go to. The conference hashtag is going to be used for this purpose. Therefore, the grad students who are not present at CALICO2018 conference, whether they belong to CALICO or to EUROCALL SIGs, will be able to follow the updates on the conference sessions. This will give the virtual members more opportunities to have virtual access to the projects presented at the conference and to get to know people with similar interests on the social media. Likewise, the EUROCALL ambassadors can do the same thing for CALICO during the EUROCALL conference in August 2018. The ambassadors from both SIGs may work simultaneously if it happens that they are attending the same conference. We hope that you will enjoy the product of the shared work of both SIGs.

CALICO Graduate Student SIG Board

Fabrizio Fornara, Ph.D.
Chair

Center for the Advancement of Teaching, *Florida State University*.

Research interests: Social media for teaching and learning, intercultural language learning, the intersection between culture, learning, and technology.

Farhana Ahmed
Co-chair

Technology enhanced Language Learning and Teaching, *York University*.

Research interests: Tools and process of language learning/teaching in the VWs, Innovations and trends in technology-mediated language learning and teaching in the context of ESL/EFL/EAP, Issues of native/non-native speaker teachers /students in ESL/EFL setting.

Jeffrey Maloney
Editor (Newsletter)

Second Language Studies, *Michigan State University*

Research interests: Language Teacher Education for CALL.

Graduate Student SIG Members' Achievements

Journal Articles

Ph.D. Dissertations

Fornara, F. (2018). Instagram for the development of foreign language students' intercultural competence. Florida State University.

Maloney, J. (2018). Fulbright FLTA CALL knowledge development and enactment: The role of context. Michigan State University.

Awards

Angélica Amezcua: Most promising graduate student award in heritage languages, National Symposium on Spanish as a Heritage Language (2018); Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate & Professional Student Association, Arizona State University (2018).

Jeffrey Maloney: AAAL Graduate Student Award. American Association of Applied Linguistics (2018).

Professional Achievements

Sahar Alzahrani is Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics and ELT at Umm AlQura University, Saudi Arabia.

Fabrizio Fornara is Director of Research at the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Florida State University.

Giovanni Zimotti is Director of Spanish Language Instruction at The University of Iowa.

Graduate Student SIG Events at CALICO 2018

Wednesday, May 30

6:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Graduate Student Poster Session, Illinois Union Room 314

Thursday, May 31

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m. Newcomers Session, Lincoln Hall, Room 1028

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mentoring Lunch, Green St., meet at the registration desk

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Graduate Student SIG Meeting, FLB 1080

8:30p.m. Graduate Student SIG Social, Legends Bar and Grill

CALICO Graduate
Student SIG Board
(continued)

Sahar Alzahrani, Ph.D.
CALICO-EUROC
CALL
Liaison

Assistant professor of
Applied Linguistics and
ELT, *Umm AlQura
University*.

Research interests:

Language learner
autonomy, teacher
autonomy, educational
technologies, innovations
in teaching languages,
blended learning, and
online instructional
design.

CALICO Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Joan Palmiter Bajorek



Our field promises to dazzle in the next 5-10 years as CALL evolves. The international impact of our work is more important now than ever, in a world that can always use more multilingual awareness, learning, and appreciation. I am grateful to be a part of it and for this award. Deep gratitude goes to my PhD SLAT Program at the University of Arizona (UA), to my mentors and colleagues at the University of California, Davis, and to my ever-supportive, jovial, and thoughtful advisor Dr. Michael Hammond, UA Professor of Linguistics and Human Language Technology.

*Joan Palmiter Bajorek, PhD Candidate
Second Language Acquisition and Teaching (SLAT) Program, University of
Arizona
MA in Linguistics, University of California, Davis
Speech Technologist Collaborator, ImmerseMe*

Research Interests:

Speech Technology, Virtual Reality (VR) Technology, Educational Technology (EdTech), User Experience (UX) Phonetics, Pronunciation, CALL

Stay connected!



CALICO Graduate Student SIG group

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