



CALICO GRADUATE STUDENT SIG

CALCIO Conference - Seattle, Washington - May 2020



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A Message from the Outgoing Graduate Student SIG Chair

Firstly, I would like to express the Grad SIG's disappointment in not being able to meet this year as well as to showcase the work we have been up to since our last meeting in Montreal.

Since our last conference we established the Grad SIG's first ever international collaborative research project between myself (York University), co-chair Mery Diez-Ortega (University of Hawaii), Yue Dong (Ohio University) and Margherita Berti (University of Arizona). This is a research synthesis project that was designed to see if graduate students from various universities could work together remotely and collaboratively for the purpose of gaining increased research experience as well as creating our own opportunities for publication and presenting. The full abstract and proposal is shared below. Through hard work and perseverance we were able to accomplish both the research and being accepted to present at the Seattle CALICO Conference 2020. An article and publication are in the works. However, the global pandemic COVID 19 happened and has complexified life for countless people including our team and colleagues in the Grad SIG. Though our progress has slowed down and changed course, we are committed to seeing this project through to inspire others to join the Grad SIG for the purpose of collaborating with other ambitious emerging scholars. We aim to be at the CALICO Conference in 2021 to present our findings.

Upcoming Meeting and Join the SIG Social Media

For now, we will be hosting a meeting Tuesday, June 9th at 4:00pm EST (link: To join the video meeting, click this [link](#) (Meeting ID: 966 1906 8287. Password: Graduate) . At this meeting we will discuss potential new collaborative projects as well as transitioning leadership and accepting new participants as co-chair(s). To join the Graduate Student SIG please join our [FB page](#) and our [LinkedIn page](#). If you would like to receive our newsletter and other important CALICO announcements, complete [this form](#) to get on our membership email list. See you soon!



Mery Díez-Ortega

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Incoming Chair 2020-2021
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A Message from the Incoming Graduate Student SIG Chair

I want to thank Kris for all his hard work and guidance with the SIG, and thank all Yue, Maggie, and Kris for the exciting work we have been doing throughout the year. It has been an incredible new experience to collaborate and learn from PhD students from around the world while completing a research synthesis project. After this first “experiment”, as the incoming SIG chair I would like to keep moving forward with our collaborative research network.

In our last meeting we discussed how to explore graduate students’ perspectives, experiences, and needs in the field of CALL. I believe CALICO is an exceptionally supportive environment for graduate students to learn, network, and present their research. It is a great community for newcomers in the field, and we think this project could potentially bring more students involved in the SIG and in CALICO. I am looking forward to brainstorming with future co-chair(s) and graduate students interested in collaborating possible ways to move forward.

Finally, I would like to thank CALICO for maintaining their workshops online this year, especially since most of us graduate students have had to cancel all face-to-face conference and professional development plans. By joining the ‘Explore Games, Make Games and Game-Based Frameworks” workshop, I was able to develop new skills in game-based learning and design, learn from the amazing work other participants and graduate students created, and stayed in touch with the CALICO community. I am looking forward to seeing new and old faces in the next conference, attending more workshops, and meeting new graduate students in our SIG meeting.

Grad SIG Collaborative Research Project & Presentation – CALICO 2021

Title: Emerging Technology & L2 Speaking Skills; A Critical Research Synthesis

Abstract:

This presentation will discuss the findings of a critical research synthesis of CALL studies regarding the teaching and learning of L2 speaking skills using technology as part of a collaborative research initiative by the CALICO Graduate Student SIG. In this research synthesis, CALL studies published between 2010 and 2019 in five top CALL journals were critically analyzed. Questions related to aspects of oral production, types of technology used, theoretical perspectives, and methodologies were investigated. The findings will be discussed and suggestions for future research directions in the domain of teaching and learning L2 speaking skills in CALL will be provided.

Description:

This is a collaborative research project involving members of the CALICO graduate student SIG as part of its collaborative research initiative. This presentation will discuss findings from a critical research synthesis of the teaching of L2 speaking skills and technology. Preliminary review of related research syntheses of CALL research uncovered a general lack of empirical studies regarding the teaching of L2 speaking skills using technology (especially concerning languages other than English) (Wang & Vasquez, 2012; Lin, 2014, 2015). This was surprising for two reasons. Firstly, speaking is a major focus

in SLA research as it is an essential skill for communication, socialization and education. Secondly, since 2004 (i.e., the advent of Web 2.0) there have been huge developments in technologies that afford synchronous and asynchronous spoken communication, including podcasts, video conferencing, speech recognition software, virtual reality and online gaming, among others. This research aims to synthesize research in this area and report on findings with important implications relevant to both researchers and practitioners in CALL.

The aim of this collaborative research initiative is primarily to amplify graduate student voices in CALL research through secondary research projects, like critical research synthesis. Such research is essential for the field as it reviews important “watershed” moments in a specific research domain, which helps researchers take stock of what is known about a specific research question (and the methodology used to address it), and to shed light on important areas that are under-investigated or need “methodological improvements” ((Norris & Ortega, 2006; Mendoza & Phung, 2019). This pertains to the goals of a graduate student researcher; to find a gap in the literature and contribute to its investigation. Furthermore, collaborative research can provide practical research experience and publishing/presenting opportunities. The presentation will conclude with personal reflections of the collaborative research experience.