

- Issue 10 - January, 2024



GRADUATE STUDENT
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Conference - Pittsburgh, PA - May 21-25, 2024

Dear CALICO Graduate Student Community,

Greetings to all our esteemed members and newcomers alike! As we embark on another exciting year with the CALICO Graduate Special Interest Group (SIG), we're thrilled to bring you this edition of our newsletter, filled with insights and upcoming opportunities for our community!

The Grad SIG has been up to a lot this past year, working hard to bring our members together to gain new insights from experts in the field, network, collaborate, and expand our perspectives through reading new and thought-provoking articles.



Panel on Mobile Assisted Language Learning (MALL)

Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating and quickly growing, ubiquitous and impactful nature of mobile learning, specifically regarding language learning. Experts in the field of computer-assisted language learning, Dr. Matt Kessler, an Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of South Florida and Nicky Hockly, Director of Pedagogy at Consultants-E, shared their time and insight with 30+ attendees. Held Thursday, Jan. 11th. If you missed the panel, feel free to watch the [recording of the panel](#) instead!



CALICoffee #1: Graduate Student Networking

Our first CALICoffee event brought together 30+ new and old Grad SIG members to engage in a variety of ice breakers and get-to-know activities. Participants discussed their research interests, pressing issues in CALL and exchanged some tips for surviving grad school! The event was held on Wednesday, Sept. 13th.



CALICoffee #2: AI & Language Learning

Our second CALICoffee event hosted two expert speakers on various facets of Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Emily Hellmich, Associate Director of the Berkeley Language Center, and Dr. Tricia Thrasher, Research Manager at Immerse. They shared timely and innovative research and application of how their work using artificial intelligence simultaneously supports research, teaching, and application. 60+ attendees engaged in a lively Q&A afterwards. Held Thursday, Oct. 19th.

Reading Circle, held on Tuesday, Nov. 14th.

The event was led by a long-time grad student SIG member, Hiba Ibrahim, participants engaged in a lively discussion based on guiding questions about the following article:

Stickler, U. & Emke, M. "Future-Proofing Language Teaching: How the COVID-19 Pandemic Has Changed Our Profession". *CALICO Journal*, 40(2), 137-152.

Join us for our next Reading Circle on Tuesday, Feb 6th! Scroll down to find out more about the upcoming Reading Circle and to [register](#)!

Upcoming Events

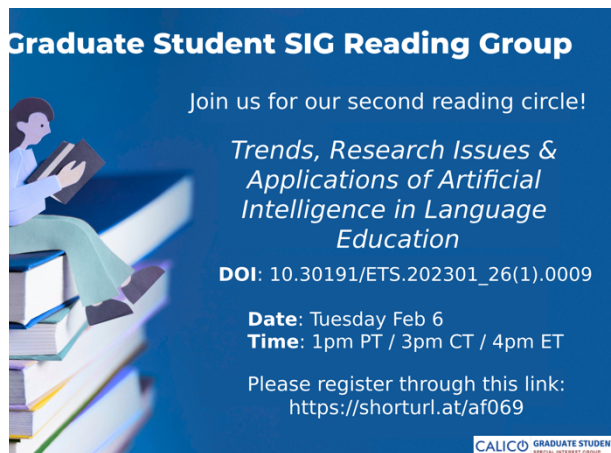
CALICO graduate student special interest group members can look forward to the following events this spring!

February/March 2024 CALICOffee #4:

We are still nailing down the specific topic for this CALICOffee talk, but the general topic will be centered around the **job search**! Topics may include industry and/or academia, as well as searching and deciding what is a right fit, the application process, preparing, interviewing, and follow up. Please stay tuned to learn more about this event!

March/April 2024 CALICOffee #5:

Typically we invite a representative from an industry company to review a useful tool in our field. Last year we had the opportunity to learn about many helpful facets of the qualitative analysis tool, MAXQDA. For Spring 2024, we would like to host a similar style **technological tool demo**. Please share what tools or platforms you would be interested in learning about in our [Slack channel](#), and we will see how to make it happen. Generative AI tools may be considered as well.



Also, we are delighted to invite you to our next **Reading Circle** on **Tuesday, Feb. 6th** at 1pm PT/3pm CT/4pm ET. We will be reading the article "Trends, Research Issues & Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Language Education". Please register by clicking below!

[Register for the Reading Circle](#)

CALICO Conference - Pittsburgh, PA - May 21-25, 2024

Save The Date for the [annual CALICO Conference: "Confluences and Connections: Bridging Industry and Academia in CALL"](#) which will be held May 21-25 in Pittsburgh!

In addition to the abundant and diverse conference programming, the grad student SIG will also be coordinating **special events**, which we don't want you to miss!

1) Our grad student **panel "Bridging the Gap: Transferable Research Skills Between Industry and Academia"** is scheduled for a 75-minute session and will be held on **Thursday, May 23rd**. Put it on your calendar! More details on conference programming will be updated on the [website](#) and the conference app at a later time.



2) Grad Student Social

Please join us for the graduate student social in the evening during the conference. The date is TBD, but will most likely it will be held Friday, May 24th, but please keep an eye out for a confirmed date!

3) Roommate Finder

If you are looking for assistance finding a roommate for the upcoming conference, please check out the [Padlet](#) (which is designed to help other graduate students connect). To keep this space safe and reliable, please read the requirements below carefully and abide by all the rules.

[Click Here to Find a Roommate](#)

To support CALICO, which is committed to selling a number of these hotel rooms, this Padlet is a place to find roommates. Any posts about other hotels will be deleted. Log into post your listing or respond to the listing by adding comments to the posts or directly contacting the original poster via email. Please note that the conference organizers are not responsible for screening roommates for financial arrangements between roommates/ the hotel, and make no guarantees of any kind about compatibility, trustworthiness, etc. Keep in mind, you are creating an obligation to the person with whom you share a room.

Rules for posting and responding to listings:

- 1. Must be a graduate student.*
- 2. No soliciting.*
- 3. If you are posting a listing, you must provide your name, contact info (email or social media channels).*
- 4. DO NOT post your personal information such as phone number, home address, or password on the Padlet canvas, as this is a public online space. Keep the ongoing conversation offline between you and your respondent(s) via emails or messaging.*
- 5. Maintain professional etiquette.*
- 6. (optional) We encourage you to sign up or log in to your Padlet account to ensure the credibility of the posts.*

Padlet link is here: <https://padlet.com/liljones1/calico-conference-2024-roommate-finder-fs02dnec4fzt3ayq>

4) Read the [CALICO 2023 conference report](#) drafted by our sister organization, IALLT (International Association of Language Learning and Technology).

5) **Hear takeaways and advice** from a few graduate students who have previously attended the CALICO conference!

"I presented at CALICO in Minnesota last year, and it was fantastic! Friendly vibes, plenty of creative and innovative ideas, and great chats with professors and fellow students. People were super kind and willingly shared their work and provided advice. Unfortunately, it was a quick visit due to other commitments. This year, I'm planning to stay longer! It's truly worth taking full advantage of this enriching experience. The conference is a great opportunity to connect with others and stay in the loop about the newest trends in research and language learning/teaching through technology."

- Francesca (University of South Florida)

"Besides gaining knowledge and being up to date with my field, the CALICO conference provides me with networking opportunities and connections with other researchers and grad students in my field." - Ali (Washington State University)

"CALICO2023 was my first CALICO conference. I was really impressed by the organization of the event and the warmth of the community. It was also great to finally connect in person with CALICO colleagues for the first time in my PhD journey. I look forward to reconnecting with everyone this summer in Pittsburgh." - Hiba (York University, Canada)

Grad student spotlight: The Success of CALICO Grad Students

In December, we reached out to see what the great students, educators, and researchers of the CALICO Graduate Student population had accomplished. Below are the accomplishments submitted by our great body of students. Congratulations to you all on all your hard work and accomplishments!

Sebnem Kurt

PhD Student @ English Department, Iowa State University

CALICO Presentation: Technology Showcase "LinguaQuest: A Task-Based Language Learning VR Game"

Publications: Kurt, S., Beck, J., & Alharthi, A. (2023). "The word profile of a Global Online Course for English language teachers: A corpus-based research project." *Journal of Language Teaching*, 3(4), 1-10. <https://jlt.ac/home/article/view/40>

Noted Achievement: Designed and published first VR language learning game in Meta's App Lab.

Mukib Khan

Catherine Clements

PhD Student @ TESOL/Applied Linguistics,
Oklahoma State University

CALICO Presentation:

Poster "Enhancing Research Dissemination:
An Overview of the Implementation of
Graphical Abstracts (GA) in Scholarly
Communication"

PhD Candidate @ Learning Technologies
Program, Department of Curriculum &
Instruction, University of Minnesota

Award: Huebner Fellowship for Learning
Technologies.

Grad SIG Leadership Team and Committee



**Lillian Jones | Chair, CALICO Grad
Special Interest Group 2023-2024**

Lillian Jones is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Davis. She studies Spanish linguistics and second language acquisition with a focus on educational technologies. Her dissertation research focuses on the impact of text messaging on second language Spanish oral fluency. She can be contacted at liljones@ucdavis.edu.

**Uliana Ovsiannikova | Co-Chair, CALICO Grad
SIG 2023-2024**

Uliana Ovsiannikova is currently pursuing her Master's in TESOL with a minor in Game Design at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she holds a Research Assistant position on a Meta-funded project on integrating virtual reality in language programs in 10 underserved high schools across three states. Her research focus lies in the intersection of artificial intelligence for language education and virtual reality. Uliana's email is uo2@illinois.edu.





Ali Asiri | Co-Chair, CALICO Grad Special Interest Group 2023-2024

Ali Asiri is a Ph.D. candidate in the Language, Literacy, and Technology program at Washington State University. He holds a BA in English Language and an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language from Gonzaga University. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. degree with a focus on Educational Technology for English Language teachers. Ali's research interests include Computer-Assisted Language Learning, Teacher Education, and Educational Technologies.

Learn more about our [Graduate SIG Committee and members](#).

Join CALICO and the Grad Student SIG

CALICO is a great organization for people interested in and doing research on language learning and technology! Benefits for students include:

- Yearly conference opportunities
 - Present your own work, attend workshops, presentations, and network
 - Volunteer opportunities (reduced/free registration)
- Webinars, workshops, panels & other professional development events
 - Subscribe to the [CALICO listserv](#).

- Discounted [organization membership](#) (\$30) and conference registration fees
- Access to [CALICO Journal](#)
- Eligibility to apply for CALICO awards
 - *Annual Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- Access to bring questions & concerns to CALICO board
- Opportunities to join different [Special Interests Groups](#) (e.g., Gaming, VR, SLA,
- A supportive academic community
- Affiliation with a prestigious, long-standing organization (put on your CV!)

Resources

Check out our [growing list of graduate student resources](#), which include grants and awards to be on the lookout for, conferences, journals with a focus on CALL, and other miscellaneous funding opportunities!

*Note that there have been several new awards and resources added, such as the [2024 MAFLT LCTL Innovation Awards \(Less Commonly Taught Languages \(LCTLs\)\)](#).

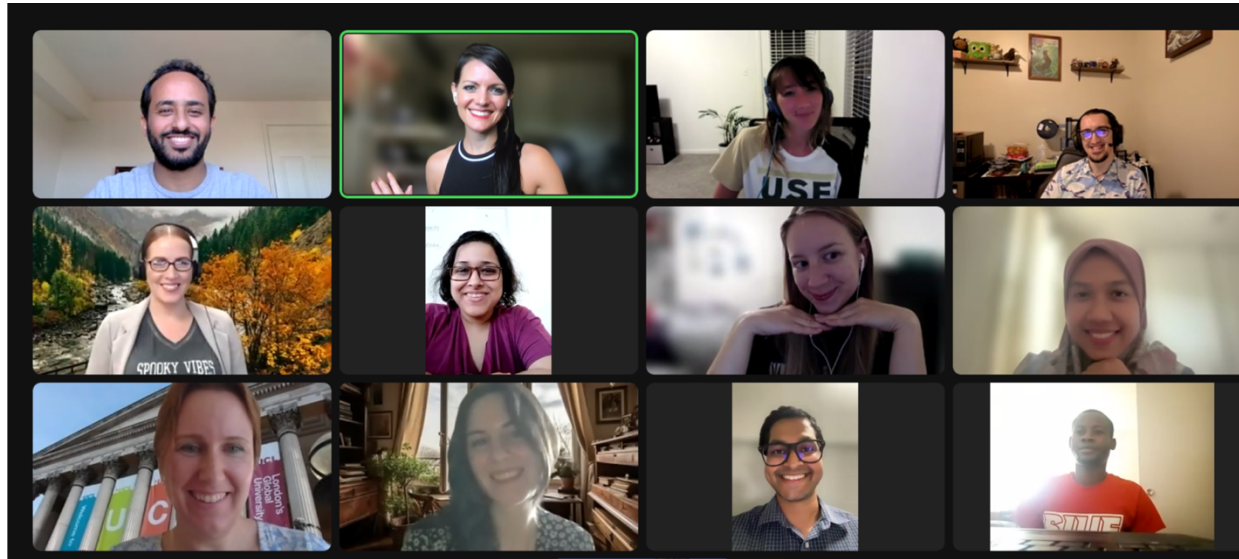
We appreciate your continued interest and engagement with our community. If you have any further questions, feedback, or suggestions for future events, please follow us on [Slack channel](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)!

Please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or suggestions for events or collaborations!

Thank you,

Lily, Uli, and Ali

The Grad Student SIG Leadership Team 2023-2024



The **Grad Student SIG's mission** centers on two integral groups: our graduate student members and the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium's (CALICO) broader community of scholars. The Grad Student SIG represents an unwavering commitment to enhancing the academic journey of graduate students and scholars alike.

Our mission resonates with the core principles of networking, collaboration, and support in research. These principles form a critical pillar, supporting our overarching focus on elevating the graduate student experience and fostering

academic excellence within CALICO. We aspire to cultivate a vibrant community that empowers graduate student members and enriches the scholarly landscape of CALICO.

Networking: we create avenues for personal and professional growth for the members.

Research: we provide resources, platforms, and workshops to encourage and support graduate students as they engage in meaningful research projects.

Collaboration: we catalyze the emergence of innovative ideas and solutions that enrich CALICO's scholarly tapestry.

Looking ahead, we envision a future where a vibrant network of engaged graduate student scholars thrives within CALICO, by fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity, collaborative spirit, and unwavering support. We aim to contribute meaningfully to language instruction, educational technology, and scholarship advancements within CALICO's global community.

