

# Rachel E. Weiher

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## SUMMARY

I am an educator, educational developer, and researcher with 5+ years of experience in higher education teaching, instructional design/assessment, and applied linguistics research. My mission in all of these roles is to broaden access to scholarship and academia, notably for nontraditional students such as first-generation college, transfer, and re-entry students.

Skills & strengths include:

- Assessment & Evaluation
- Quantitative Research
- Project Management
- Grant Writing
- Experience Management
- Relationship Cultivation
- Multi-Generational & Multi-Rank Collaboration

## EDUCATION

- Exp. 2024    University of California, Berkeley  
Ph.D., Romance Languages & Literatures (Linguistics Emphasis)  
Dissertation: *"Decentering the Hexagon: Towards a Sociolinguistically Informed French Language Curriculum"*
- 2016        University of California, Davis  
B.A., French (Minor: Linguistics)  
High Honors (College of Letters & Science)  
Departmental Citation for Honors in French (Dept. of French & Italian)
- 2014        College of the Canyons (Santa Clarita, CA)  
Completion of Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)

## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

2023-present

Library Fellow, Graduate Student Researcher || Library of French Thought, UC Berkeley

- Oversee day to day operations of the Library of French Thought, including assisting undergraduates, graduates, and faculty with book acquisitions, check-out/check-in, and course reserves.
- Set and oversee open-study hours for undergraduates; oversee booking for departmental events; assist with organization of undergraduate and graduate programming in the Department of French.

2022-2023

Doctoral Completion Fellow || University of California, Berkeley

- Designed and drafted a manuscript on the teaching of major colonial languages (French emphasis), including an original approach to decentering standardness in language teaching. Book-length manuscript will be completed in 2024.
- Designed original semester-long enhanced instructional program for Berkeley's *Elementary French II* that foregrounds sociolinguistic variation in the French-speaking world.
- Trained instructors teaching experimental sections in foundations of variationist sociolinguistics and sociolinguistically informed language teaching.
- Conducted multi-classroom research study: collected quantitative and qualitative data via student artifacts and survey-based assessments, analyzed and reported findings in support of integrating sociolinguistics into elementary language curriculum.

2022-Present

First Step Discovery Fellow || University of California, Berkeley

- Collaborated with stakeholders from departments of French, Scandinavian, College Writing, Middle Eastern Languages/Cultures, and Italian Studies to devise novel approaches to inquiry-based teaching and learning in the language classroom.
- Contributed anecdotes from experience in integrating food, new media, and alternative assessment styles into French language pedagogy.

January-May 2022

Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) || Center for Teaching and Learning at UC Berkeley

- Conducted Academic Program Review of undergraduate and graduate programs in the Department of French: conducted quantitative and qualitative assessments of student artifacts from select courses, designed survey materials for student feedback, analyzed quantitative and qualitative data and drafted detailed report of findings for faculty, graduate students, and staff in the Department of French.
- Collaborated with stakeholders in UC Berkeley's Division of Undergraduate Education and Research, Teaching, and Learning (RTL) unit to develop direct and indirect forms of assessment of student learning outcomes.

May-August 2021

Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) || Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese at UC Berkeley

- Co-designed brand new, cross-listed course *Introduction to Romance Languages & Linguistics* aimed at serving undergraduate students interested in any Romance language, speakers of Romance languages interested in linguistics, and students planning to study abroad in Romance-speaking countries/territories.
- Developed semester-long curriculum including fundamentals of linguistics, survey of historical development of Latin into Romance languages, and special topics in Romance

sociolinguistics including multilingualism, language ideologies, and minoritized language revitalization.

- Drafted syllabus, devised schedule of readings, and developed assessments for submission to Courses of Instruction (COI) unit of Academic Senate. Course approved Spring 2022, taught Fall 2022.

August-December 2020

Instructional Design Fellow || The Berkeley Language Center at UC Berkeley

- Redesigned *Practical Phonetics & Listening Comprehension* (French 35) to incorporate greater representation of non-standard French varieties and training in foundational research skills in (socio)linguistics.
- Developed semester-long curriculum including the fundamentals of articulatory phonetics, survey of the sound systems of French including individual sounds and their articulatory properties, case studies including Acadian French and French spoken in the Parisian *banlieue*, and special topics including language attitudes and linguisticism.
- Drafted syllabus, devised schedule of readings, and developed assessments. Course approved by the Department of French Fall 2020, taught Spring 2021 & Spring 2022.

## PUBLICATIONS

Faidley, E., Weiher, R., Sweat, A., & Davidson, J. (*in preparation*). Graduate Student Labor and Livelihood: A Social Movement and Organizational Analysis of the 2022 University of California Graduate Student Strike. Book chapter in progress.

Weiher, R. (in press). Factors of Lexical Stability in (Inter)Action Across Romance. Proceedings of the 49th Linguistics Symposium on Romance Languages. Open Romance Linguistics, Language Sciences Press.

Helms, A., Licata, G and Weiher, R. (2022). Influence of Orthography in Production and Perception of /b/ in US Spanish. *Estudios de Fonética Experimental*, XXXI, 9-29.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Weiher, R. "Equitable Assessment Basics," invited workshop in the UC Berkeley Center for Teaching & Learning (Mar. 3, 2023).

Weiher, R., Sweat, A. & Flynn, C. "Decolonial curricula from aspiration to action," accepted poster session for Virginia Tech's 2023 Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy; Blacksburg, VA (Feb. 15-17, 2023).

Weiher, R., & Licata, G. "Pandemic Pedagogy as a Catalyst for Intersectional Approaches to Language Teaching," conference talk accepted to panel on "How the Pandemic

Permanently Changed Teaching," Modern Language Association (MLA) 2023 Convention; San Francisco, CA (Jan. 5-8, 2023).

Weiher, R., & Yeh, A. "Who Are We Doing This For?" Accessible Language in a Language and Literature Department," conference talk accepted to panel on "Making Scholarship and Scholarly Language Accessible and Inclusive," Modern Language Association (MLA) 2023 Convention; San Francisco, CA (Jan. 5-8, 2023).

Weiher, R. "Decentering the Hexagon in French Language Teaching," conference talk given at the Association of University Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF+) Annual Event, Virtual Workshop on Decentering French Studies (May 4, 2022).

Weiher, R. "Decentering colonial powers in language instruction: A case study in French Phonetics," conference talk accepted to American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL) 2022 Conference; Pittsburgh, PA (Mar. 19-22, 2022).

Sweat, A. & Weiher, R. "A Conversation with Dr. Stephanie Maroney: What are the Public Humanities?," interview facilitated in the Practicing the Humanities Colloquium at UC Berkeley (Sept. 6, 2021).

Weiher, R. "The Teaching of Sociolinguistic Variation in Contemporary French," conference talk given in panel on "High-Impact Practices in the Teaching of Romance Languages," Modern Language Association (MLA) 2020 Convention; Seattle, WA (Jan. 9-12, 2020).

Weiher, R. "A Variationist Approach to French Pedagogy," invited talk given for the Found in Translation Working Group at UC Berkeley (Dec. 3, 2019).

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2023 Georges Gérard Library Fellowship, Dept. of French
- 2023 Summer Research Grant for Romance Languages & Literatures
- 2022 Doctoral Completion Fellowship, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2022 Discovery Teaching Fellowship, Berkeley Discovery Initiative
- 2022 Georges Gérard Library Fellowship, Dept. of French (*declined*)
- 2022 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, GSI Teaching & Resource Center
- 2021 Block Grant Award, Romance Languages & Literatures
- 2020 Professional Development Fellowship, Berkeley Language Center
- 2019 Conference Travel Grant, Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2019 Rodriguez Continuing Fellowship, Romance Languages & Literatures
- 2019 Laura Bassi Scholarship for Editorial Assistance, Partial Refund (*declined*)
- 2019 Summer Research Grant for Romance Languages & Literatures
- 2019 Graduate Student Award, 49th Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages
- 2018 Foreign Language & Area Studies Award, Institute of European Studies

- 2017 Rodriguez First-Year Fellowship, Romance Languages & Literatures  
2017 William V. Power Award, Romance Languages & Literatures  
2016 Departmental Citation for Honors in French, UC Davis

## HIGHER EDUCATION TEACHING EXPERIENCE

\*Lead Instructor/Instructor of Record      † Taught remotely via Zoom

University of California, Berkeley

- 2023 \*French 2: *Elementary French II*
- 2022 \*French, Spanish, Italian C26: *Introduction to Romance Languages & Linguistics*  
\*French 2: *Elementary French II*  
\*French 35: *Practical (Socio)Phonetics & Listening Comprehension*
- 2021 \*French 2: *Elementary French II*  
\*French 1: *Elementary French I*  
\*†French 35: *Practical (Socio)Phonetics & Listening Comprehension*
- 2020 \*†French 1: *Elementary French I*  
\*†French 2: *Elementary French II*
- 2019 Linguistics 150: *Sociolinguistics* (instr. Isaac Bleaman)  
\*French 2: *Elementary French II*
- 2018 \*French 1: *Elementary French I*

University of California, Davis

2015-2016 Peer Tutor in the Dept. of French & Italian

## SECONDARY TEACHING & TUTORING EXPERIENCE

- 2014 Teaching Assistant in French 1, 2, and English 9 at Emerson Jr. High in Davis, CA  
2012-2016 Freelance French Tutor for middle/high school-level French 1, 2, 3, and AP 4

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017-Present

Doctoral Researcher, Grant Writer

- Secured \$120,000+ in fellowship and grant funding for language study, conference presentations, travel, and educational research projects pertaining to Romance Linguistics.
- Conducted sociolinguistic fieldwork with 18 informants in Paris, France and surrounding suburbs: recruited participants, conducted one-on-one recorded interviews and reading tasks, performed acoustic analysis of vowel productions from each participant.

- Conducted coding and verification for two linguistic studies of French conducted by the Laboratoire LaTTiCe (CNRS/ENS/Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle).
- Verified and corrected digital transcriptions of early modern French periodicals for faculty book project on the historical linguistics of the French press.

## INDUSTRY-BASED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012-2014, 2014-2016

Administrative Assistant || U.S. HealthWorks (Santa Clarita, CA)

- Managed front-end of Microsoft SharePoint-based company intranet, including design of pages, workflows, and storage systems for end users.
- Researched and assisted in white paper drafting for acquisition of third-party SharePoint tools and add-ons.
- Designed tutorials and trainings for end users and new IT department hires.
- Trained newly hired Administrative Assistant.
- Facilitated day-to-day troubleshooting with end users.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MENTORING

2022-23

UAW 2865 Union Steward to the Department of French (UC Berkeley)

- Attended small- and large-scale organizing meetings with co-workers across the Berkeley campus and UC system
- Shared pertinent information with French department colleagues and offered weekly office hours during the Fall 2022 semester for co-workers' questions/concerns

2022

Research Program Mentor & Panel Judge, Polygence (Menlo Park, CA)

- Offered remote research mentorship to secondary school students pursuing research projects in French Studies and/or linguistics.
- Served as panel judge for Polygence's 6th Symposium of Rising Scholars.

2020-22

Project Committee Member, Department of French (UC Berkeley)

- Participated in brainstorming sessions ahead of grant proposal for the Empowering French & Francophone Studies grant (2022).
- Co-drafted French department Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) and Antiracism statements for public-facing department website (2021-22).
- Designed and piloted asynchronous modules for remote instruction in the Elementary French Language sequence (2020).

2018-2021

Manuscript Reviewer & Proofreader

- Reviewed, by invitation, manuscript of an article in French sociolinguistics for the *Journal of French Language Studies*.
- Proofread journal articles in press for the *EuroAmerican Journal of Applied Linguistics and Languages*.

2018-20

Coordinator of the Romance Linguistics Working Group (UC Berkeley)

- Organized and advertised biweekly meetings with undergraduates, graduates, and faculty across various departments (e.g., Linguistics, French, Spanish & Portuguese, etc.)
- Prepared and shared short readings on a range of topics related to Romance linguistics.
- Organized “works in progress” presentations by graduate students and faculty.
- Secured yearly funding from Berkeley’s Townsend Center for the Humanities.

2018-19

First Year Graduate Student Mentor, Department of French (UC Berkeley)

- Served as point of contact for newly arrived students specializing in French in the Romance Languages & Literatures program.
- Advised first-year RLL-French students with respect to course offerings in RLL-affiliated departments and, RLL core requirements, life/housing in Berkeley, campus resources, etc.

2017-18

Graduate Student Representative to the Department of French (UC Berkeley)

- Attended faculty meetings in the Department of French as representative of graduate students, including bringing graduates’ concerns to department faculty.
- Shared pertinent information communicated by faculty with graduate students.
- Organized social events for graduate students in French and the RLL Program.
- Organized first annual Rex Lecture in the Department of French: solicited nominations from graduate students for scholar in French Linguistics, secured faculty approval of and invited speaker, organized flight/accommodation/dinner and welcomed speaker upon arrival to Berkeley.

2016

Peer Advisor in the Department of French & Italian (UC Davis)

- Advised undergraduate peers interested in French courses, the Major, or the Minor, notably with respect to completing course and/or thesis requirements.

## PUBLIC-FACING WRITING

Weiher, R. (2017). “What to Consider If Considering Transferring Colleges,” Darling Magazine - Online Blog.

Weiher, R. (2017). "Why Taking a Gap Year Could Help Your Career," Darling Magazine - Online Blog.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Language Association, 2019-present
- American Association of Teachers of French, 2023-present

## SKILLS & LANGUAGES

### Languages

- English (native)
- French (near-native speaking/reading/writing)
- Italian (high-intermediate speaking/reading/writing)
- Catalan (low-intermediate speaking/reading/writing)
- Spanish (elementary speaking/reading/writing)
- Latin (some reading knowledge)

### Technical Skills & Software

- Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Blackboard, Quizlet, Padlet
- Research & Project Management: Zotero, Mendeley, Notion, Obsidian, Trello, When2Meet, Doodle, Calendly
- Experience Management: Microsoft Office Suite, Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey
- Online Communication & Web Development: Adobe Reader, Google Sites, Squarespace, Slack, Discord, Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams
- Cloud Storage: Google Drive, Box
- Data Analysis: R, Praat

### Professional Qualifications

- bCourses A11y Basics (Course on Universal Design for Canvas LMS), UC Berkeley Digital Learning Services (2023)
- Certificate of FERPA Training, UC Learning Center (2022)
- "Teaching French in College" Pedagogy Seminar Sequence, Department of French at UC Berkeley (2018-19)