

Oliver Whitmore

Curriculum Vitae

French Department
4125 Dwinelle Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
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A. Education

2018-Current. ABD in **Romance Languages & Literatures (Linguistics Track)** w/
Designated Emphasis (minor) in **Indigenous Language Revitalization** University of
California, Berkeley. Advisor: Rick Kern.

Candidacy Exam Areas: Historical Western Romance Morphology; Language
Revitalization; Occitan Dialectology.

2026, Expected Dissertation: The Internet Dialectology of Occitan: Mapping Heritage
Place on Digital Space.

2018. M.A. French Linguistics. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Thesis: *The Past Has Not Passed: The Rejuvenation of the Passé Simple on Twitter*.
Advisor: Zsuzsanna Fagyal.

2016. B.A. with Honors Research Distinction in Romance Studies, with Honors in
Arts & Sciences. **Majors: Romance Studies & Linguistics.** The Ohio State University.
Thesis: *Do Diminutives Make the Vowel Shrink?: An Account of Monophthongization in
Spanish*. Advisor: Fernando Martínez-Gil. Thesis: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/76661>

B. Awards (at Berkeley, unless indicated)

2024, Spring, Berkeley Language Center Fellowship

2022, Fall, French Dept Gerard Fellowship

2022, Spring, French Dept Gerard Fellowship

2021, Summer, French Dept Summer Grant

2020, Fall, RLL Continuing Fellowship

2020, Summer, French Dept Summer Grant

2018-2019 FLAS Fellowship for study of Catalan

2017 Conference Travel Grant. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

2015 Study Abroad Travel Grant for Montpellier, France. The Ohio State University.

C. Article & Proceedings

(submitted). *Nommer une place pour l'occitan*. [Proceedings of AIEO 2023]

2023 But I don't speak Breton ...? Teaching Regional & Minority Languages & Cultures of France. *French Studies Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/frebul/ktad018>

D. Book Review

(in preparation) Review of *Heritage Languages in the Digital Age: The case of Autochthonous Minority Languages in Western Europe* (eds. Birte Arendt, Gertrud Reershemius, Multilingual Matters, 225 pp.)

2024 Review of *Studies in Italian as a Heritage Language* (ed. Francisco Bryan Romano, De Gruyter Mouton, 324 pp.) <https://linguistlist.org/issues/35.1316/>

E. Conference & Forum Presentations

2024 *Methods in Internet Dialectology*. Minority Languages in European Societies. University of Turin & University of Aosta. Turin, Italy & Bard, Italy. July 3-6, 2024. Talk.

2024 *So you want to go to graduate school?* Invited Panelist for Comparative Literature Undergraduate Conference University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. April 27, 2024.

2024 *Awareness of Contemporary Occitan among Learners of French*. Berkeley Language Center. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. April 26, 2024. Talk available here: <https://blc.berkeley.edu/news/apr-26-2024-spring-blc-fellows-forum>

2023 *Naming a Place for Occitan in the US French Curriculum*. Association internationale d'études occitanes (AIEO). Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich, Germany. Sept 11-15, 2023. Talk.

2023 *Where is the Òc in Local ? Language Ideology in the Social Media Network*. Modern Language Association. San Francisco, California. Jan 5-8, 2023. Talk.

2022 *From Paris to the Provinces: Regional Cultures and Social Geography of France: A syllabus for an English language course*. Bypassing Paris? / "Se passer" de Paris? Asynchronous Virtual Conference. April 20, 2022. Talk.

2022 *Les langues et cultures régionales : A syllabus for a French Course*. Bypassing Paris? / "Se passer" de Paris? Asynchronous Virtual Conference. April 20, 2022. Talk.

2020 *Aquò m'agrada: The Use of Occitan on Facebook*. VocUM, University of Montreal. Montreal, Canada. Synchronous Virtual Conference. Talk.

2020 *Occitan on Facebook*. French Department Works in Progress Series. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. Talk.

2020 *A past not so simple : The French Passé Simple*. Humanités Numériques et Digital Studies, Université Paul Valéry III, Montpellier, France. Dec 2-4, 2020. Talk. Could not attend due to Covid-19.

2019 *Faceb'Òc: Occitan Orthographical Conventions on Facebook*. Romance Linguistics Working Group. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. Talk.

2018. *The Past Has Not Passed: The Rejuvenation of the Passé Simple on Twitter*, Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS 10) Graduate Conference, Urbana, IL. Talk.

2017. *The Past Has Not Passed: The Rejuvenation of the Passé Simple on Twitter*, AFLS Association for French Language Studies. Glendon College of York University, Toronto, Canada. August 8-10, 2017. Poster

2017. *The Words We Frequent: Frequency, Sound Change, and Mental Representation*. Illinois Language and Linguistics Society (ILLS 9) Graduate Conference, Urbana, IL. March 31-April 1, 2017. Talk.

F. Invited Lectures

2024 *L'occitan e las calandretas*. For French 147, Le français comme langue mondiale. Instructor : Rick Kern.

2023. *What is French literature?* Exploration of library resources; joint session with French 1 and English Composition courses. w/ Alexis Stanley.

2022 *Finding Sound in Textual Documents: Sociophonetics Library Research*. For French 35, Introduction to French Sociophonetics. Instructor: Rachel Weiher

2021 *Minority or Majority? The Case of French*. For Ling 155AC, Language in the United States: a Capsule History. Instructor: Bill Weigel

2018 Invited Discussant on French Tense System, Occitan Linguistics, French & Spanish Lexical Semantics of Wine. Romance Linguistics Working Group. University of California, Berkeley.

G. Library Documents

(in preparation) Occitan Studies Course Guide. (Student-aimed bibliography) UC Berkeley Library.

2022 *Graduate Student Researcher Library Guide*, 1st edition. (A handbook to developing the physical, intellectual, and social space of the *Bibliothèque de la pensée française*). Library of French Thought, Dept of French, UC Berkeley. 95 pp.

H. Interviews by the Press

Pratx, Philippe. (27 July 2024). "Oliver Whitmore: un universitaire américain fait entrer l'occitan à Berkeley (Interview)". *Cheminez.fr* <https://cheminez.fr/2024/07/29/oliver-whitmore-fait-entrer-loccitan-a-berkeley-interview/>

Pech, Clément. (8 March 2024). "Entrevista a Oliver Whitmore", on L'ora del tè. *Radio Occitània*. <https://www.podcastics.com/podcast/episode/entrevista-doliver-whitmore-fr-285068/?s=788>

Pratx, Philippe. (3 March 2024). "Occitans, cet universitaire américain a besoin de vous pour une étude". *Cheminez.fr*. <https://cheminez.fr/2024/03/03/occitans-cet-universitaire-americain-a-besoin-de-vous-pour-une-etude/>

Gratiolet, Guillaume. (7 Aug 2023). "3 Questions A...Oliver Whitmore". *Lo Diari revista culturala*. <https://lodiari.com/3qa-oliver-whitmore/>

I. Teaching & Educational Appointments

UC Berkeley as primary instructor, in French dept unless indicated otherwise.

Spring 2025 French Phonology & Morphology

Fall 2024 Introduction to Romance Languages and Linguistics. Three sections.

Summer 2024: 2nd year Writing Course: The Embottled Experience: Testing Terroir and Sensing the Self. Course cancelled.

Fall 2023 Introduction to Romance Languages and Linguistics. Three sections.

Summer 2023 Intensive Intro Beginner French 1.

Spring 2023 French Pronunciation, Placemaking, and Dialectology.

Summer 2022 2nd year Writing Course: Endangered Languages: Why does linguistic diversity matter? (Taught in Linguistics dept).

Fall 2021 Intermed French 3

Spring 2021 Intermed French 3

Spring 2020 Intro French 2

Fall 2019 Intro French 1

UC Berkeley, as Reader

Summer 2022 Language in the United States: A Capsule History (in Linguistics dept)

UC Berkeley, as Head French Dept librarian ([Library of French Thought](#))

Fall 2023

Fall 2022

Spring 2022

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, as primary instructor

Spring 2018 Intro French 2. Two sections.

Fall 2017 Intro French 1

Spring 2016 Intro French 1. Two sections.

Fall 2016 Intro French 1.

J. Mentorship (of Undergraduate Researcher)

Summer 2024--Present. Drisana Bhatia.

K. Academic Services and Professionalization

2023-2024. Co-leader of the Romance Studies Working Group (to mentor undergraduate research projects)

2023-Current. Ex-officio consultant of the French Department Faculty Library Committee. UC Berkeley

2023 Proofreader for Berkeley Linguistics Application Review Program (to help students of underrepresented backgrounds with their applications to graduate linguistics programs)

2023 Primary Organizer for the Romance Languages & Literatures Undergraduate Research Roundtable. Held on May 3, 2023.

2022 Advisor to UC Berkeley Library on purchase of Occitan Studies materials.

2021 Internal Reviewer for *Stories from the Field.*, Kelly Anne Brown. UC Humanities Research Institute.

2021-Current. Primary Organizer. Occitan Studies Working Group, University of California, Berkeley. Annual Lectures available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@occitanstudiesestudisoccit5324>

2020-2024 Student Representative to Romance Languages & Literatures Faculty Committee.

2019-Current. Contact for Prospective Applicants & Students.

2018-2020. Romance Linguistics Working Group. [defunct between 2020-2023, rebaptised as Romance Studies WG in 2023, see above].

2017. Committee Member for Illinois Language and Linguistics Society Graduate Conference (ILLS 10). University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2017. Judge for Undergraduate Research Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2016-2018 Social Dynamics of Language Variation and Change Reading Group. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2016. Administrator for French Conversation Table. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2015. Undergraduate Peer Mentor: Academic Advising for Freshman Honors students. The Ohio State University.

L. Private Tutoring and Proofreading

2017-Current. English Proofreader for Dorian Pastor, École Normale Supérieure de Paris

2018-2021. English Proofreader for Taoyu Yang, UC Irvine.

2019 Preparation of graduate student in History for French Reading Exam.

M. Technical Skills

Microsoft Office, Google Office

Library of Congress Classification (LCC); Librarything; TinyCat; Goodreads

Zoom, Skype, YouTube

Moodle, Canvas, Blackboard

R Statistical Software

CITI Research Ethics Training (last completed: Spring 2023)

Disability Access for Libraries (UC Berkeley online training, Fall 2023)

N. Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association

Association Internationale d'études occitanes
Société Guilhem IX

O. Languages

English – Native

French – Advanced

Spanish – High Intermediate

Occitan – Advanced, reading, listening; Intermediate, writing, speaking.

Catalan—Advanced, reading; Beginner: listening, writing, speaking.

Reading Languages Old Occitan, Old French, Portuguese, Italian, Latin.