

Justine Meyr, PhD

Educational Leadership | Digital Learning

Forward-thinking educator with 20+ years of domestic and international experience in higher education. I hold a PhD in Education, specializing in community building and digital learning. I am a self-starter who is particularly interested in innovative educational practices and values collaborative work environments.

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- ◆ Program Management and Curriculum Design
- ◆ Research and Policy Development
- ◆ Presentations and Relationship Building
- ◆ U.S. Accreditation
- ◆ Intercultural Communication

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Education, The Gevirtz School of Education, University of California Santa Barbara, 2017

- *Emphasis*: Applied Linguistics, Educational Technology, Cultural Perspectives and Comparative Education
- *Dissertation*: [Building Social Presence in a Telecollaboration between U.S. and German University Students](#)
- Visiting Scholar Albert Ludwig University, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, 2015-2016

M.A. in Latin American and Iberian Studies. University of California Santa Barbara, 2010

Certificate of Business Administration. UC Berkeley Extension, 2006

B.A. in History & Italian, minor Economics. Brandeis University, 2002

- Study Abroad in Italy: NYU Florence (SU 1999), Business School (SAA) Turin (F 2000), University of Siena (SP 2001)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Training and Curriculum Development WASC Senior College and University Commission, Alameda, CA 2021 – current

WSCUC is an institutional accrediting agency. In my current roll I collaborate with leaders to construct a vision of Higher Education today and in the future, by leading in person and virtual workshops, online trainings, conferences, and events related to accreditation, leadership and success for all students.

- ◆ Developed and delivered hybrid and online training programs to support higher education institutions in meeting accreditation standards, commissioner onboarding, and general WSCUC staff onboarding and professional development.
- ◆ Integrated data analytics to evaluate training effectiveness, improving peer reviewer training outcomes and responding to policy issued by the Department of Education.
- ◆ Expanded access to training by selecting scalable e-learning platforms and webinars.
- ◆ Collaborated with institutional leaders, commissioners and WSCUC Vice Presidents to design and lead conversations, workshops and our annual conference around higher education accreditation and student success in diverse contexts.
- ◆ Support the VP Chief Learning Officer in building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, presenters, and CEOs.
- ◆ Co-lead the [Accreditation Leadership Academy](#), training leaders to address challenges in achieving success for all students, methods of gathering evidence and data for supporting learner outcomes, and supporting innovation in higher education.

Contract Researcher Virtual Reality for Education [VR4Ed](#) 2022 – 2024

- ◆ Developed and implemented virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) curriculum for underserved high school and community college classrooms, focusing on Spanish and French language acquisition.
- ◆ Trained faculty to integrate emerging technologies (VR and AI) into pedagogy, increasing learner engagement.
- ◆ Secured grant funding from Meta to evaluate AI-driven VR learning tools, publishing white papers and research briefs and presenting findings at national and international conferences.

Director of Science and Letters, Make School, San Francisco, CA 2020 – 2021

Make School was an accelerated BS in Computer Science (seeking accreditation with WASC) and operating under the umbrella campus of Dominican University. It currently exists as an [applied computer science degree](#) at Dominican University.

- ◆ Designed and delivered general education curriculum for an accelerated BS in Computer Science, prioritizing students from underserved and underrepresented communities in the tech industry.

- ◆ Aligned curriculum with workforce trends by partnering with tech companies to ensure equitable preparation for underserved students.
- ◆ Utilized KPIs and data analysis to measure program effectiveness, demonstrating success in preparing diverse learners for tech careers.
- ◆ Managed/hired faculty and staff, mentored 11 undergraduate students through career pathways and job skills.
- ◆ Taught online courses in Communication and [Civic Knowledge and Engagement](#).
- ◆ Collaborated in the strategic business plan (including WASC accreditation) to transition from a startup for profit model to a non-profit University.

Lecturer of Spanish and German, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 2018 – 2020

- ◆ COURSES TAUGHT: GERMAN1,2,3,4,5 and 8c (Winter 2018-June 2019). SPANISH 2,3,6 2HY (September 2019-June 2020).
- ◆ Developed materials for the German Department's open-source textbook which was integrated into the learning content management system.
- ◆ Developed online learning materials and performance support strategies for Teaching Assistants.

Graduate Teaching Associate, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 2012 – 2017

- ◆ Taught courses in Education, Spanish, and German, utilizing technology-enhanced teaching methods to improve learner outcomes.
 - COURSES TAUGHT: BLST 45, 60; SPAN1, 2, 3; GERM1, 2, 3; ED289
- ◆ Co-developed a mobile app for language learning, integrating it into coursework.
- ◆ Mentored M.Ed. students, guiding them in designing inquiry projects for K–12 and higher education contexts.

Executive Director, World Experience Teenage Student Exchange, Los Angeles, CA 2011 - 2012

- ◆ Managed daily operations and community of host families for an international teenage exchange program.
- ◆ Led operations for a nonprofit supporting international exchange students, managing a \$400,000 budget and overseeing 50+ volunteers and 5 full time staff.
- ◆ Developed training manuals and orientations to support intercultural competence among host families and students.
- ◆ Collaborated with domestic and international partners to create sustainable programs for long-term impact.

Business Manager, Ransom Seed Laboratory, Carpinteria, CA 2010 – 2013 (contract work after 1/2011)

- ◆ Implemented and facilitated the integration of a new computer database for a small business with 13 employees.
- ◆ Trained all employees in English and Spanish on using the database and basic computer skills.
- ◆ Worked as a liaison between the business owner and software developers to create a database to suit business needs and work processes.
- ◆ Managed payroll, financial planning, annual bookkeeping, and accounts receivable.

Financial Analyst, University of California, Education Abroad Program (UOEAP), Goleta CA 2007 – 2010

- ◆ Duties included: the management of accounts for centers in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean, student financial advising, creation of program fees and development of international study center operating budgets and contributions to the design of a new UOEAP database.

English Language Teacher, IPREFOR, Santiago, Chile 2002-2003

- ◆ Taught advanced and intermediate business English and writing classes to Chilean business professionals.

AWARDS

- ✓ UCSB Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Department of German and Slavic Studies, 2015
- ✓ UCSB Graduate Student Association Excellence in Teaching Award in the Social Sciences, 2014
- ✓ UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant, 2012-13, 2013-14

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND PEER REVIEW

- ✓ Peer Reviewer for 2024, 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting Submissions related to DEI, Policy and Educational Technology.
- ✓ Editorial Review Board Member, Journal of Virtual Exchange ([JVE](#)) (2017-2021)
- ✓ UCSB Workshops on Second Language Acquisition, 2013-2014

- Planned, lead and co-presented University workshops for language instructors at UCSB. Workshops focused on department collaborations, current issues in language pedagogy, and teaching new technology skills to instructors of foreign languages.
- ✓ Copy Editor, Language Learning and Technology (<http://lt.msu.edu>) (2012-2013)
- ✓ UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund, Intern, Santiago, Chile, 2002-2003
 - Volunteer for extracurricular program development in underprivileged neighborhoods in urban areas.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- ✓ **Meyr, J.** (July 2024) Integrating AI Chatbots into Higher Education Language Learning Programs. Teaching and Learning with AI 2024, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, USA. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Thrasher, T., Kaplan-Rakowski, R., Sadler, R., Ovsianikova, U., & Ye, Y. (May 2024). Implementing Large-Scale Virtual Reality-Assisted Language Learning Research. CALICO, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Taguchi, N., Sadler, R., & Godwin-Jones, R. (May 2024). Confluences and Connections: Bridging Industry and Academia in CALL. CALICO, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. [in-person (invited) panel]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.** (April 2024). Becoming a WSCUC Peer Reviewer. WSCUC Accreditation Resource Conference (ARC), San Diego, CA. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Opp, S., & Goor, M. (April 2024). Accreditation Liaison Officer Forum. WSCUC Accreditation Resource Conference (ARC), San Diego, CA. [in-person forum]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Thrasher, T., Ovsianikova, U., & Yuan, Ye. (2023). Student Perspectives on AI-Avatar Role Plays in Virtual Reality. *WorldCALL Proceedings*. [not peer-reviewed]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Kaplan-Rakowski, R., Chun, D., & Thrasher, T. (August 2023). Exploring the cognitive and affective aspects of language learning in high-immersion virtual reality: Pilot study. European Association for Computer-Assisted Language Learning (EUROCALL), University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland. [in-person symposium]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** Goor, M. (April 2023). New Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO) Orientation. WSCUC Accreditation Resource Conference (ARC), Anaheim, CA. [in-person workshop]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** Chase, D. (October 2023). Accreditation and Assessment. Assessment Institute of Indianapolis (IUPUI), Indianapolis, Indiana. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** Chase, D. (April 2022). Accreditation Leadership Academy. WSCUC Accreditation Resource Conference (ARC), San Francisco, CA. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** Da Silva, E. (January 2020). Open-Source Portuguese textbook. Modern Language Association (MLA), Seattle, Washington. [in-person poster presentation]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** Da Silva, E. (October 2018). Intercultural Communication and Attitudes of Openness. AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) SoCal, Santa Barbara, CA. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J., &** White, K. (April 2018). Obstacles, Solutions, and Unresolved Issues in the Absence of the Language Lab. SWALLT/NWALL (South/Northwest Association for Language Learning), Seattle, Washington. [in-person]
- ✓ **Meyr, J.,** Chun, D., & Yung, Y. (May 2013). Phonetics research on the acquisition of Chinese tones via PRAAT in L2 Chinese learners. CALICO, Honolulu, Hawaii. [in-person]

PUBLICATIONS AND WHITE PAPERS

- ✓ Chun, D., Kaplan-Rakowski, R., **Meyr, J.,** Thrasher, T., & Yuan, Ye. (forthcoming, 2025). Implementing Large-Scale Virtual Reality-Assisted K-12 Educational Research: Lessons Learned, *Educational Technology Research and Development*.
- ✓ Chun, D., Kaplan-Rakowski, R., **Meyr, J.,** Thrasher, T., & Yuan, Ye. (forthcoming, 2025). AI-Mediated High-Immersion Virtual Reality for Language Learning. Y. Lan, D. Chun, & G. Qi (Eds.), *AI-mediated Language Learning in the Metaverse Era*. Springer.
- ✓ Chun, D., Kaplan-Rakowski, R., **Meyr, J.,** Ovsianikova, U., Sadler, R., Thrasher, T., Yuan, Y. (2023). Language learning using *Immerse* in high-immersion virtual reality. White Paper #2 regarding grant received from Meta /Facebook / Oculus / Immerse.

- ✓ **Meyr, J. & Viana da Silva, E.** (2020). Promoting Attitudes of Openness: Intercultural Communicative Competence in a Brazilian-American University Exchange. [*Portuguese Language Journal*, 14](#). American Organization of Teachers of Portuguese.
- ✓ Chun, D., Jiang, Y., **Meyr, J.** & Yang, R. (2015). Acquisition of L2 Mandarin Chinese tones with learner-created tone visualizations. *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation*, 1(1). John Benjamins Publishing Company.

TECHNOLOGY AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Platforms: Windows & MAC Operating systems.
- ◆ Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Moodle, and Blackboard
- ◆ Data Analytics: Excel, Asana, SASS
- ◆ Financial Management: PeopleSoft and QuickBooks
- ◆ Emerging Technologies: Virtual Reality, AI-Driven Tools (ChatGPT, Claude, Dall-e, Gemini), and AI driven chatbots
- ◆ Programming: HTML, CSS, GitHub
- ◆ Graphics: Adobe Creative Suite.

LANGUAGES

- ◆ English (native speaker, C1)
- ◆ Spanish (near native speaker, C1)
- ◆ German (intermediate, B2)
- ◆ Italian (intermediate, B2)
- ◆ Portuguese (Beginner, A2)