

Jenifer B. Vanek, PhD

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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, College of Education and Human Development/Second Language Education. Doctor of Philosophy, Education (Second Language Education). June 2017.

University of Illinois-Chicago, College of Liberal Arts. Master of Arts, Linguistics (MA TESOL). 1996.

Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts. Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, with Distinction. 1991.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Teaching Appointments

University of Minnesota, Second Language Education

- CI 5642 Assessing English Learners – Fall 2017
- CI 5620 Second Language Acquisition for Language Teachers – Summer 2017
- CI 3611 Basics of ESL Instruction - Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015
- CI 3610 Linguistics for Elementary Education Teachers – Spring 2015
- CI 3613 Practical Language Learning for International Communication – Spring 2016

Graduate Appointments

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

- University Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, 2016-2017
- Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition, Research Assistant, Summer 2015
- Teaching English as a Second Language Minor, Program Assistant, CEHD Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Second Language Education, Fall 2014, Spring 2015

University of Illinois - Chicago

- Great Cities Institute, Graduate Assistant, TESOL/Applied Linguistics, 1994-1995

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., King, K., & Abdi, N. (2017). Literacy as social (media) practice: Refugee youth and home language literacy at school. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations, Special issue: Cultural and Academic Adjustment of Refugee Youth in Educational Settings*, 60, 183-197.

Vanek, J., King, K., Bigelow, M. (in press). Social presence and identity: Facebook in an English Language Classroom. *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

Vanek, J. (2016) De facto language policy in legislation defining adult basic education in the United States. *Language Policy Journal*, 15(1), 71-95.

Vanek, J. (2014). Open Educational Resources: New technologies and new ways of learning. *MinneTESOL Journal*, Fall. <http://minnetesoljournal.org/fall-2014/open-educational-resources-new-technologies-and-new-ways-of-learning>.

Commissioned Publications

Vanek, J., (2017). *Using the PIAAC Framework for Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments to Guide Instruction: An Introduction for Adult Educators*. Research to practice brief. Washington DC. American Institutes for Research. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/51bb74b8e4b0139570ddf020/t/589a3d3c1e5b6cd7b42cddcb/1486503229769/PSTRE_Guide_Vanek_2017.pdf

Books

Vanek, J, Simpson, D., Johnston, J & Petty, L. (2016) *IDEAL distance and blended learning handbook*. Boston: World Education, Inc. http://edtech.worlded.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/IDEAL_Handbook.pdf

Non-refereed Journal Articles, Essays, or Book Chapters

Chapters

Vanek, J., Wrigley, H., Jacobson, E., & Isserlis, J. (in press). Supporting Resettlement and Integration: Collaboration in Advocacy of Adult English Language Learners. In H. Linville & J. Whiting (Eds). TESOL.

Vanek, J., Cushing-Leubner, J, Engman, M., & Kaper, A. (in press). In G. Glasgow & J. Bouchard (Eds.) *Language policy, planning, and agentic responses. Volume 2: Acquisition planning*. New York: Routledge.

Rosen, D. and Vanek, J. (2017). Technology for innovation and change in adult education, literacy, and English language learning in the US. In A. Belzer (Ed), *New Directions in Adult and Continuing Education. Turning Points: Recent Trends in Adult Basic Literacy, Numeracy and Language Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 51-60.

Vanek, J. & Bigelow, M. (2016). Refugee and new immigrant learners. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Education*. Luanna Meyer (Ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780199756810-0141

Invited Articles and Book Reviews

Vanek, J. (2017) Response to "Expanding Access with Mobile Digital Devices". *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education*, 6(2), 58-62.

Vanek J. (2016). Book review: Blended learning for the adult education classroom. *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education*, 5(1). p. 72-75.

Vanek, J. & Johnston, J. (2015). Enhancing the digital skills of English language learners studying at a distance. *TESOL Adult Interest Section Newsletter*. *TESOL International Association*. <http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/tesolaeis/issues/2015-03-04/5.html>

Vanek, J. (2013). Northstar digital literacy project: Community engagement initiative. *Digital Life and Learn*. August 2013. <http://digilifelearn.com/the-northstar-digital-literacy-project-community-engagement-initiative-2/>

Vanek, J. (2014). Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. *Tech Tips for Teachers Blog*. World Education, Inc. <http://techtipsforteachers.weebly.com/blog/northstar-digital-literacy-assessment>

Vanek, J. (2013). New technologies: Preparing adult learners. *United Front: From the Blog*. United Way

Proceedings of Conferences

Vanek, J., (in review). Technology, mobility, and transnational reality: Reconsidering the speech community. *Proceedings from the Second Language Acquisition Symposium*. April, 2017. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., & King, K. (in press). Literacy as social (media) practice: Refugee youth and native language literacy at school. In Bryant, E. (Ed). *Proceedings from the 9th Annual LESLLA Symposium*, October, 2015. Flagler College, St. Augustine, FL.

Reder, S., Vanek, J., and Spruck Wrigley, H. (2012). Supporting digital literacy development in LESLLA learners. Published in Vinogradov & Bigelow (Eds). (2012). *Proceedings from the 7th Annual LESLLA Symposium*, September 2011. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 47-66.
http://www.leslla.org/files/resources/leslla_2011_Proceedings.pdf

Additional Publications in Preparation

Vanek, J. (in preparation). Ubiquitous technology: New venues for socially constructed identities for migrant language learners.

Vanek, J. (in preparation). A report of action research on technology integration for English language learners.

Software, Product and Web Resource Development

Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. 2011- Current. Content Developer and Project Consultant. www.digitalliteracyassessment.org

Learner Web. 2007 – 2015. Educational Coordinator and Content Developer. In collaboration Dr. Stephen Reder of the Literacy, Language, and Technology Research Group at Portland State University, developed curricula, created digital learning objects, and built online learning modules in Learner Web. www.learnerweb.org

PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS AND EXHIBITS

Invited Presentations at Professional Meetings, and Conferences

Rosen, D., Constantakis, P., Kattan, S., Aalami, J and Vanek, J. (September, 2017). Blended learning: Leveraging technology to advance adult learning. *ProLiteracy Conference*. Featured presentation invited panelist. Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., (April, 2017). Technology, mobility, and transnational reality: Reconsidering the speech community. *Second Language Acquisition Symposium*. Plenary session invited panelist. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., (March, 2017). Adult English language learners, untrained teachers, and the language of digital literacy: Early findings from a DBR study. *CARLA Fellow Presentation Series*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J. (November, 2016). Quality distance and blended learning: the IDEAL way. *National College Transitions Conference*. Providence, RI

Vanek, J. (November, 2016). Involved instruction: Leveraging technology in distance and blended learning. Preconference workshop. *National College Transitions Conference*. Providence, RI

Vanek, J. (November, 2016). Leveraging trends in blended, distance, and mobile learning to support transitions learners. Panel discussion convener and moderator. *National College Transitions Conference*. Providence, RI

Vanek, J. (September, 2016). Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments: an approach to tech integration in ABE classrooms. Keynote. *Arizona Adult Education Summer Institute*. Tempe, AZ.

Vanek, J. (September, 2016). Involved instruction online: Using a digital space to call home. *Arizona Adult Education Summer Institute*. Tempe, AZ.

Vanek, J. (September, 2016). Effective online learning at your site: Making it possible for teacher involvement. *Arizona Adult Education Summer Institute*. Tempe, AZ.

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., King., K. & Abdi, N. (December, 2015). Youth mediated classroom learning spaces: Translanguaging and the new Minnesota legislation supporting ELs' native languages at school. *CARLA Brown Bag*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., & King, K. (August, 2015). Literacy as social (media) practice: Culturally relevant pedagogy with multilingual youth. *Ignite Conference, Eden Prairie Public School District*, Eden Prairie, MN.

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., & King, K. (August, 2015). Literacy as social (media) practice: Refugee youth and home language at school. *Minnesota Center for Reading Research, Summer Literacy Workshop*, St. Paul, MN.

Vanek, J. & Cytron-Hysom, T. (April, 2015). Introduction to the Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment. *Digital Promise/Conference on Adult Basic Education*. Pre-Conference Session. Denver, CO.

Vanek, J., Bigelow, M., King, K. (November, 2014). Social media, social presence, and transnational identities among Minnesota-Somali youth. *CARLA Brown Bag*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Ajax, E., Chapman, M., Gadkarnee, S., Vanek, J. (December 2013) New models for reaching students in the workplace and through technology. *Time to Reskill Local Engagement Meeting of Joyce Foundation and Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education*. Chicago, IL. Panelist.

Vanek, J. Distance learning for adult ESL learners: Effective practices. (May, 2012). *Atlas Adult ESL Institute*. Minnesota Department of Education. Presenter/Panel Coordinator.

Contributed Papers Presented at Professional Meetings, and Conferences

Vanek, J., (October, 2017) Blended learning: What does this instructional model look like in Adult Basic Education? *Conference on Adult Basic Education – Virtual Conference*. Online.

Vanek, J., (August, 2017) Second language proficiency, academic Language, and digital literacy for LESLLA Learners. *Literacy Education and Second Language Learning for Adults (LESLLA) Conference*. PSU, Portland, OR.

Vanek, J., Castek, J, & Harris, K. (August, 2017) Digital literacy for LESLLA Learners: Impact of context on teaching and learning. *LESLLA Conference*. Portland State University (PSU), Portland, OR.

Vanek, J. (April, 2017). Technology, mobility, and transnational Reality: Reconsidering the speech community. *Second Language Acquisition Graduate Student Symposium*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., (April, 2017). The Digital Homeroom: A resource to help teach computer skills to low-literacy adults. *Conference on Adult Basic Education (COABE)*. Orlando. OR

- Vanek, J., (April, 2017). IDEAL and Involved Instruction: Using practitioner expertise and research with distance and blended learning. *COABE*. Orlando. OR
- Vanek, J., Cushing-Leubner, J., Engman, M., & Kaiper, A. (September, 2016) Vacant-Core policy: Unfounded legitimation claims in one state's Adult Basic Education language policy. *Multidisciplinary Approaches in Language Policy and Planning Conference*, Calgary, Canada.
- Vanek, J. (August, 2016). Integrating problem solving and technology into instruction. *Minnesota ABE Summer Institute*. St. Cloud, MN.
- Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., King, K., & Abdi, N. (November, 2015) Language and learning across transnational contexts: Considering possibilities. *National Council Teachers of English Conference*, Minneapolis, MN.
- Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., King, K., & Abdi, N. (November, 2015) Literacy as social (media) practice: Refugee youth and home language at school. *Low Educated Second Language and Literacy Acquisition Symposium (LESLLA)*, St Augustine, FL.
- Vanek, J., King, K., Bigelow, M. (November, 2015) Social media for refugee teens: Creating an affirming space for identity assertions. *LESLLA*. St. Augustine, FL.
- Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., & King, K. (November, 2015) Literacy as social (media) practice: Culturally relevant pedagogy with multilingual youth. *Minnesota English Learner Education Conference*. Bloomington, MN.
- Vanek, J. (August, 2015) Ubiquitous technology: New venues for socially constructed identities. *Somali Studies International Congress*. Helsinki, Finland.
- Vanek, J. (May, 2015) Response to Bonny Norton: Comments on special issues of Annual Review of Applied Linguistics 35 (2015). Discussant. *University of Minnesota – Second Language Education Department Presentation*. Minneapolis, MN.
- Vanek, J. (May, 2015) A report of action research on technology integration for English language practitioners in Adult Basic Education. *CARLA Language Teacher Education Conference*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.
- Vanek, J., King, K., & Bigelow, M. (November 2014) Social presence, identity, and language learning with Somali newcomers on Facebook. *Minnesota English Learner Education Conference*. Minneapolis, MN.
- Vanek, J., Cushing-Leubner, J. (August, 2014) Leveraging native languages for English language learning: Role of L1 in language and literacy development. *Minnesota Adult Basic Education Summer Institute*. St. Cloud, MN.

Vanek, J. (August, 2014) Online distance learning for adult ELLs: Promising instructional practice. *Minnesota Adult Basic Education Summer Institute*. St. Cloud, MN.

Vanek, J., Cytron-Hysom, T., Yang, P. (April, 2014) Moving forward: A case for building digital literacy and web literacy in corrections education programs. *Minnesota Region III & IV Corrections Education Conference*. Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., Johnston, J., Hart, S., Long, D. (March, 2014) Online distance learning for English Language Learners: Promising instructional practice. *TESOL Conference*. Portland, OR

Vanek, J. (March, 2014) Technology integration into ESL classrooms: Developing teacher awareness. *TESOL Conference*. Portland, OR.

Vanek, J. (March, 2014) Digital literacy treatment in ESL programs: Workforce Investment Act II as de facto language policy. *American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference*. Portland OR.

Reder, S. Vanek, J. and Wrigley, H. (October 2011) Supporting digital literacy development in LESLLA learners. *LESLLA Symposium*. Minneapolis, MN. Panel.

Roundtable Presentations at Professional Meetings, Conferences, etc.

Vanek, J., King, K., Bigelow, M. (March 2015) Face and Facebook: Social media, identity and language learning with Somali newcomers. *American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Posters or Exhibitions

Vanek, J. (April, 2017). Migrant adult learners and digital literacy: Collaborative study for sustainable change. *Doctoral Research Showcase*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., Cushing-Leubner, J., Engman, M., Kaiper, A. (March 2015). Exposing unfounded legitimization claims in a language policy. *College of Education and Human Development Research Day*. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J., (August, 2016) Teaching in a world of ubiquitous technology: Language learning, digital literacy & supporting teachers. *Minnesota ABE Summer Institute*. St. Cloud, MN.

Additional Recent Presentations

2013 Technology Integration for ESL Teachers, *MinneTESOL Conference*.

2013 Digital On-ramps to Career Pathways, *Conference on Adult Basic Education*.

2013 Adult Career Pathways Program Development, *Conference on Adult Basic Education*.

2013 Low-skilled Adults and Technology: Strategies to Support Inclusion, *Macalester Library Technology Conference*.

- 2012 Update on Digital Literacy in Minnesota, *TIES 2012 Annual Education Technology Conference*, Panel.
- 2012 Leaping into MN FastTRAC. You're not alone! *ABE Summer Institute*.
- 2012 Assessing and Building Digital Literacy Skills for Low-skilled Adults. *ABE Summer Institute*.
- 2012 Distance Learning in Minnesota: The State of the State. *ABE Summer Institute*.
- 2012 Assessing and Building Digital Literacy Skills for Low-skilled Adults: A Practical Approach, *Macalester Library Technology Conference*.
- 2011 MN FastTRAC Program Lessons. *Career Technical Education Conference*. Co-presented with K. Hynick System Director for College Transitions and FastTRAC Programs at MN State Colleges & Universities System.
- 2011 Learner Web BTOP Project. *Connect Minnesota Broadband Conference*.
- 2011 Adding DL to ABE. *COABE National Conference*. Virtual presenter on panel facilitated by J. Johnston of Project IDEAL.

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Minnesota

The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) Fellowship, 2016-2017. Recognition and support for outstanding contributions made by graduate students in the area of second language learning and/or teaching.

University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2016-2017

Grant supported dissertation research on use of web-based learning resources to support ESL instruction by volunteers and teachers with little prior training.

Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) Research Assistantship; 2015. Grant supported classroom research on use of Facebook to support English language instruction in alternative school of Somali-refugee youth.

Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Student Travel Grantee; 2012-2016

Grants supported travel to several international academic conferences. (Total \$3,600).

Council of Graduate Students Conference Travel Grant; 2015

Grant supported travel to University of Helsinki to present a paper at the 2015 Somali Studies International Congress. (\$900).

External Awards

Friend of Community Media Award; 2013

St. Paul Neighborhood Network for leadership of Northstar Digital Literacy Project.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Employment - Consulting

EdTech Center at World Ed, Inc. - Boston

IDEAL Consortium - Director (August, 2015 – present). Create and deliver professional development and technical support regarding online learning for teachers and administrators of adult basic education (ABE) and adult ESL learners in the United States. Guide development of the Consortium, providing technical support to member state’s leaders, recruiting new members, and representing the work of the Consortium at professional conferences.

Minnesota Teachers of English to Speakers of other Languages (MinneTESOL)

MinneTESOL Journal - Technical Editor (2015 – present). Format accepted manuscripts. Coordinate and maintain technical aspects of the peer reviewed journal.

Minnesota Literacy Council

Provided leadership to Minnesota Literacy Council on the projects listed below. Created and maintained online instructional and assessment resources for adult ESL and ABE learners. Provided training and technical support on use of assessment and learning modules. Coordinated implementation of resources in Minnesota and United States.

- Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment Project - Educational Coordinator (2011 – present)
- Learner Web Regional Administrator for Minnesota (2007 – present)
- Professional Development facilitator (2013)
- Broadband Technologies & Opportunities Program - Curriculum Coordinator (2010 – 2013)

MN Department of Education

Adult Basic Ed Distance Learning - Leadership Team (2009 – 2016). Provided professional development and technical support regarding online learning for teachers of adult basic education (ABE) and adult ESL learners in Minnesota.

Portland State University, Learner Web Project

Research Applications Committee, IMLS Research Grant (2013 – 2015). Contributed to analysis of data and development of dissemination strategies reporting on digital literacy research in the United States.

MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development – Adult Career Pathways Project

Professional Development Online Content Developer and Facilitator (2011 – 2014). Created and delivered online professional development materials on adult career pathways programming for low-literacy adults in the US.

Center for the Study of Adult Literacy, Georgia State University/American Institutes for Research

Technical Working Group member (2013). Participated in focus group and analysis of CSAL online adult literacy curriculum.

Professional Employment – English Language Teaching

English language/ABE Instructor; St Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education (2002-2011).

Taught workplace ESL, created workplace ESL curricula, developed digital literacy programming.

English language teacher; Global Language Institute, St. Paul, MN (1998-1999).

Taught all skill areas in a university based intensive English language program.

Adult English as a Second Language teacher; Chicago, IL (1993 - 1998).

Developed and taught ESL classes in various settings: Lakeview Learning Center, Local Employment and Economic Development Council of the Near Northside, Roosevelt University, DePaul University, and University of Illinois-Chicago.

PUBLIC AND OTHER SERVICE

2017 Literacy Action Network, Legislative Committee member
2014 – Current MinneTESOL Board, Secretary
Spring 2017 University of Minnesota - SLA Student Symposium proposal reviewer
2014 - 2015 MinneTESOL, Minnesota English Learner Educators Conference, Tech coordinator
2011 – 2014 MN Adult Basic Education Summer Institute Program proposal reviewer
2012 – 2014 Minnesota Learning Commons, Digital Literacy Working Group
2009 – 2011 MN Literacy Action Network ~ Legislative/Advocacy Committee Member
1999, 2000, 2001 MinneTESOL Annual State Convention, Planning Committee Member

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Applied Linguistics
Association for Educational and Communications Technology
Commission on Adult Basic Education
TESOL International Association
Minnesota Literacy Action Network
MinneTESOL Association