

Curriculum Vitae

Michael L. Chyet

600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Box 15592 tel. (202) 360-9429
Washington, DC 20003, U.S.A. e-mail: mooklash@yahoo.com

Education:

- * Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley, 1991 Languages and Cultures of the Middle East
(Dissertation: "And a Thornbush Sprang up Between them": Studies in Mem û Zîn, a Kurdish Romance)
- * M.A. University of California at Berkeley, 1985
Near Eastern Studies and Folklore
- * B.A. University of California at Los Angeles, 1980 Arabic
- * High school. Walnut Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1975

Scholarships and Awards:

- * Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Scholarship in Turkish language
University of California at Berkeley 1984-1985; 1985-1986; 1986-1987.
- * American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT), Bosphorus University, Istanbul, Turkey
Summer 1985: Summer Scholarship for Language Study.
- * U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hayes Research Abroad Award
Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey, Oct. 1987-April 1988.
- * Institute of Turkish Studies Scholarship Award
University of California at Berkeley 1988-1989.
- * Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award
University of California at Berkeley 1989-1990.
- * American Folklore Society Fellows Student Essay Award, October 1989
1st prize for "A Thing the Size of Your Palm": A Preliminary Study of Arabic Riddle Structure," *Arabica* 35 (1988),267-292.
- * Regents of the University of California Scholarship
University of California at Berkeley 1990-1991.
- * Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights, United Nations Association, National Capitol Area. Selected by Washington Kurdish Institute.
Human Rights Luncheon, December 10, 1997.
- * Superior Accomplishment Award, Voice of America, Kurdish Service, Washington, D.C., September 1998.

Languages studied:

Albanian, Arabic (written & several spoken dialects), Aramaic (classical & modern dialects), Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bulgarian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek (modern & classical), Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Judeo-Spanish, Kurdish (Kurmanji & Sorani), Latin, Macedonian,

Persian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Serbo-Croat, Swedish, Turkish, Uzbek, Yiddish, Zaza. (I also have some knowledge of: Amharic, Basque, Cherokee, Chinese, Finnish, Georgian, Irish, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Polish)

Work Experience:

Senior Cataloger: Persian, Arabic, Kurdish, Azerbaijani, Syriac and Turkish
Middle East South Asia Team (MESA), ASME, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. (April 2003-present)

Middle East and Judaica
Catalog Department, Main Library (Doe)
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California (1991-1995)

Senior Editor: Kurdish Service
Voice of America, Washington, DC
(May 1995-July 2000) GS 12, step 4

Language Instructor: First and Second Year Modern Standard Arabic
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California (1984-1986)

Levantine Colloquial Arabic
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California
(1985)

First Year Turkish
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California
(1989-1990)

First Year Kurmanji Kurdish
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California
(1991-1995)

Conversational Kurmanji and Sorani Kurdish
Washington Kurdish Institute, Washington, D.C.
(1997-2007)

First, Second, and Third Year Kurmanji Kurdish
University of Paris, INALCO, Paris, France
(2000-2001)

Beginning and Intermediate Kurmanji Kurdish, Persian and Turkish
Middle East and South Asian Language Institute [MESALI]
Washington, DC (2009-2011)

Beginning and Intermediate Kurmanji Kurdish
Kurdish Language Autumn School (KLAS)
University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany
(Sept. 2017)

Beginning and Intermediate Sorani Kurdish

Kurdish Language Autumn School (KLAS)
University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Germany
(Sept. 2017)

Kurmanji lessons via Skype
(2015-present)

Sorani lessons via Skype
(2016-present)

Sorani lessons via Zoom
Missouri State University (MSU), Springfield, Missouri
(August 2020-present)

**Linguistic/
Ethnographic
Fieldworker:**

Kurdish Community
San Diego, California (1993-1995)

Neo-Aramaic Dialects
San Francisco, California (1990-1991)

Colloquial Turkish Dialects
Erzurum, Turkey (1987-1988)

Palestinian Colloquial Arabic
Kfar Qara, Israel (1980-1982)

**Guest
Museum
Curator:**

Judah L. Magnes Museum
"Embellished Lives: Customs and Costumes of
the Jewish Communities of Turkey" Exhibit
Berkeley, California (1989)

**Intercultural
Community
Worker:**

Interns for Peace
Arab village of Kfar Qara, Israel
and Jewish town of Pardess Hannah-Karkur, Israel
(1980-1982)

Archivist:

Folklore Archives
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, California
(1988-1989)

Lectures:

- "Telling the tale of 'The innocent slandered maiden'"
Benjamin Botkin folklife lecture
American Folklife Center, The Library of Congress
November 21, 2003
- "Divekim vs. Vedikim: more on Neo-Aramaic Influence on Kurdish," presented at
the 3rd *International Conference on Kurdish Linguistics (ICKL3)*, Amsterdam,
August 2016.
- "Jinê min dihefe" and "Heytim": More Examples of Learners' Errors or
Reinterpretation," presented at the *Language Contact and Language Change in
Western Asia Conference (LCaLCiWA)*, Frankfurt am Main, March 2017.

- “Managing Variation: Proposed Methodology for Standardizing Kurdish,” presented at the *Kurdish Futures In and Outside of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran: Fresh Hopes or New Tragedies? Conference*, Exeter, UK, June 26-28, 2017.
- “Kurdish Lexicography,” presented via Skype at *Summer School of Kurdish Studies*, the Zahra Institute, University of Chicago, Cobb Lecture Hall Chicago, Illinois, May 25-29, 2018.
- “American Kurdologists and Their Work,” part of roundtable on “Kurdish Studies in the US Higher Education” hosted at Northeastern Illinois University and organized by Zahra Institute, September 11, 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLbAz-SLt-4>
- “Bibliographic Introduction to Kurdology” presented at conference to honor the memory of Amir Hassanpour *Kurds, Displacement and Resilience*, University of Toronto, October 12-14, 2018.
- “Bibliographic Introduction to Kurdology” (slightly updated), presented at *International Kurdish Studies Conference*, Northeastern University, Chicago, Illinois, July 24-25, 2019.
- “Metodolojiya Standardîzasyona Zimanan: Mînaka Kurdî” [Methodology for standardizing a language: the Kurdish example], presented at INALCO, University of Paris, Paris, France, November 15, 2019. [In Kurmanji and French]
https://www.facebook.com/watchparty/595552327854671/?entry_source=USER_TIMELINE
- “Kurdish, an Understudied Language of the Middle East”, via Zoom for the National Museum of Language, College Park, Maryland, August 25, 2020.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plAtS1jMHNk>
- “Paşeroja zimanê kurdî: senaryoyeka wekhevîxwaz” [The future of the Kurdish language: an egalitarian scenario], presented to a Sorani-speaking audience, via Zoom, for Soran University, Iraqî Kurdistan, February 15, 2021. [In Kurmanji and Sorani; first time I was invited to give this talk to a Sorani-speaking audience]

Publications:

Articles

- * "Açıl Sofram, Açıl!" (Tischleindeckdich): A Comparative Study of Middle-Eastern Versions of AaTh 563," *Fabula* 28 (1987), 90-105.
- * "A Thing the Size of Your Palm": A Preliminary Study of Arabic Riddle Structure," *Arabica* 35 (1988), 267-292.
- * "A Version of the Kurdish Romance Mem u Zin with English Translation and Commentary," in: *Corolla Iranica: Papers in Honour of Prof Dr. David Neil MacKenzie on the Occasion of his 65th Birthday on April 8th, 1991*, ed. R.E. Emmerick and Dieter

Weber (Frankfurt am Main et al.: Peter Lang, 1991),27-48.

- * "And A Thornbush Sprang Up Between Them": Studies in Mem u Zin, The Kurdish Romance, Ph.D. Dissertation," *Kurdistan Times* 2 (1992), 164-168.
- * "Appendix III: Manuscript 8595 of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America," in: *Karaite Separatism in Nineteenth-Century Russia*, by Philip Miller (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1993),225-244.
- * "Is Mem a Hero?: An Analytical Consideration of Oral Versions of "Mem u Zin"," *Acta Kurdica* 1 (1994), 155-176.
- * "Water Under the Straw": History and Meaning of a Middle Eastern Proverbial Expression," in: *Folklore Interpreted: Essays in Honor of Alan Dundes*, ed. R. Bendix and R. Levy Zumwalt (New York: Garland, 1995), 367-374.
- * "Neo-Aramaic and Kurdish: An Interdisciplinary Consideration of Their Influence on Each Other," *Israel Oriental Studies* 15 (1995), 219-252.
(Reviewed by Scott B. Noegel in *Anthropological Linguistics* 39, I (1997), 175-179.)
- * "The Non-Education of Kurds: A Kurdish Perspective," with Amir Hassanpour and Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, *International Review of Education* 42 (1996), 367-379.
- * "Mem û Zîn: Şax û Şovên Zargotî û Şîra Ehmedê Xanî" [=Mem u Zin: folkloristic versions and the poem of Ahmed-i Khani], *Çira* 2 (1996), 2832; appeared also in: *Dokumentên "Konferansa Navnetewî ya Mem û Zîn û Ehmedê Xanî"*: 20-22. 10. 1995 (Köln [Germany]: Weşanên Komkar, 1996), 165-170.
- * "A Preliminary List of Aramaic Loanwords in Kurdish" in: *Humanism, Culture, and Language in the Near East: Studies in Honor of George Krotkoff*, ed. Asma Afsaruddin and A.H. Mathias Zahniser (Winona Lake, Indiana: Eisenbrauns, 1997), 283-300.
- * "Kurdish Lexicography: A Survey and Discussion," *Iran & Caucasus* 2 (1998), 109-118.
- * "Kurdish Women in Constantinople at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," by Rohat Alakom, translated from Kurdish by Michael L. Chyet, in: *Women of a Non-state Nation: the Kurds*, ed. Shahrzad Mojab (Costa Mesa, Calif. : Mazda Publishers, 2001), 53-70.
- "Heke Mirov ji Rezekî Tirî Xwaribe": Methodology for Describing a Grammatical Structure," *The Journal of Kurdish Studies* 5 (2003-2004), 35-52.
- "Kurdish" in: *Encyclopedia of Arabic Language and Linguistics* (Leiden & Boston: Brill, 2007), vol. 2, 604-608.

- “The Future of the Kurdish Language: an Egalitarian Scenario,” in: *Joyce Blau: L'éternelle chez les kurdes* (Paris: Institut Kurde de Paris, 2013), 169-179.
- “Hevkarê Min: M. Emîn Bozarslan,” [My Colleague: M. Emin Bozarslan] *Nûbihar* 123, 10:17 (2013), 58-29.
- “[Pêşgotin = Foreword]” in: *Ferhengê Zarekî Mukriyan = A Dictionary of Oral Mukri Kurdish*, by Selah Payanyanî (Mehabad: Hîwa, 2005-<2015>), vol. 6, 12-13.
- “The Kurds' Attitude Towards Their Language” *Kurdish Academy of Language Facebook Page*, posted: March 22, 2015.
- “Calibrating Kurmanji and Sorani: proposal for a methodology,” in: *Routledge Handbook of the Kurds*, edited by Michael M. Gunter (London & New York: Routledge, 2018), 104-109. [correction, p. 108,:1919-19[32], not *-1958]
- “*Be di! u can welamî her pirsyarêkî dîke dedemewe*”: bandora Emîr Hesenpûrî li ser jiyana min [= “Pleased to respond to further inquiries”: a tribute to Amir Hassanpour], *Derwaze* (2018) [forthcoming]
- “Vejandina Zimanê Îbrani” [= The revival of the Hebrew language], *Zarema* 13 (2018), 144-146.
- “Applying the Oral-Formulaic Theory to Mem û Zîn”, in: *Kurdish Art and Identity: Verbal Art, Self-definition and Recent History*, edited by Alireza Korangy. (Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter, 2020), 1-39.
- “Vedikim vs. Divekim: More on Neo-Aramaic Influence on Kurdish” [forthcoming]
- "Shared ownership and Kurdish folklore" [forthcoming]
- "Kurdish lexicography", in *The Oxford Handbook on Kurdish Linguistics* [forthcoming]

Books

- * *Kurdish-English Dictionary = Ferhenga Kurmancî-Inglîzî*, with selected etymologies by Martin Schwartz (New Haven, CT : Yale University Press, 2003).
- * *Ferhenga Birûskî : Kurmanji-English Dictionary* (London: Transnational Press, 2020). 3 volumes: Vol. 1: A-L; Vol. 2: M-Z; Vol. 3: English-Kurmanji.
- * *Em Hînî Kurmancî Dibin* [=We are learning Kurmanji] [in progress]
- * *Ême Fêrî Soranî Debîn* [We are learning Sorani] [in progress]
- * *Annotated Bibliography of Theoretical Works on the Riddle* [with Peter Tokofsky, in progress, to be published by Garland Press]

- * *Aqwāl al-jamāhīr fi al-aḥājī wa-al-fawāzīr*: A Comprehensive Arabic Riddle Corpus [in progress]
- * *Kurdistani Tale-Type Index* [in progress]
- * *Anthology of Kurdish Literature in English Translation* [in progress]
- * *A Comprehensive Kurdish Riddle Corpus* [in progress]

Reviews

- Review of: KHANNA OMARKHALI. *Kurdish Reader: Modern Literature and Oral Texts in Kurmanji, with Kurdish-English Glossaries and Grammatical Sketch*. (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011), xii, 282 p. ISBN: 978-3-447-06527-6. in: *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*, Bd. 163, 1 (2013), 267-270.

Interviews

- Interview with Kurdologist Michael Chyet with Dakhil Elias Voice of America March 1, 2014
- Zimannasê Emrîkî ku ji zimanê Kurdî hez dike [=The American linguist who loves the Kurdish language] with Mayada Kordy Khalil SBS Kurdî [Australian Kurdish Radio Station] November 12, 2017; re-broadcast July 15, 2018
- Emrîkîyek 39 zimanî cîhan dezanêt [=An American knows 39 world languages] with Hîwa Jamal Rûdaw July 3, 2018 <https://www.facebook.com/Rudaw.net/videos/1908281329267661/UzpfSTEWMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTM1Nzg1MTk5Ojg2MTY0NTUyNTgzOTgyMDQ1NDg/>
- “Michael Ohioluyum deyinca halk Ohio'yu Muş'un bir köyü sanıyor” [=When Michael says ‘I’m from Ohio’, people think that Ohio is a village in Mush (Eastern Turkey)] with Ibrahim Seydo Aydoğan Kurdî 24 November 15, 2019 <https://www.facebook.com/K24Turkce/videos/3090464591177851/UzpfSTEWMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTM1Nzg1MTk5Ojg2MTY0NTUyNTgzOTgyMDQ1NDg/>
- Gelo Kurd wê kengê sîstema perwerdehiya xwe saz bikin? [=When will the Kurds create an educational system of their own?] with Salihê Kevirbirî

- Michael Chyet: Ferheng dîyarîya herî mezin a ji bo Birûskî bû [=Michael Chyet: the dictionary was the greatest gift for Birûsk]
with Ferid Demirel
Bianet
February 14, 2020
<http://bianet.org/kurdi/pirtuk/220044-michael-chyet-ferheng-diyariya-heri-mezin-a-ji-bo-biruski-bu?fbclid=IwAR2E0UaXYoQ2KqBtgaLPBNwukgoFg01-EvcW1-Fm5xKzXGkTh6h6pmUDe0I>
- “Karmendêkî Kitêbxaney Kongrêsi Emerîka Ferhengêkî Kurdî-Îngilîzî
Amade Dekat” [An Employee of the Library of Congress Prepares a
Kurdish-English Dictionary]
with Roj Zallal
Rûdaw
February 14, 2020
[https://www.facebook.com/Rudaw.net/videos/629330684584387/
UzpfSTewMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6M
DoxNTgzMDQ5NTk5Oj01MjM1NTI0MTM0NDM5MjU3NjE2/](https://www.facebook.com/Rudaw.net/videos/629330684584387/UzpfSTewMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTgzMDQ5NTk5Oj01MjM1NTI0MTM0NDM5MjU3NjE2/)
- “Panel: Zimanzanê Amerîkî Michael Chyet derbarê ferhenga wî ya Kurdî-
Îngilîzî” [Panel: the American linguist Michael Chyet about his Kurdish-
English dictionary]
with Sirwan Kajjo
ARTA.fm
March 7, 2020
[https://www.facebook.com/artaradio/videos/485489832332294/
UzpfSTewMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6M
DoxNTgzMDQ5NTk5Oj01MjM1NTI0MTM0NDM5MjU3NjE2/](https://www.facebook.com/artaradio/videos/485489832332294/UzpfSTewMDAwMDM0NTIzMjcXNjoxMDYwNjExMjk0OTk0MTQ6MTA6MDoxNTgzMDQ5NTk5Oj01MjM1NTI0MTM0NDM5MjU3NjE2/)
- “Zarokên xwe hînî Kurdî bikin” [Teach your children Kurdish]
by Rizoyê Xerzî
Xwebûn
March 9, 2020
<https://xwebun.org/zaroken-xwe-hini-kurdi-bikin/>
- “Zimannasê Emrîkî ferhengeke Kurmancî-Îngilîziye nu çap dike”
[= American linguist publishes a new Kurmanji-English dictionary]
with Mayada Kordy Khalil
SBS Kurdî [Australian Kurdish Radio Station]
March 17, 2020
[https://www.sbs.com.au/language/kurdish/audio/zimannase-ameriki-ferhengeke-
kurmanci-ingiliziye-nu-cap-dike](https://www.sbs.com.au/language/kurdish/audio/zimannase-ameriki-ferhengeke-kurmanci-ingiliziye-nu-cap-dike)
- “Ferheng sazî û Perwerdeya Zimanê Kurdî”
[=Lexicography and Education in the Kurdish Language]
by Murat Bayram
Şevbihêrk [sponsored by Weqfa Mezopotamiya]
January 23, 2021
<https://www.facebook.com/>

- “Roja Zimanê Zikmakî ya Cîhanî” [=World Mother Tongue Day]
moderated by Hacî Kardoxî
Radio Ashtî, Stockholm, Sweden
February 21, 2021
[https://feedback.facebook.com/Radio.Ashti/photos/
pcb.3426858000751748/3426857820751766/](https://feedback.facebook.com/Radio.Ashti/photos/pcb.3426858000751748/3426857820751766/)
- "And a Thornbush Sprang up Between them": Studies in Mem û Zîn, a
Kurdish Romance: a conversation with Michael Chyet"
with Sorin Masifi
Kurdish Library of Stockholm, Sweden
March 14, 2021
[https://www.facebook.com/kurdiska.biblioteket/photos/
a.1482916715293800/2782271488691643/](https://www.facebook.com/kurdiska.biblioteket/photos/a.1482916715293800/2782271488691643/)

Other Activities

- **Zimanê Me** [=Our Language], weekly radio program in Kurdish on language and linguistic issues (Voice of America, Kurdish Service, 1995-2000)
Formerly archived on line at: Kulturname: [http://www.kulturname.com/
?p=7057](http://www.kulturname.com/?p=7057); now available by request from MLChyet.
- Lectures on Kurdish Language Standardization, Etymology and Lexicography (in Kurmanji)
- Kurdolojî Online via Zoom
(April-May 2020)