

**James A. Matisoff**  
**Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus**  
**University of California, Berkeley**

*Updated: March, 2012*

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Personal

*Date of birth:* July 14, 1937.  
*Place of birth:* Boston, Massachusetts.  
*Family:* Married, two children.

### Education

1954-58 Harvard College. A.B. Magna cum laude. 1958. (Romance Languages and Literatures)  
 1958-59 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. A.M. 1959. (French Literature)  
 1960-61 International Christian University, Tokyo (Japanese language)  
 1961-62 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. (Linguistics)  
 1962-67 University of California, Berkeley. Ph.D. 1967. (Linguistics)

### Employment

1961-62 Harvard University. Teaching Fellow, Romance Linguistics.  
 1966-67 Columbia University. Instructor, Linguistics.  
 1967-70 Columbia University. Assistant Professor, Linguistics.  
 1970-74 University of California, Berkeley. Associate Professor, Linguistics.  
 1974-02 University of California, Berkeley. Professor, Linguistics.  
 2002- Professor Emeritus, U.C. Berkeley

### Languages

#### *I. Primary languages*

- (a) English
- (b) French, Japanese, Lahu, Mandarin Chinese
- (c) Hebrew, Yiddish
- (d) German, Russian, Thai

#### *II. Fieldwork with native speakers*

Jingpho (Kachin)	1962	Burmese	1962-63
Lahu	1965-6; 1970; 1977	Cambodian	1969; 1986-7
Quechua	1970-1	Vietnamese	1971-2; 1980-1
Angami Naga	1972-3; 1981-2	Thai Lue	1973
Nepali	1973-4	Sherpa	1975-6
Tagalog	1977-8	Mien (Yao)	1979-80
Lotha Naga	1981-2	Persian (Farsi)	1984
Hmong (Miao)	1984-5	Kokborok (Tripuri)	1987-8
Kannada (Kanarese)	1989-90	Lithuanian	1990-1
Irish	1991-2	Uighur	1992-3
Armenian	1993-4	Pumi [Yunnan]	1996
Lai Chin	1996-7	Chokri Naga	1998-99
Cebuano	2000	Sgaw Karen	2000-01

*III. Other languages studied*

Latin	1950-2
Sanskrit	1962-3
Cantonese	1962
Gothic	1963
Tibetan	1964
Indonesian/Malay	1967-8
Xixia (Tangut)	1976-7
Italian	2007-

*IV. Languages taught*

Russian	1958-59	Cohasset (Mass.) Adult School
Yiddish	1968; 1969	Columbia University, Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish
Burmese	1972-4	U.C. Berkeley, Special Group Study
Thai	1973-4; 1990-1	U.C. Berkeley, Special Individual Study

**Memberships in Professional Societies**

American Oriental Society  
 Association for Asian Studies  
 Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
 International Association for Yao Studies (Hong Kong)  
 Japan Linguistic Society  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Linguistic Society of Nepal  
 Linguistic Society of Taiwan  
 Société de Linguistique de Paris