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**A fascinating personage in the history of phonetics: The phonetics
and the politics of Elise Richter**

Natasha Warner

University of Arizona, MPI Nijmegen, Box 210028, Dept. of Linguistics, Tucson, AZ 85721-0028, USA

Elise Richter (1865-1943) was the first woman lecturer or professor in Austria or Germany, and she was also an experimental phonetician and even an experimental phonologist. Richter's career was delayed by the roles allowed for women at the time, and the end of her career, and her life, came about through the Nazis' policies toward Jews. Richter began her scientific work in Romance philology, but decided to seek explanations for historical sound change in phonetics. This led her to a productive career in experimental phonetics, and she even applied phonetic methods to study questions of phonological structure. Richter was a leader in exploring new methods and bringing together questions across widely differing fields. Although her specific experimental findings were superseded with time, Richter's refusal to be constrained by the limits of a field led her to ideas that have become current in phonetics just recently. In addition to her scientific career, Richter was politically active, both in working to expand women's opportunities and in general politics. This poster presents a new perspective on Richter's contributions to phonetics and on her view of feminism. Furthermore, it makes new observations of a parallel between Richter's political activities and her scientific work.