

## AECT EARLY CAREER SYMPOSIUM

Sponsored by AECT in 2020, the Research & Theory Division Early Career Symposium is an opportunity for early career faculty and advanced graduate students to receive one-on-one mentoring from professionals in our field on the topics of planning a research agenda, searching for research funding, and focusing on appropriate professional development given research interests and career goals.

### MENTORS



**Dr. Robert Branch** is a Professor in the Department of Career and Information Studies (Learning, Design, and Technology), University of Georgia. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina; and a Masters of Arts degree from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. He taught Technology Education at Lobatse Secondary School in Botswana as a Peace Corps Volunteer and later joined the University of Botswana as a lecturer. He completed his Doctor of Education Degree at Virginia Tech and then joined the

faculty at Syracuse University rising to a tenured Associate Professor. Dr. Branch worked as Fulbright Lecturer/Researcher at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, conducting research on the complexities of intentional learning spaces.



**Dr. Vanessa Dennen** is a Professor of Instructional Systems & Learning Technologies in the Department of Educational Psychology & Learning Systems. She joined the faculty at FSU in 2003. Her research investigates the cognitive, motivational, and social elements of computer-mediated communication. Specifically, she concentrates on three major issues: (1) learner engagement in online discussion activities; (2) identity development, knowledge management, and knowledge brokering within

online networks and communities of practice; and (3) ethical issues related to computer-mediated learning. Her research is situated in both formal and informal learning environments and focuses on communication technologies ranging from discussion forums to social media to mobile technologies.



**Dr. Charles Graham** is a Professor and the Department Chair of Instructional Psychology and Technology at Brigham Young University. He loves doing research with his students and publishes with them frequently. His research interests include technology-mediated teaching and learning, with a focus on the design and evaluation of blended and online learning environments. He also researches the use of technology to enhance traditional teaching and learning. He currently has a co-authored, free online book for K-12 teachers and administrators focusing in four key blended teaching competencies: [\*K-12 Blended Teaching: A Guide to Personalized Learning and Online Integration\*](#).



**Dr. Brad Hokanson** is a Professor in College of Design, University of Minnesota. His research specialties and expertise are: The development of creative ideas, the education of designers, and the exploration of design thinking through visualization; Technology, media, and their effect on cognition, creation and design; The advancement of education and its constructivist bases through the use of technology.



**Dr. Tiffany A Koszalka** is a Professor in the Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation program at Syracuse University where she is focused on R&D projects investigating online learning and digital learning resources to support distance education, self-directed learning activities. Her focus is studying the integration of learning, instruction, and technologies in instructional and learning environments. Much of this work is associated with e-learning strategies specifically through the Research in Designing Learning Resources [RIDLR] project. She spent over three decades in the instructional design field with over a decade in corporate environments designing, implementing, and evaluating multimedia-based training and human performance technology systems.

## MENTEES -- *Early Career Faculty*



**Dr. Gi Woong Choi** is an Assistant Professor of Instructional Design and Technology at University of Cincinnati. Prior to University of Cincinnati, he was an Assistant Professor of HCI at SUNY Oswego. His current research interests include AI in Education, mobile learning, game-based learning, informal learning, educational affordances of technologies, HCI in education, etc. He also has professional experiences in game UX design and GUI research and development.



**Dr. Sheri Conklin** is an assistant professor of Instructional Technology at UNCW. Her research interests include online course design, instructor connectedness, and cooperative learning in online asynchronous courses.



**Dr. Shiyan Jiang** is an assistant professor of Learning Design and Technology at NC State. She designs and studies technology-enhanced learning environments to facilitate the development of STEM identities and engage youth in career exploration.



**Dr. Yu-Tung Kuo** is an assistant professor of Graphic Design Technology at NCA&T. Her research focuses on immersive technology, instructional technology, games, user experience, and the integration of technology in STEM education.



**Dr. Nate Turcotte** is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Learning, Design, and Innovation at Florida Gulf Coast University. His research explores embodied forms of teaching and learning with data in technology-rich settings.



**Dr. Lucas Vasconcelos** is Assistant Professor of Learning Design and Technologies at University of South Carolina. His research focuses on preservice teachers' experiences coding science simulations, assembling and coding robots, and debugging code errors.

## MENTEES -- *Advanced Doctoral Students*



**Okan Arslan** is a PhD candidate in Educational Instructional Technology program at Texas Tech University with a minor degree in Information Systems and Quantitative Sciences. His Research interests are educational data mining and learner analytics, social media in professional development, and physiology of online learning.



**Lauren Bagdy** is a PhD candidate in Instructional Systems & Learning Technologies at Florida State University. Her research focuses on informal and networked learning, specifically the affordances of social media platforms as learning and community spaces.



**Mohammadreza Jalaeian (Reza)** is a Ph.D Candidate in the Learning Systems Design & Technology program at Southern Illinois University. His research interests are in design and development of effective and efficient training regiments that accelerate the expertise of individuals in professional domains, simulation fidelity, and online video-based training.





**Cecil R. Short** is a PhD candidate in Instructional Psychology and Technology at Brigham Young University. His research focuses on K-12 blended teaching, K-12 teacher preparation for technology-rich and blended settings, and open education. He is a co-author of the free, open educational resource [\*K-12 Blended Teaching: A Guide to Personalized Learning and Online Integration\*](#).



**Tugce Aldemir** is a PhD candidate in the Learning, Design and Technology Program at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests are computer-supported collaborative learning, socio-emotional interaction and regulation in collaborative learning environments, socio-metacognition, and cultural competence in CSCL context.



**Bret Staudt Willet** is a PhD candidate in Educational Psychology & Educational Technology at Michigan State University. He researches networked learning made possible by the novel social and environmental conditions afforded by the Internet. Specifically, he explores how social media platforms support online learning communities.



**Mohan Yang** is a PhD candidate in the Learning Design and Technology program at *Purdue University*. His research interests are performance improvement, online learning, learning transfer and authentic learning.

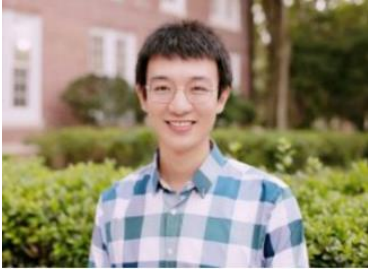


**Huang Yao** is a PhD candidate in Instructional Systems & Learning Technologies at Florida State University. Her research focuses on human performance improvement, instructional design, mobile technologies, and augmented reality to support workforce development.



**Jiawen Zhu** is a PhD candidate of Educational Technology in the School of Teaching and Learning at the University of Florida. Her research interests are informal online learning, multimedia learning in online education and gamification.

## SYMPOSIUM COORDINATORS



**Dr. Wanli Xing** is the Symposium Professional Development Coordinator. He is an assistant professor in the Educational Technology program at University of Florida. His research interests are designing and developing artificial intelligence and learning analytics to support STEM education and online learning.



**Dr. Ismahan Arslan-Ari** is the Symposium Professional Development Coordinator-Elect. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Studies, University of South Carolina. Her current research focuses on the ways to reduce extraneous cognitive load in computer-based multimedia learning environments, the use of assistive technologies and online learning.