

Oliver M. Sawi, Ph.D.

Director of Data & Learning Analytics

Cognitive neuroscientist with over a decade of formal research experience involving experimental design and extensive multi-disciplinary collaborations and a proven track record of productivity. Seeking to translate current research bridging cognitive neuroscience with education, specifically reading acquisition, dyslexia intervention, and bilingual education, into a career in data science. Passionate about supporting diverse populations, community outreach, and science communication.



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SKILLS

R Programming

SPSS Statistics

Data Analysis

Data Visualization

Predictive Modeling

Multivariate Analyses

SOFT SKILLS

Experimental Design

Project Management

Collaboration

Communication

Critical Thinking

Mentoring

Teaching

Community Outreach

WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Data & Learning Analytics Learning Squared Inc.

04/2022 - Present

In addition to previous responsibilities:

- Strategically responsible for all data collection requirements, analyses, and reporting.
- Created data framework for entire suite of US and India products (games, hardware, software, user data, and portals).
- Designed interactive dashboards and reports to visualize product engagement and curriculum progress.
- Collaborated on custom reports for teachers and administrators, showcasing engagement and progress.
- Presented at national conferences on the Science of Reading and technology integration.

Sr. Manager of Adaptive Learning Design & Learning Analytics Learning Squared Inc.

06/2021 - 04/2022

In addition to previous responsibilities:

- Created data requirements to align with learning objectives for all products.
- Validated successful implementation of these requirements.
- Assumed technical design leadership for the teacher/admin portal; implementing a new tracking tool that was extremely well received by engineering.
- Hired and mentored a data intern.
- Led research proposals for 3rd-party validation of product usage and efficacy; and to guide future development.

Manager of Adaptive Learning Design & Learning Analytics Learning Squared Inc.

03/2020 - 06/2021

In addition to previous responsibilities:

- Oversaw management of the adaptive learning system (design and validation), aligning product specs with detailed learning goals.
- Produced reports for key clients, e-staff and board meetings - both product and business intelligence.
- Produced internal data resources for Sales, Marketing, and Client Success, including a substantial white paper.
- Updated internal tool for validation of adaptive logic.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern: Research & Development

Learning Squared Inc.

11/2019 - 02/2020

Achievements/Tasks

- Defined adaptive learning logic for young learners on the Square Panda platform.
- Contributed to the creation of a theoretical model for adaptive learning.
- Assisted in developing research protocols for efficacy research.
- Provided insights on translating efficacy research into digital learning games.
- Assisted in writing research-based product documentation.

Doctoral Researcher, Graduate Mentor

University of Connecticut [↗](#)

08/2013 - 10/2019

Achievements/Tasks

- Utilized advanced statistical analyses including linear mixed effects modeling (LME), mixed effects logistic regression, multiple regression, principal components analysis, and correlation with R, Python, and Shell Scripting in Dissertation work examining individual differences in reading acquisition & the neurocognitive bases of statistical learning.
- Designed & Implemented complex behavioral experiments to completion: literature review, hypothesis generation, selection of analytic plan, data collection, cleaning, analysis, and visualization, public presentation/defense, and publication.
- Collaborated on cutting-edge research including: exploring predictors of reading acquisition in monolingual & bilingual (Spanish, Cantonese) populations of emergent readers and developing and validating novel interventions for individuals with dyslexia as a part of large-scale, multi-site, interdisciplinary teams using advanced neuroimaging & behavioral techniques.
- Oversaw selection, training, & coordination/management of teams of 7 research assistants.
- Founded & chaired internal committees focused on diversity issues & community outreach/science communication. Selected and invited high-impact speakers from diverse backgrounds. Led a program to create neuroscience enrichment programs for elementary & middle school near UCONN taught by committee members
- Advised Filipino American Student Association at UCONN. Within the first 5 years of advising, retention in organization to graduation increased from 2 to 24 students and the organization hosted a conference with the Philippine Consulate and 2 national conferences for the first time in the organization's almost 15-year history.
- Mentored diverse students and researchers at both the Asian American and Latinx American Cultural Centers and McNair Scholars Program & Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.
- Awarded 6 prestigious research fellowships from the National Science Foundation, National Institute of Mental Health, University of Connecticut, and the CT Institute for the Brain & Cognitive Sciences based on academic success, productivity, potential for research to produce broader societal impacts, leadership potential, and ability to contribute to diverse populations.
- Published 10 articles in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals with nearly 2000 citations of work.
- Presented at 4 invited talks/workshops and 8 poster presentations at national conferences.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Psychological Sciences

University of Connecticut

08/2013 - 06/2019

Graduate Certification

- Neurobiology of Language

Master of Science, Psychological Sciences

University of Connecticut

08/2013 - 04/2016

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

6 Prestigious Research Fellowships (08/2013 - Present)

University of Connecticut, National Science Foundation, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

- IGERT Fellowship: Language Plasticity, Harriott Graduate Fellowship, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, UConn CT Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Graduate Initiative Fellowship, Career Opportunities in Research

Outstanding Community Outreach & Leadership Award (10/2015)

Filipino American National Historical Society

Journal of Cognitive Psychology Best Paper Award (04/2014)

European Society for Cognitive Psychology