LILY (LJ) CONNOLLY

A UX RESEARCHER AND COMMUNICATOR FOCUSED ON INCLUSIVE, HUMAN-CENTERED WORK AT THE INTERSECTION OF EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY.

EDUCATION

The University of Central Florida

May 2025 - May 2029 (part-time)

Doctor of Philosophy in Texts and Technology

The University of South Florida

September 2023 - May 2025

Masters of Arts in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The University of Cambridge

August 2022 - November 2022

Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching Creative Writing

The University of Tampa

September 2017 - May 2021

Bachelor's in Writing
Minors in English literature, psychology, and leadership studies

The University of Oxford

August 2019 - December 2019

Visiting student with concentrations in major novels and women's studies

PROFICIENT SKILLS

- Excellent written and verbal communication with strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Managing multiple documentation projects simultaneously under tight deadlines
- Cross-functional team collaboration and adaptability

WORK EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Associate
May 2025 - present
The Center for Humanities and Digital Research, The University of Central Florida

- Conducted needs assessment with current and prospective students to design infographic program overviews for the Center of Digital Humanities
- Collaborated with faculty researcher to translate complex Cuban art data into interactive visualizations (ArcGIS maps and timelines) that improved information accessibility for general audiences
- Supported digital humanities projects by digitizing and preparing historical documents for public display, ensuring usability across digital platforms

PhD Dissertation Research
May 2025- present
The University of Central Florida

- Investigating how neurodivergent college students innovate beyond platform designers' intentions, transforming social media tools into personalized educational support systems
- Documenting user-created workarounds and adaptive strategies that reveal unmet accessibility needs in both social media and formal learning management systems
- Examining the gap between designed functionality and actual use to understand how marginalized users drive platform innovation

Graduate Research Thesis
September 2021 - May 2025
The University of South Florida

- Conducted qualitative user-experience research with gender and sexually diverse college students to understand their experiences with specific features across multiple dating apps
- Designed and facilitated in-depth interviews exploring user pain points, preferences, and behavioral patterns on dating platforms
- Analyzed interview data to identify recurring themes around feature usability, safety concerns, and user satisfaction across different interfaces

PROFICIENT SKILLS CONT.

Research & Analysis

- Qualitative methods: focus groups, interviews, usability testing, user sessions
- Quantitative survey design and analysis
- Thematic analysis and synthesizing insights into actionable recommendations
- End-to-end study design: recruitment, facilitation, analysis, reporting
- Data visualization and communicating research findings

Collaboration & Communication

- Cross-functional collaboration with design, product, and stakeholder teams
- Presenting research findings to diverse audiences
- Workshop facilitation and stakeholder interviews

UX Writing & Content

- UX writing and microcopy for digital products
- Brand voice development and style guide creation
- Accessible documentation for diverse audiences

Specialized Knowledge

- Accessibility best practices and inclusive design principles (WCAG compliance)
- Ethical research practices and protecting participant privacy
- Rapid learning and staying current with emerging UX methodologies and technologies
- Technical troubleshooting and translating complex concepts for non-technical audiences

WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

WRITING AND EDITING EXPERIENCE

Educational Copy Editor
September 2021 - May 2025
TutorMe/Pear Deck Tutor

- Delivered editing support to thousands of users nationwide, maintaining documentation quality standards and managing multiple concurrent projects while meeting tight deadlines.
- Created clear, instructional feedback that translates complex style guide requirements (APA, MLA, Chicago, AP) into accessible guidance for students with varying educational backgrounds.
- Proficient with collaboration and documentation tools including Zoom, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, and online editing platforms for delivering feedback across digital environments.

Copywriter and Editor: Internship
September 2020-September 2021
C&C Ltd.

- Developed business proposals, creative marketing content, and client-facing documentation materials.
- Collaborated with design and marketing teams to ensure content aligned with user needs and business goals
- Iterated on copy based on stakeholder feedback, improving clarity and effectiveness across client touchpoints
- Created documentation standards and style guides to maintain consistency and improve content usability
- Examples of work.

Content Writer: Internship
May 2020 - August 2020
That's So Tampa

- Created engaging and informative content for blogs and online publications, including feature articles, marketing copy, and opinion pieces.
- Collaborated to ensure content met editorial standards and aligned with the brand and target audience.
- Researched, interviewed, and fact-checked sources, while also utilizing SEO practices and digital publishing trends.
- Managed multiple projects simultaneously and worked efficiently under tight deadlines to ensure an error-free final product.
- Examples of work.

TOOLS

Research & Analysis:
- Figma
- Python
- Excel/Google Sheets
- Google Analytics
- Miro
- Qualtrics
- Dovetail

Documentation & Presentation:
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Google Workspace
- Markdown
- PowerPoint

Collaboration & Project Management:
- Git/GitHub
- Workfront
- Slack
- Notion
- Microsoft Teams

Design & Visualization:
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- Figma

Learning Management Systems:
- Canvas
- Blackboard
- Moodle
- Turnitin

CONTACT ME

484-678-8213

LJConnollyy@gmail.com
LJConnolly@UCF.edu

https://lilyconnolly26.wixsite.com/website

https://www.linkedin.com/in/lily-connolly-81524224b/

WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant
May 2025 - present
Nicholson School of Communication and Media: The University of Central Florida
- Develop grading rubrics and instructional feedback materials for courses like Fundamentals of Digital Imaging.
- Create clear technical guidelines that help 140+ students successfully navigate complex software tools.
- Troubleshoot technical issues and explain software processes like Photoshop to students with varying technical backgrounds by consistently translating complex concepts into accessible, step-by-step guidance

Graduate Teaching Assistant
September 2023 - May 2025
The University of South Florida
- Developed detailed grading rubrics and feedback frameworks to ensure consistent evaluation across large sections of coursework.
- Created clear instructional materials and step-by-step technical guides that helped over 140 students successfully navigate educational software tools.
- Identified common learning challenges through performance trends and student feedback, recommending course adjustments to improve clarity and engagement.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant
June 2018- May 2021
The University of Tampa
- Guided small-group lab sessions and individual mentoring meetings, helping students strengthen their ability to communicate design concepts clearly through written project documentation and creative briefs.
- Partnered with faculty to revise assignment prompts and evaluation materials, ensuring that written instructions and grading criteria promoted clarity, critical thinking, and effective articulation of design rationale.
- Translated complex technical workflows into concise, accessible written guides and tutorials, enabling students from varied backgrounds to follow processes independently and develop stronger technical writing skills.