# Anastasia Olga (Olnancy) Tzirides

+1 (217) 693-9156 • aotzirides@gmail.com • https://www.linkedin.com/in/anastasia-olga-olnancy-tzirides/

**Learning Scientist | GenAI in Education | Learning Design**

Learning Scientist with 8+ years of experience applying learning science, instructional design, and mixed-methods research to digital products and educational technologies. Specialized in evaluating and shaping generative AI–enabled learning tools, including writing, feedback, and assessment systems. Experienced partnering with product, UX, engineering, and research teams to define learning strategies, conduct literature-informed research, and design evaluation frameworks that assess learning quality, user experience, and impact at scale.

## SKILLS

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| **Learning Science & Evaluation:** | Learning theory (learning-by-design, multiliteracies, translanguaging, adult learning, constructivist, sociocultural); learning impact evaluation frameworks; GenAI tool quality assessment; literature reviews and research synthesis; learning analytics and triangulation |
| **GenAI Integration:** | Prompt engineering; LLM evaluation for education; human-in-the-loop (HITL) system design; GenAI integration in learning workflows |
| **Product & Cross-Functional Collaboration:** | Learning science consultation for product teams; agile product development; collaboration with Design, PM, Engineering; UX research for early-stage and high-fidelity prototypes |
| **Research Methods:** | Qualitative and mixed-methods research; usability testing; concept testing; interviews; surveys; focus groups; card sorting; observations; participant recruiting |
| **Tools & Technical:** | UserTesting, Qualtrics, NVivo, Miro, Optimal Workshop, Google Sheets, Excel, Zoom, Recall; Figma, Canva, PowerPoint, WordPress, Articulate Storyline; Python (basic) |
| **Communication & Teaching:** | 20+ research readouts; conference presentations and invited talks; 10+ years of teaching and instructional design experience; international research (4 countries) |
| **Languages:** | Native/Proficient: English, French, Greek; Intermediate: Spanish |

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Scientist,** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)                    06/2022-Current
- Led learning science research on generative AI–enabled writing and feedback systems, informing the design and evaluation of AI-supported learning features for adult learners.
- Designed and implemented learning impact and tool-quality evaluation frameworks combining surveys, learning analytics, artifact analysis, and qualitative methods
- Conducted literature reviews and synthesized research on effective learning strategies to inform product and feature-level design decisions in collaboration with cross-functional teams.

**User Experience Researcher,** Google (Contract)                    10/2022-1/2024
- Conducted remote and in-person moderated and unmoderated studies, including usability testing, concept testing, interviews, surveys, and card sorting.
- Evaluated early-stage and high-fidelity prototypes of Google Geo products.
- Synthesized insights into actionable recommendations for product, design, and engineering teams.
- Applied user-centered design principles to assess comprehension, usability, and user experience in complex consumer-facing features.

**Researcher & Learning Designer (PhD),** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign                    08/2017-05/2022
- Conducted design-based research on digital tools for translingual and multimodal learning, generating evidence-based recommendations for AI-supported educational technologies.
- Designed and executed mixed-methods evaluations using learning analytics, surveys, focus groups, and artifact analysis.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**UX Consultant,** Common Ground Research Networks                    02/2024-Current
- Guiding UX enhancements for the CGScholar learning platform, focusing on learning processes and features.
- Collaborating with the product owner and the software development team for platform advancement.

**Project Manager,** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)                01/2024-Current
- Led curriculum development and research coordination for large-scale IoT and AI education initiatives.
- Partnered with technical and domain stakeholders to inform scalable, evidence-based learning interventions.

**Visiting Lecturer,** University of Illinois Chicago                08/2022-Current
- Designed and delivered online higher-education courses using learning science principles, including scaffolding, feedback, and learner-centered assessment for adult learners

**Instructional designer,** Mass General Brigham                05/2022-10/2022
- Partnered with subject-matter experts to design and develop online medical training using evidence-based instructional design and formative evaluation.

**Learning designer,** Information Trust Institute, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   05/2022-09/2022
- Designed collaborative online cybersecurity courses, translating complex technical content into structured learning experiences informed by learning science

**Learning Designer & Instructor,** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign                08/2017–05/2022
- Co-designed and delivered graduate and undergraduate online courses, integrating learning activities, assessment, and feedback aligned with learning outcomes

**Learning Designer & Instructor,** National and Kapodistrian University of Athens                06/2021–08/2021
- Designed and instructed an online masterclass on digital affordances and learning, integrating theory-driven content with applied learning activities.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

*Selected invited and peer-reviewed presentations on learning science, generative AI, and digital learning design.*
- *"Human-Centered Approaches to Generative AI in Feedback and Learning in Higher Education."* International Conference on Learning, 2025
- *"Challenges and Opportunities for Artificial Intelligence in Education."* Plenary panel, International Conference on Learning, 2025.
- *"Meaning without Borders: From Translanguaging to Transposition in the Era of Digitally-Mediated Meaning"*, *Plenary talk,* International Conference on Learning, 2022
- *"Designing and Implementing Smart Online Language Learning Modules"*, International Conference on Learning, 2022
- *"Digital Technologies and Refugee Language Education: Teacher perspectives From Greece."*, International Conference 'Crossroads of Languages and Cultures', 2021

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

*Selected publications on learning science, generative AI in education, and evaluation of AI-supported learning systems.*
- **Tzirides, A. O.,** et.al., (2024). Combining human and artificial intelligence for enhanced AI literacy in higher education. *Computers and Education Open*, 6
- **Tzirides, A. O.,** et.al., (2024).  Exploring Instructors' Views on Fine-Tuned Generative AI Feedback in Higher Education. *International Journal on E-Learning*, 23(3), 319–334
- **Tzirides, A. O.,** et.al., (2023). Generative AI: Implications and Applications for Education. *ArXiv*. /abs/2305.07605
- **Tzirides, A. O.,** et.al., (2023). Cyber-Social Research: Emerging Paradigms for Interventionist Education Research in the Postdigital Era. In *Constructing Postdigital Research.* Springer Nature.
- **Tzirides, A. O.**, Montebello, M., Cope, W., Kalantzis, M., (2023). The future of online learning and higher education in the post-pandemic world. In *Building the Post-Pandemic University*. Edward Elgar.
- **Tzirides, A. O.**, Cope, W., Kalantzis, M., (2023). Contemporary Contexts for Learning: An Overview. In *International Encyclopedia of Education 4th edition*. Elsevier.

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Learning Design and Leadership                08/2017-05/2022
Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), USA

### Master's Degree in Multicultural and Multilingual Education                10/2013-02/2015
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece & Université du Maine, France

### Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education                09/2009-07/2013
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)