

Ross Jacobucci

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Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- **University of Southern California (USC)** Los Angeles, California
Ph.D. Psychology
– Area: Quantitative Methods
Expected 2018
- **University of Northern Iowa (UNI)** Cedar Falls, Iowa
M.A. Psychology
– Individualized Study: Quantitative Emphasis
2011-2013
- **Luther College** Decorah, Iowa
B.A. Psychology
– Thesis: The Effect of Mental Imagery on Performance in Golf.
– Cum Laude
Graduated 2010

Awards/Honors

Intercollegiate Academics Fund Travel Award, UNI, Fall 2012

Award allocated to promote and support the presentation of research at an academic conference.
Amount: \$650

Graduate Student Opportunity Fund For Travel, UNI, Fall 2012

Award to support travel for graduate students presenting at an academic conference.
Amount: \$250

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Research Award, UNI, Fall 2012

Award allocated for the purchase of expenses related to thesis research.
Amount: \$500

Graduate College Tuition Scholarship, UNI, Fall 2012

Scholarship based on academic performance.

Academic All-American, Golf, 2009, 2010

An award given out by the Golf Coaches Association of America based on academic and athletic performance.

Publications & Presentations

Published Papers

Skaar, N. R., Christ, T. J., & **Jacobucci, R.** (2014). Measuring Adolescent Prosocial and Health Risk Behavior in Schools: Initial Development of a Screening Measure. *School Mental Health*, 6(2), 137-149.
doi:10.1007/s12310-014-9123-y

Presentations

Jacobucci, R. (2014, December). *Statistical Learning-Part 3: Advanced Algorithms* Talk given as a part of the Graduate Consultation and Computer Center Lecture Series at USC.

Jacobucci, R. (2014, November). *Statistical Learning-Part 1: Preprocessing* Talk given as a part of the Graduate Consultation and Computer Center Lecture Series at USC.

Jacobucci, R. (2014, June). *The application of SEM Trees in Project TALENT* Talk given as a part of the 2014 APA Advanced Training Institutes Exploratory Data Mining in Behavioral Research.

Jacobucci, R. (2014, March). *Graphing in R*. Talk given as a part of the Graduate Consultation and Computer Center Lecture Series at USC.

Jacobucci, R. (2014, March). *Item Factor Analysis*. Talk given as a part of the Graduate Consultation and Computer Center Lecture Series at USC.

Poster Presentations

Zelinski, E., **Jacobucci, R.**, Kennison, R., & Zak, D. (2014, November). *Can a convenience sample produce generalizable results?* Poster session presented at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting, Washington, DC.

Jacobucci, R., Williams, J. E., & Thiruselvam, I. (2013, January). *A confirmatory factor analysis of the short form for the IPIP-NEO five-factor model personality scale*. Poster session presented at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Jacobucci, R., Brownfield, C., & Williams, J. E. (2012, December). *Intelligence as a factor in criminal offender risk assessment*. Poster session presented at the International Society for Intelligence Research, San Antonio, Texas.

Jacobucci, R., Williams, J. E., & Thiruselvam, I. (2012, March). *Convergent validity of two short form measures of the five factor model of personality*. Poster session presented at the Iowa Psychological Association Spring Conference, Ames, Iowa.

Research Experience

- **Research Assistant** Fall 2014-Present

Supervisor: Dr. Elizabeth Zelinski, USC

I am currently using both structural equation models and statistical learning methods to compare the Long Beach Longitudinal Study to the Health and Retirement Study. Some of the main analyses include using the sample weights in HRS to create sample weights in LBLS as well as using SEM to model cognitive decline in LBLS.

- **Research Assistant** Fall 2013-Present

Supervisor: Dr. John J. McArdle, USC

In working with data from Project TALENT (PT), I have conducted both exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses in R and MPlus to determine the factor structure of 60+ cognitive variables. Using these models, in addition to 2000+ other variables collected in the initial and follow up samples, I have used the *semTree* package to determine relationship between these covariates and factor model parameters. Because of the complexity of models and size of sample, I have utilized the Center for High-Performance Computing and Communication's (HPCC) supercomputer. Finally, I have used multiple item response theory (IRT) models on item level data from 20 cognitive ability scales to determine the best model

- **Psychometric Expert** Summer 2013-Spring 2014 Supervisor: Dr. John J. McArdle, USC

Worked closely with Dr. Jiu-Chuan Chen and Dr. Yong Cen through the Preventative Medicine department at USC in the modeling and prediction of cognitive decline in two large longitudinal datasets. Responsibilities include using structural equation modeling (SEM) to construct models to predict Alzheimer's disease, item response theory and factor analysis to evaluate the factor structure and precision of multiple cognitive measures, and Monte Carlo simulation to conduct multiple power analyses for grant preparation. I have also built on this work in conducting first and second-order latent growth models, mixture models, among other multivariate techniques.

- **Principal Investigator** Summer 2012-Spring 2013, *Personality and Cognitive Ability in Civilly Committed Sexual Offenders*

Supervisor: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI

Conducting group administration of cognitive ability and personality measures at the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders in Cherokee, Iowa. Responsibilities included conducting a literature review, designing an original study, coordinating with administrators at the civil commitment unit, administration of ability and self-report measures to patients, entering, cleaning, and analyzing data in SPSS.

- **Principal Investigator** Summer 2012-Fall 2012, *Personality, Cognitive Functioning, Adaptive Behavior, and Criminogenic Needs*
Supervisor: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI
Conducting archival data collection at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Coralville, Iowa.
Examine cognitive ability, academic achievement, personality, risk assessment, and conviction charges.
- **Principal Investigator** Fall 2011-Summer 2012, *The Role of Grit, Self-Control, and Conscientiousness in Academic Achievement*
Supervisor: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI
Conducted group administration of self-report measures of personality and academic achievement in a college sample. Responsibilities included the administration of self-report measures to high school and college populations, entering, cleaning, and analyzing data in SPSS, and writing up in APA style manuscript.
- **Research Assistant** Fall 2012-Summer 2013
Supervisor: Mike Whitson, iTracking Research, Inc.
Assist in research design, methodologies, and conducting statistical analyses in R and SPSS. Assembled scripts for analyses, cleaned datafiles, constructed and ran SEM models in AMOS, composed graphs of analyses, and other duties as needed.
- **Research Assistant** Fall 2012-Summer 2013
Supervisor: Dr. Andrew R. Gilpin, UNI
Assist in conducting background research and conceptualizing a Monte Carlo simulation study that examines the effectiveness of basing sample size planning on the results of pilot studies.
- **Research Assistant** Spring 2012-Spring 2013
Supervisor: Dr. Nicole Skaar, UNI
Design and run confirmatory factor analyses in AMOS and R on a measure of risk behavior. Conduct IRT analysis of Iowa Youth Survey data.
- **Lab Coordinator** Summer 2012-Fall 2012, Psychometrics and Personality Lab
Supervisor: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI
Responsibilities include coordinating lab related meetings and activities. Additionally, conduct meetings that teach research methods related to the current lab research.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant**
Fundamentals of Psychological Measurement, Fall 2014 (graduate: Dr. John J. McArdle, USC)
History & Systems, Spring 2013 (undergraduate: Dr. Andrew R. Gilpin, UNI)
Psychology of Music, Spring 2013 (undergraduate: Dr. Carolyn Hildebrandt, UNI)
Advanced Graduate Statistics, Fall 2012 (graduate: Dr. Andrew R. Gilpin, UNI)
Cognitive & Intellectual Assessment, Fall 2012 (graduate: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI)
Honor's Introduction to Psychology, Fall 2012 (undergraduate: Dr. John E. Williams, UNI)
Introduction to Psych Statistics, Spring 2012 (undergraduate: Dr. Andrew R. Gilpin, UNI)
Memory & Language, Fall 2011 (undergraduate: Dr. Jack Yates, UNI)

Consultation

- **iTracking Research, Inc.** Summer 2013-Fall 2013
Assisted in the methodological development of the analysis of Parkinson's Disease through the use of eyetracking. Developed scripts in R to organize the data for analysis as well as for the use of machine learning algorithms to predict outcomes.

Affiliations

- Association for Psychological Science
- Psychometric Society

Skills

- **Statistical Software**
R, Mplus, Winsteps, flexMIRT, SAS, SPSS, Amos
- **Assessment Administration through Coursework** Fall 2011-Spring 2012
Trained on the following measures: Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory -Second Edition, Revised Form, and Adolescent Form; Personality Assessment Inventory-Adult and Adolescent Forms; Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Disorders; Structured Clinical Interview for DSM Personality Disorders; Wechsler's Adult Intelligence Scale-Fourth Edition; and Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test-Third Edition.

References

John J. McArdle, Ph.D., University of Southern California
Professor of Psychology and Gerontology
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Elizabeth Zelinski, Ph.D., University of Southern California
Professor of Gerontology and Psychology
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Andrew Gilpin, Ph.D., University of Northern Iowa
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Mike Whitson, iTracking Research, Inc.
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Nicole Skaar, Ph.D., University of Northern Iowa
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