

SHUNKI KURE

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SKILLS

Technical: AI Prompting, Quantitative Research, Qualitative Research, Statistical Analysis, Data Visualization, User-testing, Survey Design, R, SPSS

Languages: Japanese (Native), Mandarin (Fluent), English (Proficient)

Soft Skills: Instructional Design, Curriculum Design, Project Management, Public Speaking

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2025 - Present

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Graduate researcher working at the intersection of education, research, and AI, with a focus on supporting teacher professional development. My work emphasizes translating educational theory into practical, research-informed AI tools.

- **AI Product Development:** Leading the iterative development of **SoL2LBot**, an AI chatbot optimized through proactive pop-up interactions and customizable personality tones to maximize student engagement and instructional quality.
- **User Experience (UX) Research:** Orchestrated comprehensive user testing for an AI tool assisting early childhood educators in synthesizing instructional data, ensuring the interface meets specific pedagogical needs.
- **Qualitative Data Analysis:** Analyzed teacher sense-making within AI-simulated discussions using **R** for data processing and coding, directly incorporating educator feedback into technical iterations.
- **Conference Publication:** Full paper accepted for the **SITE 2026 Conference**: *“Supporting Teacher Learning with Large Language Models Simulated Student Dialogues.”*

Teaching Assistant Manager

April 2023 - July 2024

N-S High School, Japan

Teaching Assistant role centered on facilitating diverse, student-centered classes and organizing workshops on educational technologies and career exploration, helping students clarify their academic interests and career directions within a technology-integrated school environment.

- **Team Leadership & Management:** Managed and mentored a team of teaching assistants, coordinating instructional planning and student support initiatives to ensure high-quality delivery of a technology-integrated curriculum.
- **Instructional Design:** Delivered English and Project-Based Learning (PBL) class instruction within a student-centered environment, utilizing educational technology to facilitate diverse learning styles.
- **Academic & Career Advising:** Provided individualized mentorship to 30+ students, utilizing personalized action plans to help them navigate college major selection and clarify long-term career goals.
- **Curriculum Development & User Research:** Communicated with students to identify academic and career interests; translated these insights into original curriculum modules featuring gamification elements, such as a "Duolingo streak challenge," to increase student motivation and learning consistency.

Organization Leader Dec 2020 - Dec 2022
Sociology Faculty Student Organization, Japan

The Organization leadership role focused on building an inclusive academic community within the sociology faculty by designing and facilitating events that helped students transition into the university environment.

- **Event Project Management:** Planned and executed five faculty-level events in the final year to help first-year students become familiar with the sociology program and university environment.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Organized information sessions attended by 100+ students to support informed seminar selection and academic planning.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE 2020 - 2024
SELECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS
Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan

- **Senior Thesis (Best Thesis Award):** Conducted multivariate regression analysis on the NFRJ dataset (5,000+ respondents) to identify socioeconomic isolation factors in single-father families.
- **Sociological Data Analysis:** Processed national datasets (SSM) and designed original surveys (300+ respondents) to analyze workplace dynamics and employee satisfaction using **SPSS**.
- **Methodology Excellence:** Recognized as class representative for outstanding research methodology in a consumer behavior study on subscription service adoption trends.

EDUCATION
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — Chapel Hill, NC August 2025 - Present
Master of Education in Educational Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (MEITE) |
August 2025 - Present

- Leveraged educational technology and AI to enhance teaching and learning outcomes

University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX August 2024 - May 2025
Academic English Program

- Focus on developing advanced academic English skills for graduate-level study, including academic writing, critical reading, discussion, and professional communication in a U.S. university context.

Kwansei Gakuin University — Hyogo, Japan 2020 - 2024
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

- GPA: 3.70 (Junior-Senior Coursework)