CHRISTOPHER J. SCHMANK, PHD

chris.schmank@health.slu.edu • (314) 977-7299 • linkedin.com/in/christopherjschmank/ • cjschmank.github.io

SUMMARY

Applied Cognitive Psychology PhD looking for employment in the field of User Experience and Human Centered Design. Research background started with Cognitive Neuroscience of Stress Lab and culminated in CALIBER Lab a Quantitative Psychology/Psychometrics Laboratory. During academic career, rigorously studied quantitative/qualitative methodology, advanced statistical analyses, and user experience.

- *Expertise*: User Experience/Human Centered Design, Quantitative/Qualitative Methodology, Data Organization and Cleaning Procedures, Latent Variable Modeling, Regression Based Statistical Analyses, Experimental Methodology, Cognitive Psychology, Validated User Research, Information Architecture, User Experience Strategy
- *Analyses & Tools*: Useability Testing, Validated User Personas, Figma, GitHub, Correlation/Regression, Parametric & Non-Parametric Analyses, Structural Equation Modeling, Psychometric Network Modeling, R/RStudio/Posit

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

User Experience Researcher, Reality Smash   *Irvine, CA| 2020-2022*
- Collaborated with multidisciplinary team as Cognitive Scientist/Applied Cognitive Psychologist
- Conducted market research concerning specific research questions geared toward alternative substance therapy, mental health, and extended reality technologies

User Experience Researcher, Hit Point Studios   *Los Angeles, CA| 2019-2021*
- Assisted colleague in useability testing on Augmented Reality product to help young students learn fundamentals of electrical circuit building
- Conducted competitive analyses comparing products already in the market with those proposed to serve customer pain points
- Wrote in-game dialogue, words of encouragement, and warnings for players of a game geared at teaching older students about how to become an entrepreneur

Graduate Research Assistant, Claremont Graduate University   *Claremont, CA | 2017–2025*
- Secondary data projects conducting psychometric analyses on Intelligence data e.g., Exploratory/Confirmatory Factor Analyses, Structural Equation Modeling, and Psychometric Network Modeling
- Built online Experiment and Surveys to conduct Rationality and Cognitive Ability research and collected data using Qualtrics, MTurk, and MTurk Cloud Research

Teaching Assistant (Statistics), The Claremont Colleges   *Claremont, CA | 2017–2021*
- Worked at multiple universities as Teaching Assistant and Graduate Teaching Assistant in User Experience, Introductory and Advanced Statistics Courses including Latent Variable Modeling and Structural Equation Modeling
- Consulted Undergraduate Thesis students on their Honors Projects as a Statistical/Data Consultant

EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Applied Cognitive Psychology, 2025   *Claremont Graduate University*
- Dissertation: "Does Being Emotional Age Nicely: Processing Speed and Emotion Regulation"

M.A. – Psychological Sciences, 2016   *University of Colorado Colorado Springs*
- Thesis: "Tip-of-the-Tongue Phenomena Across the Adult Lifespan: Effects of Concurrent Stress"

B.A. - Psychology, Minor: Philosophy, 2013   *Saint Louis University*

SELECTED PROJECTS

Emotion Regulation and Processing Speed: Is emotion regulation a cognitively taxing process. *Impact*: Paradoxical relationship between increased age, cognitive ability, and emotion. As we age our cognitive abilities decline, however, emotional intelligence increases. https://cjschmank.github.io/projects/dissertation/

Stress and Cognition: Does evaluative observation impact language production. *Impact:* Demonstrated that under observation conditions more tip-of-the-tongue states occurred compared to unobserved conditions. https://cjschmank.github.io/projects/stress_research/