

# DAVID MANUEL TORRES-MENDOZA

714-929-8338 | [davidmtorresmendoza@gmail.com](mailto:davidmtorresmendoza@gmail.com)

## Research Interests

- Visualizing data so that it is more digestible and easier to explore
- How people interact with social media and what you can infer based on those interactions
- How to create and improve recommendation algorithms/ML models

---

## EDUCATION

University of California: Santa Cruz

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science (3.49 GPA)

Santa Cruz, CA

2013-2017

---

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 CSGrad4US NSF Fellowship recipient
- Dean's Honors List (4 out of 12 quarters) at UCSC

---

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Data Analyst/Manager I – ETR Associates

05/2022-PRESENT

- Works collaboratively with project teams in constructing datasets for research projects.
- Develops, creates, and maintains project tracking and survey databases on assigned projects and/or trains and supervises junior staff completing these tasks.
- Contributes to the design of data collection, data management, and data analysis plans.
- Prepares & cleans data for analysis and applies quantitative/qualitative analysis techniques and methods on assigned projects under the direction of the project Principal Investigator(s)
- Evaluates data quality and presents options for addressing them prior to analysis.
- Identifies methodological challenges and resolves or elevates them within the research team.
- Produces data reports as needed from project databases.

### Research Assistant I to III – ETR Associates

03/2017-05/2022

- Worked under the direction of Principal Investigators and Project Managers/Supervisors to complete varying research and evaluation activities in a thorough and timely manner.
- Assumed primary responsibility for survey/protocol development, data collection/management, and data analysis/reporting, as well as documentation of the above.
- Frequently worked with outside partners/institutions, created and presented research reports, and facilitated discussions around research findings.
- Regularly conducted quantitative and qualitative (content analysis, thematic analysis, and grounded theory) analyses to inform project decisions and keep partners updated on grant activities.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

1. Denner, J., **Torres, D.**, & Campe, S. (2018, March). Computer science pathways for Latino/a youth in a community technology center. Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE). Baltimore, MD.
2. Osborn, J. C., Dickinson, M., Anderson, B., Summerville, A., Denner, J., **Torres, D.**, ... & Mateas, M. (2019, October). Is Your Game Generator Working? Evaluating Gemini, an Intentional Generator. In Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment (Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 59-65).
3. Denner, J., Bean, S., Campe, S., Martinez, J., & **Torres, D.** (2019). Negotiating trust, power and culture in a research-practice partnership. AERA Open Special Issue on Research-Practice Partnerships, 5(2).
4. Werner, L., Denner, J., Campe, S., & **Torres, D.M.** (2020). Computational sophistication of games programmed by children: A model for its measurement. ACM Transactions on Computing Education (TOCE), 20(2), 1-23.
5. Denner, J. & **Torres, D.M.** (2020). How natural mentoring is used by Latinx youth at a community technology center. Journal of Latinos and Education, 1-18.
6. Campe, S., Denner, J., Green, E., & **Torres, D.** (2020). Pair programming in middle school: variations in interactions and behaviors. Computer Science Education, 30(1), 22-46.
7. Denner, J., Bell, H., **Torres, D.**, & Edwards, J. (2021, May). Computing Education Pathways from High School to Community College: What Matters to Students? Annual Conference on Research in Equity and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology (RESPECT) <http://respect2021.stcbp.org/>

8. Denner, J., Potter, S., Anderson, P., & **Torres, D.** (in press, 2022). What Predicts the Momentum of Information and Communications Technologies Students in Community College? Research in Higher Education.
9. Jill Denner, Heather Bell, **David Torres** & Emily Green (2023) Computing education pathways from high school to community college: key strategies for aligning institutional systems, Computer Science Education, DOI: 10.1080/08993408.2023.2195755
- 

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**University of California: Santa Cruz – Cognitive Modeling Lab (Advisor: Dr. Travis L. Seymour)**

01/2017-04/2017

Helped the primary investigator on a research study involving a cognitive architecture called EPIC (Executive-Process/Interactive Control) that can model human cognition and other aspects of human performance. Assisted by conducting a literature review on multisensory perception and helping create a simple video game that could be played by both humans and the EPIC system. Refined the settings of the video game to achieve a desired difficulty level and collected quantitative data on the performance of research participants that were later used to further improve the accuracy of the EPIC model.

**University of California: Santa Cruz – Infant Development Lab (Advisor: Dr. Su-Hua Wang)**

09/2015-06/2016

Helped run multiple research projects and collected information from parents such as child temperament, exposure to different languages and exposure to technology, as well as background information on the parents. Participated in data collection by running trials; prompting parents to interact with their children at determined intervals and guiding children to interact with the principal investigator. Recorded, stored, then performed quantitative and qualitative analysis of the footage, looking for and tallying specific behaviors as well as noting unusual behaviors/circumstances. Used data management principles to restructure subject pool spreadsheet for readability. Assisted in writing and editing grant proposals.

---

## SKILLS

- SPSS, Excel, Qualtrics, and SurveyGizmo (now Alchemer) power user
- Programming languages: Python (intermediate), R (basic), LaTeX (basic), Javascript (basic), and HTML (basic)
- Bilingual (Spanish)