

FETTAH KIRAN

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SUMMARY

I'm a Ph.D. graduate in Computer Science from the University of Houston, where I conducted research in the Affective & Data Computing ACDC lab under the esteemed guidance of Prof. Ioannis Pavlidis. My doctoral research focused on affective and data computing with applications in mental health support, human-computer interaction (HCI), and adaptive educational technologies, with a particular emphasis on addressing math anxiety in higher education. My academic journey also includes an M.S. in Computer Science earned at Louisiana State University.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Computer Science

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Relevant coursework: Statistical Methods in Research, Ubiquitous Computing

Research: Affective Computing, Human-Computer Interaction, Physiological Signal Processing

Aug 2025

3.5 GPA

M.S., Computer Science

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Relevant coursework: AI, ML, Video Game Design, Scientific Info Visualization

Research: Brain Computer Interaction, ADHD, Serious Games

Aug 2020

3.5 GPA

B.S., Department of Computer and Instructional Technologies Education

Ondokuz Mayis University, Samsun, Turkiye

Relevant coursework: Material Design, Programming Languages, AI, Distance Learning

May 2013

3.0 GPA

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, Swift, C++, Julia

Design and Modeling Tools: Pandas, Plotly, Scikit-learn, Xcode, SwiftUI, Canvas, Figma, Sketch

Data Analysis and Statistics: R Studio, Google Colab, AWS S3, Tableau, Paraview

Operating Systems: MacOS, iOS, WatchOS, MS Windows, Linux, Bash, Cluster Computing

Certifications: [Micro-credential in Advanced Data Science](#) | [High-Performance Computing](#) | [CITI Export Controls - University of Houston](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE

TIMES, University of Houston, TX: Research Assistant

June 2023 - Aug 2025

- Designed and managed experimental setups for the NSF-funded Affective Math project, ensuring alignment with research goals and data integrity
- Led data collection, curation, and visualization using R, standardizing analytic methods to support reproducible analysis by mentoring junior lab members in advanced data techniques

Department of Computer Science, University of Houston, TX: Teaching Assistant

Aug 2021 – Dec 2024

- Graded and prepared solutions for weekly assignments, midterms, and semester-long projects for graduate-level courses; [Statistical Methods in Research \(R\)](#), [Ubiquitous Computing \(Swift\)](#), Machine Learning (Python), Data Science II (Python)
- Led programming lab sessions for Statistical Methods in Research and Ubiquitous Computing, providing hands-on guidance to deepen students' understanding of core concepts, receiving positive feedback - [[F22](#), [S23](#), [F23](#), [S24](#), [F24](#)] and achieving a 4.6/5.0 rating on student evaluations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Affective Math Project, University of Houston,TX: Researcher

Aug 2020 – Aug 2025

- Conducted the Affective Math project supported by the National Science Foundation ([Award #1760760](#)), executing experiments aligned with project goals and training new grad students.
- Led data collection, curation, and visualization in R, ensuring high data quality and accuracy
- Developed and implemented analytic methods to support robust data analysis and insights

M.S. Degree Study, Louisiana State University, LA: Researcher

Aug 2018 – May 2020

- Developed and led the implementation of an experimental protocol to investigate the effects of background music in a serious game (Tetris) on attention in children with ADHD, utilizing an innovative brain-computer interface setup
- Conducting experiments with both ADHD and non-ADHD participants
- Analyzed findings and communicated comprehensive results to committee members through a published paper and an M.S. thesis, contributing to the academic literature and advancing research in the field

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Kiran F.**, Cirino P., and Pavlidis I. (2025). Reducing Stress in Math Tests through Video-Based Question Formats: A Multimodal Affective Study *IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing*. To Appear.
2. **Kiran F.**, Hasan M.T., Ganeshan K., Bhatambarekar G., Sarkar A., and Pavlidis I. (2025). Facial Self-Touches Are Associated With Mental Stress in Knowledge Work *ACII '25: Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction Conference*. To Appear.
3. Rott C., **Kiran F.**, Segers M., Bossche P.V., and Pavlidis I. (2025). STREL - Naturalistic dataset and methods for studying stress and relaxation patterns in critical leading roles *IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing*. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TAFFC.2025.3616270>
4. **Kiran F.**, Tolar T., Wesley A., Cirino P., Tsiamyrtzis P., and Pavlidis I. (2023). Relatable and Humorous Videos Reduce Hyperarousal in Math Exams *ACII '23: Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction Conference*. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACIIW59127.2023.10388115>
5. Arpacı I., Karatas K., **Kiran F.**, Kusci I., and Topcu A. (2021). Mediating role of positivity in the relationship between state anxiety and problematic social media use during the COVID-19 pandemic *Death Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2021.1923588>
6. Soysal OM., **Kiran F.**, and Chen J. (2020). Quantifying Brain Activity State: EEG analysis of Background Music in A Serious Game on Attention of Children *4th International Symposium on Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovative Technologies (ISMSIT)*. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ISMSIT50672.2020.9255308>
7. **Kiran F.** (2020). Exploring effects of background music in a serious game on attention by means of EEG signals in children. *Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College*. https://doi.org/10.31390/gradschool_theses.5151

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

ACII2025 - Affective Computing Intelligent Interaction, Canberra, Australia

Oct 2025

Position: Presenter

Fall2024 - UH Computer Science PhD Research Showcase

Oct 2024

Position: Presenter

ACII2023 - Affective Computing Intelligent Interaction, The MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA, USA

Sept 2023

Position: Participant

4th International Symposium on Multidisciplinary Studies and Innovative Technologies

Oct 2020

Position: Participant