

# Makayla Moster, Ph.D.

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## Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Science

University of North Carolina Wilmington

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## Education

### Ph.D. in Computer Science

May 2025

Clemson University

Clemson, SC

Dissertation: “Learning Through Online Participation: From Breakout Rooms to Discord”

### Graduate Certificate, Engineering & Science Education

December 2022

Clemson University

Clemson, SC

### M.S. in Computer Science

May 2021

Clemson University

Clemson, SC

### B.S. Honors in Computer Science, Digital Arts concentration

May 2019

University of North Carolina Wilmington

Wilmington, NC

Magna Cum Laude

GPA: 3.886

Thesis: “Conforming Realistic, Procedural Tree Models to User-Drawn Shapes”

## Publications

<sup>†</sup>paper presented <sup>‡</sup>poster presented \*co-first authorship

## Journal Articles

2023

J.1<sup>†</sup>

\***Moster, M.**, \*Kokinda, E., Rodeghero, P., McNeese, N. “Both Sides of the Story: Changing the “Pre-existing Culture of Dread” Surrounding Student Teamwork in Breakout Rooms”, in Proc. of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction, 7, [CSCW1](#), Article 30 (April 2023), 33 pages.

## Peer-Reviewed

### Conference Papers

2026

C.11

**Moster, M.**, Kokinda, E., Boyer, D. M., Rodeghero, P. “Leveling Up: Experiences and Evidence-driven Upgrades to a Game Coding Camp for Autistic High School Students”, to be in Proc. of the 48th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering - Software Engineering Education and Training Track (ICSE SEET ‘26), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 12–18, 2026.

2024

C.10

Kokinda, E., **Moster, M.**, Rodeghero, P., Boyer, D. M. “Informal Learning Opportunities - Neurodiversity, Self-Efficacy, and Motivation for Programming Interest”, presented at the 16th International Conference on Computer Supported Education ([CSEDU ‘24](#)), Angers, France, May 2-4, 2024.

- C.9<sup>‡</sup> **Moster, M.** & Boyer, D. M. “WIP: Exploring how an Unofficial Discord Server Supports Undergraduate Learning in Computer Science”, presented at 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Portland, Oregon, USA, June 23-26, 2024.
- C.8<sup>†</sup> Kokinda, E., **Moster, M.**, Boyer, D. M. “Compiling Resilience: A Study on First-Generation Women Pursuing Computing Degrees”, presented at 2024 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Portland, Oregon, USA, June 23-26, 2024.
- C.7<sup>†</sup> **Moster, M.**, Kokinda, E., Boyer, D. M., Rodeghero, P. “Experiences with Summer Camp Communication via Discord”, in Proc. of the 46th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering - Software Engineering Education and Training Track ([ICSE SEET ‘24](#)), Lisbon, Portugal, April 14-20, 2024.
- 2023 C.6 Kokinda, E., **Moster, M.**, Dominic, J., Rodeghero, P. “Under the Bridge: Trolling and the Challenges of Recruiting Software Developers for Empirical Research Studies”, in Proc. of the 45th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering - New Ideas and Emerging Results Track ([ICSE NIER ‘23](#)), Melbourne, Australia, May 17-19, 2023.
- 2022 C.5 **Moster, M.**, Chandra, A., Chu, C., Liu, W., Rodeghero, P. “In the Zone: An Analysis of the Music Practices of Remote Software Developers”, in Proc. of the 2022 ACM/IEEE International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement ([ESEM ‘22](#)), Helsinki, Finland, September 19-23, 2022.
- C.4<sup>†</sup> **Moster, M.**, Kokinda, E., Re, M., Dominic, J., Lehmann, J., Begel, A., Rodeghero, P. “Can You Help Me? An Experience Report of Teamwork in a Game Coding Camp for Autistic High School Students”, in Proc. of the 44th IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering - Software Engineering Education and Training Track ([ICSE SEET ‘22](#)), Pittsburgh, PA, USA, May 21-29, 2022.
- 2021 C.3<sup>†</sup> **Moster, M.**, Ford, D., Rodeghero, P. “Is My Mic On? Preparing SE Students for Collaborative Remote Work and Hybrid Team Communication”, in Proc. of the 43rd IEEE/ACM International Conference on Software Engineering - Joint Software Engineering and Education Track ([ICSE JSEET ‘21](#)), Madrid, Spain, May 23-29, 2021.
- C.2 Huff Jr, E. W., Boateng, K., **Moster, M.**, Rodeghero, P., Brinkley, J. “Exploring the Perspectives of Teachers of the Visually Impaired Regarding Accessible K12 Computing Education”, in Proc. of the 51st Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education ([SIGCSE ‘21](#)), Toronto, Canada, March 13-20, 2021.

2020 C.1 Huff Jr, E. W., Boateng, K., **Moster, M.**, Rodeghero, P., Brinkley, J. “Examining the Work Experience of Programmers with Visual Impairments”, in Proc. of the 36th International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution - New Ideas and Emerging Results Track (**ICSME NIER ‘20**), Adelaide, Australia, Sept. 27-Oct. 3, 2020.

## Symposia and Workshop Papers

2022 SW.2<sup>‡</sup> **Moster, M.** “Investigating Communication Tools in SE Capstone Courses”, in Proc. of the 2022 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research V.2 (**ICER ‘22**), Lugano and Virtual Event, Switzerland, August 7–11, 2022.

SW.1 **Moster, M.**, Begel, A., Boyer, D. M., Rodeghero, P. “A Longitudinal Study Exploring Autistic High Schoolers’ Interests in CS”, 4th Annual Autism at Work Research Workshop (**AAWRW ‘22**), Virtual, May 16-18, 2022.

## Dissertation

2025 D.1 **Moster, M.** “Learning Through Online Participation: From Breakout Rooms to Discord”, (2025). All Dissertations. 3900.  
[https://open.clemson.edu/all\\_dissertations/3900/](https://open.clemson.edu/all_dissertations/3900/)

## Teaching Experience

**Assistant Professor** August 2025 – Present  
 Department of Computer Science University of North Carolina Wilmington  
**CIT 425: Human-Computer Interfaces** 2025 – Present  
 Fall 2025: 23 undergraduate students (1 section)  
 Spring 2026: TBD undergraduate students (1 section)  
**CIT 213: Introduction to Databases** 2025 – Present  
 Fall 2025: 9 undergraduate students (1 section)  
 Spring 2026: TBD undergraduate students (1 section)

**Adjunct Faculty** January 2025 – May 2025  
 Department of Computer Science University of North Carolina Wilmington  
**CIT 425: Human-Computer Interfaces** 2025  
 Spring 2025: 9 undergraduate students (1 section, online)

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** August 2019 – May 2025  
 School of Computing Clemson University  
**CPSC 8740: AI-Receptive Software Development** 2024 – 2025  
 Spring 2024: Aided in online course development  
 Fall 2024: 116 graduate students (3 sections + 1 Coursera section)  
 Spring 2025: 46 graduate students (1 Coursera section)  
**CPSC 9500: SoCGSA Graduate Seminar** 2023

	Spring 2023: 6 graduate students	
	<b>CPSC 4910/4911: Senior Computing Practicum</b>	2021 – 2023
	Spring 2021: 87 undergraduate students (4 sections)	
	Fall 2021: 60 undergraduate students (3 sections)	
	Spring 2022: 72 undergraduate students (3 sections)	
	Fall 2022, <i>Lead GTA</i> : 77 undergraduate students (3 sections)	
	Spring 2023, <i>Lead GTA</i> : 94 undergraduate students (6 sections)	
	<b>CPSC 1010/1011: Computer Science I</b>	2019, 2020
	Fall 2019: 65 undergraduate students (3 sections)	
	Fall 2020: 55 undergraduate students (3 sections)	
	<b>Instructor, EdASE Coding Camp for Autism</b>	2021 – 2024
	Online Summer Camp	Clemson University
	Developed course content surrounding 2D game design using Godot Engine (2021, 2022) and Scratch (2023, 2024).	
	Summer 2021: 14 campers	
	Summer 2022: 15 campers	
	Summer 2023: 20 campers	
	Summer 2024: 20 campers	
	<b>Instructor, Engineering Expectations</b>	June 2018 – August 2019
	Summer & Weekend Camps	University of North Carolina Wilmington
Honors and Awards	<b>Exceptionally Engaging Letters award</b> (Letters for a Prescientist)	2021
	<b>Graduate Student Travel Grant</b> (Clemson University GSG)	2020
	<b>Robert M. Geist III Fellowship in Computing</b> (Clemson University)	2019
	<b>Dean's List</b> (8 semesters, UNCW)	2015 – 2019
Professional Memberships	<b>ACM</b>	2023 – Present
	<b>IEEE</b>	2021 – Present
	<b>Upsilon Pi Epsilon</b>	2018 – Present
Professional Development	<b>CareerVolt Workshop Attendee</b> Developing a Fundable Research Portfolio	
	University of North Carolina Wilmington	Nov. 2025, Dec. 2025 & Jan. 2026
	<b>Book Circle: <i>The Caring University</i></b>	Center for Teaching Excellence
	University of North Carolina Wilmington	October & November 2025
	<b>Book Circle: <i>The Present Professor</i></b>	Center for Teaching Excellence
	University of North Carolina Wilmington	September & October 2025
	<b>Attendee</b> College of Science & Engineering Grant Administrator Overview	
	University of North Carolina Wilmington	October 2025

## Service

### University Service

**Search Committee Member** Department of Computer Science  
University of North Carolina Wilmington 2025 – 2026

**Volunteer** Technology & Analytics Career Day Student Preparation Event  
University of North Carolina Wilmington 2025

**Observing Member** Information Technology Advisory Committee  
University of North Carolina Wilmington 2025 – 2026

### Before UNCW

**Invited Panelist** An Inside Look at Clemson’s MSCS Enrollment & Courses  
Clemson University September & October 2024

**President** School of Computing Graduate Student Association  
Clemson University August 2022 – May 2024  
SoCGSA is a student organization that represents and holds events for Clemson’s School of Computing graduate students in Computer Science, Human-Centered Computing, Digital Production Arts, and Biomedical Data Science & Informatics graduate programs.  
Conducted administrative duties, organization of events, and task delegation.

**Invited Panelist** New Graduate Student & Postdoc Teaching Conference  
Clemson University August 2022

### Professional Service

**Reviewer**, ACM SIGCSE 2026 2025

**Reviewer**, ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition 2026 2025

**Reviewer**, ACM SIGCITE 2025 2025

**Reviewer**, ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition 2025 2024

**Session Moderator** ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition 2024  
Portland, Oregon June 2024

**Reviewer**, ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition 2024 2024

**Student Volunteer** Carolinas Women In Computing Conference 2022  
University of North Carolina Wilmington April 2022

**Student Volunteer** FormaliSE at ICSE 2021  
Madrid, Spain (Virtual) May 2021

	<b>Reviewer</b> , SEmotion	2021
	<b>Program Committee Member &amp; Website Chair</b> Madrid, Spain (Virtual)	SEmotion 2021 May 2021
	<b>Sub-Reviewer</b> , ESEC/FSE	2021
<b>Community Service</b>	<b>Judge</b> Clemson Tigertown Throwdown Robotics Competition Clemson University	February 4, 2023
	<b>Pen Pal</b> , <a href="#">Letters to a Prescientist Program</a> Corresponded through letters with an elementary school student each school year who is interested in learning more about STEM careers. Received an <b>award for Exceptionally Engaging Letters</b> for the 2020-2021 school year.	August 2020 – May 2023