

Spencer Williams

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Education

University of Washington

9/2018-Ongoing

PhD Student in Human Centered Design and Engineering

University of British Columbia

9/2013-5/2017

B.A. Honours in Psychology

Whatcom Community College

9/2011-6/2013

DTA (Associates in Arts and Sciences)

Skills

Research

Experimental design, statistical analysis, R, qualitative interviews

Programming

C++, Java, C#, Python

Design

User-centered design, surveys, interviews, personas, usability testing

Research Experience

University of Washington

Graduate Research Assistant

1/2019-Ongoing

Supervisor: Gary Hsieh

- Interviewing researchers about their science communication practices, in order to assess their needs and challenges when relaying their work to the public, as well as conducting experiments to better understand how people understand and engage with science news on social media.

Graduate Research Assistant

9/2018-12/2018

Supervisor: Kate Starbird

- Conducted interviews with journalists working with social media, in order to better understand professional needs in dealing with misinformation and disinformation.

University of British Columbia

Project Leader

5/2016-8/2018

Supervisor: Ron Rensink

- Ran experiments, analyzed data, led team meetings, trained new research assistants, communicated with the lab's coding team about software needs, advertised studies and lab positions, conducted interviews, organized and spoke at high school events at the lab, and managed one of the lab's research teams

Project Manager

2/2017-8/2017

Supervisor: Kristin Laurin

- Analyzed and reviewed psychological literature, designed online surveys, coded studies based on various criteria, and organized a small team of research assistants in related tasks

Research Assistant

9/2015-5/2016

Supervisor: Steve Heine

- Designed, executed, and reported on an experiment examining gender and status.

Research Assistant

10/2014-5/2015

Supervisor: Colleen Brenner

- Filed participant data and ran EEG and neuropsychological tests on participants during experiments

Presentations

Oral

Williams, S. & Rensink, R. (2017). The effects of gamma correction on correlation perception in strip plots. Oral presentation at UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference 2017.

Poster

Williams, S., Block, K., & Heine, S. (2016). Gender and Status in Contexts of Physical Strength. Poster presentation at UBC Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference 2016.

Service

University of Washington

Master of Science in HCDE External Reviewer 2019

- Reviewed applications to the Master of Science in Human Centered Design and Engineering program, providing an initial evaluation of the applications before sending them to the admissions committee.

HCDE PhD Visit Days Planning Committee 2019

- Planned and scheduled social and informational activities for potential PhD students for a two-day visit to the UW campus. Recruited volunteers for activities and reached out to visiting students to answer any preliminary questions.

Honors and Awards

UBC Student Scholarship in Arts 2017

Point Roberts Dollars for Scholars Scholarship 2013