

KENNETH A. BLOCKER

Curriculum Vitae

Georgia Institute of Technology
School of Psychology
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EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia August 2015 – Present
Advisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

- ◆ Completing the requirements for a Master's degree in Psychology with a focus in Cognitive Aging
- ◆ GPA: 3.77

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida August 2009 – May 2013

- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology – GPA: 3.71
 - Upper-division GPA: 3.93; Psychology GPA: 3.73
- ◆ Graduated: May 2013; Magna Cum Laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant: Human Factors and Aging Laboratory, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia August 2015 – Present
Supervisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

- ◆ Provide research support on various projects concerning human factors and cognitive aging

Project Coordinator: Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida August 2013 – May 2015
Supervisors: Neil Charness, Ph.D., Walter R. Boot, Ph.D.

- ◆ Responsible for administration and organization of CREATE research projects, as well as the management of CREATE personnel, data integrity, and participant recruitment

Research Assistant: Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida August 2012 – August 2013
Supervisors: Neil Charness, Ph.D., Walter R. Boot, Ph.D.

- ◆ Assisted with the management and organization of CREATE research projects

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Research, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida August 2012 – April 2013
Mentoring Professors: Walter R. Boot, Ph.D., Neil Charness, Ph.D., Valerie J. Shute, Ph.D.

- ◆ **Project:** *Gaming Preferences of Aging Generations*
 - Thesis explored the gaming preferences of older adults in order to aid in designing digital game interventions based on individual difference characteristics

Directed Individual Study: Center for Research and Education on Aging and Technology Enhancement, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida August 2011 – August 2012

Supervisors: Neil Charness, Ph.D., Walter R. Boot, Ph.D.

- ◆ Program for undergraduate students to gain experience and provide assistance in research environments

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Paper Award of the 2nd International Conference on Human Aspects of IT for the Aged Population July 2016

Human-Computer Interaction International (HCII) Conference

- ◆ A paper I coauthored, entitled "The Gamification of Cognitive Training: Older Adults' Perceptions of and Attitudes toward Digital Game-Based Interventions", was reviewed by committee and selected for the Best Paper Award of the 2nd International Conference on Human Aspects of IT for the Aged Population at the HCI International Conference.

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional Research Training Grant, Grant #5T32AG000175-27 August 2015 - Present

National Institute on Aging (National Institutes of Health)

- ◆ The objective of the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Institutional Research Training Grant program is to develop and/or enhance research training opportunities for health professional students and for graduate students in the physical or quantitative sciences interested in careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical research that are relevant to the NIH mission.
- ◆ Award: Full tuition plus stipend

President's Fellowship, Georgia Institute of Technology August 2015 - Present

- ◆ President's Fellowships are offered annually to a select number of highly qualified U.S. citizens or permanent residents who intend to pursue doctoral degrees. Fellowship recipients bring exemplary levels of scholarship and innovation to the academic departments who host their study and research.
- ◆ Award: \$5,500/year

Howard D. Baker Award, *Third Place*, Florida State University April 2013

- ◆ These awards are presented annually to the undergraduates whose research project submissions are judged to be the most meritorious by the FSU Psychology Undergraduate Studies Committee.
- ◆ Award: \$100

Mark A. Berkley Endowment for Research, Florida State University March 2013

- ◆ This research endowment was created to honor the contributions of Dr. Mark A. Berkley to the Department of Psychology at FSU by providing funding to undergraduates involved in research projects.
- ◆ Award: \$500

President's List Spring 2013

Florida State University Freshman Scholarship

August 2009 – May 2013

- ◆ This scholarship is for freshmen in college, having had intellectual merit in high school as well as high test scores on the SAT or ACT.
- ◆ Award: \$9,600/year

PUBLICATIONS

Bixter, M. T., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (Upcoming; 2017). Enhancing Social Engagement of Older Adults through Technology. In *Aging, Health, and Technology*. Chapter in preparation.

Bixter, M. T., Prakash, A., **Blocker, K. A.**, Mitzner, T. L., & Rogers, W. A. (Upcoming; 2017). *A Qualitative Analysis of the Adoption and Use of Social Communication Technologies by Older Adults*. Manuscript in preparation.

Souders, D. J., Boot, W. R., Blocker, K., Vitale, T., Roque, N. A., & Charness, N. (2017). Evidence for Narrow Transfer after Short-Term Cognitive Training in Older Adults. *Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience*, 9, 41.

Blocker, K. A., Wright, T. J., & Boot, W. R. (2014). Gaming preferences of aging generations. *Journal of Gerontechnology*, 12(3), 174-184.

Honors Thesis

Blocker, K.A. (2013). *Gaming preferences of aging generations* (Unpublished honors thesis). Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

PRESENTATIONS

Blocker, K. A., Insel, K. C., Koerner, K. M., & Rogers, W. A. (2016, November). *Understanding the Medication Adherence Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.

Bixter, M. T., Prakash, A., **Blocker, K. A.**, Mitzner, T. L., & Rogers, W. A. (2016, November). *A Qualitative Analysis of the Adoption and Use of Social Communication Technologies by Older Adults*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, New Orleans, LA.

Boot, W. R., Souders, D. J., Charness, N., **Blocker, K. A.**, Roque, N., & Vitale, T. (2016, July). *The gamification of cognitive training: Older adults' perceptions of and attitudes toward digital game-based interventions*. Presented at the HCI International Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Bixter, M. T., Prakash, A., **Blocker, K. A.**, Mitzner, T. L., & Rogers, W. A. (2016, April). *Designing social networking applications for older adults: Insights from current users and non-users*. Poster presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Souders, D. J., Boot, W. R., **Blocker, K. A.**, Roque, N., Vitale, T., & Charness, N. (2016, April). *The gamification of cognitive training: Are brain games effective?* Presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Blocker, K. A., Wright, T. J., & Boot, W. R. (2014, April). *Gaming preferences of aging generations.* Presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Blocker, K. A. & Boot, W. R. (2013, April). *Gaming preferences of aging generations.* Presented at Florida State University's Department of Psychology Undergraduate Research Day, Tallahassee, FL.

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, The Gerontological Society of America, Student Member

Member, Human Factors and Ergonomic Society, Student Member, *Georgia Tech Chapter*

Member, Phi Beta Kappa, *Alpha of Florida*

Member, Psi Chi International Psychology Honor Society, *Alpha of Florida*

Member, Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, *Alpha of Florida*

Member, Golden Key International Honor Society

COMPUTER SKILLS

- ◆ Extensive knowledge in SPSS, Microsoft Office Suite, as well as in Adobe Creative Cloud Applications