

KENNETH A. BLOCKER, M.S.

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois August 2017 – Present

Advisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph. D.

- ◆ Completing the requirements for the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology (Cognitive Science of Teaching and Learning)
- ◆ Quantitative Methodology focus
- ◆ GPA: 3.9

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

August 2015 – July 2017

Advisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

- ◆ Master of Science in Psychology with a focus in Cognitive Aging
- ◆ Thesis: *Assessing Influences on the Medication Management Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension*
- ◆ GPA: 3.8

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

August 2009 – May 2013

- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology – GPA: 3.7
 - Upper-division GPA: 3.9; Psychology GPA: 3.7
- ◆ Graduated: May 2013; Magna Cum Laude

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research and Development Intern at State Farm® Enterprise Research,

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; Bloomington, Illinois

August 2019 – August 2021

- ◆ Six semesters providing comprehensive assistance with the research and development for Sundial™, a senior living product to provide support for older adults and their care circles through the Amazon Echo Show digital home assistant

Graduate Research Assistant: Human Factors and Aging Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

August 2017 – Present

Supervisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

- ◆ Providing research support on various projects concerning the topics of human factors and aging

Graduate Research Assistant: Human Factors and Aging Laboratory, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

August 2015 – August 2017

Supervisor: Wendy A. Rogers, Ph.D.

- ◆ Provided research support on various projects concerning the topics of human factors and 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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Technology, Health, & Aging (CHLH 494) Fall 2017

Instructor: Wendy Roger, PhD

- ◆ Performed teaching assistant duties for the Technology, Health, & Aging graduate-level course which included leading classes, grading class assignments and projects, student consulting, and providing assistance in other areas as needed.

HONORS & AWARDS

Arnold Small Best Student Paper Award - Honorable Mention: Aging Technical Group October 2021
2021 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting

- ◆ A paper I co-authored, entitled “*Smartphone and Digital Home Assistant Use among Older Adults: Understanding Adoption and Learning Preferences?*”, was reviewed by committee as well as a final review performed by the program chair and rated as honorable mention for best student paper submitted to the Aging Technical Group.

Barak Rosenshine Award – College of Education Fall 2021-Spring 2022

- ◆ Award presented by the College of Education and funded through private gifts from alumni and friends of the College of Education. The award is granted to a student based on their

academic merit, professional experience, public service, and commitment to the field of Education.

- ◆ Award: \$750

Fall 2018 Graduate College Conference Travel Grant Award

November 2018

- ◆ Award: \$225

Spring 2018 Department of Educational Psychology Block Grant Student Travel Support Award

March 2018

- ◆ Award: \$222

Arnold Small Best Student Paper Award: Aging Technical Group

October 2017

2017 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting

- ◆ A paper I authored, entitled “Understanding the Medication Adherence Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension,” was reviewed by committee as well as a final review performed by the program chair and rated as the best student paper submitted to the Aging Technical Group.
- ◆ Award: \$200 and commemorative award plaque

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 – August 2017

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 – August 2017

- ◆ 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

Blocker, K. A., Ramadhani, W. A., & Rogers, W. A. (submitted). Developing an Instructional Suite for the Amazon Echo to Support Novice Older Adults' Use. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 65th Annual Meeting*.

Kadylak, T., **Blocker, K. A.,** Kovac, C. E., & Rogers, W. A. (In-press). Understanding the Potential of Digital Home Assistant Devices for Older Adults through their Initial Perceptions and Attitudes. *Gerontechnology*.

Harris, M. T., **Blocker, K. A.,** & Rogers, W. A. (2022). Older Adults and Smart Technology: Facilitators and Barriers to Use. *Frontiers in Computer Science*.

Blocker, K. A., & Rogers, W. A. (2021). Exploring older adults' internalizations and misconceptions regarding antihypertensive medication management. *Proceedings of the 2021 International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care* (pp. 304-308).

Blocker, K. A., Kadylak, T., Koon, L. M., Kovac, C. E., & Rogers, W. A. (2021). Digital home assistants and aging: Initial perspectives from novice older adult users. *Proceedings of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 64th Annual Meeting*.

Koon, L., Khaleghi, R., **Blocker, K. A.,** Rogers, W. A., & Sreenivas, R. S. (2020, March). On Integrating Voice-Activated Digital Assistants with Smart Home Technologies to Support People with Long-Term Mobility Disabilities: Needs Assessment, Product-Selection and Implementation. In *Proceedings of the 10th Annual International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management*, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

- Koon, L. M., McGlynn, S. A., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2020). Perceptions of Digital Assistants from Early Adopters Aged 55+. *Ergonomics in Design*, 1064804619842501.
- Bixter, M., **Blocker, K. A.**, Prakash, A. Mitzner, T. L., & Rogers, W. A. (2019). Understanding the use and non-use of social communication technologies by older adults: A qualitative test and extension of the UTAUT model. *Gerontechnology*, 18, 70-88.
- Blocker, K. A.**, Insel, K. C., Lee, J. K., Nie, Q., Ajuwon, A., & Rogers, W. A. (2018). User Insights for Design of an Antihypertensive Medication Management Application. In *Proceedings of the 2018 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*.

Master's Thesis

- Blocker, K. A.** (2017). *Assessing influences on the medication management strategies of older adults with hypertension*. (Master's thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology).
- Blocker, K. A.**, Insel, K. C., Koerner, K. M., & Rogers, W. A. (2017). Understanding the Medication Adherence Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*. **Winner of the HFES Arnold M. Small Aging Technical Group Best Student Paper Award.**
- Harris, M. T., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2017). Understanding Older Adults' Intentions to Use Healthcare Technologies: A Qualitative Approach. In *Proceedings of the 2017 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting*.
- Souders, D. J., Boot, W. R., **Blocker, K. A.**, 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.
- Boot, W. R., Souders, D., 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. In *International Conference on Human Aspects of IT for the Aged Population* (pp. 290-300). Springer, Cham. **Winner of the Best Paper Award.**
- Blocker, K. A.**, Wright, T. J., & Boot, W. R. (2014). Gaming preferences of aging generations. *Journal of Gerontechnology*, 12(3), 174-184.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Rogers, W. A., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Dupuy, L. (2020). Current and emerging technologies for supporting successful aging. In A. K. Thomas & A. Gutchess (Eds.), *The Cambridge handbook of cognitive aging: A life course perspective* (pp. 717-736). Cambridge University Press.

Blocker, K. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2019). Human factors and ergonomics for aging. In D. Gu & M. E. Dupre (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Gerontology and Population Aging*, Springer Nature Switzerland AG.

Bixter, M. T., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2018). Enhancing Social Engagement of Older Adults through Technology. In A. C. McLaughlin & R. Pak (Eds.), *Aging, Health, and Technology*. Elsevier.

PRESENTATIONS

Blocker, K. A., Hussaini, H., Lachs, E., Lim, K., Williams, K., Sreenivas, R. S., Rogers, W. A. (2022, May). *Assessing the Potential of Voice-Activated Digital Home Assistants for Older Adults with Mobility Disability*. TechSage RERC State of the Science Conference 2022. Chicago, IL.

Mitzner, T. L., Harris, M. T., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Trinh, M. (2021, November). *Developing instructional support for MEDSReM through human factors design principles*. Symposia presentation at the 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America (virtual).

Kadylak, T., **Blocker, K. A.**, Gowrishankar, S., Malecki, M., Galoso, L., Khamzina, M., Ramavarapu, V., Sreenivas, R. S., & Rogers, W. A. (2021, July). *Demystifying Digital Home Assistant Devices for Older Adults with and without Disabilities*. Presented at the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) 2021 Virtual Conference.

Blocker, K. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2021, April). *Exploring Older Adults' Internalizations and Misconceptions Regarding Antihypertensive Medication Management*. Poster presented at the Virtual 2021 HFES International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care.

Kadylak, T., **Blocker, K. A.**, Koon, L. M., Gowrishankar, S., Ramadhani, W. A., Khaleghi, R., Kovac, C., Sreenivas, R. S., & Rogers, W. A. (2020, September). *Developing a suite of voice activated digital home assistant health applications and instructional materials for older adults with mobility disability*. Presented at the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) 2020 Virtual Conference, Arlington, VA.

Kadylak, T., Koon, L. M., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2019, November). *Voice-Activated Digital Assistants: Perceptions from Current and Novice Users with Mobility Disability*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.

Blocker, K. A., Koon, L. M., Kadylak, T., Ramadhani, W. A., Khalegi, R., Kovac, C., Sreenivas, R.S., Rogers, W. A. (2019, November). *Smart home technology for older adults with mobility disabilities: Potential and challenges*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX.

Blocker, K.A. (2019, October). *Supporting Older Adults in Aging-in-Place with Current & Emerging Technologies*. Presented at Carle Hospital's Inaugural Home Care Symposium, Urbana, IL.

Blocker, K. A., Koon, L., & Rogers, W. A. (2019, August). *Exploring the Potential of Digital Home Assistants for Older Adults*. Presented at the State Universities Annuitants Association Big 10

Retirees Conference, Champaign, IL.

Blocker, K. A., Koon, L. M., McGlynn, S. A., & Rogers, W. A., (2019, March). *The Potential of Digital Assistants to Support Health Self-Management for Older Adults*. Presented at the HFES International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care, Chicago, IL.

Blocker, K. A., Insel, K. C., Lee, J. K., Nie, Q., Ajuwon, A., & Rogers, W. A. (2018). *User Insights for Design of an Antihypertensive Medication Management Application*. Presented at the 2018 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Blocker, K. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2018, May). *A Qualitative Approach to Understanding Older Adults' Antihypertensive Medication Management*. Presented at the 2018 Cognitive Aging Conference, Atlanta, GA.

McGlynn, S. A., Koon, L. M., **Blocker, K. A.**, Shishegar, N., Rogers, W. A. (2018, May). *Investigating the Potential of Digital Home Assistants to Promote Physical Activity and Social Engagement for Older Adults*. Presented at the Cognitive Aging Conference (CAC), Atlanta, GA.

Blocker, K. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2018, March). *Qualitatively Assessing Influences on the Medication Management Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension*. Poster presented at the HFES 2018 International Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care, Boston, MA.

Blocker, K. A., Insel, K. C., Koerner, K. M., & Rogers, W. A. (2017, November). *Older Adults and Antihypertensive Medication Adherence*. Poster presented at the Collaborations in Health, Aging, Research and Technology (CHART) Symposium.

Blocker, K. A. & Rogers, W. A. (2017, October). *Understanding the Medication Adherence Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension*. Presented at the 2017 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Annual Meeting, Austin, TX.

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.

Boot, W. R., Charness, N., Souders, D., & **Blocker, K. A.** (2014, August). *The potential of gaming technology to improve the cognition and independence of older adults.* Presentation at 2014 APA Annual Convention, American Psychological Association, Washington D.C. (International)

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.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Ramadhani, W. A., **Blocker, K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2019). *Developing an Instructional Protocol for Voice-Activated Digital Home Assistants and Related Applications* (TechSage-TR-1905). Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities.

Harris, M. T., **Blocker K. A.**, & Rogers, W. A. (2018). Equipping a Smart Home Research Facility with Smart Technologies. (HFA-TR-1803). Champaign, IL: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, Human Factors and Aging Laboratory.

Blocker, K.A., Mitzner, T.L., & Rogers, W. A. (2017). *Medication Education, Decision Support, Reminding, and Monitoring (MEDSRem) System Development: Review of Existing Reminder Apps.* (HFA-TR-1703). Champaign, IL: Human Factors and Aging Laboratory, College of Applied Health Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

COLLOQUIA, BROWN BAGS, & WORKSHOPS

Blocker, K. A. (2019, October). *Supporting Older Adults in Aging-in-Place with Current & Emerging Technologies.* Presentation at Carle Foundation Hospital's Inaugural Home Care Symposium, Champaign, IL.

Blocker, K. A. (2017, October). *Assessing Influences on the Medication Management Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension.* Presentation to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Educational Psychology teaching faculty. Cognitive Science of Teaching and Learning Brown Bag Series, Champaign, IL.

Blocker, K. A. (2016, November). *Assessing Influences on the Medication Management Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension.* Presentation to Georgia Institute of Technology School of Psychology teaching faculty. Cognitive Aging Brown Bag Series, Atlanta, GA.

Blocker, K. A. (2016, March). *Understanding the Medication Adherence Strategies of Older Adults with Hypertension*. Presentation to Georgia Institute of Technology School of Psychology teaching faculty. Cognitive Aging Brownbag Series, Atlanta, GA.

PATENTS

Harr, J., Scott, J., Schirano, J. A, Chizmar, J., Mulford, S., & **Blocker, K. A.** (2022). *Alert Systems for Senior Living Engagement and Care Support Platforms*. (Patent Pending). Washington, DC: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

ADVISORY & CONSULTATION WORK

Student Aging Researchers in Training: Graduate Mentor Spring 2022

- ◆ Students: Emma Lachs, Kyreon Williams
- ◆ START is a research program focused on aging intended for AHS undergraduate students. A priority for START is to involve students from underrepresented minority backgrounds (e.g. African Americans, Hispanics, first-generation college students).

Undergraduate Researchers Initiative: Advisor Spring 2019

- ◆ Student: Leonardo Galoso
- ◆ Project investigated user testing of website and consumer guide designed to inform older adults about potential of integrating smart technology within their homes to support successful aging

Design for America: Advisor Fall 2018

- ◆ Interdisciplinary team of five undergraduate students
- ◆ Advised team regarding design, prototyping, and data collection of augmented reality telehealth application for primary care consultations

Human Factors Consultant 2017-2018

- ◆ Consultant for human factors issues in research, design and testing of antihypertensive medication management smartphone application entitled Medication Education, Decision Support, Reminding and Monitoring (MEDSRem) system
- ◆ This research supported by the National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Aging), Grant R21NR016285

Senior Thesis: Advisor Fall 2017

- ◆ Undergraduate student: Qifeng Li
- ◆ Project investigated factors influencing health technology acceptance by older adults through the use of quantitative and qualitative data collection (e.g., semi-structured interviews)

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Cognitive Science Society, Student Member

Member, Gerontological Society of America, Student Member

Member, Human Factors and Ergonomic Society, Student Member

Technical Groups: Aging, Augmented Cognition, Education, Environmental Design, Health Care, and Virtual Environments

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

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- ◆ **Skills:** Research project development; Human factors assessments (e.g., cognitive walkthrough, heuristic analysis, task analysis); Cognitive aging; Qualitative data collection (e.g., interviews, focus groups); Extensive knowledge of relevant quantitative and qualitative software applications (e.g., R, SPSS, MaxQDA, Microsoft Office); Interpersonal communication; Critical thinking and problem solving; Organization; Extensive knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud applications
- ◆ **Interests:** Home automation (hardware and software development); Astrophotography, Digital media creation; Investing; Mindfulness; Volunteering