Teddy Talk I:
Innovations in Technologies
for Learning, Instruction, and Assessment
Presenter Information
Wednesday, August 19

SAMUEL ABRAMOVICH
SUNY
Sam Abramovich is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo. His research is devoted to finding and understanding the learning opportunities between the intersection of the Learning Sciences and Emerging Technology, including digital badges and online rating systems. Sam is a recipient of an Edmund W. Gordon MacArthur Foundation/ETS Fellowship and prior to earning his Ph.D., he was a researcher at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, a technology coordinator for the Rashi School in Newton, MA, and a serial dot-commer.
samuelab@buffalo.edu
https://www.suny.edu/campuses/buffalo/

DAVID DOCKTERMAN
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Harvard Graduate School of Education
Dr. David Dockterman operates at the intersection of research and practice. A former classroom teacher, in 1982 he helped found Tom Snyder Productions, an early pioneer in educational technology, while getting his doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Over the last 30 plus years, he has continued to balance lives in the academic and publishing worlds, serving now as Chief Architect, Learning Sciences for the Intervention Solutions Group at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Adjunct Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In both roles Dockterman supports the development of research-driven innovative practices to tackle challenging educational problems. He has guided the design of dozens of award-winning technology programs, including Decisions, Decisions, FASTT Math, Thinking Reader, and Science Court (which was also an animated TV show on ABC Saturday Morning). Most recently he served as a key advisor for the development of MATH 180. His long-time Harvard course, Innovation by Design, fosters an iterative, agile approach to innovation across a range of educational issues.
David.Dockterman@hmhco.com
http://www.hmhco.com/

DP HARRIS
Loma Linda University
Dr. Harris has been the Vice President of Information Systems for Loma Linda University since 2004. He is also an Associate Professor for the School of Public Health. He came to Loma Linda University after a long career in managing technology in higher education at various universities. Dr. Harris graduated from La Sierra University (then Loma Linda University) in 1987 with a degree in computer science. He went on to receive his MS and PhD in Management of Information Systems from Claremont Graduate University. There he focused his research on management of technology in higher education. He serves as an active member on Loma Linda University’s Presidents and Officers Committees, and is involved in various community outreach opportunities. As a leader in the field of technology, Dr. Harris is an Advisory Board member for the Loma Linda Connected Community Program. This program includes the deployment of an advanced city-wide fiber optic network, as well as modifications to building regulations to ensure that development will be designed to meet the needs of future communication technologies. In 2014, Dr. Harris began an initiative within Loma Linda University Health called “Health Interactives.” The Health Interactives team at LLU are working to build a system of interactive learning modules, videos, games and mobile apps aimed at promoting health and teaching and motivating people toward a healthier lifestyle. Dr. Harris’s wife, Bien is an elementary school teacher in the Val Verde School District. Together they have raised David and Jordan, two happy, healthy and God-loving young men.
dpharris@llu.edu
**STAFFORD HOOD**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Stafford Hood is the Sheila M. Miller Professor of Education and Founding Director of the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he also holds appointments as Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Psychology. He has also held appointments as the Associate Dean for Research and Research Education in the College of Education and Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Previously he was a Professor of Psychology in Education and Associate Dean for Research at Arizona State University where he was also the founding Co-Director of the annual national conference on the Relevance of Assessment and Culture in Evaluation that was sponsored by the College of Education at Arizona State University from 2000 to 2007. Dr. Hood’s recent scholarly publications have primarily focused on the importance of culture/cultural context in educational assessment, program evaluation and computer based instruction and assessment. His recently co-edited book with Drs. Rodney Hopson (George Mason University) and Henry Frierson (University of Florida-Gainesville) is entitled: Continuing the Journey to Reposition Culture and Cultural and published by Information Age Publishing.

slhood@illinois.edu
http://education.illinois.edu/CREA

---

**RAJESH JHA**

SimInsights

Rajesh Jha is founder and CEO at SimInsights Inc. He has over 15 years of software industry experience designing and developing simulation authoring tools and games for users ranging from engineers at world’s leading companies (Toyota, Boeing, GM etc.) to kindergarten kids. At SimInsights, he has led the design and development of SimInsights collaborative simulation platform (10K users), SimPhysics app (50+ physics games, 100K downloads on iPad/Android), KinderTouch early learning platform (750 preschools) and the Go Vector Go (GVG) game for DARPA Engage (15M actions). Prior to starting SimInsights in 2009, Mr. Jha worked in the computer aided engineering (CAE) software industry for 9 years helping build the HyperWorks simulation platform (3K customers globally) to accelerate product design via virtual prototyping and optimization. Mr. Jha is currently working on applying psychometrics, machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques to design smarter learning and assessment software through collaborations with multiple universities worldwide. He holds BS and MS in engineering from IIT (India) and Ohio State University and MBA degree from UCLA.

rkjha1@siminsights.com

---

**SHLOMY KATTAN**

XPRIZE

Dr. Shlomy Kattan is the Prize Lead of the Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE, a $7M competition to develop mobile software producing the greatest skills gains among low-literate adults. With over 15 years’ experience as an educator, researcher, EdTech entrepreneur, and strategy consultant, Dr. Kattan strives to bridge the gap between educational research, technology, and industry. Prior to joining XPRIZE, Dr. Kattan was the Co-Founder & CEO of Kudo Learning, an award-winning EdTech startup developing second language learning tools for preschoolers in Latin America. He has previously been a Consultant with the Boston Consulting Group and was the Founding Editor of Berkeley Review of Education. Dr. Kattan earned his PhD in Education from the University of California, Berkeley, where he researched language and literacy acquisition and was a Wenner-Gren fellow.

adult.literacy@xprize.org
adultliteracy.xprize.org

---

**DAVID LOWENSTEIN**

PBS KIDS Digital

Mr. David Lowenstein is a leader in education, civil rights and digital media innovation. He joined PBS in April of 2011 where he oversees daily operations of the Ready To Learn Initiative. As Senior Director of Ready To Learn at PBS, Mr. Lowenstein manages the Content Development Team, the educator and family engagement team, and partner relationships with contributing producers. Mr. Lowenstein comes to PBS most recently from E-Line Media where he served as a consulting producer on the development of a social-impact video game, and from the World Wide Workshop Foundation, where he served as West Virginia state director expanding the Foundation’s Globaloria program statewide. Mr. Lowenstein has also worked at Sesame
Workshop and the Joan Ganz Cooney Center as a National Urban Fellow, where he co-authored a policy brief entitled Game Changer: Investing in Digital Play to Advance Children’s Learning and Health, and helped to drive policy, public engagement, and fundraising efforts. Previously, Mr. Lowenstein served as Managing Director of the Minority Media & Telecom Council where he directed all financial, staffing, programming, and fundraising activities, and as Director of Programs for the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network. Prior to that, he served as Manager of the National Urban League’s Technology Programs and Policy Department. Mr. Lowenstein holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from CUNY – Baruch College’s School of Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from James Madison University.

Dmlowenstein@pbs.org
http://pbskids.org/

GUILLERMO SOLANO-FLORES
University of Colorado, Boulder

Dr. Guillermo Solano-Flores is Professor at the School of Education of the University of Colorado Boulder. He specializes in educational assessment and the linguistic and cultural issues that are relevant to both international test comparisons and the testing of cultural and linguistic minorities. His research is based on the use of multidisciplinary approaches that use psychometrics, sociolinguistics, semiotics, and cognitive science in combination. He has conducted research on the development, translation, localization, and review of science and mathematics tests. He has been principal investigator in several National Science Foundation-funded projects that have examined the intersection of psychometrics, semiotics, and linguistics in testing. He is the author of the theory of test translation error, which addresses testing across cultures and languages. Also, he has investigated the use of generalizability theory—a psychometric theory of measurement error—in the testing of English language learners and indigenous populations. He has advised Latin American countries on the development of national assessment systems. Also, he has been the advisor to countries in Latin America, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and Northern Africa on the adaptation and translation of performance tasks into multiple languages. Current research projects examine academic language and testing, formative assessment practices for culturally diverse science classrooms, and the design and use of illustrations in international test comparisons and in the testing of English language learners.

guillermo.solano@colorado.edu
http://www.colorado.edu/
Professor