

Aurelia Isabel O’Neil, PhD

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Instructional Designer

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Digital Learning & Academic Innovation

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RESEARCH INTEREST

Technology integration to support neurodivergent learners, with a focus on virtual reality (VR) and extended reality (XR) environments; instructional design strategies for students with dyslexia; educational technology interventions in literacy development; dyslexia-related educational policies; curriculum development for eLearning environments; accessible and inclusive instructional design for immersive simulations and emerging technologies.

EDUCATION

- 2025 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, PhD in Curriculum & Instruction
Emphasis in Instructional Design & Education Technologies
o Dissertation: *An Exploratory Cross-Case Analysis of Technology Integration in Dyslexia Interventions*
- 2017 Capella University, Master of Science in Curriculum & Instruction
- 2014 Texas State University, Bachelor of Arts in English
Minor in Psychology

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2025 *People’s Choice Award*, 3-Minute Competition, Texas A&M University.
- 2023-2024 *Graduate Assistant*, Conrad Blucher Institute of Science & Surveying.
- 2022 *3rd Place Recipient*, Invent for the Planet, Texas A&M University.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journals

Published

O’Neil, A., Valadez, C., & Izuagie, L. (2025). Dyslexic Voices Unveiled: Elevating Literate Selves with Virtual Reality. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02568543.2025.2478131>

Spaniol, F., Valadez, C., Kesterson, M., Izuagie, L., Monrad, J., Shaikh, R., & O'Neil, A. (In Press). The Effect of Age on Eye-Hand Coordination of Adolescents. *Journal of Center for Educational Development, Evaluation, & Research*.

O'Neil, A. (2023). Beyond boundaries: Navigating the art and ethics of hyper-reality design. *Critical Augmented and Virtual Reality Researchers Network (CAVRN)*.
<https://cavrn.org/beyond-boundaries-navigating-the-art-and-ethics-of-hyper-reality-design/>

Under Review

O'Neil, A., Valadez, C., & Izuagie, L. (Under Review). Navigating Ethics in Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Design for Students with Dyslexia. *Frontiers Virtual Reality*.

Book Chapters

O'Neil, A. (In Press) Stirring Resilience in Arroz con Pollo: A Personal Narrative. *Recipes of Motherhood: Families, Communities, and the Power of Food Narratives Culinary Canvas Series*. Zhu, M. & Morrison, S (Eds.). Myers Education Press.

Suryavanshi, R. & O'Neil, A. (In Press) Beyond Compliance: A Practical Guide for Accessible Adaptive Learning with AI in ADDIE. *Advancing Accessibility: Practical Strategies for Instructional Designers and Educators*. Reese, R. & Lomellini, A (Eds.). EdTech Books.

Practitioner Journals

O'Neil, A., Valadez, C., Robertson, P. (2025). Clarifying the Roles: Understanding the Preparation of Educators Who Support Students with Dyslexia. *Literacy Today*, 42(3), 18.

O'Neil, A. (In Press). Book Review of The Friendship Bench: How Fourteen Grandmothers Inspired a Mental Health Revolution by Dixon Chibanda. *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*.

RESEARCH

2025 O'Neil, A. (PI), Valadez, C. (Researcher), & Izuagie, L. (Student Researcher). *Navigating Ethics in Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Design for Students with Dyslexia*. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

2025 Valadez, C. (PI), O'Neil, A. (Co-PI). *Transformative Learning Through AI: Exploring Doctoral Students' Reflections on Educator Accountability and Inclusive Pedagogy in Scenario-Based Simulations*. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

- 2025 Bippert, K. (PI), **O'Neil, A.** (Student Researcher). *Exploring Banned Books Through VR: A Blended Learning Approach*. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
- 2025 Zhu, M. (PI), Morrison, S. (CO-PI), **O'Neil, A.**, & Shauger, R. (Researchers). *Ludological Literacy: Enhancing Dyslexia Support Through Gamified XR (VR/AR/MR) Technologies in K-12 Education*. Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- 2024 Valadez, C. (PI), **O'Neil, A.**, & Izuagie, L (Student Researchers). *Evaluating the Potential of Virtual Reality Dyslexia Interventions for Letter Recognition*. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
- 2024 Valadez, C. (PI), **O'Neil, A.**, Izuagie, L., & Shaikh, R. (Student Researchers). *The Impact of Health and Wellness Literacy on the Fitness Assessment & Physical Activity Enjoyment in Children Attending a Summer Program*. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

GRANTS

Federal Funded

O'Neil, A. (2022). Virtual Reality Literacy Application. SBIR/STTR National Science Foundation (NSF). Project Pitch Acceptance: 00045979 (*Unfunded*: \$1,075,000). Principal Investigator.

State Funded

O'Neil, A. (2023). Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries (*Funded*: \$5,000). George W. Presidential Center. Principal Investigator.

Local or Internally Funded

O'Neil, A. (2023). Student Research Grant (*Funded*: \$800). Research & Innovation Center at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Co-Principal Investigator.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

International

O'Neil, A., Valadez, C., & Izuagie, Lawrence (June 2025). Dyslexic Voices Unveiled: Elevating Literate Selves with Game-Based Virtual Reality. *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)*. Conference, San Antonio, TX.

O'Neil, A. & Bippert, K. (June 2025). Exploring Book Censorship: Knowledge Building Through Virtual Reality and Critical Dialogue. *International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)*. Conference, San Antonio, TX.

National

O'Neil, A., Valadez, C., & Izuagie, Lawrence (May 2025). Navigating Ethics in Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Design for Students with Dyslexia. *Stanford's Meaningful XR Conference (MXR)*. Conference, Sacramento, CA.

O'Neil, A., Valadez, C., & Izuagie, Lawrence (November 2024). Dyslexic Voices Unveiled: Elevating Literate Selves with Game-Based Virtual Reality. *Association of Literacy Educators & Researchers (ALER)*. Conference, Orlando, FL.

O'Neil, A. (March 2023). Investigating XRs Influence in Multisensory Learning. *South by Southwest Education (SXSW Edu)*. Conference, Austin, TX.

State & Local

O'Neil, A., & Holland, S. (April 2024). Establishing A Point of Beginning: a Novel Approach to Online Asynchronous Geospatial Science Education for Texas High School Students. *Symposium for Student Innovation, Research, and Creative Activities (SSIRCA)*. Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

O'Neil, A. (October 2023). Implications of artificial intelligence and extended reality technologies in education. *The School and University Partnership Conference of Education (SUPCE)*. Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

O'Neil, A., & Sharpe, S. (October 2023). Creating immersive virtual reality learning spaces without coding. *The School and University Partnership Conference of Education (SUPCE)*. Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

O'Neil, A. (May 2023). Investigating XR's Influence in Multisensory Learning. *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)*. Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

O'Neil, A., Benedetti, G., Flores, B., & Massey, S. (October 2022). Fantastic four: Rethinking the Profession of teaching through equitable solutions. *The School and University Partnership Conference of Education (SUPCE)*. Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.

Invited Interviews

Podcast

Frehlich, C. (Host). (2018-Present). *The Literate Self: Dyslexia, Identity, and Immersive VR* [Audio Podcast]. VR in Education.
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-145-the-literate-self-dyslexia-identity/id1333244708?i=1000703907730>

CERTIFICATIONS

Peer Reviewer Course (PRC). *Quality Matters*. (Interminable).
Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR). *Quality Matters*. (Interminable).
Certified ScrumMaster (CSM). *Scrum Alliance*. (March 2027).
Virtual Reality Instructional Designer. *New Mexico State University*. (Interminable).
Instructional Design. *ELVTR*. (Interminable).
Social & Behavioral Research. *CITI Program*. (June 2026).
Professional Pedagogy & Responsibilities (PPR). *Texas Education Agency*. (October 2027).
English as a Second Language Supplemental Support, Grades 4-8th. *Texas Education Agency*. (October 2027).
Texas Reading Academies. *Texas Education Agency*. (Interminable).

SERVICE

Conference Paper Review

2025	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
2025	Stanford's Meaningful XR Conference (<i>Frontiers Virtual Reality</i>)
2024	International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
2024	Stanford's Meaningful XR Conference (<i>Journal of Media Psychology</i>)

Community Activities

2025	Judge at Symposium for Student Innovation, Research, and Creative Activities (SSIRCA). Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
2025	Judge at Invent for the Planet. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
2023- 2024	Kid Ministry Coordinator & Curriculum Developer. Resolute Church.
2023-2024	Instructional Coach Consultant. Corpus Christi ISD.
2017- 2022	Curriculum Specialist. Church Unlimited.

AFFILIATIONS

Professional Affiliations

2023-	<i>Researcher</i> , Critical Augmented and Virtual Reality Research Network (CAVRN)
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Student Organizations

2023- 2025	<i>Member</i> , Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
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2023-2024 *President, XR Visionary Society*
2023-2024 *Public Relations Officer, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)*

TEACHING PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-2023 *Instructional Coach, Corpus Christi ISD*
2021-2022 *Virtual Reading Interventionist, K12 Stride*
2019-2021 *7th Grade English & Language Arts Teacher, London ISD*
2016-2019 *7th Grade Inclusion English & Language Arts Teacher, Tuloso-Midway ISD*
2015-2016 *7th Grade English & Language Arts Teacher & Dyslexia Teacher, Alice ISD*