

# Samuel Abramovich

511 Baldy Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260-1000  
samuelab@buffalo.edu

Director of the UB Open Education Research Lab  
Associate Professor  
Department of Learning and Instruction  
Department of Information Science  
Graduate School of Education  
University at Buffalo - SUNY

## Research Interests

My research interests include finding and understanding the learning opportunities presented by the intersection of the Learning Sciences and Emerging Technology, especially Assessment *For* Learning. This includes research on Open Education Resources, Digital Badges, and Makerspaces - all to help guide education improvement and reform.

## Education

PhD, Learning Science and Policy, University of Pittsburgh, 2013  
MT, Secondary Social Studies Education, University of Virginia, 2004  
BA, Politics, Minor in Business and Managerial Economics, Brandeis University, 1998

## Grants

Principal Investigator, NSF Convergence Accelerator Grant, \$417,026, Funded September 2019 - September 2021.  
Principal Investigator, IMLS Grant, \$346,043, Funded October 2018 - December 2021.  
Principal Investigator, SUNY OER Grant, \$129,745, Funded August 2018 - June 2019.  
Principal Investigator, SUNY OER Grant, \$20,255, Funded August 2017 - June 2018.  
Principal Investigator, SUNY IITG Grant, \$11,400, Funded August 2016 - June 2017.  
Co-Principal Investigator, SUNY IITG Grant, \$60,000, Funded May 2015 - June 2016.  
Principal Investigator, Covenant Foundation, \$21,638, Funded Jan 2015 - October 2015.  
Principal Investigator, Covenant Foundation, \$9,888, Funded May 2013 - December 2013.  
Principal Investigator, Covenant Foundation, \$5,288, Funded May 2012 - July 2012.  
Co-Principal Investigator, MacArthur Foundation - DML Competition, \$175,000, Funded April 2012 - March 2013.

## Awards/Honors

National Science Foundation Data Consortium Fellow 2016  
Edmund W. Gordon MacArthur Foundation/ETS Fellowship, 2013-2016  
HASTAC Media Scholar, 2012-2013

## Refereed Journal Publications

Orzech, M. J., & Abramovich, S. (2020). Perceptions and Practice of Openness Among Academic Librarians. *International Journal of Open Educational Resources*, 3(1).  
Abramovich, S., & Wardrip, P.S. (2020). Can digital badges strengthen religious ethnic-cultural identity in a religious education setting?. *British Journal of Religious Education* 42:3, 338-349.  
Kruger, J. S., & Abramovich, S. (2019). Open Educational Resources: The New Frontier. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*, 5(2), 155-158.  
Cun, A., Abramovich, S. & Smith, J. (2019). An assessment matrix for library makerspaces. *Library & Information Science Research*, 41(1), 39-47.  
Abramovich, S., & McBride, M. (2018). Open Educational Resources and Perceptions of Financial Value. *The Internet and Higher Education*, 39, 33-38.  
Abramovich, S. (2017) Are There Jewish Digital Badges?: A Study of Religious Middle- and High-School Girls' Perception of an Emerging Educational Technology-Based Assessment. *Journal of Jewish Education*, 83(2), 151-167.

- Wardrip, P.S., Abramovich, S., Bathgate, M. & Kim, Y.J. (2016). Taking badges to school: A school-based badge system and its impact on participating teachers. *Computers & Education*, 95(1), 239-253.
- Abramovich, S. (2016) Understanding Digital Badges in Higher Education through Assessment. *On the Horizon*, 24(1), 126-131.
- Reid, A. J., Paster, D., & Abramovich, S. (2015). Digital badges in undergraduate composition courses: effects on intrinsic motivation. *Journal of Computers in Education*, 2(4), 377-398.
- Wardrip, P.S., Abramovich, S., Bathgate, M. & Kim, Y.J. (2014). A school-based badging system and interest-based Learning: An exploratory case study. *International Journal of Learning and Media*.
- Abramovich, S., Schunn, C.D., & Correnti, R. J. (2013). The Role of Evaluative Metadata in an Online Teacher Resource Exchange. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 61(6), 863-883.
- Abramovich, S., Schunn, C.D., & Higashi, R.M. (2013). Are Badges Useful in Education?: It Depends Upon the Type of Badge and Type of Learner. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 61(2), 217-232.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2012). Studying Teacher Selection of Resources in an Ultra-large Scale Interactive System: Does Metadata Guide the Way? *Computers & Education*, 58(1), 551-559.

## Book Chapters

- Wardrip, P. S., & Abramovich, S. (2017). Ask Not What You Can Do for Badges; Ask What Badges Can Do for You. In M. F. Young & S. T. Slota (Eds.), *Exploding the Castle: Rethinking How Video Games & Game Mechanics Can Shape the Future of Education*. Charlotte: Information Age Publishing.
- Abramovich, S., & Wardrip, P. S. (2016). The Impact of Badges on Motivation to Learn. In L. Y. Muilenburg & Z. L. Berge (Eds.), *Digital badges in education: Trends, issues, and cases*. New York: Routledge.

## Invited Talks

- Abramovich, S. (2019, April). *Using Learning Sciences to Understand How Making, Micro-Credentials, and Gamification Promotes Deeper Learning*. Talk presented at Learning & the Brain, Boston, MA.
- Abramovich, S. (2016, April). *Why would I want to earn Points, Levels, or Badges?: Gamification for Motivation, Feedback, and Credentialing*. Talk presented at the SUNY Conference on Meaningful Gamification, Buffalo, NY.
- Abramovich, S. (2015, August). *Badge are Dead. Long Live Badges*. Talk presented at the CRESST Conference: Do. Or Do Not. There Is Not Try: Making Games and Technology Work for Learning, Assessment, and Instruction, Redondo Beach, CA.
- Abramovich, S. (2015, February). *The Future Is Hiding In Front of You: Classrooms of the Future can be found in Bridging the Social-Technical Gap*. Keynote presented at the Digital Challenges, Teaching and Learning in the Classroom of the Future symposium, Buffalo, NY.
- Abramovich, S. (2015, January). *Symbiosis: Jewish Education and the Learning Sciences*. Talk presented at ELI Talks, New York, NY. Retrieved from <http://elitalks.org/symbiosis-jewish-education-and-learning-sciences>
- Abramovich, S. (2014, May). *Gamification in Education: Red Hot*. Seminar presented at the Learning Analytics Technical Topics Exchange for Pearson's Center for Digital Data, Analytics & Adaptive Learning, Philadelphia, PA.
- Abramovich, S. (2014, April). *Panelist for Discussion on Instructional Design*. Advisory Committee on Online and Mobile Education for the Smithsonian, Washington, DC.
- Abramovich, S. (2013, November). *Show Me Your Badge: The Educational Potential of an Emerging Alternative Assessment*. Seminar presented at the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

## Conference Presentations

- Abramovich, S. (2020, September). *Using Open Education Resources as a Tool for Equity, Diversity, Justice, and Inclusion*. Presentation at the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education Teach-In for Racial Equity, Buffalo, NY (Moved to Online).
- Mason, J., Reed, A., & Abramovich, S. (2020, June). *A Micro-Credential Alliance to Democratize Recognition*. Presentation at Badge Summit 2020, Costa Mesa, CA (Moved to Online).

- Wardrip, P., Chang, S., Penney, L., Abramovich, S., Millerjohn, R., Kumar, V., Martin, C., Widman, S., Penuel, W.R., Chang-Order, J., & Halverson, E. (2020, June). *Assessment in Hands-On Library Learning Spaces*. Symposium presented at the 2020 ICLS, Nashville, TN (Moved to Online).
- Meyers, E., Jones, K., & Abramovich, S. (2019, October). *Methods and Measures, or How Do We Study Learners and Learning with Information?* Workshop presented at the 2019 ASIS&T Annual Meeting, Melbourne, VIC.
- Millerjohn, R., Abramovich, S., & Wardrip, P.S. (2019, October). *Library Makerspace Learning: Hands-on Assessment & Documentation Practices & Tools*. Presentation at the Fifth Annual Maker Ed Convening, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Wardrip, P.S., Millerjohn, R., Abramovich, S., & Smith, J. (2019, August). *Assessments in Library Makerspaces: The audience is everyone!* Presentation at Play Make Learn, Madison, WI.
- Abramovich, S., & Yip, J. (2019, June). *Research in Service to Practice: Connecting Faculty and Practitioners to Transform Library Services*. Panel presentation at American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Abramovich, S. (2019, May). *What's going on with OER? - Tools and ideas that will allow you to say something important about OER*. Presentation at SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology, Purchase, NY.
- Kruger, J. & Abramovich, S. (2019, May). *Writing an OER Textbook with 75 Undergraduates: The Challenges, Successes, and the Lessons Learned*. Presentation at SUNY Conference on Instruction & Technology, Purchase, NY.
- Bergner, Y., Abramovich, S., & Worsley, M. (2019, March). *What are the learning and assessment objectives in educational Fab Labs and Makerspaces?* Paper presented at FabLearn 2019, New York, NY.
- Cun, A., & Abramovich, S. (2018, November). *The Challenge of Assessment for Library Makerspaces*. Poster presented at ASIS&T Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada.
- Abramovich, S., Brahm, L., & Wardrip, P.S. (2018, October). *Assessment of Learning and Engagement through Making in Informal Learning Settings*. Workshop presented at the Maker Educator Convening (MakerEd), San Jose, CA.
- Abramovich, S. (2018, October). *Digital Badges: Research Evidence proving that it's an Open Assessment Technology*. Presentation at OpenEd, Niagara Falls, NY.
- Watanabe-Rose, M., & Abramovich, S. (2018, October). *Large Scale Research Partnerships to Improve Understanding of OER: A SUNY/CUNY Collaboration*. Symposium at OpenEd, Niagara Falls, NY.
- McBride, M., & Abramovich, S. (2018, October). *Design Based Research in Open Education*. Roundtable at OpenEd, Niagara Falls, NY.
- Orzech, M. J., Myers, K., & Abramovich, S. (2018, October). *Developing Openness through Scholarly Communications in the Academic Library*. Poster at OpenEd, Niagara Falls, NY.
- Wardrip, P.S., & Abramovich, S. (2018, August) *A Wonderland of Maker Kits*. Presentation at Play Make Learn, Madison, WI.
- Abramovich, S., & Watanabe, M. (2018, March) *When are we going to get there?: OER Research at SUNY and CUNY*. Presentation at CUNY/SUNY OER Showcase, New York, NY.
- Abramovich, S., & Lamb, R. (2017, October) *Play a Game to Learn about Assessment*. Presentation at NY Teachers Summit, Buffalo, NY.
- Wardrip, P.S., Kim, Y.J., & Abramovich, S. (2017, August) *Assessment in Non-Traditional Learning Environments*. Presentation at Play Make Learn, Madison, WI.
- Bergner, Y., & Abramovich, S. (2017, May). *A Perfect Storm for Progressive Assessment Practice: The Educational Maker Movement*. Paper presented at National Council on Measurement in Education, San Antonio, TX.
- Bergner, Y., Abramovich, S., & Worsley, M. (2016, October). *Finding Evidence of Learning: Assessment in Fablabs and Makerspaces*. Workshop presented at FabLearn 2016, Stanford, CA.
- Bergner, Y., Abramovich, S., & Worsley, M. (2016, July). *Assessment of Learning in Makerspaces and Fablabs: Theory and Practice and History*. Symposium presentation at the International Testing Commission Conference, Vancouver, AB.
- Bowler, L., Nessel, V.M., Abramovich, S., & Julien, H. (2016, June). *Investigating the family as a community of (digital) practice: Where do we go from here?* Poster presentation at the Canadian Association for Information Science annual conference, Calgary, AB.

- Abramovich, S. (2016, April). *Can Digital Badges Use and Strengthen Ethnic Identity?* Paper presentation at the Third International Conference of the Center for Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment (CREA), Chicago, IL.
- Abramovich, S. (2016, April). *Which One's the Cart and Which One's the Horse? Digital Badges as Credentials.* Poster presentation at AERA, Washington, D.C.
- Mackey, T. P., Forte, M., Stone, K., & Abramovich, S. (2015, October). *Integrating Open Digital Badging Content in Collaborative Metaliteracy MOOCs.* Presentation at Online Learning Consortium (OLC) International Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Abramovich, S. (2015, June). *Digital Media Learning and Culture in Collaborative Learning Spaces.* Presentation at Digital Media & Learning (DML) Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- Abramovich, S. (2014, June). *Badges for Jewish Educator Professional Development.* Paper presented at the Network for Research in Jewish Education (NRJE) Conference, Los Angeles, CA.
- Abramovich, S., Wardrip, P.S., Bathgate, M., & Kim, Y.J. (2014, April). *The Maturation of a Badge System to Support Interest-Based Learning: A Case Study.* Paper presented at the symposium: Innovating Education Practice through Digital Badges: Recent Research, Current Practices, and Future Directions at AERA, Philadelphia, PA.
- Abramovich, S. (2013, November). *Educational Badges: The Do-It-Yourself Assessment.* Presentation at the UB Assessment Day, Buffalo, NY.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2013, April). *The Relationship between Educational Badges and Motivation.* Poster presentation at AERA, San Francisco, CA.
- Wardrip, P.S., Abramovich, S., Bathgate, M., & Kim, Y.J. (2013, April) *Power-ups and soft skills: An exploratory study of a school-based badging system.* Paper presented at AERA, San Francisco, CA.
- Abramovich, S., Wardrip, P.S., Bathgate, M., Kim, Y.J., & Higashi, R. (2013, March). *Gamification and Learning: Does Education Need Some Stinking Badges?.* Panel presentation at PAX East, Boston, MA.
- Abramovich, S. 'Teacher Resource Exchanges and Decision Heuristics'. (2013, February). Paper presented at CSCW Workshop: CSCW and Education, San Antonio, TX.
- Higashi, R., Abramovich, S., Shoop, R., & Schunn, C.D. (2012, June). *The Roles of Badges in the Computer Science Student Network.* Paper presented at Games+Learning+Society Conference 8.0, Madison, WI.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2012, April). *The Influence of Teacher Created Metadata in Online Resource Exchanges.* Paper presented at World Wide Web Conference, Lyon, France.
- Abramovich, S., Schunn, C.D., Higashi, R., Hunkele, T., & Shoop, R. (2011, June). 'Achievement Systems' to Boost 'Achievement Motivation'. Paper presented at Games+Learning+Society Conference 7.0, Madison, WI.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2011, March) *Teachers Exchanging Materials in Web 2.0.* Paper presented at Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education, Nashville, TN.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2011, March). *Game Achievement Systems for Learning Achievement Motivation.* Poster presented at Council of Graduate Students in Education, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2010, March). *Using a Taxonomy of Design with Students.* Presentation at International Technology Education Association, Charlottes, NC.
- Abramovich, S. & Schunn, C.D. (2010, March). *Teachers Creating Their Own Professional Development: A Proposal for a New Type of Web 2.0 Tool.* Poster presented at Council of Graduate Students in Education, Pittsburgh, PA .
- Abramovich, S. (2004, April). *Content Based ESL for the Secondary School Classroom.* Presentation at International Teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages, Long Beach, CA.

### **Non-Refereed Publications**

- Wardrip, P.S., Abramovich, S., Millerjohn, R. & Smith, J.M. (2019). Assessing Learning and Engagement in Library Makerspaces: It's Harder Than You Think. *Young Adult Library Services*, 17(4), 32-35.
- Blattner, S. & Abramovich, S. (2015, Summer). Badges of Excellence in Professional Development. *Hayidion*. Retrieved from <https://ravsak.org/badges-excellence-professional-development>

## **Teaching Experience**

Assessment and the Learning Sciences, *Online*, University at Buffalo – Fall 2020  
Emerging Technologies for Libraries and Information Studies, *Online*, University at Buffalo – Spring 2019,  
Spring 2018, Fall 2015, Spring 2014, Fall 2014  
Curriculum, Instruction, and the Science of Learning, *Online*, University at Buffalo – Spring 2018, Fall  
2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2014  
Introduction to Information Technology, *Hybrid*, University at Buffalo - Spring 2015, Fall 2013  
Learning Technologies and Research, University at Buffalo - Spring 2014  
Introduction to Quantitative Methods, *Online*, University at Buffalo - Fall 2013  
Learning Technology, University of Pittsburgh - Spring 2012  
Gaming and Media Design for Learning, Johns Hopkins University - Spring 2008  
Evaluation and Research of Technology Supported Interventions and Programs, Johns Hopkins  
University - Fall 2007

## **Professional Service**

### ***Editor***

Guest Editor for Information and Learning Science – 2021-2020

### ***Elected***

Secretary/Treasurer of SIG InfoLearn for ASIST – 2019-2018  
University at Buffalo Faculty Senate, Executive Committee – 2019-2017

### ***Committee***

Co-Chair University at Buffalo Micro-Credential Review Committee – 2021-2018  
UB Community Health Equity Research Institute Steering Committee – 2021-2020  
Williamsville School District Re-Opening Committee – 2020  
Representative, Social and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board (SBS-IRB) for LAI, 2018-2013  
Program Committee, 2nd International Workshop on Open Badges in Education (OBIE), LAK15 - 2015  
Advisory Board Member, RAVSAK Network - 2014  
Classrooms of the Future Committee, University at Buffalo, Digital Challenges Initiative - 2014  
Program Committee, 1st International Workshop on Open Badges in Education, ICWL2014 - 2014  
Chair, Graduate Student Committee, Learning Research and Development Center at the University of  
Pittsburgh – 2012, 2013

## **Reviewer**

NIH Grant Review Panel – 2021-2017  
NSF Ad Hoc Review – 2021  
AERA Open – 2021  
APA Division 15 Early Career Research Grants Committee – 2020-2017  
Library & Information Science Research – 2020  
British Journal of Educational Technology – 2020-2018  
Educational Researcher – 2020  
International Conference on Higher Education Advances (HEAd) – 2020  
Information and Learning Sciences – 2019  
Aslib Journal of Information Management – 2019  
Leadership and Policy in Schools – 2019-2017  
Computers & Education – 2018-2012  
IMLS Grant Review Panel – 2018  
Contemporary Educational Psychology – 2018  
Technology, knowledge and learning – 2018-2017  
Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science – 2018-2017  
Grant Reviewer, Covenant Foundation – 2017, 2015-2013  
Scientific Board for International Symposium on Human Factors in Training, Education, and Learning Sciences, Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics Conference – 2017, 2015  
Leadership and Policy in Schools – 2018-2017  
European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI) Biennial Conference – 2017  
JUNior REsearchers (JURE) of EARLI – 2017, 2015  
The Information Society – 2014  
NSF Grant Review Panel – 2014, 2011, 2010  
Learning, Media and Technology – 2014  
International Conference of the Learning Sciences – 2013, 2010  
Journal of Educational Data Mining – 2012  
AERA Annual Meeting – 2012  
Games+Learning+Society (GLS) Conference 7.0 – 2011  
International Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning – 2011  
Participant, Mozilla Open Badge Working Group, 2011

## **Professional Experience**

Consultant, Cable in the Classroom 2011-2013

Provided expertise on development of online roller-coaster game to teach physics. Helped align game design process with latest pedagogical research on both games and science learning.

Johns Hopkins University, Project Manager/Adjunct Faculty 2005-2008

Coordinated and managed Department of Education's Stars Schools Grant. Create professional development resources for implementing game and virtual reality technology in the classroom.

Conduct original research for publication regarding technology and games. Coordinate an Emerging Technologies Symposium.

The Rashi School, Technology Coordinator/Teacher 2004-2005

Supported all technology for a K-8 Independent School. Educational responsibilities included teaching several electives, collaborating with teachers on curriculum and lesson design, and promoting instructional strategies using various technologies.

Tumbleweed Communications, Technical Trainer 2000-2001

Created customized training program and material for email security software. Wrote technical documentation.

Netegrity, Technical Specialist 1999-2000

Executed web content management software in customer environments. Provided support and training for software once implemented. Supervised the education of newly hired employees.

Worked with customers to design and build the infrastructures for web presences.

Chase Manhattan Bank, Integration Coordinator 1998-1999

Coordinated and supervised the implementation of applications into a multi-tiered Java based environment. Identified and developed new tools and procedures to improve the implementation process. Facilitated the trouble-shooting process between production support and developers.