Doctoral Dissertation Committee

<u>Director</u>

Ji-Ann Li, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Research, Measurement, and Statistics
School of Foundations, Leadership, and Administration
College of Education, Health, and Human Services

<u>Committee Members</u>

Jason Schenker, Ph.D.
Professor
Research, Measurement, and Statistics
School of Foundations, Leadership, and Administration
College of Education, Health, and Human Services

Andrew Lepp, Ph.D.
Professor
Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management
School of Foundations, Leadership, and Administration
College of Education, Health, and Human Services

<u>Graduate Faculty Representative</u>

Bradley J. Morris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Educational Psychology
School of Lifespan Development and Educational Sciences
College of Education, Health, and Human Services

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Education, Health, and Human Services

Doctoral Dissertation Defense

of
Ahlam S. Alghamdi

for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Research, Measurement, and Statistics

EVALUATION OF MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY–
RELATED ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS AMONG
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

May 22, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
To join, click here.

Ahlam S. Alghamdi

M.Ed., Evaluation and Measurement
Kent State University, 2017

B.S., Mathematics
King Faisal University, 2009

Ahlam started her career as a high school mathematics teacher. She then worked in the College of Education at Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University (IAU), Saudi Arabia, for two and a half years, holding teaching assistant and lecturer positions. Ahlam received a scholarship from IAU to complete her master's and doctoral degrees at Kent State University.

During her graduate studies, Ahlam served as a graduate assistant in the Research and Evaluation Bureau at Kent State University for two academic years. Ahlam collaborated with Kent State University faculty members and alumni to publish multiple papers in a peer-reviewed journal. She also presented research papers at local and international conferences.

Ahlam's current research interest lies in media and technology-related research overall. That includes media multitasking, media psychology, as well as social media and smartphone use.

Evaluation of Media and Technology–related Attitudes and Behaviors among University Students in Saudi Arabia

The main goal of this dissertation was to evaluate a wide range of attitudes and behaviors related to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) among Saudi young adults. Therefore, two studies were conducted on a large sample of Saudi undergraduate students. Study 1 aimed to address the scarcity of psychometrically sound measures of media and technology-related attitudes and behaviors in Arabic by culturally adapting and psychometrically assessing the Media and Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale (MTUAS) and a Media Multitasking Scale (MMS-modified). Results provided evidence in support of content and construct validity, internal consistency, and gender-related measurement invariance of the Arabic MTUAS and MMS-modified.

Study 2 sought to address the indefinite findings regarding the direct relationship between technological anxiety and academic performance by empirically examining the mechanisms underlying this relationship using a moderated serial mediation model. Results indicated that technological anxiety predicted excessive media and technology consumption and media multitasking. They also revealed that excessive consumption predicted students' multitasking behaviors, regardless of their multitasking preferences. Mediation results showed that students who experience elevated symptoms of technological anxiety had lower academic performance due to their media and technology overuse. Additionally, the direct negative effect of media and technology consumption on academic performance was moderated by self-regulatory self-efficacy. This effect was unexpectedly stronger for students who held moderate to strong self-regulatory beliefs.