

Sebastian O. Thomas

Rice University
Department of Psychology – MS 25
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

Phone: 713-480-9989
Email: sebastian@rice.edu

Education and Grant Awards

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| Since 2006 | Ph.D. in Psychology (HF/HCI), Rice University, Houston Texas.
Advisor: David Lane |
| 2006 – 2010 | Rice Graduate Student Fellowship. |
| 2002 – 2004 | M.Sc. in Computer Based Management Information Systems (with Distinction), University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. |
| 1996 – 1999 | B.Sc. in Psychology and Sociology, Second Class Honors (Upper Division). |

Presentations and Posters

Thomas, S. O., Lane, D. M., & Miller, L. (2007, May). *Assessing the impact of the story line in a web-based computer game on the motivation level and learning in middle school children*. Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Houston Chapter.

In Progress:

Evans, R. E., & **Thomas, S.** *Sonification of virtual keyboards for small screen devices*. (Submitted to HFES 52nd Annual meeting).

Evans, R. E., **Thomas, S.**, & Rahmati, (2008, April). *User performance on the iPhone keyboard*. Poster presented at the Texas Regional HFES One Day Conference.

Research Experience

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| 2005 | Wrote a report on the Language Attitude Survey for the Jamaican Language Unit. The survey sought to gather data on attitudes towards Patois (a Jamaican dialect) among Jamaicans. Activities included analyzing data and writing a report of the results of this analysis. |
| 2005 | Assisted with the data analysis for the report of the Parenting Module of the 2004 Survey of Living Conditions. This is an annual nationwide survey jointly conducted by the Planning Institute of the Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). |

2004 Assisted with the development for the University of the West Indies Wellness questionnaire. This questionnaire sought to assess the wellbeing of undergraduate students at various points in their course of study at the University. Duties included item development and refinement as well as developing a proposal for the questionnaire's implementation.

Selected Coursework

2007, Fall Engineering Psychology
Covered topics and completed assignments in signal detection, workload, motor control, KLMGOMS and NGOMSL.

2007, Fall Human Computer Interaction
Discussed a variety of issues related to the historical and current state of the HCI field.

2007, Spring Methods in Human-Computer Interaction
Covered a wide range of methods used to develop and test user interfaces for a variety of products and systems.

Professional Experience

2007, Summer Internship at Connexions
Worked with the Usability group of Connexions, which maintains a website that allows users to publish or take courses in a variety of subjects. Assisted with focus groups that were held with course authors. Developed prototypes for the Author editing environment and account management. Participated in discussions with programmers to refine user interactions within the Author editing environment.

2007, Summer Assisted with the redesign of the Rice University Psychology Departmental Website.

Since 2007, June Webmaster
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Houston Chapter.

2003 – 2006 Assistant Lecturer
Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work
University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Taught classes in quantitative data analysis to undergraduate students. Also conducted workshops for graduate students.

- 2000 – 2003 Teaching Assistant
Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work
University of the West Indies, Jamaica
Assisted with courses in Survey design, Psychometrics and
Research methods.
- 2004 Taught a fifteen week course entitled “Research Methods” for the
Council of Voluntary Social Services (CVSS), Jamaica. The
course was equivalent to a first year undergraduate course.
- 2002 Conducted a four week SPSS training Seminar at the National
Housing Trust in conjunction with the Mona School of Business,
Jamaica.
- Conducted an SPSS and Statistical Data Analysis Workshop for
the Academic Staff of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the
University of the West Indies.
- Conducted a two week SPSS training Seminar at the Urban
Development Corporation (UDC), Jamaica.

Memberships of Professional Organizations

- Since 2007 Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Houston Chapter.
- Since 2006 Black Graduate Student Association
Rice University.
- 1997 – 1999 Steering Committee of the Psychology Students Association
University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

Other Qualifications

- Fluent in the German language.
- Have some programming experience in JAVA, JavaScript, PHP, MYSQL and Flash (ActionScript).
- Extensive experience with SPSS and familiarized with JMP.