Taggert Smith
Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Personal Information

Email: tds002@ucsd.edu
Phone: (612) 440-8000
Personal Website: taggert.com
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/taggertsmith
GitHub: github.com/Tag-UCSD

Education

University of California: San Diego, San Diego, CA	*Master of Science – Computational Social Science* *GPA (4-point-scale): 4.0*	*Jul 2025 - Jun 2026*
University of California: San Diego, San Diego, CA	*Bachelor of Science – Cognitive Science with a specialization in Design and Interaction* *Major GPA (4-point-scale): 3.8* *GPA (4-point-scale): 3.7*	*Sep 2021 - Jun 2025*
Blake School, Minneapolis, MN	*High School Diploma* *GPA (4-point-scale): 4.0*	*Aug 2017 - Jun 2021*

Experience

Research Experience:

Design Lab, University of California: San Diego, San Diego CA	*Post-Baccalaureate Researcher* *PI: Dr. David Kirsh* *Project lead: Myself* *Description: Developing a practical evaluation tool to predict how architectural spaces affect human psychology using vision language models for feature identification, large language models for literature synthesis and knowledge graph construction. Structural causal modeling for causal reasoning, and deep learning for experimental validation and tuning. My work focuses on graphical causal modeling with hundreds of statistical rules, complex mediation effects, and quasi-experimental synthesis from the literature, as well as preparing an architecture for tuning said model with future experimental data. I also lead the rest of the project team, have prepared lectures on prompt engineering for undergraduate seniors, and presented our ongoing work.*	*Sep 2025 - Current*

San Diego Hunger Coalition, *San Diego CA*	*Data Analyst* *Description: Updating methodology, data storage, and cleaning practices. Creating and automating data analysis pipelines. Building a predictive machine learning model to predict food assistance needs and reduce reporting lag. Creating interactive visualizations to present complex data to new audiences including San Diego policymakers.*	*Sep 2025 - Current*
Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health, University of California: San Diego, *San Diego CA*	*Research Assistant* *PI: Dr. Eric Hekler* *Study leads: Dr. Steven De La Torre, Dr. Meelim Kim* *Description: Interviewed participants from YourMove and HeartSteps, two JITAI (Just-In-Time Adaptive Intervention) studies (n=50 and n=46, respectively) intended to increase physical activity via an integrated app and wearable. Managed data and codebook, contacting participants, and scheduling interviews. Coded, analyzed, and interpreted qualitative data. Presented synthesized insights and design feedback to the study team. Assisted with the development of a research manuscript currently in review* [3]. *Led development of an automated natural-language barrier detection pipeline based on human-coded gold standard. Currently co-authoring another manuscript for publication later this year* [4].	*Mar 2024 - Current*
UJIMA Security and Privacy Research Group, University of California: San Diego, *San Diego CA*	*Undergraduate Researcher* *PI: Dr. Imani Munyaka* *Study lead: Myself* *Description: Conceived, proposed, and executed a year-long research study: using natural language processing and thematic analysis on online ADHD community discussions to uncover common frustrations, preferences, and needs relating to technology use, and thereby identify gaps and propose extensions to existing assistive technology design frameworks. Outcomes include a poster presentation at the Conference for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) 2025* [5], *and a first-author paper submitted to the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2026* [1].	*Dec 2024 - Dec 2025*
UJIMA Security and Privacy Research Group, University of California: San Diego, *San Diego CA*	*Research Assistant* *PI: Dr. Imani Munyaka* *Study lead: Dr. Naba Rizvi* *Description: Interviewed academic and industry experts in AI, chatbots and robots. Managed recruitment and payment. Analyzed and interpreted qualitative data via thematic mapping and phenomenological analysis from*	*Sep 2024 - Apr 2025*

n=16 participants. Co-authored research paper published in ACM FAccT 2025 [2].

Other Positions:

Department of Cognitive Science, University of California: San Diego, San Diego, CA	*Instructional Assistant* *Course: Introduction to Python* *Instructor: Dr. Brian Hempel* *Description: Taught basic coding principles to undergraduate students, geared towards handling research data in Python. Held office hours twice a week.*	*Jan 2024 - Apr 2024*
Muir Quarterly, University of California: San Diego, San Diego, CA	*Design Editor* *Description: Designed & printed layouts for UCSD's premier satire newspaper, contributing to 14 total issues. Worked cross-functionally with other editors and members to achieve design goals. Directed & managed prospective members of the design team to meet tight quarterly deadlines.*	*Dec 2021 - Sep 2023*

Publications:

Journal Articles:

[1] ***Taggert Smith,*** *Andy Smithwick, Oishani Bandopadyay, and Imani Munyaka. Understanding Everyday Technology Practices of Adults with ADHD: Insights for Assistive Technology Design.*
In review at ***ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2026***.

[2] *Naba Rizvi,* ***Taggert Smith****, Tanvi Vidyala, Mya Bolds, Harper Strickland, Andrew Begel, Rua Williams, and Imani Munyaka. 2025. "I Hadn't Thought About That": Creators of Human-like AI Weigh in on Ethics & Neurodivergence. In Proceedings of the* ***2025 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '25)****. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 3385–3399.*
https://doi.org/10.1145/3715275.3732218

[3] *Meelim Kim, Olga Perski, Steven De La Torre,* ***Taggert Smith****, Junghwan Park, Predrag Klasnja, Daniel Rivera, Eric Hekler. Towards an Integrative Model of Physical Activity: Bridging idiographic and nomothetic perspectives through participatory mapping.*
In review at ***Health Psychology Review***.
Preprint: *http://osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/5t3jv_v1/*

[4] *Steven De La Torre,* ***Taggert Smith****, Meelim Kim, Eric Hekler. U-flex: A User-Driven Adaptation Framework for Digital Behavior Change Interventions. (tentative title)*
Estimated publication: 2026.

Research Poster Presentations:

[5] ***Taggert Smith***. *Understanding Everyday Technology Practices of Adults with ADHD: Insights for Assistive Technology Design.*
Presented at ***Conference for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) 2025***.

Primary Skills

Research Methods: *Literature Review. Semi-Structured Interviews. Qualitative Coding. Phenomenological Analysis. Thematic Analysis. Participatory Systems Modeling. Participatory Design.*

Data & ML: *Data Cleaning. EDA. Geospatial Mapping. Linear & Nonlinear Regression. Parallel Trends Analysis. Difference-In-Difference Analysis. K-Means Clustering. K-Nearest Neighbors. Random Forests. Sentiment Analysis. Computational Measures of Creativity, Surprisal, and Semantic Distance. Non-negative Matrix Factorization. LDA Topic Modeling. Transformer-based Models. LLM Fine Tuning. LoRA.*

Design: *UX / UI / Interaction Design. User Interviewing. Usability Testing. Personas. Participatory Design. Rapid Prototyping. Project Management.*

Tools: *Python. R. SQL. LaTeX. Git. Tableau. Power BI. Qualtrics. Dovetail. Figma. Webflow. Adobe Suite. Google Suite. Microsoft Suite. Inkscape. SketchUp.*

Other: *Spanish language - professional fluency.*

Honors & Awards

Cognitive Science Summer/ Fall Fellows Program	*Highly competitive $6k fellowship, lab placement, and mentorship for post-baccalaureate researchers*	*2025*
CSS Excellence Award	*Merit-based scholarship issued by Computational Social Science M.S. Program Admissions Committee*	*2025*
Provost's Honors	*Awarded each undergraduate school year for placing the top quartile of UCSD students by GPA.*	*2021-2025*
Cum Laude Society	*The Cum Laude Society honors exceptional scholastic achievement at secondary institutions.*	*2021*
National AP Scholar	*Awarded for maximum scores in AP exams: Calculus BC, Physics II, Spanish Language and Culture.*	*2020*

National Merit Semifinalist	*Awarded annually to <1% of the top point scorers among the 4+ million who take the PSAT.*	*2020*
Catalyst for Change Prize	*Awarded for my original architectural design proposal for a sustainable aquatic education center. One of six selected from the hundreds of projects submitted to the 2020 GOA Catalyst Conference.*	*2020*

CERTIFICATIONS

CITI Good Clinical Practice Course	*CITI Program.* *Credential ID: 62080657*	*2024*
GCP – Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research	*CITI Program.* *Credential ID: 62080658*	*2024*

OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

GPT-Scientist: AI toolkit for Social Scientists
I am a contributor to this open-source toolkit which aims to help social scientists make use of LLMs in their work. I am currently collecting data for a set of benchmarking analyses comparing AI-generated versus human qualitative coding schemas. This research will then inform the next major update to GPT-Scientist with tools for AI-enhanced grounded theory development.
Responsibilities include literature review, dataset curation, data analysis using psycholinguistic norms, inter-coder reliability measures, and expert interviews.

Zaisland: Human-AI Collaborative Role-Playing Game
I studied user responses to various forms of collaborative AI storytelling to optimize engagement and creativity of written artifacts.
Responsibilities included user study design, user interviewing, qualitative analysis, project management, literature review, and a conference-length research manuscript.

What's Funny?: Machine Learning for Humor Evaluation
A personal project using publicly available Reddit data to train LDA and NMF topic models as well as a Random Forest classifier to predict audience reception of short-form humorous posts.

Analysis of Pokémon GO Impacts on Local Businesses
An eight-week data science project using public archival data.
Responsibilities included literature review, methodology, EDA, heat map, DiD analysis.

VIP Nails: Commercial Website Redesign
Our redesign was accepted by the client and scheduled to be implemented in early 2026.

Responsibilities included client needs assessment, user interviewing, user testing, qualitative analysis, prototyping, Figma mockups, and a presentation.

Architectural Design Proposal: Sustainable Aquatic Education Center
An architectural design proposal including a project statement, competitive analysis, case studies, user interviews, site analysis, and design sketches. Peer-critiqued with international students via Global Online Academy, and presented at the 2020 GOA Catalyst Conference. Winner of Catalyst for Change Prize.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES

2025 ANFA (Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture) Conference
I volunteered as an audio/visual technician for the conference.

Office of Students with Disabilities at UCSD
I have been a volunteer note-taker for students with disabilities.

The Muir Quarterly at UCSD
Former board member (co-led the Design team) and staff author.

FOOSH Improv at UCSD, Slippery When Wet Improv
I have coached and performed on UCSD's campus and beyond, e.g. Mockingbird Improv, National Comedy Theater, Fracas!

Design Co at UCSD
Former member.

Cognitive Science Student Association at UCSD
Former member.

Council on Undergraduate Research
Former member.