

Blerim Jashari

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Cognitive Development • Children's Learning • Causal Reasoning • Social Learning • Curiosity and Exploration

Education

Harvard University / Ph.D., Human Development, Learning, and Teaching

2025–present

Advisor: Elizabeth Bonawitz. Cross-registration at MIT Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Coursework in Computational Cognitive Science, Social Psychology.

Harvard University / Ed.M., Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology

2025

Completed coursework in Intermediate and Advanced Statistics, Cognitive Development, and the Science of Learning. Co-led the AI Literacy initiative.

Minerva University / B.S., Cognition, Brain, Behavior & Cells, Organisms

2021

Liberal arts college with focus on effective communication and critical thinking. Studied in the United States, England, South Korea, and Germany.

Reports & Publications

Jashari, B., Sonnert, G., Sunbury, S., & Sadler, P. (in preparation). *The Impact of Pre-College Mentorship on the Development of Students' STEM Identity*. Harvard University.

Connolly, K., **Jashari, B.**, Esch, M., Gashi, A., & Della Libera, L. (report). *A theory of teaching as deploying context-sensitive techniques*. Minerva University.

Jashari, B. (undergraduate thesis). *Deploying active-learning: The role of cold-calling in online active-learning classrooms*. Minerva University.

Presentations

The Impact of Pre-College Mentorship on Students' STEM Identity / Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics 2025

The role of mentorship and its types on students' STEM identity / Harvard University, Science Education Department's "Pose" 2024

The role of cold-calling in student engagement and stress in class / X-DBER Education Conference 2021

Theory of Teaching / Minerva University Summer Research Program 2021

Theory of Teaching / Minerva University Faculty Research Presentation 2021

Ongoing Projects

Question-Asking and Learning with AI Versus Human Teachers

CoCoDev Lab

Part of a project investigating how children ask questions after learning challenging scientific content when told they will interact with either an AI chatbot or a human teacher. Developing study stimuli and procedures, recruiting participants, and running the study.

Belief Revision and Learning Measured with EEG

CoCoDev Lab

Trained in electroencephalography (EEG) and assisting on an ongoing project examining belief revision in children ages 5–9 using a water displacement task. The study compares prediction, explanation, and baseline conditions to understand how children update beliefs.

Research Experience

Graduate Student Researcher / Computational Cognitive and Development Lab Harvard GSE, Jun 2025–present

Graduate Researcher / Science Education Department Harvard-Smithsonian, Sep 2024–Jun 2025
Investigated the association between pre-college mentorship and STEM identity among first-year students at minority-serving institutions in the United States.

Graduate Research Assistant / Thomas Lab Harvard, Sep 2024–May 2025
Conducted research on how children develop moral consideration for plants and nature under the supervision of Dr. Ashley Thomas and Dr. Lizette Pizza.

Research Intern / Ministry of Education Science Technology and Innovation Kosovo, Sep 2021–Mar 2022
Researched the impact of screen time on children to inform decisions about curriculum design during the COVID pandemic. Assisted in drafting the national law for early childhood education.

Research Assistant / Affect Regulation and Cognition Lab Yale, May 2020–Jun 2021
Conducted meta-analysis projects on children's emotion regulation and postpartum depression. Collected data using hundreds of COVID-19 news headlines for sentiment analysis.

Research Assistant of Psychology and Learning / Cognition, Brain, Behavior Faculty Minerva, May 2020–Sep 2021
Contributed to the development of a new teaching framework informed by cognitive science and psychology under supervision of Dr. Kevin Connolly.

Field Intern / UNICEF Kosovo, Jun 2019–Sep 2019
Conducted research and data analysis on youth and adolescent development programs. Worked on a literature review on children with disability in Kosovo.

Learning Design

Learning Design Head, AI Literacy Tutorial / Gia Microschool May–Sep 2025
Designed a school-wide AI literacy tutorial, developing content for both students and academic staff. Working with a team of five students, co-designed a mandatory tutorial centered on three core dimensions: functional AI literacy, critical AI literacy, and rhetorical AI literacy.

Learning Design Fellow / Harvard Graduate School of Education Apr–Jun 2025
Co-designed the AI literacy tutorial for all incoming HGSE students (approximately 700 students), a mandatory requirement prior to the start of coursework.

Course Designer and Co-Instructor / Harvard GSAS Dec 2024–Jan 2025
Designed and co-taught a three-day active learning mini-course focused on the use and critical evaluation of AI tools in learning design. The course received over 100 applications for 20 available spots.

Curriculum Designer and Instructor / Elite Open School Jun 2021–Aug 2024
Co-designed high school courses including Introduction to Esports, Business of Esports, and Ecosystem of Esports. Taught STEM courses including biology, algebra, and pre-calculus. Coordinated students across California, Japan, and South Korea.

Curriculum Designer / Minerva Baccalaureate Dec 2022–May 2023
Co-designed interdisciplinary, active-learning courses for secondary students across North America and Asia, contributing over 100 lesson plans and 15 interdisciplinary assignments.

Chemistry Curriculum Designer / School of Humanity Jun–Sep 2024
Designed two chemistry units for a globally distributed high school population, including lesson plans, online simulations, and assessments.

Professional Experience

Student Services Manager / Minerva University

Jun 2023–Jul 2024

Managed internal technology systems and student information processes, coordinating with teams across five global cities and supporting students studying in Berlin, San Francisco, Hyderabad, Seoul, and Taipei.

Awards

Fulbright Grantee — 80,000 USD for master’s degree at Harvard, U.S. Department of State	2024
Gold Medal — Golden Climate International Olympiad, Nairobi, Kenya (30 countries)	2016
Silver Medal — ISWEEEP International Olympiad, Houston, Texas (70 countries)	2016
Bronze Medal — Genius International Olympiad, Oswego, New York (90 countries)	2016

Mentorship

Arzu Abay Gurz, Dilnaz Zhalmagambetova, Sophia Zhang (Harvard GSE, Fall 2025–present)
Gertrude Ncube (Harvard College, Summer 2025) • Justin Oh, Joshua Kim (Gia Microschool, Summer 2025)

Technical Skills

Programming	Python, R, LaTeX
Statistical Methods	Regression Analysis, ANOVA, Factor Analysis, Meta-Analysis, Probabilistic Modeling
Research Tools	Qualtrics
Software	Microsoft Office, Google Suite, CANVAS, Moodle
Languages	English (fluent), Albanian (fluent), Turkish (conversational), German (A2)