

CV and List of Achievement

Fabio Spano

PhD Candidate

International Christian University

Graduate School of Arts and Science

g269704x@icu.ac.jp - fabio.spanox@gmail.com

Educational History

Ph.D. (2027*) Candidate in Instructional Game Design (*expected completion date)
International Christian University – Tokyo

Dissertation: *Mapping the Influence of Precedent in the Evolving Landscapes of Instructional Design: A Multiple Analysis of Six Impactful Educational Designs Cases from Historical and Game-based, AI-Driven Contexts.*

M.A. (2023) Educational Technology; with honor. GPA 4.00
International Christian University – Tokyo.

Thesis: Spano, F. (2023). *Co-designing a Game-Based Language Teaching Framework: Analysis of the Teacher's Perspectives and the Effects on Students' Motivation and Learning Outcome.*

B.A. (2015) Foreign Languages and Literatures; University of Bologna

Professional Experience

Teaching appointments

2025 – Present	Lecturer Oberlin University – Machida, Tokyo
2023 – 2025	Lecturer Surugadai University – Hanno, Saitama
2021 – 2023	Teacher and Teacher Educator Nico Kids English – Setagaya, Tokyo
2018 – 2021	Teacher Sakuho City Junior High School – Sakuhomachi, Nagano
2014 – 2017	Teacher and Translator Web Heroes – Olbia, Italy
2014 – 2014	Teacher RakuRaku school of Foreign Languages – Hirakata, Osaka

Graduate Student Appointments

- 2025 – Present Research Institute Assistant,
Institute for Educational Research and Service (IERS)
International Christian University – Mitaka, Tokyo
- 2021 – Present Writing tutor – Senior and Master Thesis support for *Instructional Design Cases, Portfolio Review, Learning Analytics* and other scholarships.
International Christian University – Mitaka, Tokyo
- 2021 – Present Teacher Assistant
- GES053 Media and Identity Formation
 - EDU201 The Theory and Practice of Online Education
 - EDU266 Multimedia Development for Education
 - EDU101 Theories and Methods of ICT Application to Education
- International Christian University – Mitaka, Tokyo

Professional Appointments

- 2004 – 2009 Draftsmen Technologist
Various Draftsman Technologist firms

Publications (3) 3 Peer-reviewed, 3 First authored, 1 Scopus-indexed journal

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles (3)

- Spano, F., Kardos, A., & Howard, C. D. (2025). Dynamic Homework: An AI-Powered Gamified Dictionary. *International Journal of Designs for Learning*, 16(1), 139–151.
<https://doi.org/10.14434/ijdl.v16i1.37858>.
- Spano, F. (2021). How I taught with a game in junior high school EFL classes. *Ludic Language Pedagogy*, 3, 93-133. https://doi.org/10.55853/llp_v3Wt2
- Spano, F., York, J., deHaan, J., & Bard, R. (2021) One game, many approaches: How teachers can use a single game with any teaching methodology. *Ludic Language Pedagogy*, 3, 153-195. https://doi.org/10.55853/llp_v3Pg8

Grants and Scholarships work

Externally Funded Scholarships

- 2025 Atsumi Scholarship, issued by Atsumi International Foundation: Awarded to Japanese nationals and foreign students fluent in Japanese with superior academic abilities to further their doctoral studies at graduate schools in Japan. (JPY 250,000 a month, duration: 1 year).

Vita – Spano, F.

- 2024 K Scholarship, issued by Mr. and Mrs. K (private anonymous donors): Awarded to graduate students with research projects aimed at contributing to society. (JPY 100,000/month, Duration: 2 years).
- 2023 TAKASE Scholarship, issued by TAKASE Scholarship Foundation, 2023: Granted to graduate students with excellent academic performance and recognized progress in innovative research. JPY 100,000/month, Duration: 1 year)
- 2022 Mitsubishi JEES Scholarship, issued by Mitsubishi Corporation: Awarded to students with excellent academic performance whose research aligns with Mitsubishi's core principles. (JPY 150,000/month, Duration: 1 year).
- 2013 - 2014 City of Olbia's Scholarship (2 Times), issued by the city of Olbia City: Targeted at individuals from Olbia with excellent academic performance. (2013: EUR 2,000; 2014: EUR 6,000).

Externally Funded Grants

- 2024 JICUF Research Grant, issued by Japan ICU Foundation: Research Assistant. (JPY 1,285,000).
- 2024 JICUF Research Grant, issued by Japan ICU Foundation: Principal Investigator. (JPY 765,117).
- 2022 JICUF Research Grant, issued by Japan ICU Foundation: Principal Investigator. (JPY 97,000).

Internally Funded Scholarships

- 2021 to 2024 ICU Honorary Scholarship (4 times), Issued by: International Christian University, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. (JPY 127,000 a year).

Presentations (8) 3 Invited, 1 Keynote Speaker, 1 Peer Reviewed, 1 Colloquium, 2 Posters

Invited Presentations (3)

- Howard, C. D. & Spano, F. (2025, March) Instructional Design Cases: A workshop with no wrong answers. Invited Masterclass and Keynote Address. Recorded live at Los Banos and broadcast university wide at seven campuses, University of the Philippines Open University.
- Spano, F. (2024, June) "AI in games for learning". Ludic Language Pedagogy Expo 03 (LLPx03). Keynote Address.
- Spano, F. (2021, January). Skilled Game Masters, Expert teachers, and task planning. Teaching Languages with Games: a practice-based Workshop. CALICO 2021. Online.
- Spano, F. (2020, October). A quick intro to good GMing. Ludic Language Pedagogy Expo (LLPx01), Online.

Vita – Spano, F.

Peer Reviewed (1)

Spano, F. (2024, October) Voice-recognition AI Features and Failures in a Mobile Game for English Learning. *European Conference of Game-Based Learning (ECGBL 2024)*. Aarhus, Denmark.

Colloquium (1)

Spano, F. (2024, March) Exploring the integration of AI in the Design of Digital Game-Based Learning Solutions. *COER Doctoral Colloquium*. University of Oldenburg, Germany.

Poster (2)

Spano, F. & Howard C.D. (2025, September) “Reading Pedagogy of the Oppressed as a Design Case: The Role of Analytical Lenses in Constructing Design Knowledge”. *Japanese Society for Educational Technology (JSET)* September 2025, Nagoya.

Howard, C.D. & Spano, F. (2025, September) “Instructional Design Cases: Disseminating design knowledge in instructional design and technology”. *Japanese Society for Educational Technology (JSET)* September 2025, Nagoya.

Guest Lectures in Graduate Courses Taken for Credit (2)

Spano, F. (2024, October). *Games and Learning: Theory*. Guest Lecture in QEED 513 – *Theory-driven Instructional Design*. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, International Christian University, Mitaka, Tokyo.

Spano, F. (2024, October). *Games and Learning: Applied Theory*. Guest Lecture in QEED 513 – *Theory-driven Instructional Design*. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, International Christian University, Mitaka, Tokyo.

Service

2025 – Pres. *International Journal of Design for Learning (IJDL)* Indiana University, Reviewer [annually 1-2 manuscripts. In 2025, 3 manuscripts reviewed]

2025 – 2025 Special Section Reviewer, *International Journal of Design for Learning (IJDL)*. Special Section on Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Learning Design (Acknowledged in the editorial introduction)

2021 – Pres. *Ludic Language Pedagogy Journal*, Regular Reviewer [annually 1-2 manuscripts. Since 2021, 5 manuscripts reviewed]

Professional memberships

2026 – Pres AIRJ, Association of Italian Researchers in Japan

2025 – Pres JSET, Japanese Society for Educational Technology

Licenses & Foreign Language Proficiencies

2021	TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Grade 116/120.
2021	TEFL/TESOL Certificate (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) (Grade A) from iTTT. Credential: https://login.teflserver.net/dpdf/10-336388/46426/ITTT00316940
2015	Bachelor in Japanese Language – (Intermediate – Advanced)
2014	Intensive Japanese Studies Course Diploma – Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka.
Others	Spanish - Beginner proficiency Italian and Sardinian - Native Speaker

Professional References

Howard Craig Dennis, PhD
Associate Professor Division of Arts and Sciences, College of Liberal Arts
International Christian University, Tokyo
<https://researchers.icu.ac.jp/icuhp/KgApp?resId=S003305>
craig.howard@icu.ac.jp

Jung Insung, PhD
Visiting Research Fellow
Education Research Institute of Seoul National University (SNU) S. Korea.
<https://sites.google.com/site/isjungcv/> 81-042-677-3137
isjung@snu.ac.kr

Fujii Akiko, PhD
Associate Professor Division of Arts and Sciences, College of Liberal Arts
International Christian University, Tokyo
<https://researchers.icu.ac.jp/icuhp/KgApp?resId=S000048> (865) 974-8403
afujii@icu.ac.jp

Revised: February 2026