

Simone McKnight, Ph.D

Corporate Affiliations:

- Global System Technologies (GST), 2018 - present
- McKnight Consulting LLC, 2010 – present
- George Mason University, 2013 – present
- HumanProof LLC, 2017-2019
- Children’s National Medical Center, 2012 – 2016
- National Defense University, 2009 – 2011

Education:

- Ph.D in Psychology
 - Concentration: Human Factors & Applied Cognition
 - *Dissertation: Reconceptualizing trust – defining, modeling, and measuring trust*
- M.A. in Psychology
 - Concentration: Human Factors & Applied Cognition
 - *Thesis: Quantifying threats to validity: Exploring Measurement Reactivity*



Simone McKnight, Ph.D., was trained as a Human Factors engineer at George Mason University where she focused on measurement development, human performance, and individual assessment of medical, security/military, and social interventions. Her expertise lies in the areas relevant to this work in that she demonstrated a rapid mastery of content domains outside her area of expertise, an ability to ask key questions that identify the important paths toward measurement development, and a keen sense of logic in the application of social science measurement when evaluated by varied stakeholders. Her primary research focus to date remains (1) the influence of multiple research methods and measurement on the interpretation of research outcomes and (2) the examination of cognitive underpinnings underlying trust development in human-human and human-automation interactions.

Dr. McKnight has 8 years of hands-on technical and theoretical research experience encompassing experimental question/measurement development, test planning, test execution, data analysis, and report writing. Her wide breadth of content application during consulting/research projects includes but is not limited to: general human factors support, human-systems integration, human computer interaction, patient safety, safety systems, automation/autonomy, trust in humans/automation, human-human & human-machine teaming, forecasting and decision-making, psychometric testing & survey development for evaluation of health, security, and social development programs. Examples of Dr. McKnight’s consulting work includes:

- Developing a framework of organizational factors influencing trust to examine its influence on individual performance at the Transportation Security Administration
- Examining the influence of trust in automation on human performance and security outcomes within the Transportation Security Administration’s operational environment
- Assessment of capturing attention and effective communication styles for large crowds, specifically for security-based messaging at the Transportation Security Administration
- Differentiating appropriate measurement/assessment tools given contextual and cognitive (i.e., decision-making) limitations of the decision-makers
- Development of a revised M&E model to monitor program efficacy, effectiveness, and growth for a U.N. Foundation group aiming to empower girls and alter legislation worldwide
- Consulting with the NAVY on Safety Hazard Assessments of a ship fleet. Risk assessments addressed outcomes ranging from equipment failure to loss of life, how to mitigate the risks, and organizing the review and follow through of addressing the risks in order of priority with relevant personnel.
- Consulting with the Office of Naval Research (ONR) on Human Research Protection Protocol (HRPP) development. Primary tasks included aligning and revising all ONR and Navy HRPP documentation with current Federal and DOD HRPP protocols prior to guiding experimental monitoring structures at ONR.
- Marine Corps marksmanship training and assessment across live and simulated operations

- Development of a measurement protocol and test methodology for the examination of security analyst decision-making and event forecasting
- Development and implementation of projects involving children's healthcare delivery within an active hospital setting
- Patient safety program development and evaluation at local hospitals
- Establishing and managing a volunteer training program for medical students within a community healthcare setting
- Establishing a guest lecture program with the M.A. program at George Mason University to educate Health Administration and Policy graduate students on the role of Human Factors in medicine and patient safety management
- Supporting a military psychologist on efforts to examine factors influencing the likelihood of developing PTSD in U.S. Army soldiers over the course of deployment (pre- to post-) during Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)