Eric Scott Sembrat Curriculum Vitae

Contact Information

Eric Scott Sembrat, Ph.D.
Director, Digital Learning Technologies
Senior Research Associate
Center for 21st Century Universities
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Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

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Research Objective

Research interests sit at the intersection of educational technology and society, lensed through the translation of information technology to culture.

Earned Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy, Instructional Technology, Georgia State University; 2012 - 2020
Dissertation: "A Review and Analysis of Process at the Nexus of Instructional and Software Design"
Committee: Brendan Calandra (chair), Jonathan Cohen, Maggie Renken, Lauren Margulieux

Master of Science in Information Systems, Kennesaw State University; 2011
Certificate in Leadership and Ethics

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology; 2005 - 2009
Specialization in People and Information Internetworks

Employment

Georgia Tech College of Lifetime Learning, Atlanta, GA, USA
Director of Digital Learning Technologies: February 2023 - Present
Senior Research Associate: February 2023 - Present

Georgia Tech College of Engineering, Atlanta, GA, USA
Web Manager: January 2014 - February 2023
Director of Communications, Interim: January 2021 - June 2021

Georgia Tech College of Sciences, Atlanta, GA, USA
Web Developer: July 2012 - January 2014

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, USA
Project Manager: January 2012 - July 2012
Web Developer: January 2011 - January 2012

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Spring 2026	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education
Fall 2025	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education
Spring 2025	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education
Fall 2024	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education
Spring 2024	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education
Fall 2023	VIP 4602: Data-Driven Education

Awards & Achievements

Individual

Kennesaw State University Shining Star Employee of the Month; presented in June 2012.

As Team Member

1EDTech Power Learner Potential Award; presented in May 2024.

Research Experience

Submitted Research

Digital Credentials Visual Design: A Social Semiotics Analysis (with Jacob Askeroth, Manuni Dhruv, Jonna Lee, Javier Motta-Mena). Started September 2024.

Current Research

Digital Credentials Badge Visual Design: A Deconstructive Social Semiotics Analysis (with Jacob Askeroth, Jonna Lee, Javier Motta-Mena, Noah Pinson). Started October 2025.

Digital Credentials Taxonomy in Georgia: A Case Study (with Anissa Lokey-Vega, Rob Moore, Collin Sullivan). Started February 2025.

Full-Width, Auto-Playing Video Backgrounds: A User Experience Analysis (with Mark Bennett, Laurier Cress, Stephanie DeBoer, Tryon Eggleston, Joel Goodman, Brent Hoard, Erik Runyon, Matt Ryan). Started January 2025.

Publications

Reports & White Papers

Georgia Tech Learning Analytics Cross-Functional Team Recommendation for Data-Driven Institutional Growth (with Laura Carruth, Myk Garn, Ronnie Godshalk, Warren Goetzel, Jeonghyun Lee, Vincent Spezzo). March 2025. Georgia Institute of Technology.

Board Director Affiliate Member Eligibility Proposal (with Sara Clark, Christian Santillo, Jacqueline Rowe). Digital Collegium.

Georgia Tech Digital Credentials Recommendation (with Stuart Freeman, Melissa Lockhart, Janice Maxwell, Keisha Simmons, Lachelle Smith, Ashlee Toomey-Flinn, Christopher Williams). July 2024. Georgia Institute of Technology.

Conferences & Presentations

Keynote

(Upcoming) Untitled AI in Education Keynote (with Ronnie Godshalk). April 2026. Innovative Pedagogy in the Age of AI Symposium. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Presentations

(Upcoming) Scaling Learning and Employment Records: Building Partner Ecosystems that Connect Credentials to Workforce (with co-presenters TBD). April 2026. UPCEA Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

(Upcoming) Modeling Self-Regulated Learners with Digital Twins and Language Models: Insights into Performance and Learning Strategy Modifications (with co-presenters TBD). April 2026. UPCEA Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

(Upcoming) Understanding Digital Credential Badge Designs in Higher Education. February 2026. 1EdTech Digital Credentials Summit. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

(Upcoming) Unveiling Full-Width, Auto-Playing Video Backgrounds in Higher Education. November 2025. EvolvingWeb Evolve Digital NYC. New York City, New York, USA.

Building a College's Digital Credential Taxonomy: Governance & Organizational Processes (with Ronnie Godshalk). July 2025. Distance Learning Administration Conference. Jekyll Island, Georgia, USA.

Navigating the AI Landscape: Crafting and Implementing a University-Wide AI Policy. April 2025. Digital Collegium Analytics & AI Summit. Online.

Advancing Digital Credentials in Higher Education: Standards Based Approaches for Trust and Value (with Marc Booker, Rob Coyle, Kerri Lemoie, Collin Sullivan). March 2025. UPCEA Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado, USA.

From Concept to Reality: Detecting and Assessing 21st Century Skills for Online Program Success Using LLMs (with Ronnie Godshalk, Jonna Lee, Meryem Yilmaz-Soylu). March 2025. UPCEA Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado, USA.

Budding Badges: Lessons from a digital credential technology platform assessment (with Lachelle Smith). March 2025. UPCEA Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado, USA.

Build a Campus Digital Credential Coalition: Tech, Governance, & Research (with Ronnie Godshalk). March 2025. 1EdTech Digital Credentials Summit. Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Using OpenBadges 3.0 to Issue Portable and Verifiable Digital Degrees (with Kerri Lemoie). March 2025. 1EdTech Digital Credentials Summit. Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

[**Crafting credentials with code: Open-source built digital credentials for higher education**](). Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb) Annual Conference. September 2024. Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Digital Credentials as Catalyst for Change and Innovation (with Matt DiPirro, Warren Goetzel, Jonna Lee, Chris Matthews, Keegan Moss, Meryem Yilmaz Soylu). UPCEA Annual Conference. April 2024. Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

User Insights in LMS Digital Credentials in Lifelong Education (with Stuart Freeman, Warren Goetzel, Jonna Lee). 1EdTech Digital Credentials Summit. April 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Issuing Open Badges v3 at Digital Credentials Consortium Universities (with Kerri Lemoie). 1EdTech Digital Credentials Summit. April 2024. New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Dare to Share: Design Principles from Distribution of Research Web Applications. Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb) Annual Conference. October 2018. Sacramento, California, USA.

Dare to Share: Design Principles from Distribution of Research Web Applications. WPCampus. July 2018. St. Louis, Missouri, USA.

Sharing CMS Interventions – Making Design-Based Research Work. PressED. March 2018. Online.

Unbundle Your Institution: Building a Web Ecosystem. WPCampus Online. January 2018. Online.

Unbundle Your Institution: Building a Web Ecosystem. CASE District III Conference. January 2018. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Unbundle Your Institution: Building a Web Ecosystem. Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb) Annual Conference. October 2017. Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

Professional Web Presence at 1000 DaysStatic Site Generators and Higher-Ed. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2017. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Learning from Drupal. WPCampus Online. January 2017. Online.

Everything You Need to Know to Plan Your Drupal 8 Site Migration. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2016. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Save Us, Self-Service Websites. edUi. October 2016. Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

The Paragraphs Cake. DrupalCorn. June 2016. Online.

Child Themes. Atlanta WordPress Users Group. June 2016. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Let's Talk Drupal: Object Oriented Design. University System of Georgia Web Tech Day. April 2016. Carrollton, Georgia, USA.

AMAYS CMS Development with Drupal. Georgia State University GriTS Colloquium. April 2016. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Professional Web Presence at Georgia Tech. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2015. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Sass: Simplifying CSS for the 21st Century. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2014. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Building with Drupal. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2014. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Digital Asset Management in Drupal. DrupalCamp Atlanta. October 2014. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Building Web Management Structures in an Open-Source CMS. University System of Georgia Summit. September 2014.

Sass 101: Cleaning up your CSS Closet. DrupalCamp Chattanooga. January 2014. Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA.

Panels

Alternative Credentials Lessons: Engineering Workforce Development. Panelist. Lifetime Learning Symposium. October 2025. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Association Open Forum. Moderator. Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb) Annual Conference. September 2024. Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Hot Takes in Higher-Ed. Moderator. EvolveDrupal New York City. September 2024. New York, New York, USA.

AI, Libraries, and Higher Education. Panelist. ai4Libraries. October 2023. Online.

USGweb Organization. Panelist. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2018. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

USGweb Organization. Panelist. University System of Georgia Rock Eagle IT Conference. October 2014. Eatonton, Georgia, USA.

Campus Presentations

Learning Labs: Advancing Digital Credentials (with Vincent Spezzo). Georgia Institute of Technology. October 2025. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Digital Credentials and the Future of Work. C21U Annual Symposium. Georgia Institute of Technology. April 2025. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Generative AI for Multimedia Marketing and Design in Higher Education (with Benjamin Gardner). Georgia Institute of Technology. August 2024. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Generative AI (with Didier Contis, Brent O'Guin). Data Days. Georgia Institute of Technology. September 2023. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Generative AI in Campus Marketing & Communications (with Didier Contis). Georgia Institute of Technology. September 2023. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

You're Speaking Drupal to Me: Navigating Web in a Technical Land. Georgia Tech Events Coordinator Network Retreat. November 2016. Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Service

Institutional Service

Organization	Dates	Role
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - Present	Lead Learning and Employment Records

		(LER) Accelerator
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - Present	Co-Lead Bill Kent Family Foundation AI in Higher Education Fellowship College of Lifetime Learning
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - 2025	Chair Research Faculty Promotion Committee
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - Present	Member Research Goal Team College of Lifetime Learning
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - 2025	Chair College Research Faculty Promotion Committee College of Lifetime Learning
Georgia Institute of Technology	2025 - Present	Parliamentarian College of Lifetime Learning
Georgia Institute of Technology	2024 - Present	Secretary Faculty Advisory Committee College of Lifetime Learning
Georgia Institute of Technology	2023 - Present	Member Advisory Board Open-Source Program Office College of Computing
Georgia Institute of Technology	2023 - Present	Chair Educational Technology Steering Committee
Georgia Institute of Technology	2023 - 2024	Chair Georgia Tech Drupal Users Group
Georgia Institute of Technology	2022 - Present	Faculty Advisor PokéJackets
Georgia Institute of Technology	2020 - 2022	Council Member Staff Council
Georgia Institute of Technology	2018 - 2020	Mentor IT Mentorship Program
Georgia Institute of Technology	2015 - 2022	Advisory Board Member Georgia Tech Drupal Users Group
Georgia Institute of Technology	2015 - 2018	Communications Committee

		Member Staff Council
Georgia Institute of Technology	2014 - 2017	Chair Georgia Tech Drupal Users Group

External Service

Organization	Dates	Role
Digital Credentials Consortium & Credential Engine	2025 - 2026	Member Issuer Identity Registry Governance & Integration Advisory Group
Digital Credentials Consortium & Credential Engine	2024 - 2025	Member Issuer Registry Advisory Group
Digital Credentials Consortium	2024 - 2025	Member Degrees Working Group
EDUCAUSE	2024 - 2025	Proposal Reviewer Annual Conference
EDUCAUSE	2024 - Present	Ambassador
Online Learning Consortium (OLC)	2024 - 2025	Proposal Reviewer OLC Accelerate
UPCEA	2024 - 2025	Proposal Reviewer Convergence: Credential Innovation in Higher-Education
1EdTech	2023 - 2025	Member LTI & Caliper Developer Commons
1EdTech	2023 - 2025	Member Product Steering Committee Digital Credentials
1EdTech	2023 - 2025	Member Product Steering Committee Accessibility
1EdTech	2023 - Present	Member Innovation Leadership Network Digital Credentials
Higher Education Web Professionals (HighEdWeb)	2019 - 2024	Track Chair Program Committee

		Annual Conference
WPCampus	2016 - 2019	Planning Committee Member
University of Georgia	2016 - 2018	Mentor EITS Mentorship Program
Drupal Association	2015 - 2020	Conference Track Chair DrupalCon North America

External Leadership

Organization	Dates	Role
UPCEA	2025 - 2026	Communications Vice Chair Credentials Innovation Network
Digital Collegium	2024 - 2026	Chair Nominations Subcommittee
Digital Collegium	2024 - 2026	Chair Governance Committee
UPCEA	2024 - 2025	At-Large Vice Chair Alternative Credentials Network
Digital Collegium (HighEdWeb)	2023 - 2026	Member Board of Directors
WPCampus	2023	Member Board of Directors
Drupal Association	2017 - 2022	Higher-Ed Summit Lead DrupalCon North America
USGweb	2015 - 2019	Founder
Atlanta Drupal User's Group	2014 - 2017	President
Georgia State University	2013 - 2015	Vice President of Communications & Member Services Graduates in Instructional Technology (GrITS)

Grants

Received Grants

LER Accelerator AACRAO & UPCEA	2025-2026 $12,500	"Advancing Georgia Tech Digital Credentials"

Submitted Grants

Media Coverage

AACRAO Credential Chats. [Credential Chats with Eric Sembrat](#). 2025 February 17.

Times Higher Education. [How to create a higher education AI policy](#). 2025 February 13.

The EvoLLLution: A Modern Campus Illumination. [The Role of Digital Credentials in Student-Centered Education](#). 2024 November 11.

Open Source Atlanta. [Georgia Tech's New Open Source Program Office](#). 2024 March 26.

Times Higher Education. [Moving microcredentials forward: how universities are incubators and early adopters.](#) 2023 October 5.

Georgia Tech Center for 21st Century Universities. [The Future of Digital Credentials: Employer Perspectives and Insights from C21U's Research](#). 2023 March 10.

Georgia Tech News Center. [New WordPress Service Offers Easy Website Option](#). 2015 September 14.