Dalis S. Nilson

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Education

M.S. in Data Science, Boston College, Lynch School of Education and Human Development 2025–2027 (expected)
Coursework: Applied AI and Machine Learning, Multivariate Statistical Analysis, Data Visualization

Medical Student, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Tampa 2014–2019

B.S. in Biomedical Sciences, magna cum laude, University of South Florida Honors College, Tampa 2008–2012
Minors: Public Health, Biomedical Engineering, Applications of Physics to Biology and Medicine

Methods and Technical Skills

Programming and tools: Python (pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Streamlit), R (reading and translating analysis code), Jupyter, Salesforce

Statistical methods: mixed-effects models, generalized estimating equations, OLS with robust standard errors, multiple imputation, multiple-comparison correction, binary and multinomial logistic regression, principal component analysis, cluster analysis

Measurement: multi-item scale scoring, variable crosswalks across data dictionaries, cross-language instrument and program adaptation

Languages: English, Korean (native/bilingual)

Research and Data Experience

Research Assistant, Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University Aug 2026–Present
Summer Research Intern, Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Jun–Aug 2026
Mentors: Richard Cowden PhD, Tyler VanderWeele PhD

- Conduct the South Africa site analysis of the REACH Forgiveness randomized controlled trial (RCT), a multisite intervention study of forgiveness and well-being.
- Translate the Indonesia site's R analysis pipeline (about 4,000 lines) into documented, reproducible Python.
- Build the South Africa analytic dataset, including a variable crosswalk against the site data dictionary, 17 multi-item scale composites, and a 2,745-row longitudinal panel.
- Fit random-intercept mixed-effects models for all preregistered outcomes with Holm-Bonferroni correction.
- Implement multiple imputation and generalized estimating equations (GEE), then OLS with robust standard errors under documented protocol deviations from the preregistration.
- Model attrition to assess missing-data assumptions and workbook engagement as a predictor of forgiveness outcomes.
- Write the results and discussion sections of the South Africa site manuscript.

Graduate Research Assistant, DevTech Research Group, Boston College 2025–Present
Mentor: Marina Bers PhD

- Build Python (pandas) workflows to clean and structure large-scale Google Analytics data on how children and educators engage with ScratchJr across global contexts.
- Analyze and visualize longitudinal engagement trends (Matplotlib, Seaborn) to distinguish retention and usage patterns that inform decisions on educational access and program expansion.
- Synthesize analytical findings from visualizations into reports that inform strategies for expanding the ScratchJr program's global reach.
- Serve as liaison with Gyeongin National University of Education, supporting the Korean translation and cultural adaptation of ScratchJr.

Graduate Research Assistant, Transformative Education Lab, Boston College 2025–Present
Mentor: Stanton Wortham PhD

- Support faculty-led mixed-methods studies on how educational design shapes human development and learning outcomes, including data organization and analysis.

Earlier Health and Biomedical Research

Research Team Member, CWE Bolivia Clinic / Brandon Regional Health 2019

- Collected, transcribed, and analyzed data on clinic flow and patient access to follow-up care in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. Resulted in an award-winning poster.

Visiting Student Researcher, Seoul National University College of Medicine, South Korea 2015

- Synthesized international epidemiological data to investigate a 15-fold disparity in gastric cancer incidence between East Asian and Western populations.

Research Assistant, Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine, USF / Tampa General Hospital 2013

- Conducted a literature review on cervical HPV infection in Indian women, focused on epidemiology and disparities. Resulted in a coauthored publication.

Honors Thesis, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute 2011–2012

- Analyzed the association between body mass index and biochemical recurrence after radical prostatectomy, including study design, variable computation, and statistical analysis.

Additional Experience

Curriculum Developer / Staff Instructor, USF Morsani College of Medicine 2020–2022
Experiential Learning and Simulation

- Led rapid redesign of medical curricula during COVID-19, moving core instruction from fully in-person to hybrid live and virtual formats.
- Translated in-person clinical education into structured virtual workflows with standardized inputs (standardized patient scripts, grading rubrics, proctor instructions).
- Managed scheduling, resource allocation, and logistics in Salesforce for Entrustable Professional Activity courses, Clinical Performance Examinations, OSCEs, and clinical skills labs.

Publications

Nasr M, Cranston-Gingras A, **Jang S**. Friendship experiences of participants in a university-based transition program. *International Journal of Whole Schooling*. 2015;11(2):1-15.

Menezes LJ, **Jang SE**, Ross DJ, Glaser AD, Varghese R. Cervical HPV infection in Indian women: Screening and immunization as preventive strategies. *MGM Journal of Medical Sciences*. 2014;1(2):75-85.

Presentations

Kim D, Borowiec K, Yatsu K, Cho J, Senft M, **Nilson D**, Lee J, Reeves B, Ewing L. Reflecting through crafting: Chilean preservice language teachers' experiences in a university makerspace. Poster session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, April 2027. Accepted.

Kim D, Borowiec K, Yatsu DK, Cho J, Senft M, **Nilson D**, Lee J, Reeves B, Ewing L. Reflecting through crafting: Chilean preservice English teachers in a university makerspace. Paper presentation, American Association for Applied Linguistics Annual Conference, Atlanta, March 2027. Accepted.

Nilson DS. Forgiveness as a scalable intervention: The South Africa REACH trial. Summer Internship Final Presentation, Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, 2026.

Rains M, Yukhimchuk D, Longbottom B, Cook E, Nilson J, Standlick A, **Kim D**, et al. Global health practice challenges in Bolivia: Assessment of patients' access to follow-up care. HCA West Florida Graduate Medical Education Consortium 3rd Annual Research Poster Exhibition, 2019. Second Place Inter-Professional Award.