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Michael holds a PhD in cognitive psychology and he is an experienced project manager and software developer. His research and development activities focus primarily on technology-enhanced learning, in particular intelligent, adaptive educational systems and human-computer interaction.

Michael is striving for an evolution of psycho-pedagogical frameworks and models for efficient, effective, and immersive learning together with smart personalization, which includes individualized learning experiences within learning environments as well as non-invasive assessment and interventions.

Since 2001 he is involved in international, cross-discipline research and development projects. The research focus is on the psychological aspects of learning with immersive virtual learning environments such as digital computer games and the integration of intelligent educational technology in narrative and game-based learning. This work includes interaction modeling and research. Michael is a member of the ACM, the Austrian Computer Society (ÖCG), the Styrian Society for Psychology (StGP), and the Austrian Aviation Psychology Association (AAPA). In addition, he is in the editorial boards of the International Journal of Game-based Learning and reviewer for journals such as ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology, Journal of Computer Assisted Learning, and BMC Medical Education as well as conferences such as International Conference on Web-based Learning (ICWL), European Conference on Technology-Enhanced Learning (EC-TEL), or Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED). Since 2010 Michael is a senior researcher at Graz University of Technology and the universities representative in the Games and Learning Alliance (GALA).