



University of
Pittsburgh

Learning Research and
Development Center

**LRDC Colloquium Series
Co-Sponsored with CNBC**

Dr. Jennie Grammer, UCLA

Monday, September 21, 2026

**Conference Room 424 LRDC, 10:00-11:30
3420 Forbes Avenue, The Murdoch Building**

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Title: Understanding Cognitive Control in Real-World Classrooms: Integrating Educator Expertise and Real-World Neuroscience

Abstract: Cognitive control skills are recognized as fundamental to learning and academic success. Yet much of what we know about these processes comes from laboratory studies that are often quite different from the complex instructional environments in which students learn every day. As a result, recommendations regarding evidence-based practices that educators can use to support the development of these skills in their classrooms are limited.

In this presentation, I will describe an ongoing line of collaborative research that integrates educator expertise with real-world neuroscience to understand cognitive control in classrooms. I will begin with educators' own understanding of cognitive control - how teachers recognize these processes in their students, the strategies they use to support them, and where opportunities remain to strengthen educator knowledge. I will then share our recent work that has been informed by these insights, including classroom-based studies that use mobile EEG and behavioral measures to examine cognitive control as it unfolds during learning, highlighting how features of the classroom environment shape children's cognitive control. Finally, I will discuss how integrating these two sources of evidence is informing the development of professional learning resources and strengthening the translation of developmental science into practical guidance for educators.