

Department of Special Education  
University of Kansas

### **EDUCATION**

- 2023: Ph.D., Special Education (expected)  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KS
- 2006: M.A.Ed., Special Education (Summa Cum Laude)  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, VA
- 2004: B.A., Psychology (Magna Cum Laude)  
College of William and Mary  
Williamsburg, VA

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

- Karvonen, M., **Ruhter, L.**, & Clark, A. *Data to support academic instruction for students with extensive support needs: availability, use, and perceptions*. [Manuscript submitted].
- Karvonen, M., **Ruhter, L.**, Koebley, S., Wakeman, S. Y., & Pugalee, D. *UDL in design for inquiry-based PD on science instruction for students with extensive support needs*. [Manuscript submitted].
- Ruhter, L.**, & Karvonen, M. (2023). The impact of professional development on data-based decision-making for students with extensive support needs. *Remedial and Special Education*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/07419325231164636>.
- Ruhter, L.** (2022). Using the UDL framework in inquiry-based science teaching to support students with extensive support seeds in inclusive classrooms. *Inclusive Practices*, 1(4), 139–146. <https://doi.org/10.1177/27324745221093766>
- Mosher, M. A., Carreon, A. C., Craig, S. L., & **Ruhter, L. C.** (2021). Immersive technology to teach social skills to students with autism spectrum disorder: A literature review. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-17.
- Wakeman, S. Y., Karvonen, M., Flowers, C., & **Ruhter, L.** (2022). *Alternate assessments and monitoring student progress in inclusive classrooms*. In J. McLeskey, F. Spooner, B. Algozzine, N. L. Waldron (Eds.) *Handbook of*

*Effective Inclusive Elementary Schools: Research and Practice* (pp. 302-321).  
New York: Routledge.

### **Technical Reports**

Karvonen, M., **Ruhter, L.**, Shipman, M., Swinburne Romine, R., & Tiemann, G. (2020). *Designing, developing, and evaluating innovative science assessments*. Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas. [https://ismart.works/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/I-SMART\\_Goal2\\_TestDev\\_TechnicalReport\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ismart.works/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/I-SMART_Goal2_TestDev_TechnicalReport_FINAL.pdf)

**Ruhter, L.**, Swinburne Romine, R., Karvonen, M., & Koebly, S. (2020). *5E-SESE Phase 1 Research Report*. Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas. <https://5eproject.atlas4learning.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/5E-SESE%20Phase%201%20Research%20Report.pdf>

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**University of Kansas**, Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), Lawrence, KS

#### Research Associate, (2020 – Present)

- Collaboratively design and/or lead the implementation of professional learning research and evaluation activities for IES- and OSEP-funded research projects. Develop and manage research plans and timelines; lead design teams to develop professional development modules, instructional coaching, data collection and analysis; develop technical documentation; and disseminate project findings to a wide audience. Co-designed web-based tool on Universal Design for Assessment.

#### Research Project Coordinator, (2018 – 2020)

- Coordinated IES-funded research project on the impact of professional development on science instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Responsibilities included coordinating grant monitoring and reporting, IRB submissions, developing PD modules, studying recruitment and data collection, reviewing literature, and contributing to dissemination products.

**University of Kansas**, Dynamic Learning Maps Alternate Assessment Consortium, Lawrence, KS

#### Test Development Coordinator, (2015 – 2018)

- Coordinated the development and on-time delivery of the Dynamic Learning Maps alternate assessment in science, including design of task templates and leading multiple-day item writing workshops for science with educators from multiple states.

#### Assistant Test Development Coordinator, (2013 – 2015)

- Worked closely with the Test Development Coordinator in all areas of test development, including training item writers, developing test items, and organizing review of test items.

## **GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS**

### **Grants – Contributing Writer to Funded Proposals**

5E Model Professional Development in Science Education for Special Educators. (2018). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Special Education Research. Contributing writer. Grant awarded to the University of Kansas Center for Research. (\$1.4 million). PI: Dr. Meagan Karvonen.

Innovations in Science Maps, Assessments, and Reporting Technologies. (2017). U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Contributing writer. Grant awarded to the Maryland State Department of Education. (\$3.8 million). PI: Dr. Meagan Karvonen.

Special Educator Technology-based Training of Trainers (SETTT) for Success (2020). U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Contributing writer. Grant awarded to the University of Kansas Center for Research. (\$2.5 million). PI: Dr. Sarah Koebley.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Miller, A., Ruhter, L., & Mansouri, M. (2023, April 14). *How the Interconnectedness of Systemic Ableism and Teacher Candidates' Agentive Moves Shape Inclusive Education*. Presentation at the AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.

Pugalee, D., Ruhter, L., Karvonen, M., Wakeman, S., & Koebley, S. (2023, April 13). *Professional Development in Science Education for Special Educators Incorporating the 5E Model and Three-Dimensional Learning*. Presentation at the AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.

Ruhter, L., Karvonen, M., & Clark, A. K. (2023, April 13). *Current Practices in Instructional Decision Making for Teachers of Students with Extensive Support Needs*. Poster presented at the AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.

Ruhter, L., Williams, T. R., Karvonen, M., Koebley, S., & Wakeman, S. (2023, March 3). *Universally designed, inquiry-based science instruction for students with extensive support needs*. Presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo, Louisville, KY, United States.

Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M. (2021, July). *UDL in large-scale assessment: Facilitating innovative, engaging assessments for all*. Presentation at the 2021 CAST UDL Symposium [virtual].

- Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M. (2021, April). *Accessibility for next generation science assessments: Including all students*. Presentation at the 2021 annual conference of the Council of State Science Supervisors [virtual].
- Ruhter, L., Koebly, S., & Karvonen, M. (2020, August). *Science for all: Integrating UDL with inquiry-based instruction*. Poster presented at the 2020 CAST UDL Symposium [virtual].
- Ruhter, L., Andersen, L., & Lawrence, A. (2017, April). *The incorporation of math and science practices in assessment and instructional planning*. Presentation at the 2017 annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Boston, MA.
- Andersen, L., Bechard, S., & Ruhter, L. (2016, April). *Implications of new science frameworks for alternate standards, instruction, and assessment*. Presentation at the 2016 annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, St. Louis, MO.
- Swinburne Romine, R., Andersen, L., Nash, B., Shipman, M., Ruhter, L., & Lawrence, A. (2015, October). *Test development in a learning maps environment*. Presentation at the 2015 annual meeting of the International Association for Educational Assessment, Lawrence, KS.
- Karvonen, M., Broaddus, A., & Ruhter, L. (2013, November). *Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and accessibility*. Preconference presentation at the Kansas State Department of Education 2013 Annual Conference, Wichita, KS.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University Teaching**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Kansas, (January-May 2021)

- SPED 842: Methods in Access and Inclusion in the Core Curriculum
- Professor of Record: Dr. Jennifer Kurth

**Guest Lecturer**, University of Kansas (October 2021)

- SPED 326: Teaching Exceptional Children and Youth in General Education
- Topic: Universal Design for Learning (UDL): A Framework for All Learners

### **K-12 Teaching**

**Special Education Teacher**, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Virginia Beach, VA (2006-2011)

- Grades 6-8, High-incidence disabilities
- Commonwealth of Virginia Professional Teaching Certification (2006-2012)
  - *Special Education K-12, Triple endorsement in Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, and Intellectual Disabilities*

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Julie Carden & Vicki Yount Memorial Scholarship (2022-2023)
- Grace M. Phinney Scholarship (2021-2022, 2022-2023)

- College of William and Mary, undergraduate grant for independent research (2004)

### **SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

- Reviewer, *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education* (2021 – present)
- University of Kansas Professionals for Inclusion and Social Justice (ISJ) (2019 - present)
  - Treasurer-elect (2019)
  - Treasurer (2020-2022)

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

- American Education Research Association (AERA) (2020 - present)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) (2017 – present)