

Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems
(ATLAS)
University of Kansas
1122 W. Campus Rd
Joseph R. Pearson Hall
Lawrence, KS 66045

lindsay.ruhter@ku.edu

EDUCATION

- 2024: Ph.D., Special Education
 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

Ruhter, L., Karvonen, M., Koebley, S., & Kobrin, J. (2026). *Support for Trainers Who Build Special Education Teacher Capacity for Comprehensive Academic Instruction*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas.

Ruhter, L., Karvonen, M., Kurth, J., & Zagona, A. (2026). *The content and characteristics of science instruction for students with extensive support needs*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas.

Karvonen, M., **Ruhter, L.,** Koebley, S., Wakeman, S. Y., & Pugalee, D (2025). *UDL in design for inquiry-based PD on science instruction for students with extensive support needs*. [Manuscript in preparation]. Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas.

Ruhter, L., Williams, T., Karvonen, M., Koebley, S., Wakeman, S., & Pugalee, D. (2025). Planning universally designed inquiry science lessons for students with complex support needs. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 57(5), 38—390.

Miller, A. L., Mansouri, M. C., **Ruhter, L. C.**, Kurth, J. A., Morningstar, M. E., Toews, S. G., ... & Andreoli, M. (2025). Rightful presence? Teacher candidates navigating inclusive education for youth with complex support needs. *Exceptional Children*, 91(3), 260-280.

Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M. (2024). The impact of professional development on data-based decision-making for students with extensive support needs. *Remedial and Special Education*, 45(1), 44-57.

Karvonen, M., **Ruhter, L.**, & Clark, A. K. (2024). Data to support academic instruction for students with extensive support needs: availability, use, and perceptions. *Exceptionality*, 1-20.

Mansouri, M. C., Miller, A., Kurth, J.A., **Ruhter, L.**, Wilt, C., Toews, S.G., & Morningstar, M. E. (2024). Teachers' insights on cultivating inclusive education for students with complex support needs. *Teachers College Record*, 126(9), 118-145.

Koebly, S., Wakeman, S., **Ruhter, L.**, Pugalee, D., & Karvonen, M. (2024). Making science-inquiry learning accessible for students with complex support needs. *Journal of Science Education for Students with Disabilities*, 27(1), 1-26.

Karvonen, M., Nash, B., Wakeman, S. Y., **Ruhter, L.**, & Clark, A. K. (2024). Assessment to Support Learning. In *Handbook of Research-Based Practices for Educating Students with Intellectual Disability* (pp. 121-139). Routledge.

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>

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.

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.

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

Ruhter, L., Swinburne Romine, R., Karvonen, M., & Koebly, S. (2020). *5E-SESE Phase I 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)

- Lead the design and 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

Ruhter, L., & Swinburne Romine, R. (2026, August 7). *All students are Scientists: Inquiry-Based Science Teaching for Students with Extensive Support Needs*. [Conference session]. PaTTAN: Bridging Knowledge to Know-How 2026 Conference, Lancaster, PA.

Ruhter, L. (2026, August 5). *Supporting Trainers Who Build Special Education Teacher Capacity for Comprehensive Academic Instruction* [Poster session]. OSEP 2026 Project Directors Conference, Crystal City, VA.

Ruhter, L., Wakeman, S., & Williams, T. (2026, January 14). *Inquiry-Based Science Teaching for Students with Extensive Support Needs*. [Conference session]. 27th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities (DADD), Long Beach, CA.

Ruhter, L. & Karvonen M. (2025, March 14). *Using the SETTT for Success PD cycle to plan effective professional development*. [Conference session]. Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo, Baltimore, MD.

Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M. (2024, December 7). *Using SETTT for Success to plan effective professional development*. [Conference session]. TASH Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Karvonen, M., & Ruhter, L. (2024, August 6). *Implementation fidelity when the intervention is locally defined*. [Poster session]. OSEP 2024 Project Directors Conference, Crystal City, VA.

Karvonen, M., Ruhter, L., & Williams, T. (2024, March 1). *Integrated Science Instruction for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*. [Conference session]. Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference, Hershey, PA.

Ruhter, L., Williams, T. R., Karvonen, M., Koebley, S., & Wakeman, S. (2024, January 18). *Inquiry-based science, universal design for learning, and students with extensive*

- support needs* [Conference session]. Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, 25th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, Honolulu, HI, United States.
- Ruhter, L., Swinburne, R., & Karvonen, M (2023, December 1). *Models of Instructional Cycles for Students with Complex Support Needs* [Breakout session]. 2023 TASH Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M (2023, August 2). *Universally Designed, Inquiry-Based Science Professional Development for Special Educators* [Breakout session]. 2023 UDL Symposium, Denver, CO, United States.
- Miller, A., Ruhter, L., & Mansouri, M (2023, April 14). *Schooling processes and practices: The interconnectedness of systemic ableism and teacher candidates' agentic moves*. [Conference session]. 2023 AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Ruhter, L., Karvonen, M., & Clark, A. (2023, April 14). *Models of Instructional Cycles for Students with Complex Support Needs* [Poster session]. 2023 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*. [Roundtable session]. 2023 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* [Conference session]. 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*. [Virtual presentation] 2021 CAST UDL Symposium.
- Ruhter, L., & Karvonen, M. (2021, April). *Accessibility for next generation science assessments: Including all students*. [Virtual presentation] 2021 annual conference of the Council of State Science Supervisors.
- Ruhter, L., Koebley, S., & Karvonen, M. (2020, August). *Science for all: Integrating UDL with inquiry-based instruction*. [Virtual poster presentation] 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] 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] 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] 2015 annual meeting of the International Association for Educational Assessment, Lawrence, KS.
- Karvonen, M., Broadus, A., & Ruhter, L. (2013, November). *Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) and accessibility*. [Preconference presentation]. 2013 Kansas State Department of Education 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)
 - Chair (2026 – present), Inclusion & Accessibility in Education Assessment (SIG 96)
 - Vice Chair (2025-2026), Inclusion & Accessibility in Education Assessment (SIG 96)
 - Treasurer (2024-2025), Inclusion & Accessibility in Education Assessment (SIG 96)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) (2017 – present)