

SARAH E. RZASA ZAPPE

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EDUCATION

Doctoral candidate, Educational Psychology (Expected completion 2006)

Concentration in Applied Measurement; Minor in Statistics

Penn State University, University Park, PA

Advisor: Hoi K. Suen

Masters of Science, Educational Psychology (2002)

Penn State University, University Park, PA

Thesis: Item Analysis on a developmental rating scale using both statistical and qualitative methods.

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Summe Cum Laude (1998)

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Thesis: Children's Goals and Strategies in Aggressive Conflict Situations.

HONORS

Alumni Society Research Initiation Grant – Penn State University College of Education (2005)

Thavaos Graduate Scholarship – Penn State University Department of Educational Psychology (2000)

University Fellowship - Penn State University (1998-1999)

Phi Beta Kappa (Initiated 1998)

Outstanding Senior in Psychology- University of Connecticut (1998)

Outstanding Senior Woman in Liberal Arts and Sciences – University of Connecticut (1998)

Provost Scholarship - University of Connecticut (1998)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Educational Testing and Assessment Specialist/Research Assistant

[Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence](#)

Penn State University

August 2005 to present

- Provide support for the university's testing services including both paper-based and computer-based testing
- Lead workshops on assessment and testing
- Work with individual faculty to assess classroom innovations

Teaching and Learning Assessment Specialist/Research Assistant

[Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence](#)

Penn State University

July 2004 to July 2005

- Work with individual faculty to assess classroom innovations
- Lead workshops on topics related to teaching and learning

Graduate Research Assistant

[Engineering Instructional Services](#)

Penn State University

January 2003 to June 2004

- Evaluation and assessment of various programs in the College of Engineering
- Collect and analyze both qualitative and quantitative data

Graduate Research Assistant

[Consortium for the Education of Many-Body Applications \(CEMBA\)](#)

Penn State University

September 2000 to June 2004.

- Evaluation of NSF-funded Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program (IGERT)
- Collect and analyze student interview and survey data

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Statistical Consultant

[Center for the Study of Higher Education \(CSHE\)](#)

Penn State University

Summer 2003

- Analyze data from survey measuring law students study behaviors sponsored by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC)
- Prepare manuscript for conference presentation

Data Analyst

Center for the Study of Higher Education

Penn State University

January 2003 to September 2003

- Collect and monitor survey data for a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project focusing on the understanding of what factors contribute to successful grant projects

Item Writer

Learning Partnership

Wheeling Jesuit University

Fall, 2002

- Write and review multiple-choice items for the development of online high school science curriculum on water management

Assessment Consultant

Cen-Clear Child Agency, Philipsburg, PA

January 2001 to August 2002

- Provide assistance in the assessment of an after-school program for rural high school students
- Review and develop surveys and rating scales
- Analyze and interpret survey data

Data Analysis Consultant

Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research (EBR) Laboratory

University of Arizona

May 1998 to March 2002

- Analyze survey data of public perception of chemical weapons disposal sites using hierarchical linear modeling
- Analyze newspaper articles discussing chemical weapons disposal sites using content analysis

Item Writer

NASA Classroom of the Future

Wheeling Jesuit University

November 1998 to May 1999

- Write and review interpretive multiple-choice items for the *Astronomy Village*, an innovative middle-school curriculum

Assessment Consultant

Schreyer Institute for Innovation in Learning

Penn State University

September 1998 to May 1999

- Consultations with faculty regarding innovations in classroom teaching
- Compile resource materials on current research in assessment

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Educational Psychology 010: Individual Differences and Education

Department of Educational Psychology

Penn State University

Fall 2000

Instructor, Educational Psychology 101: Introduction to Educational Statistics

Department of Educational Psychology

Penn State University

Summer 2000

Seminar Instructor

Informational Technology Services

Penn State University

1999 – 2004

- Teach faculty, staff, and students various software programs including Word, SPSS, Eudora, ANGEL, Excel, PowerPoint, and Minitab

Teaching Assistant

Department of Educational Psychology

Penn State University

- Assistant for Introduction to Educational Statistics (September 1999 to May 2000; Summer 2001)
- Assistant for Introduction to Applied Educational Statistics (September 1999 to May 2000)

Instructor, Speech Communications 126: Learning and Listening Skills in the College Environment

Department of Speech Communications

Penn State University

Fall, 1999

PUBLICATIONS

Okudan, G. & Rzasa Zappe, S. E. (In press). Teaching product design to non-engineers: A review of experience, opportunities & problems. *Technovation*.

Okudan, G. & Rzasa, S. E. (2006). A project-based approach to entrepreneurial leadership education. *Technovation*. 26 (2), 195-210.

Wise, J.C., Lee, S.H., and Rzasa Zappe, S.E. (2006). Learning by doing: Four years of online assessment in engineering education research. In D. Williams (Ed.), *Online Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation: Emerging Practices*, 305-314, Hershey, PA: Idea Group.

- Bilén, S. G., Kisenwether, E. C., Rzasa, S. E. & Wise, J. (2005). Developing students' entrepreneurial skills and mindset. *Journal of Engineering Education*, 94 (2), 233–243.
- Suen, H. K., & Rzasa, S. E. (2003). Psychometric foundations of behavioral assessment. In S. N. Haynes & E. M. Heiby (vol. eds). *Comprehensive Handbook of Psychological Assessment, Volume 3: Behavioral assessment*, 37-56, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
- Williams, B.L., Suen, H.K., Rzasa, S. E., Heikkila, T., & Pennock-Roman, M. (2003). Diffusion of US Army chemical weapons disposal technologies: Public perception of technology attributes. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 46(4), 499-522.
- Hammer, C.S., Pennock-Roman, M., Rzasa, S.E., & Tomblin, J.B. (2002). An analysis of the Test of Language Development-Primary for item bias. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* 11(3), 274-284.
- Williams, B.L., Suen, H.K., Brown, S., Bruhn, R., de Blaquiére, R., & Rzasa, S.E. (2001). A hierarchical linear model of factors associated with public participation among residents living near the U.S. Army's chemical weapons stockpile sites. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 44(1), 41-65.

PRESENTATIONS

- Cimbala, J. M., Pauley, L. L., Zappe, S. E., & Hsieh, M. (June, 2006). Experiential learning in fluid flow class. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Engineering Education, Chicago, IL.
- Zappe, S. E., Guertin, L. A., & Kim, H. (April, 2006). Just-In-Time Teaching: A web-based method of integrating classroom assessment and instruction. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. Available at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/ser163/AERA2006.pdf>.
- Locklin, R., Rzasa Zappe, S. E., Ray, P.C., & Howell, P. R. (October, 2005). Using measurement to drive instructional design: Experience from two years of e-learning in a general education science course. Paper presented at the annual meeting of E-Learn World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education, Vancouver, Canada.
- Guertin, L. A., Zappe, S. E., & Kim, H. (October, 2005). Methods of assessing Just-in-Time Teaching in introductory-level geoscience courses. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Salt Lake City, UT.

- Masters, C., Rzasa, S. E., Lane, J., & Behr, R. (June, 2005). How to assess or not to assess: That is the question. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Engineering Education, Nashville, TN.
- Guertin, A., Rzasa, S. E., & Kim, H. (May, 2005). Effects of Just-In-Time Teaching on student learning. Paper presented at Colloquy XI, sponsored by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, Penn State University, University Park, PA.
- Okundan, G. E., Kisenwether, E., & Rzasa, S. E. (March, 2005). A methodology for curriculum development, revising and assessment for entrepreneurial skill development: Stage I - Entrepreneurial Leadership Course. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, San Jose, CA.
- Okundan, G. E. & Rzasa, S. E. (October, 2004). Teaching entrepreneurial leadership: A report on work in progress. Paper presented at the 2004 annual meeting of Frontiers in Education, Savannah, GA.
- Wise, J. C. & Rzasa, S. E. (October, 2004). Institutionalizing the assessment of engineering entrepreneurship. Paper presented at the 2004 annual meeting of Frontiers in Education, Savannah, GA.
- Wise, J. C., Litzinger, T. A., & Rzasa, S. E. (October, 2004). Three levels of ethics. Workshop held at the 2004 annual meeting of Frontiers in Education, Savannah, GA.
- Rzasa, S. E., Wise, J.C., & Suen, H. K. (October, 2004). Item writing: The art and science. Workshop held at the 2004 annual meeting of Frontiers in Education, Savannah, GA.
- Evensen, D. H., Rzasa, S. E., Zappe, S. M. (April, 2004). A survey of first-year law students' study practices. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Rzasa, S. E., Wise, J., Kisenwether, L. (March, 2004). Evaluation of entrepreneurial endeavors in the classroom: The student perspective. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance, San Jose, CA.
- Wise, J., Kisenwether, L., & Rzasa, S. (June, 2003). Assessing engineering entrepreneurship. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Engineering Education, Nashville, TN.
- Rzasa, S. E. (April, 2003). Item analysis on a developmental rating scale using both statistical and qualitative methods. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the

American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL. Available at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/ser163/AERA2003.pdf>.

Hammer, C., Pennock-Roman, M., Rzasa, S., Tomblin, B. (June, 2000). An analysis of the Test of Language Development – Primary for item bias. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Child Language Development. Madison, WI.

Rzasa, S. & Pennock-Roman, M., Hammer, C. (April, 2000). Detecting items with differential difficulty and dissimilar factor structure for black and white kindergarten children on the TOLD-P:2. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.

Williams, B., Suen, H., Rzasa, S., de Blaquiére, R., Brown, S., Bruhn-Keup, R., & Santa Maria-Robles, A. (1999, December) Macro and micro prediction of risk perception among residents living near U.S. Army chemical weapons stockpile sites. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Risk Analysis, Atlanta, GA.

Cillessen, A. & Rzasa, S. (April, 1999). Children's goals and strategies in aggressive interactions with peers. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Albuquerque, NM.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Rzasa, S.E., & Suen, H.K. (February, 2002). A comparison of content analysis related to U.S. Army chemical weapons stockpile disposal issues from news articles before and after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Tucson, AZ: The Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.

Suen, H.K., & Rzasa, S.E. (December, 2001). A follow-up content analysis of post-9-11 news articles related to U.S. Army chemical weapons stockpiles disposal issues. Tucson, AZ: The Environmental, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.

Suen, H.K., Rzasa, S.E., & Allison, C. (September, 2001). A content analysis of news articles related to U.S. Army Chemical Weapons Stockpile Disposal Issues. Tucson, AZ: The Arizona Prevention Center.

Suen, H. K., & Rzasa, S.E. (February, 2001). The development of a coding system for the content analysis of media coverage of chemical weapons-related events and issues near U.S. Army chemical weapons disposal sites. Tucson, AZ: The Arizona Prevention Center.

- Suen, H.K., & Rzasa, S.E. (February, 2000). Predictors of risk perception and trust in army activities among residents at chemical weapon disposal sites. Tucson, AZ: The Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.
- Suen, H.K., & Rzasa, S.E. (December, 1999) A multilevel exploratory analysis of personal and site variables as predictors of perception of emergency preparedness and perception of chemical weapon disposal methods. Tucson, AZ: The Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.
- Suen, H.K., & Rzasa, S.E. (September, 1999) Predictors of readiness to participate in site-related decisions risk among individuals residing in chemical weapons stockpile communities: A Hierarchical Linear Modeling Analysis. Tucson, AZ: The Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.
- Williams, B.L., Suen, H.K., Keup, R.B., Brown, S., de Blaquiére, R., & Rzasa, S.E. (September, 1999). Report I: Hierarchical Determinants of Public Participation among Residents living near the U.S. Army's Chemical Weapons Stockpile Sites. Tucson, AZ: The Environment, Behavior, and Risk Research Laboratory, Arizona Prevention Center, University of Arizona.

SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Reviewer for the following:

- Annual conference of Frontiers in Education, 2005, 2006
- Annual conference for National Council of Measurement in Education, 2004
- Annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, 2004 to 2005
- Annual conference for the American Society for Engineering Education, 2004
- Grant proposal for the National Science Foundation, 2004

Member of the following:

- American Society for Engineering Education, 2006 to present
- American Educational Research Association, 1998 to present
- National Council of Measurement in Education, 1998 to present