

Laura Michelle Boehnlein Kramer

Education

Ph.D. Quantitative Psychology, May 1994

L.L. Thurstone Psychometric Laboratory, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Dissertation: "Pre-choice Screening of Options in Decision Making"

Secondary studies in Cognitive Psychology and Mathematical Statistics

M.A. Experimental Psychology, May 1990

B.A. Psychology, Magna Cum Laude, May 1990

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Thesis: "Effects of Subject Self-Esteem on Perception of Other Individuals who are Perceived as Outstanding"

Graduate secondary studies in Sensation, Perception, and Cognition

Undergraduate minor studies in Mathematical Statistics and Medieval History

Work Experience

Associate Director, Jul 2010 – Present.

Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE), School of Education, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

Psychometrician / Bureau Manager, Jul 2008 – Jun 2010.

Bureau of Assessment (Psychometrician), Office of Instructional Programs and Services, Mississippi Department of Education, Jackson, MS

Senior Psychometrician, Jan 2007 – Jun 2008.

Senior Educational Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Consultant, Jan 2000 – Jan 2007.

Test Development Section, Division of Accountability Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), Raleigh, NC

Project Leader, Multiple Choice Test Development, Jun 1999 – Dec 1999.

Educational Research and Evaluation Specialist, Aug 1994 – Dec 1999.

Technical Outreach for Public Schools (TOPS), Department of Urban Affairs, North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, NC

Major Accomplishments

Beginning in 2008, Mississippi completely revised its AA-AAS (alternate or “1%” assessment), starting with developing academically-focused extended content standards. The re-establishment of the AA-AAS involved extensive teacher training on cognitive complexity, access issues (such as fairness, bias, accommodations, and support), and scoring (for both teachers in the field and state raters over the summer). I developed many training modules, a teacher resource guide, a complexity map (to relate complexity to Webb’s DOK and NAAC’s Modified DOK), and guidance on validly assessing objectives while providing varying levels of supports to students.

MS entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education in June, 2008. Upon my arrival in July, 2008, a primary task was to meet all material terms outlined in the MOA. This required many changes in test development, administration and monitoring, and reporting, as well as documenting all aspects of the assessment system. As of June, 2010, only three material terms remain to be met, two policy (not psychometric) issues and ongoing monitoring of teacher scoring of the state’s revised AA-AAS.

In 2006, North Carolina was one of the first 10 states to receive approval under the NCLB Standards and Assessment Technical Peer Review. As the senior psychometrician (and for the early years of NCLB, the only psychometrician) for NC, I was responsible for all aspects of technical quality of the tests and prepared the bulk of the peer review submissions.

In 2005, NC was recognized for its pioneering Test of Computer Skills by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills; at the time, NC was the only state to require computer proficiency as a graduation requirement. I led the test development team when this test was redesigned in 2006 to be delivered online. The revised test included innovative machine-scored open-ended performance tasks requiring the students to actually manipulate spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing documents, and an email client.

From 1994 onward, I took on increasing responsibility for the technical attributes of North Carolina’s tests and implemented improvements to the test development process resulting in increased reliability, stronger validity evidence, and ongoing quality control measures. My work contributed significantly to the testing program being ranked best in the nation by the Princeton Review in 2002; that grade included an A for test quality.

Other Experience

Consultant, Sep 1991 – Jun 1995.

Summer Intern, May 1991 – Aug 1991.

Research Triangle Institute, Center for Research in Education, Research Triangle Park, NC

Instructor, Aug 1992 – Jul 1993; Jan 1994 – May 1994.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Classes: Introductory Psychology; Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences

Teaching Assistant, Aug 1989 – May 1990; Aug 1991 – May 1992; Aug 1993 – Dec 1993.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Classes: Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (undergraduate and graduate levels)

Research Assistant, Aug 1988 – May 1991.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Consultant (Statistics, Research Design, Assessment, Technical Review), May 1990 – Present.

Tutor (Math, French, Statistics, Measurement, Assessment), Sep 1984 – Dec 2007.

Other Professional Activities and Service

Peer Reviewer, Standards and Assessments, U.S. Department of Education, Feb 2005 – Present.

Technical Reviewer for Connecticut Enhanced Assessment Grant, “Establishing the Validity of Test Accommodations and Score Interpretations for Students with Disabilities: A Collaboration of State-based Research” technical report, May 2010.

Reviewer for 2010 American Educational Research Association Conference, Aug 2009.

Leadership Team, Technical Issues in Large Scale Assessment (TILSA) State Collaborative on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS), Council of Chief State School Officers, Oct 2007 – Jun 2009

Technical Advisory Committee, Mississippi Department of Education, Sep 2006 – Jun 2008.

Technical Assistance, U.S. Department of Education / Hawaii Department of Education, Apr 2007.

Education Policy Fellowship Program (NC-EPFP), Institute for Educational Leadership, Sep 2004 – May 2005.

Publications

- Hess, K., and Kramer, L. (2010). Teacher Resource Guide for the Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks (MAAECF). Jackson, MS: Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Instructional Programs and Services.
- Kramer, L. (2009). Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks Technical Manual for 2008-2009 Test Administration. Jackson, MS: Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Instructional Programs and Services.
- Kramer, L.M.B., Brown, R.A., Gallagher, M.P., Englehart, T.P., and Bazemore, M.G. (2008). The North Carolina Mathematics Tests Edition 3 Technical Report. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Accountability Services.
- Bazemore, M., VanDyk, P., Kramer, L., Brown, R., and Yelton, A. (2006). The North Carolina Mathematics Tests Technical Report. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Accountability Services.
- Burkheimer, G.J., Forsyth, B.H., Wheelless, S.C., Mowbray, K.A., Boehnlein, L.M., Knight, S.M., Veith, K., and Knepper, P.R. (1992). Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study Field Test Methodology Report: BPS 90/92. Washington, DC: US Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement.

National Papers and Presentations

- Camacho, C., and Kramer, L. (2010, June). The Evolution of Assessment: How We Can Use Technology to Fulfill the Promise of Assessment. Presented at the National Conference on Student Assessment, Detroit, MI.
- Winter, P. and Kramer, L. (2009, August). Co-Chairs of National Symposium: Test Score Comparability and Validity: Preparing for the Future of Assessment. "Introduction." Washington, D.C.
- Winter, P., Lottridge, S., Sireci, S., McBride, N., Kopriva, R., and Kramer, L. (2009, June). Comparability of Test Scores: What's New, What's Next? "Alternative Formats". Presented at the National Conference on Student Assessment, Los Angeles, CA.
- Insko, W., Muenks, M., Kramer, L., and Rigney, S. (2009, June). End-of-Course Tests: Strategies for Making AYP Determinations. "Score Banking and the Senior Snapshot." Presented at the National Conference on Student Assessment, Los Angeles, CA.
- Miles, J., Turhan, A., Um, K., Zyzowski, G., and Kramer, L. (2009, June). Three States' Experiences in Implementing a Vertical Scale. "Three States' Experiences in Implementing a Vertical Scale: Whys and Wherefores," and "Three States' Experiences in Implementing a Vertical Scale: Mississippi – How to Drop Back 10 and Punt." Presentation at the National Conference on Student Assessment, Los Angeles, CA.

National Papers and Presentations, continued

Kramer, L., Sireci, S., Martineau, J., Lottridge, S., Dunn, J., and Schulz, M. (2008, June).

Evaluating the Comparability of Test Variations: Part 1 – Translations/Adaptations and Computer-Based. “Introduction” and “Evaluating the Comparability of Test Variations: Computer-Delivered.” Paper presented at the National Conference on Student Assessment, Orlando, FL.

Gibbs, S., Kramer, L., and West, B. (2006, June). To CBT or Not to CBT. “North Carolina’s Online Test of Computer Skills.” Paper presented at the annual Large-Scale Assessment Conference of the Council of Chief State School Officers, San Francisco, CA.

Sanford, E.E., Ballator, N., Kramer, L.M.B., and Morgan, J. (1995, April). Individual Differences in Performance on Items with Similar Content and Different Formats. Paper presented at the annual convention of the National Council on Measurement in Education, San Francisco, CA.

Other Presentations

Test Development 101 (Mathematics, grades 3 and 8, and high school). (2010, July). Prepared for Hickory (NC) Public Schools. Hickory, NC.

Scoring the MAAECF. (2010, February). Webinar for Teachers Administering the Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks. Jackson, MS.

Test Development 101 (Mathematics, grades 4 and 6, and Algebra I). (2010, January). Prepared for Hickory (NC) Public Schools. Hickory, NC.

Making Sure the MAAECF is Accessible and Fair. (2009, December and 2010, January). Presentation at Teacher Trainings for the Mississippi Alternate Assessment of Extended Curriculum Frameworks. Oxford, MS; Hattiesburg, MS., and Meridian, MS.

Item Writing 101. (2009, October). Presentation for the Mississippi School Improvement Symposium. Meridian, MS.

Using Data as an Instructional Tool: We Know the Scores, Now What? (2008, October). Presentation for Madison Co (MS) School District. Ridgeland, MS.

Comparability Between Online and Paper/Pencil Versions of the EOC Tests. (2008, February). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.

Understanding Individual Student Reports. (2008, February). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.

What Can Data Tell Us? (2008, February). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.

Setting Performance Standards. (2007, July). Presentation for the Kenan Institute Fellows. Raleigh, NC.

How Do They Do That? Item Writing in North Carolina. (2007, February). (With McBride, N.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.

Other Presentations, continued

- Voulez-vous Enfoncer avec Nous? Embedding and What it Means for You. (2007, February). (With Craven, R.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Myth-Conceptions: Fact vs. Fiction in Assessing Math. (2007, February). (With Davis, C.E.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Online Testing Initiatives in North Carolina. (2007, February). (With Craven, R., and Ragsdale, S.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Sausage, Laws, and Testing: The North Carolina Test Development Process. (2007, February). (With McBride, N.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- North Carolina Test Development Process. (2006, November). Presentation for the NC Science Teachers Association. Greensboro, NC.
- Test Construction and Standard Setting. (2006, November). Presentation for the NC Science Teachers Association. Greensboro, NC.
- Data: What it *Really* Tells Us. (2006, November). Presentation for the NC Science Teachers Association. Greensboro, NC.
- Grade 8 Science Testing (2006, May). (With Jones, M., and McBride, N.). Presentation for Middle School Math-Science Leadership Consortium. Atlantic Beach, NC.
- North Carolina Test Development Process. (2006, February). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Test Construction and Standard Setting – Social Studies. (2006, February). Presentation at the North Carolina Social Studies Leadership Institute. Greensboro, NC.
- Test Construction and Standard Setting. (2006, February). (With McBride, N.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Edition 3 Mathematics: What We Know and Where We're Headed. (2006, February). (With Thissen, D.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Data: What it *Really* Tells Us. (2005, February). (With Blumenreich, T.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Understanding North Carolina's Testing Program. (2004, February). (With Murphy, K.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.
- Developing North Carolina Items for State Tests. (2001, February). (With McManus, S., Koons, H., Geary, M., and Stubblefield, G.). Presentation at the North Carolina Statewide Accountability Conference. Greensboro, NC.

Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa

Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology

Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

Mortar Board Honor Society

Special Skills

Statistical software: SAS, BILOG, and MULTILOG

Certificates in Microsoft Office products: Word, Excel, Access, and Project 98

Certificates in SAS: Intermediate and Advanced

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)

Phi Delta Kappa

Interests and Other Affiliations

Identification and education of the gifted

Educational achievement and access

Animal behavior and training; Endorsed Companion Trainer, National Association of Dog Obedience Instructors; Full Member, Association of Pet Dog Trainers

Alumna, Phi Mu Women's Fraternity

Foreign travel and increasing multi-cultural awareness

Community Involvement

Orange County (NC) Animal Protection Society (Dog Training Program) 1994 – 2001

Carolina Canine Pet & Performance 2001 – 2008

Eastern Carolina Hunting Retriever Club 2002 – Present

West Mississippi Hunting Retriever Club 2008 – 2010

Doggy Do! Pet and Performance (MS) 2008 – 2010

Doggy Do! Pet and Performance (KS) 2010 – Present