

# SAROJANI S MOHAMMED

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## Education

Ph.D. Educational Psychology, The University of Texas at Austin 2008  
S.B. Brain & Cognitive Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2004

## Current Role

### The Learning Accelerator (TLA), Austin, TX

Partner 10/2014 – present

- Dedicated to understanding [if, when, and how](#) blended learning is implemented effectively in K-12 school districts nationally.
- Leading pilot [Blended Learning Measurement Fellowship](#) (2017 – 2018) with a diverse cohort of individuals who will be conducting research that advances our measurement agenda for blended learning.
- Guest edited May 2017 special issue of the *Journal of Online Learning and Research*: [Connecting Research and Practice to Understand Efficacy in K-12 Blended Learning](#).
- Published blended learning [Research Clearinghouse](#), [District Guide to Measurement](#), [Measurement Framework](#), and [Measurement Agenda](#).
- Feb 2017 – present: providing measurement guidance, leadership, and expertise as Measurement Advisor (formerly Partner) at [Imagine Worldwide](#) as part of TLA’s incubation efforts.

## Research and Evaluation Expertise

### The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk, The University of Texas at Austin

Principal Investigator, [Middle School Matters Institute](#) (\$2.6 M, 3 years) 11/2012 – 08/2014

- Managed a 3 Tier approach to increase middle school educators’ access to and implementation of research-based practices to increase the number of students well prepared to earn a meaningful diploma.
- 100% of participants at the 2013 summer conference, which provided knowledge and targeted support in developing a campus transformation plan, agreed that, “*As a result of my participation in this conference, I feel more confident that I can improve student outcomes at my school*”.

Co-Investigator and Director, 01/2012 – 08/2014

previously [Webmaster & Graduate Research Assistant, Service and Dissemination Core, \[Texas Center for Learning Disabilities\]\(#\)](#) 01/2006 – 12/2011

- Independently conceived of and managed *Education Research Matters*, a series of columns dedicated to translating research to practice and building users’ capacity for consuming research.
- Led the design and build of the Center’s website; effectively and efficiently transitioned the site from content- to user-driven navigation (including usability study and move to a Content Management System).

Project Manager, Measurement & Assessment Team, Promoting Adolescents' Comprehension of Text: Reading for Understanding Project 01/2011 – 08/2014

- Managed a team in developing measures of comprehension, American history content, and metacognitive processes for the IES-funded study.
- Developed and oversaw a data management process (entry, cleaning, checking) resulting in high levels of data accuracy (>95% in a relational database of >1500 student records and growing).

Principal Investigator, External Evaluation of the RAISE<sup>up</sup> Texas Demonstration 12/2010 – 08/2014  
(\$276,277, 4 years)

- Led a formative and summative evaluation of an adolescent literacy program (Strategic Instructional Model/Content Literacy Continuum: SIM/CLC) implemented in 8 central Texas middle schools/6 districts.
- Led development of a stakeholder-driven, two-level, theory-based logic model to guide evaluation questions, design, data collection, and analyses.
- Effectively combined student accountability and demographic data across districts to answer rigorous regional- and school-level questions.
- Created a calendar for data sources and evaluation milestones, which districts added to their bimonthly steering committee meetings.

Data Manager, Collaborative Strategic Reading (CSR) Project 09/2008 – 06/2013

- Independently built, and managed the maintenance of, a student- and teacher-level database of 2000+ student records for a multi-year, multi-state research study investigating the effect of CSR instruction on adolescents' reading comprehension.

Principal Investigator, External Evaluation of the 2011 – 2012 ACE (A Community for Education) Project 05/2012 – 10/2012  
(\$25,000)

- Led a summative evaluation of a one-on-one literacy tutoring program provided in either English or Spanish at 11 Austin-area campuses.
- Conceived a graphical representation for understanding differences in progress monitoring trends between students who did or did not exit intervention, for ACE's board, funders, and school districts.
- Used data to identify an "optimal dosage" recommendation for the number of weeks of intervention that should be provided before determining response, which ACE then implemented.
- Conceived and achieved implementation of a regression discontinuity study design to allow for causal analyses in 2012 – 2013.

Project Manager, State Response to Intervention (RTI) Collaborative, Center on Instruction Special Education/RTI Strand 01/2006 – 10/2012

- Led a collaborative focused on documenting 8 State Departments of Education's practices in implementing RTI, as supported by their Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs); developed and produced a series of technical assistance resources based on lessons learned.
- Initiated and maintained high participation rates and engagement in quarterly/triannual collaborative calls and meetings among the state departments and RCCs for the 5-year duration of the project.

Principal Investigator, External Evaluation of the 2009 – 2010 Austin Partners in Education Classroom Coaching Programs (\$21,296) 03/2010 – 12/2010

- Led a summative evaluation of four mentoring programs implemented in 2<sup>nd</sup> (bilingual), and 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics, in 23 schools in the Austin Independent School District.
- Conceived of and managed a factor analysis of an existing survey to answer (previously unanswered) evaluation questions.
- Implemented geographic and text cloud data visualization techniques to extract practically meaningful findings from qualitative data.

#### Evaluation Research Services Inc., Austin, TX

Evaluation Consultant, Washington HB2136 & RTI<sup>2</sup>; Hawai'i Pihana Na Mamo & Reading First; and Oregon Reading First External Evaluations 11/2005 – 08/2013

- Designed collection of, securely managed, analyzed, and reported on quantitative data for thousands of students to evaluate statewide early reading and RTI programs.
- Developed and implemented a student matching heuristic on a dozen demographic variables to create highly matched groups for analysis (>90% match on each variable) as part of a quasi-experimental design.
- Improved response rate from year 1 (24%) to year 4 (est. 40%) on a four-year, 11-district, 113-school survey of Washington educators.
- Applied data visualization techniques (e.g., sparklines) to present vast amounts of quantitative data in easily interpretable formats.

#### Academic Appointments, The University of Texas at Austin

Assistant Director, The Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk (MCPER), and the Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts (VGC) 05/2011 – 08/2014

Associate Director of Program Evaluation, MCPER 02/2010 – 08/2014

Director, Web-based Content and Dissemination, MCPER ([www.mcper.org](http://www.mcper.org)) 01/2009 – 08/2014

#### Selected Professional Service

Strategic & Research Advisor, *Mission Advancement Committee*, [United Way for Greater Austin](http://www.unitedwayforgreateraustin.org) 2010 – present

Scientist Reviewer, Institute of Education Sciences - NCER, fiscal years 2018, & 2013 - 2016 [Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships in Education Research](#) 10/2017 – 02/2018, 2013 - 2016

Guest Editor, Special Issue of the *Journal of Online Learning and Research: Connecting Research and Practice to Understand Efficacy in K-12 Blended Learning* 2016 - 2017

Member, Technical Working Group, Office of Educational Technology, USED, [Rapid Cycle Technology Evaluation Initiative](#) 2015 - present

Member, Technical Working Group, Office of Special Education Projects, USED, [Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities](#) 2015 - 2017

Member, [IDEA Public Schools Blended Learning Consultants Group](#) 2015 - 2016