

Merve Sarac

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RESEARCH INTERESTS	Quantitative Research Methodology, Latent Variable Models, Item Response Theory (IRT), Test Security, and Psychometrics	
EDUCATION	University of Wisconsin-Madison , Madison, Wisconsin Ph.D. Candidate, Quantitative Methods, May, 2023 (expected graduation) <i>Minor in Statistics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisor: Dr. James Wollack University of Connecticut , Storrs, Connecticut M.A., Research Methods, Measurement, and Evaluation, August, 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masters Thesis: “English as a Second Language Proficiency: An IRT Approach to Scoring”• Advisor: Dr. Eric Loken Bogazici University , Istanbul, Turkey M.S., Secondary School Mathematics Education, August, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masters Thesis: “A Prospective Secondary Mathematics Teacher’s Development of the Meaning of the Cartesian Form of Complex Numbers”• Advisor: Dr. Gulseren Karagoz Akar B.S., Integrated B.S. and M.S. Program in Teaching Mathematics, May, 2014	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Madison (08/19 - 05/20) –Ed Psych 773: Factor Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling & Cluster Analysis (Spring 2020) –Ed Psych 771: Test Construction (Fall 2019) Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison (08/18 - 05/19) –Ed Psych 761: Statistical Methods Applied to Education II (Spring 2019) –Ed Psych 760: Statistical Methods Applied to Education I (Fall 2018)	
AWARDS & HONORS	Early Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison (03/20): \$1,000 Turkish Ministry of National Education Fellowship for Graduate Studies (02/14): \$110,000 Prof. Dr. Hikmet Sebuhtekin Education Grant Award, Bogazici University (11/13): \$900 Turkish Ministry of National Education Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies: \$7,200 International Student Exchange Program Grant in the United States: \$20,000 High Honors Graduation Certificate, Bogazici University (06/14)	
PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS	Project Assistant, The Office of Testing and Evaluation Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison (09/20 - present) Research Intern, Office of Research Strategies, National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) (06/22-08/22) Statistical Consulting, The Office of Testing and Evaluation Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison (11/21 - 03/22)	

Research Intern, Office of Research Strategies, National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) (06/21-07/21)

Project Assistant, The Institute of Education Sciences (IES; #R305D190053) project *Bayesian dynamic borrowing: A method for utilizing historical data in education research*. Principal Investigators: David Kaplan, University of Wisconsin-Madison & Jianshen Chen, College Board (07/20)

Research Intern, The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) (06/20-08/20)

Project Assistant, The Office of Testing and Evaluation Services, University of Wisconsin-Madison (09/18 - 09/19)

Research Assistant, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (10/15 - 09/16)

Research Assistant, Bogazici University (10/13 - 05/14)

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Inclusion Organizer, Diversity and Inclusion Association (DIA) Leadership, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2022-present)

Graduate Student Representative, Diversity Issues and Testing Committee (CODIT), National Council on Measurement in Education (2022-present)

Event Organizer, *We're here too! An Exciting Networking Event for Historically Marginalized Researchers & Students*, Diversity Issues and Testing Committee (CODIT), National Council on Measurement in Education (04/2022)

Panel Session Organizer, *Not There Yet: Addressing Differential Educational Outcomes for Marginalized Populations in the Era of COVID-19*, Diversity Issues and Testing Committee (CODIT), National Council on Measurement in Education (04/2022)

Panel Session Organizer, *Intersectional Career Panel*, Diversity and Inclusion Association (DIA) Leadership, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (03/2022)

Quantitative Methods Area Student Representative, Diversity and Inclusion Association (DIA) Steering Committee, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2022-present)

National Council on Measurement in Education-Graduate Student Issues Committee Standards Study Group (2021-present)

Educational Psychology Graduate Student Mentoring Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2019-present)

PUBLICATIONS

Sarac, M. & Loken, E. (2022). Examining Patterns of Omitted Responses in a Large-Scale English Language Proficiency Test. *International Journal of Testing*, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15305058.2022.2070756>

Sarac, M. & Feinberg, R. (2022). Exploring the Utility of Nonfunctional Distractors. In M. Wiberg, D. Molenaar, J. González, J.-S. Kim, & H. Hwang (Eds.), *Quantitative Psychology: The 86th Annual Meeting of the Psychometric Society* (pp. 83-93). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-04572-1_7

Murphy, D., Sarac, M., & Sedivy S. (*in press*). Why U.S. undergraduate students are (not) studying

languages other than English. *Second Language Research & Practice*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN
PREPARATION

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (in preparation). Reducing Score Bias Through Real-Time Rerouting of Examinees with Anomalous Responses.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (in preparation). Real-Time Anomalous Response Detection for Computer-Based Linear Tests.

Karagoz Akar, G., Sarac, M. & Belin, M. (in preparation). Reconstructing Rectangular Form of Complex Numbers.

Karagoz Akar, G. & Sarac, M. (in preparation). Development of Complex Numbers Through Quantitative Reasoning: The Case of Esra.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Sarac, M., Feinberg, R., O'Donnell, F., Ong, T. Q. (2022, April). Interactive Score Reporting Dashboard Improvement through NLP Analysis of Focus Group Feedback. *National Council on Measurement in Education*, San Diego, CA.

Sarac, M. & Xu, T. (2021, December). Two-Step Detection of Examinees with Preknowledge and Exposed Items. *Conference on Test Security*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Feinberg, R. (2021, November). The Utility of Nonfunctioning Distractors for Credentialing Tests. *Conference on Test Security*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Feinberg, R. (2021, November). Topic Modeling and Sentiment Analysis of User Feedback: Improving a Score Reporting Dashboard. *Natural Language Processing (NLP) in Assessment*, National Board of Medical Examiners Educational Virtual Conference.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2021, October). Reducing Score Bias Through Real-Time Rerouting of Examinees with Anomalous Responses: Impact of Relaxing the Assumption of Identical Forms. *Conference on Test Security*, Virtual.

Feinberg, R. & Sarac, M. (2021, July). Exploring the Utility of Nonfunctioning Distractors. *International Meeting of the Psychometric Society 2021*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2021, June). Reducing Score Bias Through Real-Time Rerouting of Examinees with Anomalous Responses. *National Council on Measurement in Education*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Xu, T. (2021, June). Preknowledge Detection in Multiple-Format Testing. *National Council on Measurement in Education*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2020, September). Real-Time Anomalous Response Detection for Computer-Based Linear Tests. *National Council on Measurement in Education*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Loken, E. (2020, September). An Empirical Study of Omitted Answers on a Language Proficiency Test. *National Council on Measurement in Education*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2020, July). A Score Differencing Method for Item Preknowledge Detection in Real-time. *International Meeting of the Psychometric Society 2020*, Virtual.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2019, November). A Score Differencing Index for Real-Time Anomalous Response Detection for Computer-Based Linear Tests. *Ideas in Testing*, Chicago, IL.

Sarac, M. & Wollack, J. (2019, October). A Method for Real-Time Anomalous Response Detection for Computer-Based Linear Tests. *Conference on Test Security*, Miami, FL.

Sarac, M. & Karagoz Akar, G. (2017, October). A Prospective Secondary Mathematics Teachers Development of the Meaning of Complex Numbers Through Quantitative Reasoning. *39th Annual Meeting of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education North American Chapter (PME-NA 39)*, Indianapolis, IN.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS	Writing Test Questions (2019, November). <i>Nursing Professional Development Fall Workshop</i> . South Central Wisconsin Affiliate of the Association for Nursing Professional Development, Madison, WI.
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING	<p>Creating an Individual Development Plan (2021, March). University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School Professional Development, Madison, WI.</p> <p>Working Effectively in Teams: Fundamentals of Team Dynamics and From Conflict to Collaboration in Teams (2021, March). University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School Professional Development, Madison, WI.</p> <p>Modern Meta-analysis Research Workshop (2021, February). The AERA-ICPSR PEERS Data Hub.</p> <p>Grant Writing (2021, January). University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School Professional Development, Madison, WI.</p> <p>A Practical Approach to Project Management for Graduate Students (2021, January). University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate School Professional Development, Madison, WI.</p> <p>Learning Environment and Pedagogics Workshop (2021, January). <i>Teaching Academy</i>. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.</p> <p>Inclusive Teaching Workshop (2020, November). <i>Inclusive Teaching in a Difficult Semester Series</i>. Delta Program in partnership with the UW-Madison Collaborative for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Madison, WI.</p> <p>Workshop by Scott Long (2018, January). <i>Reproducible Results and the Workflow of Data Analysis</i>. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.</p>
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	<p>Psychometric Society</p> <p>National Council on Measurement in Education</p> <p>American Educational Research Association</p> <p>American Psychological Association</p> <p>American Evaluation Association</p>
COMPUTER SKILLS	<p>Programming Languages & Software: R, Mplus, OpenBUGS, HLM, SPSS, G*Power, AMOS</p> <p>Applications: R Shiny, L^AT_EX, R Markdown</p>