

Tara Heikila

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Mathematics and Science Education, Washington State University, Vancouver, WA.
May 2025. Dissertation: *Because I stay: Exploring the lived experiences of female mid-career middle school mathematics teachers*.

M.S. in Education, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR. Area of concentration: mathematics. June 2005.

B.A. in Education, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR. Area of concentration: social sciences. June 2001.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Seattle University, Assistant Clinical Professor – Teaching, Learning, and Leadership 2026- present

Washington State University, Department of Teaching & Learning Faculty researcher 2025- present

Salem/Keizer School District, Mathematics Department Instructor and instructional coach 2025-2026
2004- 2018, 2021- 2023

Western Oregon University, Division of Education and Leadership Adjunct instructor 2025, 2026

Washington State University, Department of Teaching & Learning Graduate research assistant 2022- 2025
Under supervision of Amy Roth McDuffie, Ph.D.

Washington State University, Department of Teaching & Learning Graduate teaching assistant 2020- 2022
Under supervision of Kristin Lesseig, Ph.D. and David Slavit, Ph.D.

Abiqua Academy, Mathematics Department Instructional mentor, specialist, and instructor 2018- 2021

Silicon Valley Education Foundation, Elevate Math Instructional coach and instructor 2015- 2021

Clackamas School District, Social Sciences and Math Department Instructor of U.S. history and mathematics 2003- 2004

PUBLICATIONS

- Koskey, K. L., Roth McDuffie, A., Fan, Y., **Heikila, T.**, May, T. A., Teuscher, D., Dingman, S. W., Bostic, J. D., & Olson, T. (Submitted for publication). Adaptation of the Three-Step Test-Interview for Evaluating Response Processes and Consequences of Testing Validity Evidence. *Journal of Methods and Measurement in the Social Sciences*.
- Heikila, T. (2025). *Because I stay: Exploring the lived experiences of female mid-career middle school mathematics teachers* (Publication No. 31847775) [Doctoral dissertation, Washington State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.
- Heikila, T.**, Bonge, N.G., Webster, K., Teuscher, D., Roth McDuffie, A., and Dingman, S. (2023, October 1-4). Developing a Qualitative Data Analysis Process with a Multiresearcher Team. In T. Lamberg & M. Doss (Eds.), *Proceedings of the forty-fifth annual meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education*. North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education. Reno, NV, United States.
- Heikila, T. (2021). Teaching online can be sticky. *The Oregon Mathematics Teacher*, March/April, 31-33.
- Heikila, T. (2019). News you can use: Thank you, CPM teachers. *CPM Newsletter*, 1-2. September issue.
- Burton, L., Canady, L., Gribskov, J., **Heikila, T.**, Miller, B., Paylor, J., Sipprell, J., Stitt, A., and Wiese, R. (2005). Go math history. *The Oregon Mathematics Teacher*, October/November, 32-35.
-

PRESENTATIONS International

- Heikila, T. (October-November 2024). *Through the Lens of Phenomenology*. Invited to present at: University of Turku, University of Eastern Finland, and University of Oulu. Turku, Joensuu, and Oulu, Finland.

National

- Teuscher, D., Olson, T., Dingman, S., & **Heikila, T.** (October 2026). *Two tools for teachers to formatively assess their curricular reasoning*. Paper presented at: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Denver, CO.
- Roth McDuffie, A., **Heikila, T.**, Teuscher, D., Dingman, S., & Olson, T. (February 2026). *Two tools for teachers to improve their practices: Collaboration between researchers, districts, and teachers*. Paper presented at: Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. Portland, OR.

Koskey, K. L., Roth McDuffie, A., Fan, Y., **Heikila, T.**, May, T. A., Teuscher, D., Dingman, S.W., Bostic, J. D., & Olson, T. (April 2025). *Integrating cognitive interviewing methods to evaluate response processes validity evidence: Curricular reasoning self-assessment survey suite*. Paper presented at: American Educational Research Association. Denver, CO.

Heikila, T. & Lesseig, K. (February 2025). *Picturing the phenomenon of being a teacher*. Paper presented at: Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. Reno, NV.

Heikila, T. (July 2024). *Picturing teacher retention*. Institute of Hermeneutic Phenomenology, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Omaha, NE.

Heikila, T. (February 2023). *A peek inside: Using photovoice to explore mathematics with youth in the Pacific Northwest*. Poster presented at: Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. New Orleans, LA.

Heikila, T. & Slavit, D. (February 2022). *The relationship between student identity and discourse in K-12 mathematics classrooms*. Paper presented at: Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. Las Vegas, NV.

Heikila, T. (October 2018). *Teacher as a researcher*. Association for Middle Level Education. Orlando, FL.

Regional

Heikila, T. (April 2024). *Say cheese, stay please: Tales of tenacious teachers*. Department of Research and Graduate Studies, Washington State University-Vancouver.

Heikila, T. (March 2023). *Through their lens: How Pacific Northwest youth use photovoice to explore mathematics*. Paper presented at: Oregon Association of Teacher Educators. Portland, OR.

Heikila, T. (August 2022). *Using photovoice to explore mathematics with middle school students*. Presentation at: Oregon Math Leaders. McMinnville, OR.

Heikila, T. (July 2021). *Speaking mathematically with photovoice*. Oregon Math Leaders. Virtual.

Heikila, T. (February 2016). *Partnerships that promote meaningful change: supporting innovative programs that foster middle school student achievement*. Oregon Association for Teacher Educators. Monmouth, OR.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Robert S. Pharr Graduate Fellowship in Honor of Dr. Toshio Akamine	2024
--	------

Washington State University Dissertation Grant	2024
--	------

Boutique Treasure Grant Delta Kappa Gamma	2024
Washington State University Graduate Student Travel Grant	2023, 2024, 2025
Melvin Hamre Scholarship in Science Education	2023
Oregon State Credit Union Teacher Grant	2022
MAPS Credit Union Teacher Grant	2022, 2018, 2017, 2015
Laurence J. Peter Memorial Graduate Fellowship in Teacher Education	2020
Lloyd and Grace Urdal Endowed Scholarship in Education	2020
AMLE Teacher Research Session Grant	2018
Oregon Middle Level Association Grant Recipient	2015

COURSES TAUGHT

Seattle University

EDLS 3820	Mathematics Instruction and Assessment – Fall 2026
TEED 5114	Antiracist Practice and Sociocultural Theories of Learning – Fall 2026
TEED 5220	Teaching for Social Justice I: Elementary Language, Literacy, & Mathematics Foundations – Fall 2026

Western Oregon University

ED 353	Elementary Math Methods- Summer 2026
ED 637	Inquiry into Pedagogy Mathematics- Fall 2025

Washington State University – Vancouver

T&L 352	Teaching Elementary Mathematics- Spring 2021, Spring 2022
T&L 433	Middle Level Mathematics Methods- Fall 2020, Fall 2021
MIT 537	Problem Solving in Elementary Mathematics- Fall 2020