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**Rachel E. Robertson**

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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. **Vanderbilt University**  
Special Education: Behavior Disorders & Applied Behavior Analysis, May 2011

C.A.S. **Queens College**  
Applied Behavior Analysis, May 2005

M.S. **Syracuse University**  
Special Education, Moderate and Severe Disabilities, December 2003

B.A. **Columbia University**, New York, NY  
English & Psychology, May 2000

**CERTIFICATION**

**Board Certified Behavior Analyst**  
Behavior Analysis Certification Board, 2009 – present [Doctoral level (2013 – present)]

**Special Education Teacher Certification**  
Pre-K – 12<sup>th</sup>, New York State, 2006 – present

**Yoga Teacher Certification**  
200 hour, 2023 – present

**HONORS AND  
AWARDS**

**Dean's Distinguished Award**  
Mentorship, 2025

**Partnership to Watch**  
Project SWAY (Supporting Wellbeing with Autistic Adults through Yoga)  
University of Pittsburgh Community Engaged Scholarship Forum, 2024

**Student Research Award in Single-Subject Methodology**  
Council for Exceptional Children Division for Research, 2012

**Steven Apter Award**  
Syracuse University, 2003

**Academic All-Ivy**  
Columbia University, 2000

**ACADEMIC  
APPOINTMENTS**

**Associate Professor of Special Education**, 2021 – present  
Teaching, Learning, & Leading, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh

**Assistant Professor of Special Education, 2013 – 2020**  
Teaching, Learning, & Leading, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh

**Assistant Professor of Special Education, 2011 – 2013**  
Counseling, School Psychology, & Special Education, Duquesne University

**Postdoctoral Fellow in Special Education, 2010 – 2011**  
The Watson Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

**Graduate Student Researcher, 2006 – 2010**  
Vanderbilt Behavior Research Center, Vanderbilt University

**NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**    **Home-Based ABA Therapist, 2009**  
SAIL, Inc., Nashville, TN

**Clinical Intern, 2008**  
Functional Analysis Clinic, Vanderbilt University

**Family-Centered Positive Behavior Support Consultant, 2007 – 2008**  
Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Vanderbilt University

**Coordinator of Autism Services and Behavioral Support, 2004 – 2006**  
Birch Family Services, New York, NY

**Teacher and Paraprofessional, 2002 – 2004**  
Jowonio Inclusive Preschool Program, Syracuse, NY  
Levy Middle School, Syracuse, NY  
Exceptional Family Resources, Syracuse, NY  
T.C. Roberson High School, Asheville, NC  
Applied Behavior Analysis Center of North Carolina, Asheville, NC  
Autism Society of North Carolina, Asheville, NC  
Hall Fletcher Elementary School, Asheville, NC

**PUBLICATIONS**    **Published Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts** (\*=current students; +=former students)  
Robertson, R., +Buonomo, K., \*Rowe, D., & \*Zhang, X. (In press). Communities of research and practice supporting positive behavior in students with autism and intellectual disabilities: Results of a pilot randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*.  
  
+Ampuero, M. & Robertson, R. (In press). Comparing the effectiveness and efficiency of behavioral skills training and brief performance feedback for paraeducators of students with autism. *Journal of Behavioral Education*.  
  
\*Zhang, X., Robertson, R., Li, D., Shen, W., & Li., Q. (In press). Improving functional communication skills in Chinese children with autism through a speech generating device. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disorders*.

+Sobeck, E., & Robertson, R. (In press). Six tips for improving paraeducator implementation of behavior intervention plans. *Teaching Exceptional Children*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00400599241231212>

Robertson, R. E., \*Buonomo, K., & McCarthy, T. (2024). Results of a collaborative professional development for school staff working with students with visual impairments and challenging behavior. *British Journal of Visual Impairment*,  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02646196221135719>

\*Enders, O., \*Buonomo, K., & Robertson, R. (2022). Addressing race and implicit bias in the functional behavior assessment process: A pilot study of pre-service teacher training modules. *Multiple Voices: Disability, Race and Language Intersections in Special Education*, 22, 6-23.

\*Abdellatif, H. & Robertson, R. (2022). Stress-management interventions for special education teachers: A systematic literature review. *Special Education Research and Practice*, 6, 33-50.

\*Ampuero, M., & Robertson, R. (2021). Improving paraprofessional mand training for students with autism through a brief performance feedback intervention. *Education and Treatment of Children*, 45, 157-172.

Robertson, R., \*Buonomo, K., \*Abdellatif, H., & \*DeMaria, S. (2021). Results of a “psychologically wise” professional development to increase teacher use of proactive behavior management strategies. *Psychology in the Schools*, 58, 1724-1740.

Cook, B., Robertson, R., & Maggin, M. (2021). Registered reports in special education: Introduction to the special series. *Remedial and Special Education*, 42, 131-139.

Robertson, R. (2020). Breaking down buy-in: Can lessons from social psychology increase teacher use of proactive behavior management? *Psychology in the Schools*, 57, 1771-1786.

Maggin, D., Robertson, R., & Cook, B. (2020). Introduction to the special series on results-blind peer review: An experimental analysis on reviewer editorial recommendations and manuscript evaluations. *Behavioral Disorders*, 45, 195-206.

\*Schwartz, R., Robertson, R., & \*Westerfield, S. (2020). Increasing the provision of choices within an adult transition program. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 55, 348-361.

Robertson, R., Kokina, A., & Moore, D. (2020). Barriers to implementing behavior intervention plans: Results of a statewide survey. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 22, 145-155.

\*Sobeck, E., Robertson, R., & \*Smith, J. (2020). Effects of didactic instruction and performance feedback on provision of positive behavior supports by paraeducators in inclusive classrooms. *The Journal of Special Education*, 53, 245-255.

- \*Ampuero, M., & Robertson, R. (2019). Paraprofessionals' understandings of problem behavior and positive behavior support for students with autism. *Special Education Research, Policy, and Practice*, 3, 6-22.
- \*Valentini, S., & Robertson, R. (2019). Using social stories to increase social initiations in a child with autism spectrum disorder. *Special Education Research, Policy, and Practice*, 3, 37-53.
- \*Schwartz, R., & Robertson, R. (2019). Synthesis of sexual education literature for adults with intellectual disabilities. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 42, 148-157.
- Robertson, R., & \*Coy, J. (2019). Your student is hungry, tired, angry: Now what? Addressing distal setting events in the classroom. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 51, 361-371.
- \*Sobeck, E., & Robertson, R. (2019). Perspectives on current practices and barriers to training for paraeducators of students with autism in inclusive settings. *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals*, 15, 131-151.
- \*Schles, R., & Robertson, R. (2019). The role of coaching and evidence-based practices for preservice special education teachers and student outcomes: A review of the literature. *Teacher Education and Special Education*, 42, 36-48.
- Severini, K., Ledford, J., & Robertson, R. (2018). Systematic review of problem behavior interventions: Outcomes, demographics, and settings. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48, 3261-3272.
- \*Wynkoop, K., Robertson, R., & \*Schwartz, R. (2018). Effects of two video modeling interventions on the independent living skills of students with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability. *Journal of Special Education Technology*, 33, 145-158.
- \*Wynkoop, K., Robertson, R., & \*Sobeck, E. (2018). Effects of video modeling and video modeling plus prompting and reinforcement on the daily living skills of a student with autism. *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals*, 13, 126-141.
- Lovelace, T., Robertson, R., & Tamayo, S. (2018). Experiences of African American mothers of sons with autism spectrum disorder: Lessons for improving service delivery. *Educational and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 53, 3-16.
- Robertson, R., \*Sobeck, E., \*Wynkoop, K., & \*Schwartz. (2017). Participant diversity in special education research: Parent-implemented behavior interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder. *Remedial and Special Education*, 38, 259 - 271.
- Robertson, R. (2016). Effectiveness and acceptability of parent-implemented behavior interventions for children with autism in three African American families. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 51, 107-121.

\*Pattison, A. E., & Robertson, R. E. (2015). Simultaneous presentation of speech and sign prompts to increase MLU in children with Intellectual Disability. *Communication Disorders Quarterly*, 37, 141-147.

Robertson, R. (2015). The acquisition of problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities as a behavioral cusp. *Behavior Modification*, 39, 475-495.

Moore, T., Wehby, J., Hollo, A., Robertson, R., & Maggin, D. (2014). Teacher reports of student health and its influence on students' school performance. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 16, 112-122.

Robertson, R., Wehby, J., & King, M. (2013). Increased parent reinforcement of spontaneous requests in children with autism spectrum disorders: Effects on problem behavior. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 34, 1069-1082.

Wehby, J., Maggin, D., Partin, T., & Robertson, R. (2012). The impact of working alliance, social validity, and teacher burnout on implementation fidelity of the good behavior game. *School Mental Health*, 4, 22 -33.

Maggin, D., Wehby, J., Moore, T. C., Robertson, R., & Oliver, R. (2011). A comparison of instructional, curricular, and assessment differences of self-contained and general education placements for children with behavioral problems. *Behavioral Disorders*, 36, 84-99.

Maggin, D., Robertson, R., Oliver, R., Hollo, A., & Moore, T. (2010). Integrating research, policy, and practice to bring science to the classroom: New leaders' perspectives on the field of emotional and behavioral disorders. *Behavioral Disorders*, 35, 308-324.

Partin, T., Robertson, R., Maggin, D., Oliver, R., & Wehby, J. (2010). Using teacher praise and opportunities to respond to promote appropriate student behavior. *Preventing School Failure*, 54, 172-178.

Maggin, D., Wehby, J., Partin, T., Robertson, R., & Oliver, R. (2009). Supervising paraeducators in classrooms for children with emotional and behavioral disorders. *Beyond Behavior*, 18, 2-9.

### **Manuscripts under Peer Review**

\*Zhang, X., Robertson, R., McCarthy, T., & \*Scenna, C. (Initial submission). Using speech-generating devices to improve manding in young children with autism: A systematic literature review. *JADD*

Stevenson, N. et al. (I'm 9th author out of 53; Initial submission). Crowdsourced analysis of a single-case research design data. *Research in Special Education*

### **Book Chapters**

Robertson, R., Lambert, J., \*Buonomo, K., & Copeland, B. (2021). Theoretical foundations of applied behavior analysis and applications in special education research

and practice. In T. Farmer & K. McMaster (Eds.), *Handbook of Special Education Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*. Routledge/Taylor and Francis.

Lee, D., Robertson, R., Hall, C., & Rizzo, K. (2020). Professional development and consultation to support teachers of students with EBD. In T. Farmer, B. Farmer, M. Conroy, & K. Sutherland (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Emotional & Behavioral Disabilities: Interdisciplinary Developmental Perspectives on Children and Youth*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge/Taylor and Francis.

Robertson, R. (2016). Emergence and early development of problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities: A behavioral model of parent-child interactions. In E. Miles (Ed.), *Problem Behaviors: Risk Factors, Consequences, and Treatment*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

Schmitt, A. J., Robertson, R., Hennessey, J., Jaquette, C. H., & Vernon-Dotson, L. (2012). Workplace bullying of persons with disabilities. In J. Lipinski & L. M. Crothers (Eds.), *Bullying in the workplace: Symptoms, causes, and remedies*. New York: Routledge/Taylor and Francis.

## GRANTS

### External (\*=Students)

Co-investigator (with principal investigator, Marissa Vogel). Richard K. Mellon Foundation. *Community Yoga for Autistic Adults*. Under review. \$194,150 (Pitt Subaward: \$56,037).

Principal Investigator (with co-investigators Marissa Vogel, Dr. Sally Sherman, Dr. Caitlin Conner, and Dr. Carla Mazefsky). Organization for Autism Research. *Supporting Mental and Physical Health in Autistic Adults through Community-Based Yoga* (7/1/23 – 4/1/24), \$50,000. Panned, not funded.

Key Personnel (with PI Dr. Phillandra Smith and key personnel Dr. Sheila Conway). The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education. *Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification* (5/23-5/24), \$99,984.

Principal Investigator (with Drs. Amy Houtrow and Cheryl Messick). Federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau LEND Autism Supplement. *Strengthening Family-Centered Care to Advance Health Equity for Black Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders* (8/1/22 – 8/1/25), \$49,539.

Principal Investigator (with Co-PI: Dr. Thomas Farmer). Institute of Education Sciences. *Developing Wise Interventions to Increase Teacher Use of Evidence-Based Classroom Management for Students with and At-Risk for Disabilities* (8/1/19 – 8/1/23), 1,392,534. Panned, not funded.

Co-Principal Investigator (with Drs. Doug Kostewicz, Sheila Conway, and Richard Milner). Office of Special Education Programs. *Urban Special Education Scholars (USES)* (8/1/18 – 8/1/23), \$1,027,584.

Co-Investigator (with \*Rachel Schwartz). Organization for Autism Research Student-Faculty Grant. *Staff Training in Offering Choice to Adults with Intellectual Disabilities* (9/1/16 – 9/1/18), \$2,000.

### **Internal**

Principal Investigator (with co-investigators Marissa Vogel, Drs. Sally Sherman, Phillandra Smith, Caitlin Conner, and Carla Mazefsky). SOE Faculty Research Grant. *Supporting Mental and Physical Health in Autistic Adults through Community-Based Yoga* (6/1/23 – 6/1/24), \$29,153.

Principal Investigator (with co-investigators Marissa Vogel, Dr. Sally Sherman, Dr. Caitlin Conner, and Dr. Carla Mazefsky). Pitt Momentum Funds Teaming Grant. *Supporting Mental and Physical Health in Autistic Adults through Community-Based Mindful Movement* (4/1/23 – 4/1/24), \$60,000.

Co-Investigator (with \*Dylan Kapit). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *Sex Education for Queer Autistic Learners (SEQuAL)*. (2/1/22 - 2/1/23), \$3,000.

Principal Investigator (with Co-I's Dr. Thomas Farmer and Dr. Kevin Binning). Pitt Momentum Funds Seeding Grant. *Developing Communities of Research and Practice to Support Teacher Use of Proactive Behavior Management*. (5/1/21 – 5/1/22), \$15,948.

Principal Investigator. University of Pittsburgh Central Research Development Fund. *Do Teachers' Implicit Theories of Personality Affect the Quality of Behavior Support They Provide to Students?* (8/1/16 – 8/1/21), \$14,670.

Co-Investigator (with \*Haya Abdellatif). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *The influence of evolving perceptions and beliefs of pre-service special education teachers on career aspirations: A longitudinal study*, (12/15/20 – 12/15/21), \$2,052.

Co-Investigator (with \*Miguel Ampuero). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *Comparing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Behavioral Skills Training and Brief Performance Feedback Interventions During Paraprofessional Training*, (12/15/19 – 12/15/20), \$3,000.

Co-Investigator (with \*Rachel Schwartz). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *Staff Training in Offering Choice to Adults with Intellectual Disabilities*, (12/15/18-12/15/19), \$2,881.

Co-Investigator (with \*Emily Sobeck). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *Effectiveness and Sustainability of a Strengths-Based Training Program for Paraeducators of Students with ASD in Inclusive Settings* (8/1/15 – 8/1/2016), \$2,381.

Co-Investigator (with \*Kaylee Wynkoop). University of Pittsburgh School of Education Student & Faculty Research Fund. *The Effects of Video Modeling on Daily Living Skills of Students with Autism* (9/1/14 – 9/1/15), \$2,748.

Principal Investigator. Duquesne University Faculty Development Fund. *Increasing Parent Reinforcement of Spontaneous Requests in Children with Autism to Decrease Child Problem Behavior* (9/1/12 – 9/1/13), \$9,000.

Principal Investigator. Duquesne University Barbara A. Sizemore Scholars & Small Grants Program. *Effectiveness and Acceptability of Behavioral Interventions for Children with Autism in African American Families* (8/1/11 – 8/1/12), \$2,000.

Principal Investigator. Vanderbilt University Special Education Endowment Doctoral Dissertation Grant. *Increased Parent Reinforcement of Spontaneous Requests in Children with Autism: Effects on Problem Behavior* (2/1/10 – 9/1/10), \$1,000.

### **Grant Consultancies**

Single-case design methodologist (PI: Dr. Valire Copeland). School of Social Work Internal Grant. *Addressing autism spectrum disorders in African American families* (2/1/20 – 2/1/21).

External Reviewer (PI: Dr. Emily Sobeck). The Ohio Deans' Compact on Exceptional Children. Federal Office of Special Education Programs. *Using Media to Enhance Evidence-Based Practice Competencies in Undergraduate Majors and In-Service Teachers* (8/1/19 – 8/1/21).

On-Ramp Trainer (PI: Dr. Tessa McCarthy). Federal Office of Special Education Programs. *Combined Orientation, Mobility, and Behavioral Services (COMBS)* (5/1/18 – 5/1/22).

### **INVITED TALKS**

Robertson, R., & \*Kapit, D. (2024, February). Supporting wellbeing with autistic adults through yoga (SWAY). *TLL Faculty Colloquium Presentation*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R., \*Kapit, D., Wilkenfeld, D., & Ortman, D. (2024, January). Hot topics in Autism. *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R. (2023, March). Hot topics in Autism. *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R. (2022, December). Beginning your research and scholarship post-PhD. *Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)*. Pittsburgh, PA.

Laughlin, S., Robertson, R., & Beachum, K. (2022, December). Neuropsychological assessments: Information for families. *Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center*. Pittsburgh, PA.

Harris, K. (presenter), & Robertson, R. (moderator; 2022, March). Let's Talk: Addressing and Dissipating Barriers to Adoption and Integration of Evidence-Based Practices. *Badar-Kauffman Conference on Contemporary Issues in Special Education Research*. Kent State University, Kent, OH.



Mazefsky, C., Upshaw, J., Nathan, J., & Robertson, R (moderator; 2022, February). How data informs our ability to address disparities for children of color with autism spectrum disorder. *Baker Fellowship and LEND Interprofessional Symposium*. Pittsburgh, PA.

Robertson, R. (2021, March). Balancing Research, Teaching, and Service: Issues Related to Tenure and Promotion. *Council for Exceptional Children Division for Research Early Career Workshop Series*. Remotely delivered to 29 early career special education research faculty.

Robertson, R. (2020, June). A functional approach to challenging behavior. *TEIS Early Intervention Services*. Remotely delivered to >100 staff across Allegheny, Washington, Fayette, and Butler counties.

Robertson, R. (2019, Oct.). An ABA Approach to Managing Challenging Behavior in Children with ASD. *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R. (2019, July). Autism Spectrum Disorder: Models of Intervention. *University of Pittsburgh Medical Center*.

Robertson, R. (2018, Nov.). Assessing functions of problem behavior in children with Developmental Disabilities. *Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R. (2018, April). Barriers to implementation of behavior interventions for children with ASD. *Autism Research and Clinical Forum*, University of Pittsburgh.

Robertson, R. (2015, June). Single-case design: Applications in research and practice. *Department of Speech-Language Pathology*, Duquesne University.

**PEER-  
REVIEWED  
PRESENTATIONS**  
(\*=Students)

Robertson, R., \*Kapit, D., Vogel, M., Karel, T., & \*Zhang, X. Partnering with disability communities for community-engaged research. Poster presented at Community Engaged Scholarship Forum, University of Pittsburgh, March, 2025.

Robertson, R. (Chair), Dean, M., & Aldousari, A. Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices with Students with Disabilities: Three Approaches to Fostering Educator Buy-In. Multiple Paper Session presented at the Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November, 2024.

+Abdellatif, H., +DeMaria, S., & Robertson, R. Forge Ahead! Presenting Wave 3 Findings of the Evolving Perceptions, Beliefs, and Attitudes of Prospective Special Education Teachers About Self and the Field: A Longitudinal Study. Paper presented at the Teacher Education Division Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, November, 2024.

Ross, S., Osai, E., Akiva, T., & Robertson, R. The EdD On-Ramp: Socializing new students to become equity-focused scholarly practitioners. Paper presented at the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Annual Convening, Honolulu, HI, October, 2024.

Robertson, R., Vogel, M., \*Zhang, X., Smith, P., \*Kapit, D., & \*Rowe, D. Supporting Mental and Physical Health in Autistic Students through Yoga. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, March, 2024.

Robertson, R., & Bartow Jacobs, K. Narrowing the Research-Practice Divide through Strength-Based Study of Teacher Implementation. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, March, 2024.

Robertson, R., & Bartow Jacobs, K. "Seasing" the Research-Practice Divide through Strength-Based Qualitative Study of Teacher Implementation. Paper presented at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA, November 2023.

Larson, K., & Robertson, R. Using Contemplative Practices in Teacher Education to Promote Flourishing. Paper presented at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Long Beach, CA, November 2023.

Gunzenhauser, M., Perry, J., Robertson, R., Ross, S., Akiva, T., Trahan., K. Methods Training for the EdD: How the University of Pittsburgh's Practitioner Inquiry Series Aims to Prepare Scholarly Practitioners to Improve Education. Paper presented at the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Annual Convening, Pensacola, FL, October, 2023.

Akiva, T., Robertson, R., & Boulder, T. Structure vs. Freedom and Convenience in Post-pandemic EdD Programs: A Year-long Mixed Methods Self-Study of Program Accessibility and Quality. Paper presented at the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Annual Convening, Pensacola, FL, October, 2023.

Robertson, R., Vogel, M., Jackson, A., & Sicheri, M. Benefits of school- and community-based yoga for students with autism. Poster presented at Council for Exceptional Children Convention, Louisville, KY, March, 2023.

Robertson, R. Lessons learned from a research-practice partnership in professional development for challenging behavior. Paper presented at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, Richmond, VA, November, 2022.

\*Buonomo, K., \*Enders, O., & Robertson, R. Addressing race and implicit bias in the functional behavior assessment process: A pilot study. Paper presented virtually at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention, February, 2022.

Robertson, R., \*Buonomo, K., \*Abdellatif, H., & \*DeMaria, S. Results of a "wise" professional development to increase teacher use of proactive behavior management Strategies. Poster presented virtually at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention, March, 2021.

\*Abdellatif, H., \*DeMaria, S., & Robertson, R. Evolving perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs of pre-service special education teachers about self and the field: A longitudinal study. Paper presented at Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference, March, 2021.

Moore, T., Robertson, R., Maggin, D., & Wehby, J. Low-intensity Behavior Management Strategies: Stepping Stones for Selection of More Intensive Interventions. Symposium presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Miami, FL, March, 2020. Cancelled due to pandemic.

Schwartz, R., & Robertson, R. Sexual education for adults with intellectual disabilities: What do we know? Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Portland, OR, February, 2020.

Robertson, R., \*Buonomo, K., \*Abdellatif, H., & \*DeMaria, S. Changing teachers' mindsets to increase their use of proactive behavior management. Poster presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Portland, OR, February, 2020.

Maggin, D., Robertson, R., & Cook, B. Experimental analysis of results-blind peer review on editorial recommendations and manuscript evaluations. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Portland, OR, February, 2020.

Robertson, R., & Kokina, A. Implementing individualized positive behavior support: Exploring why some teachers struggle and others succeed. Paper presented at the Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Washington, DC, March, 2019.

\*Schwartz, R., Robertson, R., & \*Westerfield, S. Increasing diverse choice opportunities in a postsecondary setting. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Indianapolis, IN, February, 2019.

\*Ampuero, M., Sobeck, E., & Robertson, R. Improving paraprofessional training in teacher preparation. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Indianapolis, IN, February, 2019.

Sobeck, E. & Robertson, R. Implementing Behavior Intervention Plans: How Can Special Education Teachers Better Support Paraeducators? Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Indianapolis, IN, February, 2019.

Robertson, R., \*Schwartz, R., & \*Ampuero, M. Do Teachers' Mindsets Impact their Use of Positive Classroom Behavior Management Strategies? Poster presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Indianapolis, IN, February, 2019.

Robertson, R., & Lovelace, T. Families of color and autism: Lessons for improving service delivery. Paper presented at University of Pittsburgh Cross-Disciplinary Conference on Family and Healthy U, Pittsburgh, PA, March, 2018.

\*Ampuero, M., & Robertson, R. Using performance feedback to improve paraprofessionals' implementation of mand training for children with ASD. Poster

presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, March, 2018.

\*Sobeck, E., Robertson, R., & \*Schwartz, R. Didactic instruction and performance feedback: How should we be training our paraeducators? Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Boston, MA, April, 2017.

Kokina, A., \*Lapinski, S., \*Schwartz, R., \*Ampuero, M., & Robertson, R. Review of Evidence-Based Practices for Females with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Poster presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March, 2017.

\*Schwartz, R., & Robertson, R. Training staff in residential settings to offer choice. Poster presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March, 2017.

Robertson, R., Kokina, A., \*Schwartz, R., \*Ampuero, M., & \*Lapinski, S. It's out of my control: Teacher mindset and PBS Implementation. Poster presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March, 2017.

Robertson, R. Participant diversity in special education research. Paper presented at Association of Researchers in Special Education Annual Conference, Franklin, TN, September, 2016.

Lovelace, T., & Robertson, R. Experiences of African American mothers of sons with ASD. Poster presented at Applied Behavior Analysis International Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, May, 2016.

\*Wynkoop, K., Robertson, R., \*Sobeck, E., & \*Schwartz, R. Effects of video modeling versus continuous video modeling on the daily living skills of students with autism and intellectual disabilities. Poster presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO, April, 2016.

\*Sobeck, E., & Robertson, R. Effects of didactic instruction versus performance feedback on the use of positive behavior support strategies by paraeducators in inclusive settings. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO, April, 2016.

Robertson, R., & Kokina, A. Obstacles to implementing behavior intervention plans: Practitioner perspectives. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO, April, 2016.

Robertson, R., & Kokina, A. Obstacles to implementing behavior intervention plans with students with autism: Practitioner perspectives. Paper presented at Advisory Board On Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, April, 2016.

Robertson, R., & Kokina, A. Obstacles to implementing behavior intervention plans: Practitioner perspectives. Paper presented at Association for Positive Behavior Support, San Francisco, CA, March, 2016.

Robertson, R. What stops teachers from using intensive behavior interventions? Initial findings and future directions. Paper presented at Association for Researchers in Special Education Annual Conference, Franklin, TN, October, 2015.

Robertson, R., \*Sobeck, E., & \*Wynkoop, K. Participant diversity in special education research. Poster presented at Applied Behavior Analysis International's Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, May, 2015.

Robertson, R., Lyon, S., Hansen, M., \*Sobeck, E., & \*Wynkoop, K. Barriers to Implementing Behavior Intervention Plans: Results of a Statewide Teacher Survey. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April, 2015.

Lyon, S., Hansen, M., \*Smith, J., \*Matsik, M., & Robertson, R. Test performance and challenges of the lowest performing students on an alternate assessment. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April, 2015.

\*Wynkoop, K., Robertson, R., & \*Sobeck, E. Effects of video modeling and video modeling plus prompting and reinforcement on the daily living skills of a student with autism. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April, 2015.

\*Sobeck, E., & Robertson, R. Perspectives on current practices and barriers to training for paraeducators working with students with autism in inclusive settings. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL, January, 2015.

Robertson, R., Kearns, D., Zumeta, R., Moore, T., Lemons, C., & Wehby, J. Intensive Intervention: Evidence for Bold New Directions in Special Education. Symposium presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International's Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, May, 2014.

Robertson, R., Lovelace, T., \*Wynkoop, K., & \*Sobeck, E. Experiences of African American caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder. Paper presented at the Council of Exceptional Children's Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, April, 2014.

Robertson, R., \*Sobeck, E., & \*Wynkoop, K. Participant demographics in studies of parent-mediated behavior interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at the Council of Exceptional Children's Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL, January, 2014.

Robertson, R. Intensive, effective, sustainable behavior interventions: Can we prove Skinner wrong? Paper presented at the Association of Researchers in Special Education Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, October 2013.

Robertson, R., \*Carapellotti, D., & \*Beeks, A. Response class hierarchies of existing mands and problem behavior in children with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI, August, 2013.

Robertson, R., Lovelace, T., \*Nichols, K., & \*Marburger, S. Effectiveness and acceptability of behavioral interventions for children with autism in African American families. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Honolulu, HI, August, 2013.

Robertson, R., Lovelace, T., \*Nichols, K., & \*Marburger, S. Effectiveness and acceptability of behavioral interventions for children with autism in African American families. Poster presented at the Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Minneapolis, MN, May 2013.

Robertson, R., Lovelace, T., \*Nichols, K., & \*Marburger, S. Effectiveness and acceptability of behavioral interventions for children with autism in African American families. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, San Antonio, TX, April 2013.

Robertson, R., & Wehby, J. Increased parent reinforcement of spontaneous requests in children with autism spectrum disorder: Effects on problem behavior. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Denver, CO, April, 2012.

Robertson, R. Increased parent reinforcement of spontaneous requests in children with autism spectrum disorder: Effects on problem behavior. Poster presented at the Eastern Psychological Association Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, March, 2012.

Robertson, R. Response class hierarchies of existing mands and problem behavior in children with autism spectrum disorder. Poster presented at Applied Behavior Analysis International 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Conference, Philadelphia, PA, January, 2012.

Robertson, R., Wehby, J., & King, M. Increased parent reinforcement of existing mands in children with autism: Effects on problem behavior. Paper presented at 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Denver, CO, May, 2011.

Robertson, R., Wehby, J., & Henderson, L. Parent survey of risk factors for problem behavior in children with developmental disabilities. Poster presented at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, San Antonio, TX, May, 2010.

Robertson, R., Wehby, J., & Henderson, L. Parent survey of risk factors for problem behavior in children with developmental disabilities. Poster presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Nashville, TN, April, 2010.

Robertson, R. (Chair), Macaleese, K., Patel, M., Berens, K., & Wilson, G. Professional development series: How to start and run your own behavior analysis business. Panel presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Phoenix, AZ, May 2009.

Robertson, R. The acquisition of problem behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities as a behavioral cusp. Poster presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Phoenix, AZ, May 2009.

Robertson, R., Maggin, D., Partin, T., & Wehby, J. A teacher-focused school-based intervention in classrooms with students with E/BD: Teacher maintenance of the intervention. Paper presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL, May, 2008.

Oliver, R., Partin, T., Maggin, D., Robertson, R., & Wehby, J. Teachers' Knowledge and Use of Effective Classroom Management Strategies: Prerequisites to Consultation-Based Behavioral Interventions. Paper presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL, May, 2008.

Maggin, D., Partin, T., Robertson, R., & Wehby, J. Teacher Praise and Opportunities for Students to Respond to Academic Questions: Pre and Post Intervention. Paper presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL, May, 2008.

Robertson, R., & Wehby, J. Predictors of classroom placement in students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Poster presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Chicago, IL, May, 2008.

Robertson, R., Maggin, D., Partin, T., & Wehby, J. Predictors of classroom placement in students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, Boston, MA, April 2008.

Maggin, D., Wehby, J., Partin, T., & Robertson, R. Paraprofessionals in classrooms for students with EBD. Paper presented at Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders. Kansas City, MO, February, 2008.

Wehby, J., Maggin, D., Partin, T., & Robertson, R. Comprehensive program for preventing severe behavior problems in schools. Paper presented at Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo. Louisville, KY, April, 2007.

Wehby, J., Maggin, D., Partin, T., & Robertson, R. Improving classrooms for students with emotional and behavioral disorders. Workshop presented at Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders. Kansas City, MO, February, 2007.

**FACULTY  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Community Engaged Scholarship Project Development Cohort. *University of Pittsburgh Office of Engagement & Community Affairs* (2024-2025).

Big Proposal Bootcamp. *University of Pittsburgh Office of Research* (2023).

**MEDIA**

*Narrowing the research-to-practice divide through community engagement with Dr. Rachel Robertson*. Forbes.com (2024).

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeseq/2024/08/19/narrowing-the-research-to-practice-divide-through-community-engagement-with-dr-rachel-robertson/>

*Kids and adults with autism flying easier in Pittsburgh, with airport's help*. National Public Radio (2019). <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/08/08/746936601/kids-and-adults-with-autism-flying-easier-in-pittsburgh-with-airports-help>

*Marshall Memo* (#789). Robertson and Coy (2019) selected as a featured education article for the week. Available at [www.marshallmemo.com](http://www.marshallmemo.com)

*Living with autism and revising the DSM*. Pittsburgh Public Radio news program, "Essential Pittsburgh" (2013). Available at <http://wesa.fm/post/living-autism-and-revising-dsm>

**UNIVERSITY  
TEACHING AND  
SUPERVISION****University of Pittsburgh****Undergraduate Special Education Major**

Curriculum Development for Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities

**Applied Behavior Analysis MEd**

Applied Behavior Analysis 1: Definitions, Measurement, and Functional Analysis

Applied Behavior Analysis 2: Procedural Analyses

Applied Behavior Analysis 3: Applications in Developmental Disabilities

Applied Behavior Analysis 4: Emotional Behavioral Disabilities of Children

Applied Behavior Analysis 7: Research Seminar in Special Education

Applied Behavior Analysis Practicum Supervisor

**LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Grad Program**

Interdisciplinary Leadership Seminar in Developmental Disabilities I

Interdisciplinary Leadership Seminar in Developmental Disabilities II

**Master of Special Education Med**

Curriculum Development for Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities

Research Seminar in Special Education

**School-Wide EdD**

Practitioner Inquiry 4

Leadership in Groups and Organizations

**Special Education EdD**

Supervised Practitioner Inquiry – Writing the Literature Review

Advanced Research Seminar in Special Education



Guidance in Scholarly Practice  
Instructional Practices in Special Education

**Special Education Supervisory Certificate and Special Education EdD**  
Instructional Practices in Special Education

**Special Education PhD**  
Professional Seminar in Special Education I  
Grant Writing in Special Education  
Doctoral Writing Seminar

**SERVICE TO  
UNIVERSITY** Pitt Momentum Funds Teaming Pitch Panelist, 2025  
University Research Council, 2020-2023  
Pitt Momentum Funds Application Reviewer, 2018-Present  
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Faculty,  
2018 – 2023  
First Experiences in Research Mentor, 2016 – 2020

**SERVICE TO  
SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION** School-Wide EdD Director, 2023 – present  
Chair, Division of Innovative Leadership, 2023 – present  
School-Wide EdD Associate Director, 2022 – 2023  
Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2022 – 2024  
Division of Research, 2022 – 2023  
Division of Innovative Leadership, 2019 – present  
Center for Urban Education (CUE) Faculty Fellow, SOE, 2016 – 2023  
Shifting Power in Educational Research and Development, 2020-2021  
IRB Scientific Reviewer, 2019 – 2020  
CUESEF Scholar Facilitator, 2018  
Faculty and Student Research Committee (Chair), 2016 – 2017  
Faculty and Student Research Committee, 2015 – 2022  
Center for Urban Education Advisory Board, 2014 – 2016

**SERVICE TO  
DEPARTMENT** Special Education Supervision Cert Program Coordinator, 2024 – present  
Working Group (Sustainable Advising) Co-Lead, 2024 – present  
EdD Special Education Major Coordinator, 2018 – present  
Special Education Faculty Search Committee, 2024  
Special Education Faculty Search Committee (Co-Chair), 2021 – 2022  
Teaching, Learning, and Leading PhD Committee, 2015 – 2019  
Special Education Faculty Search Committee, 2014 – 2015  
Graduate Faculty, 2013 – Present

**SERVICE  
TO FIELD** Spencer Foundation Grant Proposal Reviewer, Lyle Spencer Research Awards, 2020  
Council for Exceptional Children Research Division Conference Proposal Reviewer,  
2017 – present  
Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Grant Proposal Reviewer, 2015 –  
present  
Higher Education Consortium for Special Education (HECSE) representative, 2015 –  
2017

### **Editorial Boards**

Exceptional Children, 2019 – present

### **Ad Hoc Reviewer**

Education Policy; Social Work in Public Health; Exceptionality; PLOS one; Behavioral Disorders; Topics in Early Childhood Special Education; American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Remedial and Special Education; Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions; Exceptional Children; Education and Treatment of Children; Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders; Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities; Research in Developmental Disabilities; Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders; Journal of Educational Research; The Elementary School Journal; Behavioral Modification; Behavior Analysis in Practice; Social Work Policy

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Open Up Monetization Subcommittee, 2025 – present  
Human Rights Committee, Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, 2018 – 2021

### **PhD STUDENT GRADUATES**

Xiaofan Zhang, 2025, Behavior Analyst and Research Director, Easterseals, Irvine, CA  
Haya Abdellatif, 2022, Assistant Professor at Washington & Jefferson College  
Kristen Buonomo, 2022, Instructor at University of Pittsburgh  
Miguel Ampuero, 2020, Assistant Professor at Berry College  
Rachel Schwartz, 2019, Director of Autism Services at Familylinks, Inc.  
Emily Sobeck, 2016, Associate Professor at Franciscan University  
Kaylee Wynkoop, 2016, Educational Consultant for PA Technical Assistance Network

### **CURRENT PhD ADVISEES**

Dylan Kapit, (rising) 5<sup>th</sup> year  
Deno Rowe, 5<sup>th</sup> year  
Angela Estrada, 4<sup>th</sup> year

### **EdD STUDENT GRADUATES**

Anna Smith, 2025, School Psychologist  
Kim Gregory, 2024, Behavior Analyst  
Jocelyn Artinger, 2024, Principal  
Kari Reardon, 2023, Special Educator  
Sherry Light, 2023, Special Educator  
Kamya Vijayakrishnan, 2023, Behavior Specialist  
Dawn Smith, 2022, Special Educator  
Tracy Larson, 2021, Office of Child Development  
Sarah Wong, 2021, Special Education Faculty, Bryn Athyn College  
E. B. Kline, 2021, Special Educator  
Lynn Palmieri, 2020, Special Educator  
Chris Bernick, 2019, Special Education Supervisor  
Lauren Barry, 2018, Special Educator  
Stacie Dojonovic, 2015, Assistant Teaching Professor, Kansas University

### **CURRENT EdD ADVISEES**

Jamie Quirino, (rising) 3<sup>rd+</sup> year  
Holly Wikander, 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
Kelly Marian, 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
Angela Shriane, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Becky Hovonec, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Molly Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Jennifer Zuric, 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
Micah Downs, 1<sup>st</sup> year  
Shannon Racculia-McConnell, 1<sup>st</sup> year

**AFFILIATIONS** Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)  
Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS)  
The Association for Applied Behavior Analysis International (ABAI)