

Samantha A. Wavell

(Formerly Samantha A. Spallone)

ABOUT ME

I am building an animal-centric career and am looking to work with a team that shares my mission of creating a more compassionate world by reducing animal suffering and fostering gentle and sustainable practices and food options through research, education, and innovation. I thrive in roles where I can combine analytical thinking with design and visualization.

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

Master of Applied Statistics & Data Science

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Bachelor of Arts in Quantitative Economics, Minor in Statistics

RECENT PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN

Data Analyst (Contract), Self-employed

MAY 2026 – PRESENT

- Apply expert knowledge of educational practices, research methods, and meta-analytic procedures to extract and code data from peer-reviewed literature using standardized research protocols for two IES-funded systematic reviews of summer reading.

Northwest Animal Rights Network, Seattle, WA

Data Analyst (Contract), Self-employed

OCTOBER 2025 – PRESENT

- Design and develop program logic models for factory farm research initiatives, managing data collection processes, evaluating research quality, and translating findings into research briefs for diverse stakeholder audiences.
- Lead systematic literature reviews on industrial agriculture impacts, applying mixed methods approaches to analyze data and identify research questions with greatest potential impact on animal welfare advocacy.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to develop full-stack interactive web dashboard visualizing environmental justice impacts of factory farms using APIs, automated scraping, LLM-powered data processing, and custom visual analytics to communicate insights to technical and non-technical stakeholders.

Instructional Research Group, Los Alamitos, CA

I began working for Instructional Research Group in September 2015 as *Research Assistant*. In April 2018, I was promoted to *Research Associate*. In January 2022, I was promoted to *Senior Project Manager & Research Associate*. I paused in April 2023 to pursue a graduate degree. In July 2024, I resumed working part-time as a *Consultant*.

Project Leadership & Evaluation:

- Identified critical resource management gap; designed and implemented new Senior Project Manager role, coordinating research efforts across 12 federal grants and contracts.

CONTACT

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AWARDS

2018 Samuel A. Kirk Award for an LDRP Practice Article for *Using the Number Line to Promote Understanding of Fractions for Struggling Fifth Graders: A Formative Pilot Study*

TOP SKILLS

- R
- Stata
- Python
- SQL
- Tableau
- LaTeX
- Project Management
- Communication & Presentation
- Resource Management
- Proactive Planning
- Workflow Optimization
- Web Development
- Creative Design
- Data Collection, Organization, Cleaning, Analysis, Reporting, & Dissemination
- Problem Solving
- Adaptability

TOP VALUES

- Compassion
- Connection
- Safety
- Authenticity
- Curiosity

VOLUNTEER WORK

Long Beach Animal Care Services
Long Beach, CA

Volunteer

2025 – PRESENT

- Aligned cross-functional team of 45+ researchers to organizational priorities; developed centralized tracking systems that improved collaboration and ensured timely delivery of 150+ project deliverables and 100+ study reviews.
- Served as project manager for multiple IES, NSF, and OSEP grants, managing complex stakeholder relationships and program evaluations using rigorous What Works Clearinghouse standards.
- Led onboarding and professional development for 40+ internal and external staff.

Research & Data Science:

- Led technical appendix development and conducted fixed-effects meta-analyses of 49 studies for IES practice guide, determining evidence levels for recommendations and translating findings for diverse audiences.
- Designed and implemented data collection systems, evaluation frameworks, and database management protocols for multi-site RCT studies (5,200+ students, 5 states, 61 schools).
- Applied mixed-methods statistical analyses (ANOVA/ANCOVA, regression, gain scores, IRT) using Stata and R to evaluate program impacts and generate data-driven insights.
- Established data governance practices and maintained comprehensive variable codebooks that ensured analytical accuracy and research reproducibility.
- Co-authored empirical, peer-reviewed publications, including award-winning article on mathematics interventions for struggling learners.
- Conducted study reviews for IES practice guides using WWC 4.1 and 5.0 Group Design, Regression Discontinuity Design, and Single-Case Design Standards.

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Wavell, S. A.** (2025). The Relationship Between Plant-Based Diets and Mental Health: Exploring Links to Depression, Anxiety, and Cognitive Function. *UCLA*. ProQuest ID: Wavell_ucla_0031N_24023. Merritt ID: ark:/13030/m51w74qc. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5d0377v9>
2. Jayanthi, M., Gersten, R., Schumacher, R. F., Dimino, J., & **Wavell, S.** (2024). Infusing Evidence-Based Instruction in Two Middle School Settings. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*, o(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/09388982241230919>
3. Wang, A. Y., Schumacher, R. F., Dougherty, B. J., **Wavell, S.**, Dimino, J., & Gersten, R. (2024). Using worked examples to promote explanations of fractions concepts: A formative pilot study. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*, 39(2), 87–100. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09388982241230131>
4. Jayanthi, M., Schumacher, R., **Wavell, S.**, Dimino, J., & Gersten, R. (2022). Improving student mathematics performance in three distinct middle schools: Findings from a model demonstration grant. Los Alamitos, CA: Instructional Research Group. <https://www.inresg.org>
5. Burchinal, M., Krowka, S., Newman-Gonchar, R., Jayanthi, M., Gersten, R., **Wavell, S.**, Lyskawa, J., Haymond, K., Bierman, K., Gonzalez, J. E., McClelland, M. M., Nelson, K., Pentimonti, J., Purpura, D. J., Sachs, J., Sarama, J., Schlesinger-Devlin, E., Washington, J., & Rosen, E. (2022). *Preparing Young Children for School* (WWC 2022009). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE), Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. <https://whatworks.ed.gov/>
6. Jayanthi, M., Gersten, R., Schumacher, R. F., Dimino, J., Smolkowski, K., & **Spallone, S.** (2021). Improving Struggling Fifth-Grade Students' Understanding of Fractions: A Randomized Controlled Trial of an Intervention That Stresses Both Concepts and Procedures. *Exceptional Children*, 88(1), 81–100. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00144029211008851>
7. Gersten, R., Jayanthi, M., Newman-Gonchar, R., Anderson, D., **Spallone, S.**, & Taylor, M. J. (2020). *The reliability and consequential validity of two teacher-administered student mathematics diagnostic assessments* (REL 2020–039). U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Southeast. https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/southeast/pdf/REL_2020039.pdf
8. Jayanthi, M., Gersten, R., **Spallone, S.**, Dimino, J., Schumacher, R., Smolkowski, K., Karp, K., & Haymond, K. (2018). Impact of a Tier 2 fractions Intervention on 5th Grade Students' Fractions Achievement: A Technical Report. Los Alamitos, CA: Instructional Research Group. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED610306.pdf>
9. Schumacher, R. F., Jayanthi, M., Gersten, R., Dimino, J., **Spallone, S.**, & Haymond, K. S. (2018). Using the number line to promote understanding of fractions for struggling fifth graders: A formative pilot study. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*, 33(4), 192–206. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ldrp.12169>

**Recipient of the 2018 Samuel A. Kirk Award for an LDRP Practice Article*