

DEEPA SRIKANTAIAH, Ph.D.

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www.deepasrikantaiah.com

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Areas of Expertise: Mathematics Education; STEM Education; Teacher Professional Development; Indigenous Knowledge/Pre-colonial Knowledge Systems; Contemplative Inquiry and Neuroscience; Critical Consciousness Raising; Research

International Development, Program Planning and Implementation: 15 years of experience working with donors, multilateral organizations, and international NGOs in basic and youth education.

Domestic (US) Program Planning and Implementation: 6 years of experience working with U.S. public school systems in mathematics and STEM education programs, school-based management programs, and teacher professional development conferences and workshops.

Research: 20 years of experience in education/social science research; experience conducting fieldwork at the school district and classroom level and designing surveys; experience managing research teams. Fulbright Research Scholar to India (2015 – 2016).

Teaching: Experience teaching and leading classes at the primary and secondary school levels and in undergraduate and graduate programs; recipient of Albertus Magnus Award for Best General Chemistry Lecturer at the University of Maryland.

Country Experience: Cambodia, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and the United States.

Foreign language expertise: Kannada (fluent); Hindi (intermediate); French (elementary)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Education Policy, May 2008

Education Policy and Leadership, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park

Recipient of Senatorial State Scholarship, Maryland Higher Education Commission

M.A. International Education Policy, May 2004

Education Policy and Leadership, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park

B.S. Microbiology (Magna cum Laude), May 2001

College of Chemical and Life Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park

Recipient of Maryland State Distinguished Scholar (Honorable Mention) and University Honors Program Citation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Education Advisor

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Africa Bureau

January 2022 – Current

Affiliate Faculty

College of Education, University of Maryland College Park

International Education Policy Program

Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education

January 2022 – Current

Adjunct Faculty

Graduate School for International Training (SIT)

- Teach in the Graduate School's Global Education Doctoral Program
- Member of the School for International Training's IRB Committee

August 2021 – Current

Senior Education and Research Specialist

World Learning

- Provided international technical expertise on literacy and mathematics instruction with an emphasis on early grades and foundational skills for USAID funded QITAB12 in Lebanon
- Managed and provided technical support to STEM programming - developed a [Global STEM Toolkit](#) and directed a STEM virtual exchange program

January 2019 – September 2021

Senior Advisor
USAID funded Data and Evidence for Education Programming
Hosted by EnCompass, LLC

September 2018 – December 2018

- Provided short-term technical input to:
 - The development of a research agenda aligned to the new USAID Education Policy
 - Management of strategic information and knowledge for use in USAID policies and programming

Senior Researcher
USAID funded Reading within Reach
Hosted by the University Research Co.

June 2016 – September 2018

- Supported the REACH Project and USAID to lead an Early Grade Reading research agenda
- Supported the REACH Project in its consolidation of evidence on reading practices and programs and the process of turning research into evidence based practice.
- Provided technical support in the development of reports, studies, and policy briefs related to reading interventions and the scalability and sustainability of reading programs.
 - Topics included: inclusive education/disability, intersections of mathematics and reading, formative assessments, and structured pedagogy
- Worked with USAID, All Children Reading Grand Challenge, NORAD and other partners to identify options to make materials publicly accessible.
- Worked on business development for sustaining the Global Reading Network and for innovative projects in early grade reading.

Technical Advisor on Mathematics Education (Consultant)
Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport
Global Partnership for Education c/o The World Bank

June 2015 – June 2016

- Provided short term technical input to the Ministry for their grant from the Global Partnership for Education, c/o The World Bank, on early grade mathematics education on the design and implementation of:
 - A national early grade mathematics assessment
 - Teacher training workshops and curriculum development

Fulbright – Nehru US Research Scholar
Host Institution: Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore

July 2015 – May 2016

- Conducted two research projects in mathematics and science education:
 - Examined how underserved youth with inconsistent schooling learn mathematics for post-secondary education and employment in STEM fields
 - Explored the challenges and opportunities young woman professionals face in pursuing STEM careers in India
- Mentored and advised doctoral students on research topics of education policy and qualitative research
- Awarded the Fulbright travel grant to Nepal to conduct workshops on early grade mathematics at Kathmandu University
- Served on the India committee to select Fulbright Scholars from the US to India for the 2016-2017 academic year
- Invited speaker for “Wednesday Talks” at the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore
- Invited speaker for the DAV Colleges Principals Workshop in Chennai
- Invited speaker on STEM Education for several NGOs in Bangalore such as QUEST Alliance, The Teacher Foundation, and Ek Step
- Conducted seminars for doctoral students at IIMB on Education Policy, Qualitative Research, and the Qualitative Research Software NVivo

Senior Associate
Creative Associates International, Washington, D.C.

June 2014 – June 2015

- Provided technical expertise and leadership on mathematics instruction with an emphasis on early grades and foundational skills in both formal and non-formal education settings in USAID funded program in Tanzania and GPE funded in Cambodia
 - Designed and operationalized programs
 - Provided senior-level managerial oversight and technical advice
 - Supported business development
- Provided technical expertise on the USAID funded School Dropout and Prevention Program in India, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, and Cambodia
- Engaged with internal and external actors to improve learning, team building, and office culture

Education Specialist**January 2010 – June 2014****Global Partnership for Education Secretariat, c/o The World Bank, Washington, D.C.**

- Thematic lead on Numeracy work
 - Provided technical assistance to the Global Partnership's partners and countries on early grade numeracy programs
 - Spearheaded and managed a numeracy community of practice
 - Liaised with donors to raise awareness and funding for numeracy
- Thematic lead on mobile technology work
 - Worked with partners to explore options of using evidence-based practices in mobile technology and education for early grade literacy and numeracy
 - Representative from the Global Partnership for the Mobile Education Alliance Network
- Contributed to the Global Partnership's work on early childhood education and out-of-school children
 - Participated in initial meetings and discussions on the ECD measure MELQO
 - Co-initiated a study on measurement issues related to out-of-school children
- Worked with the Head of the Global Partnership
 - Supported the Head on donor engagement and securing donor funds for education
 - Monitored disbursement of funds to countries and how funds were supporting local education programs
 - Supported Head with analytical input and research on key education issues
- Regularly contributed to the *Education for All Blog*
 - Have written over 25 blogs, which are well read, and have been picked up by other organizations:
<https://www.educationforallblog.org/author/dsrikantaiah>

Senior Research Associate**January 2008 – January 2010****Center on Education Policy, Washington, D.C.**

- Lead researcher for *Examining How No Child Left Behind Influences Curriculum and Instruction: A Three State Study*
 - Managed a 4 person research team with a \$500,000.00 budget and conducted fieldwork/data collection, developed research instruments (such as surveys), conducted interviews and focus groups, and classroom observations (time on task -- quantitative and qualitative analysis)
 - Wrote 4 policy reports and presented at a press conference in Washington State

Program Coordinator**October 2006 – December 2007****K-16 Partnership Development Center, University of Maryland, College Park**

- Led teacher professional development workshops in STEM education for middle school and high school teachers
- Evaluated programs on STEM education run by the Center and reported findings to Education faculty and county school representatives
- Trained undergraduate teaching fellows and evaluated their performance in classrooms

Consultant**January 2005 – September 2006****The World Bank, Washington D.C.**

- Researched World Bank's education sector's projects, lending, and statistics on education for senior project managers
- Assisted in the creation of knowledge sharing products for education projects
- Utilized World Bank and other international databases on education statistics, publications, and key international documents
- Co-developed the first Indigenous Knowledge Distance Learning Course: *Using Indigenous Knowledge to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*
- Wrote Indigenous Knowledge Notes (IK Notes), a monthly newsletter, on topics of science and health

Program Coordinator**January 2003 – January 2005****Graduate Teaching Fellows Program, University of Maryland, College Park**

- Developed STEM activities and curriculum for K-12 classrooms
- Lead STEM lessons in primary and secondary school classrooms
- Wrote grants for funding and evaluation reports for the National Science Foundation (funder)
- Designed and co-taught, in conjunction with the Director, Graduate level GK-12 teaching methods course: *Issues and Practices in Informal Science, Math, and Engineering Education*

SELECT UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Course for Secondary Teachers: Geometric Thinking

Adjunct Faculty, Johns Hopkins School of Education Urban Teachers Program
Spring 2022

Graduate Course: *Introduction to Qualitative Research part II*

Adjunct Faculty, Graduate School for International Training's Doctoral Program
Fall 2021

Graduate Course: *Modes of Inquiry in Research Methods*

Adjunct Faculty, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park
Fall 2021

Graduate Course: *Qualitative Research Methods*

Adjunct Faculty, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park
June – July 2010 & June – July 2009

Graduate Course: *Mathematics Teaching Methods in a Multicultural Environment for Elementary School Teachers*

Faculty Teaching Assistant, College of Education, University of Maryland, College Park
Spring 2005

Graduate Course: *Issues and Practices in Informal Science, Math, and Engineering Education for K-12*

Faculty Teaching Assistant, Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, University of Maryland, College Park
Spring 2003 – Fall 2004

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Sitabkhan, Y., Davis, J., Earnest, D., Evans, N., Ketterlin-Geller, L., Lutfeali, S., Ngware, M., Perry, L., Pinto, C., Platas, L., Ralaingita, W., Smith, K., & **Srikantaiah, D.** (2019). Instructional Strategies for Mathematics in the Early Grades. A Working Paper Developed by the Mathematics Working Group.

Evans, N., **Srikantaiah, D.**, Pallangyo, A., Sugrue, M., and Sitabkhan, Y. (2019). Towards the design and implementation of comprehensive primary grade literacy and numeracy programs. A Working Paper by the Global Reading Network. Prepared by University Research Co., LLC. (URC) under the Reading within REACH initiative for USAID's Building Evidence and Supporting Innovation to Improve Primary Grade Assistance for the Office of Education (E3/ED). Available at: <https://www.edulinks.org/resources/towards-design-and-implementation-comprehensive-primary-grade-literacy-and-numeracy>.

Srikantaiah, D., Eichhorn, M. & Khan, M. (2018). Determination of marginalized youth to overcome and achieve in mathematics: A case study from India. *Global Education Review*, 5 (3), 5-28.

Srikantaiah, D. and Ralaingita, W. (2014). Teacher Education and Professional Development in Global Mathematics. In Wiseman, A. and Anderson, E. (Eds.). *Annual Review of Comparative and International Education 2014*. Emerald Group Publishing Limited: United Kingdom.

Prouty, R. Banik, K., and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2012). Effective Approaches to Making Inclusive Education a Part of Education for All. In Heymann, J. and Cassola, A. (Eds.), *Lessons in Educational Equality: Successful Approaches to Intractable Problems Around the World*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

Prouty, R. and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2010). Educational Planning on a fast track. IIEP Newsletter. XXVIII (August 2010).

McCuen, R. H., Akar, G. Gifford, I.A., and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2009). Recommendations for Improving Graduate Adviser-Advisee Communication. *Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice*, 4 (135): 153-160.

Kober, N., Chudowsky, N., Chudowsky, V. Scott, C., Rentner, D. S., McMurrer, J., and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2009). An Early Look at the Economic Stimulus Package and the Public Schools: Perspectives from State Leaders. Center on Education Policy. Washington, D.C.

Srikantaiah, D. (2009) How State and Federal Accountability Policies Have Influenced Curriculum and Instruction in Three States: Common Findings from Rhode Island, Illinois, and Washington. Center on Education Policy. Washington, D.C.

Godbole-Chaudhuri, P., **Srikantaiah, D.**, and van Fleet, J. (2008). Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights: Confronting Modern Norms to Promote Sustainability. *Diaspora, Indigenous, and Minority Education*, 2: 1-19.

Srikantaiah, D. (2008). Institutionalizing Traditional Medical Knowledge in Western Institutions. *Journal of Management and Entrepreneurship*. 2(3).

Srikantaiah, D. (2008). , F. M. (Year). *Indigenous Knowledge Initiatives at the World Bank, the National Institutes of Health, and Pennsylvania State University*. Doctoral dissertation, University of Maryland, College Park. Drum: <https://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/8131>

Srikantaiah, D. and Rueger, C. (2008). An Alternative Knowledge System at the World Bank: A Case Study Analysis of the Indigenous Knowledge for Development Program. In Srikantaiah, T. and Koeing, M. (Eds.), *Knowledge Management in Practice: Context and Connection*. Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc.

Hunter, S. M. and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2007). Indigenous Language Loss: Revitalization in Immersion Classrooms with Intergenerational teachers. *Journal of the International Society for Teacher Education*. 11(2).

Srikantaiah, D. (2005). Education: Building on Indigenous Knowledge, IK Notes, Number 87, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Srikantaiah, D. (2005). Sri Lanka's Ministry of Indigenous Systems of Medicine, IK Notes, Number 83, The World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Hammer, D. and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2004). Graduate Teaching Fellows in the Classroom: Connecting University Research and Resources to the K-12 Community. *MRS Electronic Journal*, 26(3-4).

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Srikantaiah, D. (2021). *Inclusion in STEM Education Benefits All*. Invited speaker: The Quincy STEM Career & College Exploration Program. The Experiment in International Living, World Learning, Inc. October 2021.

Srikantaiah, D. (2021). *Training Teachers on Early Grade Mathematics Online Learning Platforms*. Talk delivered at the Virtual Comparative and International Education Society Conference. April 2021.

Srikantaiah, D. (2020). *Mathematical Models and Explanation and Justification*. Talk delivered at the Virtual Comparative and International Education Society Conference. April 2020.

Srikantaiah, D. (2019). *Universal Design for Learning in Early Grade Mathematics*. Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference in San Francisco. April 2019.

Srikantaiah, D. (2017). *Prasakti: Perseverance and Resilience in Adolescent Students in Arithmetic and Keys To Intervention in India*. Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. March 2017.

Srikantaiah, D. (2016). *Mathematics Assessments in Low Resource Countries*. Talk delivered at the American Education Research Association, Washington, D.C., April 2016.

Srikantaiah, D. (2016). *Resilience to Learn Math*. Talk at the annual Fulbright Conference, Jaipur, India; February 2016.

Srikantaiah, D. (2015). *Preparing Americans with 21st Century Skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education*. Invited Speaker for DAV Colleges Principals Workshop. DAV Colleges, Chennai, India. October 2015.

Srikantaiah, D. (2015). *Fostering foundational skills in mathematics at the early years and implications for STEM in school and beyond*. Talk at the Indian Institute of Management Seminar Series, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India; September 2015.

- Srikantaiah, D.** (2015). *Beyond counting: Understanding how strong foundational skills in early mathematics leads to number sense, strong critical thinking skills, and achievement in STEM.* Invited speaker for Quest Learning Day. Quest Alliance, Bangalore, India. September 2015.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2015). *Differentiated Education for Boys and Girls in Early Grade Mathematics.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Washington, D.C., March 2015.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2014). *Introduction to Early Grade Mathematics Education in Low Income Contexts.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Toronto, March 2014.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2014). *Can a Mobile Application for Parents Close the Learning Gap?* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Toronto, March 2014.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2013). *Learning Mathematics in Low-Income Countries: Challenges and Opportunities.* Talk delivered at the American Education Research Association, San Francisco, April 2013.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2013). *Using Mobile Technology in Numeracy.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, New Orleans, March 2013.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2012). *Math Education for All.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2012
- Srikantaiah, D.** and Thiam, M. (2012). *Measuring Out of School Children.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 2012
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2009). *Science Literacy Movements in India.* Talk delivered at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, April 2009
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2008). *Opportunities and Challenges for Science Aspirations and Career Choice: Age 10-14.* Talk delivered at Kings College Department of Education and Professional Studies, London, UK; October 2008.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2007). *Integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Educational Institutions.* Talk at International Society for Teacher Education: The Future of Teacher Education and Professional Development, Stirling, Scotland; June 2007.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2007). *Reframing the concept of "Indigenous Peoples."* Talk at the Graduate Research Interaction Day, University of Maryland, College Park, USA; April, 2007.
- Srikantaiah, D.,** and Rueger, C. (2007). *An Alternative Knowledge System at the World Bank: A Case Study of The World Bank's Indigenous Knowledge for Development Program.* Talk at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, USA; February, 2007.
- Mamedova, S. and **Srikantaiah, D.** (2007). *Deconstructing Knowledge.* Talk at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, USA; February, 2007.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2006). *Creating a space and voice for Indigenous Knowledge Systems in International Development.* Talk at the Friday Seminar Series, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, India; August 2006.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2006). *The Scientific Divide between Indigenous Systems of Medicine and "Modern" Medicine.* Talk at Washington Consortium for Comparative and International Education and Training's 2006 Research Conference, American University, Washington, D.C, USA; April 2006.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2006). *The Use of Indigenous Systems of Medicine in School.* Talk at the Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; March 2006.
- Srikantaiah, D.** (2005). *Using Indigenous Knowledge in International Development: an analysis of international development and grassroots organizations taking initiatives to solve local problems utilizing local knowledge.* Talk at 3rd International Humanities Conference at Cambridge University, England; August 2005.

Srikantiah, D. (2004). *University Settings for Summer Math, Science, and Technology Programs*. Presentation to South African Teacher Science and Technology Workshop, University of Maryland College Park Leadership Institute, College Park, MD, USA; October 2003 and June 2004, University of Maryland, College Park.

Srikantiah, D. (2004). *Incorporating Biomaterials into the High School Curriculum: An Exothermic Reaction Ready to Happen*. Talk at Materials Research Society (MRS) Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA; April 2004 - As an employee of the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC), University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Srikantiah, D. (2003). *University of Maryland and Your Science Program*. Presentation to Prince George's County Public School Science Coordinators and Teachers Conference, Prince Georges County, Maryland, USA; January 2003

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- President of *The Blue Marble Initiative* a non-profit organization working on critical consciousness raising programs for youth (2017 – Current)
 - Reviewer for the INEE Measurement Library Research Group (2020 – 2021)
 - Contributor to UNESCO's Global Proficiency Framework for Mathematics (2019 -2021)
 - Founder and Co-chair of Global Mathematics Special Interest Group, Comparative and International Education Society (2013-2016)
 - Book Reviewer for the Inter-American Development Bank – *All Children Counting* (2015)
 - Founder and Facilitating Team Member, Numeracy Community of Practice (2012 – 2015)
 - Advisory Board Member, Teacher Motivation Working group (2013 – 2015)
 - Committee Member, Smithsonian event for the South Asian Literary and Theater Arts Festival (2008 – 2009)
 - Correspondent and Producer, AmeriKannada – Kannada language television program (2006 – 2008)
-