

**ESTHER MUKWEA LISANZA**  
**HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON DC**  
**ESTHER.LISANZA@HOWARD.EDU**

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- 2011 Ph.D. (Education): Language and Literacy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2006 MA African Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 1999 MA Swahili Linguistics, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 1998 PGDE Postgraduate Diploma in Education, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya

***DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND AFRICAN STUDIES: LEADERSHIP***

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I have a very strong background in the teaching of African Studies and Swahili. In addition, I have been involved in the development of best pedagogical practices pertaining to the teaching of African languages in the US universities. My activities in this area include but are not limited to:

- StarTalk Summer Institute at the Indiana University, Bloomington- mentoring of university instructors of Less Commonly Taught Languages (2015-2018).
- National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) Summer Institute at Indiana University, Bloomington- mentoring of university instructors of African languages (2015-2018).
- Center for Language Excellence Summer Workshop, training of instructors of Less Commonly Taught Languages, University of Indiana, Bloomington.
- South East African Languages and Literature Forum (SEALLF)- President.
- Swahili Language Standards – A key designer.
- National African Language Resource Center (NALRC), Field Advisory Board Member (Professional Development Projects).
- African Languages Program at UNC-Chapel Hill- Program Coordinator (2015-2017).
- Workshop Facilitator, African Flagship Languages Initiative (AFLI), University of Florida Summer Program (2019-2020).
- Workshop Facilitator, African Languages Summer Program, Howard University (2021).
- Workshop Facilitator, Global Association of Swahili (CHAUKIDU), Pwani University (2021).
- National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) Summer Institute at Indiana University, Bloomington- mentoring of university instructors of African languages (2022).
- Workshop Facilitator, Howard University- Daystar Swahili Summer Program in Kenya, Daystar University (2022).

***PROFESSIONAL/TEACHING EXPERIENCE***

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- Fall 2021-* Assistant Professor, Department of African Studies, Howard University.
- Spring 2018-* Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of African Studies, Howard University.
- Spring 2021*

<i>Summer 2021</i>	Trainer of Instructors of African Languages Summer Institute, Department of World Languages and Cultures at Howard University.
<i>Summer 2019&amp;2020</i>	Trainer of Instructors of African Flagship Languages Initiative, Center for African Studies and Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures at the University of Florida.
<i>Fall 2016- Fall 2017</i>	Teaching Assistant Professor and Coordinator, Program of African Languages, Department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies, University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill.
<i>Summer 2017 &amp;2018</i>	Trainer of Instructors of Lesson Commonly Taught Languages, Center for Language Excellence at Indiana University, Bloomington.
<i>Summer 2017 &amp;2018</i>	Master Teacher of Methodology and Best Practices of Teaching Second and Foreign Languages, Summer Institute for African Language Instructors, Indiana University at Bloomington.
<i>Spring 2015-2016</i>	Visiting Assistant Professor of Swahili and African Studies, Department of Liberal Studies, Winston-Salem State University (WSSU).
<i>Spring 2015- 2016</i>	Visiting Scholar, African Studies Center, UNC- Chapel Hill.
<i>Summer I 2016</i>	Master Teacher of Methodology and Best Practices of Teaching Second and Foreign Languages, Summer Institute for African Language Instructors, Indiana University at Bloomington.
<i>Summer II 2015</i>	Master Teacher of Methodology and Best Practices of Teaching Less Commonly Taught Languages, StarTalk Professional Development Program, Indian University at Bloomington.
<i>Summer I 2015</i>	Master Teacher of Methodology and Best Practices of Teaching Foreign and Second Languages, Summer Institute for African Language Instructors, Indiana University at Bloomington.
<i>Fall 2011-2014</i>	Lecturer of African Studies and Swahili, Department of African, African American and Diaspora Studies, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
<i>Fall 2006-2010</i>	Swahili Teaching Assistant, Department of Linguistics and Center for African Studies, University of Illinois (U of I), Urbana-Champaign.
<i>Fall 2006-2010</i>	Bilingual Teacher, Martin Luther Elementary School, Urbana, Illinois.
<i>Fall 2006-2010</i>	Teacher, Junior Writers' Club, After School Program, University of Illinois Housing.
<i>2002-2003</i>	Assistant Lecturer of Swahili Language and Literature, Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
<i>1995-1997</i>	English Teacher, Sengani High School, Kenya.

### ***INVITED GUEST SPEAKER***

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1. July 2022: Guest Speaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Challenges in Education Conference sponsored by the School of Education at Liverpool John Moores University, UK.
  2. July 2021: Guest Speaker and facilitator: Swahili World Voices, Center for African Studies Summer Institute.
  3. March 2021: Guest Speaker, the Institute of World Languages, University of Virginia. I presented on *The Place of Backward Curriculum Design in the Age of Online World Language Teaching and Learning*.
  4. February 2021: Guest Speaker, School of Education, Kenyatta University. I presented on the *Relevance of Qualitative Research in Education*.
  5. March 2017: Guest Speaker, World View's Annual Conference for the North Carolina Teachers, Chapel Hill. I presented on *All Languages Matter: African Children Telling their own Stories*.
  6. August 2016: Guest Speaker, STARTALK's Fall Conference, Atlanta. I presented on *Effective Teaching Approach in Foreign Language Teaching*.
  7. February 2014: Guest Speaker, School of Education's Conference, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. I presented on *Education in East Africa*.
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## ***UNPUBLISHED THESIS & DISSERTATION***

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1. What Does it Mean to Learn Oral and Written English Language: A Case Study of a Rural Kenyan Classroom, Unpublished PhD Dissertation, University of Illinois, 2011.
2. Relative Clause: A Comparative Study in Kiswahili and Kikamba, Unpublished MA Thesis, University of Nairobi, 1999.

## ***PUBLICATIONS***

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### **Books:**

1. Esther M. Lisanza (ed.) (2021). *Gender and Education in Kenya*. Lexington Books.
2. Esther M. Lisanza (2020): *The Multivoices of Kenyan Primary School Children Learning to Read and Write*. Palgrave Macmillan.
3. Esther M. Lisanza and Leonard Muaka (eds.) (2020): *African Languages and Literatures in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Leonard Muaka and Esther M. Lisanza (eds.) (2019). *Language in Contemporary African Cultures and Societies*. Lexington Books.

### **Books (forthcoming):**

Esther M. Lisanza and Catherine M. Ndungo (eds.). *Indigenous Languages and Indigenous Knowledge in East Africa*. Lexington Books.

## **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

1. Esther M. Lisanza (2021). The Role of Women in Things Fall Apart. In Baloubi, D. and Pinkstone, C. (eds.), *Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of 'Things Fall Apart'*. Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Introduction to African Languages (2020). In A. Plumer and K. Msia. Kendall Publishers.
3. Esther M. Lisanza (2020). Swahili Learning in the United States. What Does it Mean? In Esther M. Lisanza and Leonard Muaka (eds.), *African Languages and Literatures in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Palgrave Macmillan.
4. Esther M. Lisanza (2019): The Role of African Women in Liberation Struggle in Alamin Mazrui's *Kilio cha Haki* and Ousmane Sembene's *God's Bits of Wood*. In Leonard Muaka and Esther Mukewa Lisanza (eds.), *Language in Contemporary African Cultures and Societies*. Lexington Books.
5. Esther M. Lisanza (2017). Swahili Pedagogy in the USA: Preliminary Observation. In Dainess Maganda (ed.), *The Literature and the Language of Africa and the Diaspora*. Adonis & Abbey Publishers.
6. Esther M. Lisanza et al (2016). "Using Music/Songs in an African Language Classroom: Ideas and Challenges." In Dainess Maganda and Karim Traore (eds.), *Language and Literature: Vehicles for the Enhancement of Cultural Understanding*. Adonis & Abbey Publishers.
7. Esther M. Lisanza (2016). "Rafiki: A Teacher-Pupil." In Anne Dyson (ed.), *Child Cultures, Schooling, and Literacy: Global Perspectives on Composing Unique Lives*, London: Routledge.
8. Esther M. Lisanza (2015). "Language Policies in East Africa." In Eunice N. Sahle (ed.), *Globalization and Socio-Cultural Processes in Contemporary Africa*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
9. Esther M. Lisanza (2014). Dialogic Instruction and Learning: The Case of one Kiswahili Classroom. *Language, Culture, & Curriculum Journal* 27, no. 2 (May 2014): 121-135.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

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- Esther M. Lisanza: Review of *My name is Blessing* by Eric Walters. *Africa Access* (June 2014).  
Esther M. Lisanza: Review of *Walking Home* by Eric Walters. *Africa Access* (May 2015).

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATION**

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*Spring 2022*

1. Lumen Circles Professional Training at Howard University.

*Fall 2020*

2. Learning Management System (LMS) Essentials Certificate. Howard University Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Assessment, Nov. 30, 2020.

- Summer 2019* 3. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) workshop on testing Oral Proficiency Interview in Language Learners (OPI) ACTFL, June 2019 at Georgetown University, Washington, DC.
- Fall 2018* 4. GW-Ciber Professional Development Seminar, Cross-Cultural Communication: Consideration for Business Language Teaching, Sept. 22, 2018 at George Washington University
- Fall 2015* 5. National African Language Resource Center (NALRC) workshop to finalize the manuscript for Standards for learning African Languages, Oct. 5-7, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Fall 2015* 6. Startalk Fall Conference, Oct. 16-17, 2015 in Orlando, Florida.
- Spring 2015* 7. Startalk Spring Conference, May 8-9, 2015 in Denver, Colorado.
- Fall 2014* 8. Startalk Fall Conference, October 24-25, 2014 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Summer 2014* 9. Master Teacher in training, Swahili StarTalk Professional Development Program, Indiana University at Bloomington.
- 2011* 10. Certificate of Advanced Study in Second Language Acquisition and Teacher Education (SLATE), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2011* 11. Swahili StarTalk Certificate, National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLTL), University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2006* 12. American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) workshop on testing Oral Proficiency Interview in Language Learners (OPI) University of Illinois.
- 2005* 13. Certificate in Coordination and Teaching of African languages, National African Language Resource Center (NALRC), University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## ***GRANTS***

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2021-2023 Start up Funds from the College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University.

2017 Title VI Grant to do Research in Kenya, African Studies Center, UNC-CH.

2012 Craver Funds: Department of African and African American Studies, UNC-CH

### ***AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS***

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2022 Lumen Circles Fellowship

2010-2011 College of Education Dissertation Fellowship, University of Illinois.

2004-2010 Department of Linguistics Teaching Assistantship, University of Illinois.

1997-1999 Department of Linguistics Scholarship, University of Nairobi.

### ***SERVICE***

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*Fall 2021-* Member of Academic Policy, Standards and General Education (APSAGE), College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University.

*Fall 2021-* Grievances Committee, Graduate School, Howard University.

*Spring 2021-* Editorial Board Member, *Howard Journal of African Studies*.

*Fall 2018-* Member of Curriculum and Special Events Committees, Dept. of African Studies, Howard University.

*Fall 2016-2017* Member of Language Across the Curriculum, UNC-CH.

*Fall 2016-2017* Member of Foreign Language Assessment, UNC-CH.

*Fall 2016- 2017* Coordinator, Program of African Languages, UNC-CH.

*Fall 2015-2018* Communication Coordinator of SEALLF (South East Languages and Literature Forum).

*Fall 2018-* President of SEALLF (South East Languages and Literature Forum).

*Spring 2015* Member of International Fair Committee, Winston-Salem State

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	University (WSSU).
<i>2015</i>	Faculty Advisor, IDS Honor Society, WSSU.
<i>2013-2017</i>	Patron of Harambee on the Hill Student Organization, UNC-CH.
<i>2012-2017</i>	Patron of Uhuru Child Student Organization, UNC-Chapel Hill.
<i>2013-2014</i>	Member of Department's Academic Affairs Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill.
<i>2012-2013</i>	Member of Department's Outreach Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill.
<i>2011-2011</i>	Member of Department's Intellectual Dialogues Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill.

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***PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP***

2011- Current	SEALLF (South East Languages and Literature Forum)
2018- Current	SEALLF (South East Languages and Literature Forum), President-
2016- Current	AERA (American Education Research Association)
2015- current	AASP (Association of African Studies Programs)
2012- Current	ICQI (International Conference of Qualitative Inquiry)
2011- Current	NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English)
2004- Current	ALTA (African Languages Teachers Association)
2011- Current	NCOLCTL (National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages)
2012- Current	CHAUKIDU (Chama cha Uenezaji wa Kiswahili Duniani-The Global Association of Swahili)