Curriculum Vitae

WILLIS PHABIAN AKALA OPONDO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Student (Social Justice Education), University of Toronto. 2020-2025

M.A, Sociology, University of Nairobi. 2017

B.A., Social Work**,** University of Nairobi. 2012

Certification:

Fellow, Quality Management in Health Systems, University of Nairobi. 2014

EMPLOYMENT

University of Toronto

Department of Social Justice Education

Research Assistant & GA Sept 2021- Aug 2022

I engage in proposal development, literature reviews, data collection, and data analysis.

Machakos University

Department of Social Services

Part-Time- Sociology Lecturer Jan 2019- Aug 2021

As a sociology lecturer, I taught undergraduate sociology units, graded examinations, papers, and projects in formal courses, and assisted in the design of courses and in curricula development.

UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair- Department of Sociology and Social Work

University of Nairobi Sept 2018- Mar 2019

Graduate Assistant

I designed and developed research and advisory projects, implemented field qualitative research projects, developed and piloted research instruments; organized, cleaned, and analyzed data, and was engaged in proposal development and literature reviews. Sociology TA assistant to Prof. CBK Nzioka, and Dr. Karatu Kiemo.

Project Assistant

Busara Center for Behavioral Economics; Jul 2015 to June 2018

Duties and Responsibilities

Liaised with project managers in developing work plan deliverables and led a team of field staff in enrolling study respondents and collecting survey data electronically, using Android Based Open Data Kit (ODK) on android Tablets. I participated actively in public relations activities and community mobilization efforts by holding field meetings with Government officials and the local community. I also ensured that my team complied with human subject protocol and other research regulations as approved by local and international regulatory bodies including the Kenya Medical

Research institute. And enthusiastically provided mentorship to new staff involved in data collection activities including training and shadowing their work.

Research Intern

Cornell University/ Amref Health Africa (Calcium Supplementation (MICa)); Aug 2014- May 2015

Duties and Responsibilities

I coordinated engagement with assistant chiefs, health facility managers, healthcare providers, and community health volunteers in assigned units. I also contributed to the development, translation, and pre-testing of survey questionnaires and in-depth interview guides. In the process, screened and recruited over 200 study respondents (pregnant women) for the cluster-randomized trial, and administered follow-up surveys to over 300 study respondents in the randomized controlled trials.

CONSULTANCY

Sociologist

Group Huit (France) & Branded Solutions (Kenya) Jan 2017- May 2021

Lead Sociologist and public engagement expert in the development of local physical development plan for 2 urban centers in Kenya. (The City of Kisumu 2019-2020 and Machakos town 2017). Conducted Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and M&E Consultancy Services for infrastructural projects in Kenya.

Sociologist

CRESS-Africa Consulting Feb 2012- Aug 2016

Conducted Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Resettlement Action Planning for Infrastructure projects including roads, railways, power transmission lines, and real estate projects; monitored and evaluated SIA and RAP Implementation Plans, and Prepared Resettlement Policy Framework.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Scholarships, University of Toronto. 2019

The University of Nairobi Fellowship on Quality Management. 2014

Government Scholarship for Undergraduate studies, University of Nairobi. 2008

COURSES TAUGHT

All undergraduate

Machakos University 2019- 2021

Social Structure of African Societies

Sociology of Health and Illness

Ethics, Citizenship & Diversity

University of Nairobi 2018-2019

Introduction to Sociology

Social Change and Development

RESEARCH HISTORY

I have participated in the following research studies:

2018: Science for Understanding Behaviour: The study sought to understand the psychological effects of the conflict in Northern Uganda among the youth and women in Kitgum, Uganda.

2018: Science for Behavioural Change (SOBC): This study sought to evaluate the impacts of WASH Benefits projects among women aged 18-35 in Bungoma and Kakamega Counties using behavioral interventions to encourage change in health behavior.

2017: MA Project: People's Participation in County Budgeting Process: A case of Nairobi County. The study aimed to investigate People's Participation in the County Budgeting process in Kenyan Counties. With a special focus on Nairobi County. The research was guided by one main objective: to establish the effectiveness of the current legal framework for community participation in Kenyan County Governments

2017: Household Bargaining; Family planning study that sought to understand whether financial interventions would make low-income earners attend hospitals and clinics for professional family planning techniques and advice among low-income earners in Naivasha and Gilgil Sub Counties, Kenya.

2017: Oral Prep Study- PSI-K/ThinkPlace: This study sought to understand behavioral motivators, sexual behaviors, and risk perceptions for key populations (Female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and young women who engage in transactional sex) in Kisii, Kisumu, Nairobi, and Mombasa Counties, Kenya.

2015-16: Mental Health; The study sought to identify the effect of Intimate partner violence (IPV), and psychological/mental interventions alongside financial interventions to monitor poverty. It was carried out in Nakuru County, Kenya

2014-15: The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended prenatal calcium supplementation for the prevention of preeclampsia in populations with inadequate dietary intake. The study sought to compare the effect of two dosing strategies on the amount of supplement ingested by pregnant women and adherence to related recommendations. A Cluster-randomized, Non-inferiority Open-label Trial of the Impact of Supplementation Regimen on Consumption of Prenatal Calcium and Iron/Folic Acid Supplements and Adherence to Related Recommendations

Consultancy Reports

2020: Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan (LPUDP) for Kisumu City. Stakeholder Engagement Report. Role- Inclusion of residents and the public in the planning process.

2021: Design of Dunga Waterfront for Kisumu City. Stakeholders Engagement Report. Role- Inclusion of residents and the public in the design process.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2022: OISE SJE Departmental Student Association President. Co-organized & moderated the "Boys Education Conference: Perceptions, Practices and Social Interventions in Kenya".

2021-2022: OISE SJE Departmental Student Association executive member, elections committee vice-chair, and student representative in the outreach committee.

2017-2019: I coordinated 14 youth-led community-based organizations in Siaya county, Kenya, to fully participate in the county budgeting process in 2020 & 2021.
2016-2018: Secretariat, Kenya National Association of Social Workers. I participated in and organized several tree plantings events and children's home (shelters) visits. I have also participated in Marathon runs whose objectives were to highlight social injustices in Kenya.
2010: Chairman, University of Nairobi Social Work Students Association. I led the team in organizing visits to two Internally Displaced People (IPD) camps in Nakuru County, Kenya after the 2008 post-election violence.

PUBLICATION

Njoki et.al 2022. Indigenous Governance in Africa: A Decolonial Dialogue (Upcoming work)

Opondo, W & Chitere, P (2019). "People's participation in county budgeting process in Kenyan counties". *International Journal of Innovative Research and Knowledge*, Volume-4 Issue-10 (18-31)