

Institute of Development Studies
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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: MA Development Studies, Teaching Assistant Institute of Development Studies

DATE OF BIRTH: 27/08/1999

NATIONALITY: United Kingdom & Zambia

LANGUAGES: English

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Social justice movements; feminist & gender narratives

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Africa

OVERVIEW

My name is Lusyomo-Namakau, but everyone calls me Lu! For the past few years, I have been active in Southern African intersectional advocacy, particularly concerning grassroots gender-based violence (GBV) activism and online and offline social justice education. I completed a Master's in Gender, Violence and Conflict (University of Sussex), where the subject of my dissertation was an intersectional and womanist analysis of Black Lives Matter in mainstream Western media articulation and prior to that, completed a Gender Studies degree focusing on gender UN Security resolutions such as 1325 in the Global Africa and also re-imagining decolonial spaces for participatory activism in Africa. Continuing from my strong interest in social movements, my research concerns gendered African discourse. Specifically, my research is interested in understanding if South African GBV digital activist discourse can provide insights as to how better justice and rehabilitation can be provided for victims of GBV. Furthermore, I am exploring ways in which civil society and government can collaboratively work together to formulate citizen informed GBV policy. My research is guided by the question, "*What knowledge can be applied from South African GBV social media activism that can be integrated into the current GBV legislature to encourage accountable enforcement of GBV policy?*". In an era where the lines between the two are not so clear cut, I seek to understand how the successes of informal discourse and justice online, can be translated into offline policy - narrowing the gap between policy and implementation to help aid the Southern African GBV crisis.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2022 - PRESENT **Doctor of Philosophy, Development Studies**
Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom

2021 - 2022 **Master of Arts, Gender, Violence & Conflict**
University of Sussex, United Kingdom

2020 - 2021 **Bachelor of Arts Honors, Gender Studies**
University of South Africa, South Africa

2018 - 2019 **Challenge: Social Justice in Leadership**
University of Pretoria (Student Development), South Africa

2017 - 2019 **Bachelor of Arts Humanities (Majors Philosophy & International Relations, minors Economics & Anthropology)**
University of Pretoria, South Africa

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2022 – PRESENT

Teaching Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom

I aid the Master's Development Studies students by assisting in the facilitation of core sessions and conducting office hours to assist with their academic needs.

2020 – PRESENT

Content Creator & Social Justice Educator, Girls Against Oppression, South Africa/United Kingdom

I co-run a digital activist network with a reach of over 100,000 individuals worldwide. Our primary aim is to make intersectional social constructs educationally accessible through content creation & relating it to current global events and pop culture. We also use the platform/network for the purposes of resource mobilization and advocacy offline raising awareness around social justice campaigns and providing support to NGOs who primarily focus on helping gender-marginalized individuals.

2022 – 2022

Respect, Equality, Diversity and Safety Facilitator, Institution, United Kingdom

As part of a program at The University of Sussex, it was my job to teach and facilitate workshops concerning issues of consent, safety and healthy relationships that targeted undergraduate students and students in positions of leadership with the aim of making campus a healthier equitable environment.

2020 – 2022

Activist Researcher, SA Women Fight Back, South Africa

I was a researcher for this non-profit organization that focuses on combatting the current femicide in South Africa. My responsibilities included researching statistics, drafting memorandums, handling our social media and planning and executing online activations.