

Associate Director, Center for African Studies, University Center for International Studies  
& Adjunct Assistant Professor, Administrative and Policy Studies  
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### Research and Teaching Interests

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Comparative and international education policy and development, gender and education, gender equity and opportunity, educational policy trends and reforms in Africa & African Studies.

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### Educational qualifications

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**University of Pittsburgh, PhD**, April 2002

School of Education, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies  
Program: Social and Comparative Analysis in Education (SCAE)  
Specialization: Education and International Development  
Research Dissertation: *Expanding the Discourse on Grassroots Provision of Basic Education in Kenya: Listening to Voices from the Village*

**University of Pittsburgh, MLS**, December 1996

School of Information Sciences  
Specialization: Academic Libraries, Data and Information Management  
Master's Thesis: *The Role of Academic Libraries in Improving Education Quality in African Countries: The Case of East Africa's University Libraries*  
**Award:** World Bank Scholarship for master's in library science degree studies, Washington, DC (1994-95)

**Kenyatta University, Kenya, Bachelor of Education**, December 1986

School of Education, Department of Educational Administration, Planning and Curriculum Development  
Major: Secondary Education (Teaching English as a Second Language and African Literature)

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### Professional Work Experience

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**University of Pittsburgh**

**Associate Director (January 2011-Present)**

**Center for African Studies, University Center for International Studies (UCIS)**

- Leading and building the intellectual agenda of the Center in partnership with affiliated faculty, the Directors of UCIS and other stakeholders in the various units across campus to achieve set objectives and goals in line with the University's global vision
- Managing program operations, including coordinating development of new African Studies courses, African language instruction, study abroad in Africa programs, partnerships with African institutions and outreach and community engagement programs
- Seeking external funding to support program development, student scholarships and faculty development initiatives and ensuring timely submission of reports to funding agencies
- Coordinating and leading Africa Group Projects Abroad for K-14 pre- service teachers, teachers and administrators, funded by Fulbright Hays to support research and training efforts which focus on non-western foreign languages and area studies

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## Publications

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- Lelei, M.C. (forthcoming, 2025). *Expanding the Discourse on Educational Development in Kenya: Listening to Village Voices*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.
- Picard, L.A., T. Buss, T. Seybolt, & M.C. Lelei (Eds.). (2015). *Sustainable Development and Human Security in Africa: Governance as the Missing Link*. Boca Raton, Florida: CRC Press-Taylor and Francis Group.
- Lelei, M.C., Weidman, J.C., and Sakaue, K. (2015). Free primary education in Kenya. In G. Jean-Marie, S. Sider & C. Desir (Eds.). *Comparative International Perspectives on Education and Social Change in Developing Countries and Indigenous Peoples in Developed Countries*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Lelei, M.C. & Weidman, J.C. (2012). Education development in Kenya: Enhancing access and quality. In C. Acedo, D. Adams and S. Popa (Eds), *Quality and Qualities: Tensions in Education Reforms*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers
- Lelei, M.C. (2005). Girls' education in Kenya: Problems and prospects in global context. In Chepyator-Thomson, J.R. (Editor), *African Women and Globalization*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press/The Red Sea Press.

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## Awards & Recognitions:

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### **2016 Chancellor's Staff Award:**

Recipient of the 2016 Chancellor's Staff Award for Diversity and Inclusion in recognition of my contributions to the University's diversity initiatives and work to creating a culture of inclusion in the African Studies Program, UCIS and the University. The Award recognizes the far-reaching impact I have had on our students, an impact that has not only created a more diverse and inclusive campus, but that has extended well beyond the boundaries of Oakland. Many of the students who have participated in the African Studies have been recognized with the highest forms of national and international awards, including Rhodes, Boren and Fulbright Scholarships.

### **2016 UACSWPA Diversity Awards:**

The Diversity Awards in the Education Award Category presented by the *Union of African Communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania (UACSWPA)* in recognition of our outreach to promote Africa related education that enhance knowledge and understanding of Africa in the schools and communities of western PA.

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## Public Service:

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- Member of the Advisory Board - Union of African Communities of Southwestern Pennsylvania - since January 2012
- Member of the Board of Directors – Workforce Development Global Alliance (WDGA) – since January 2013
- Chairperson of the Association of Kenyan Women in Pittsburgh – since December 2014
- Member of the Board of Trustees – Brothers Brother Foundation (BBF) Since January 2015
- National Chair, Association of African Studies Programs (AASP), USA. April 2016 – 2017