

Acting Director, African Studies Program, University Center for International Studies  
& Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Administrative and Policy Studies  
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<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/africa/content/dr-macrina-lelei>

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### Research and Teaching Interests

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International and development education, gender and education in Africa, equity and opportunity issues in education, and contemporary Issues in African Studies

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### Education

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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: International and Development Education

Research Dissertation: *Expanding the Discourse on Grassroots Provision of Basic Education in Kenya: Listening to Voices of the village people*

**Awards:**

- Faculty/Student Research Fund, dissertation research support (2000 and 2001)
- Alumni Doctoral Fellowship (1998 and 1999)
- Graduate Student Assistantship (1997-2000)

**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, Washington, DC (1994-95)

**University of Leeds, England, TESOL Certification**, December 1991

School of Education, Teacher Training Program

**Award:** British Council and Kenya Government Scholarship (1990-1991)

**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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### **Other Professional Training**

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#### **University of Leeds, School of Education, England (1989-1990)**

Attended a one year special study attachment, obtained a Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). A merit-based award from the British Council Technical Assistance Program in collaboration with the Kenya Government Ministry of Education which was part of the teacher professional development initiative to improve teacher training and teaching practices.

#### **In-service Training for Teachers, Kenya (1988-1989)**

Attended training to prepare instructors for in-service training June – August. The focus was on teaching methods and developing instructional materials for in-service courses to be conducted at local teacher training colleges as part of the ongoing teacher professional development initiative of the Kenya Government Ministry of Education in collaboration with the British Council in Kenya

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### **Professional Experience**

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#### **University of Pittsburgh**

##### **Acting Director (2011-present)**

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

- Leading and building the intellectual agenda of the African Studies program (ASP) in consultation with affiliated faculty and the Directors of (UCIS) and International Advancement to achieve the strategic 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 other outreach and community engagement service activities
- Holding faculty meetings, and keeping open communication with all stakeholders to ensure that appropriate courses are being offered, revising and updating the strategic direction of the program in a collaborative manner, encouraging participation and collaboration of faculty across the social sciences, humanities and professional schools
- 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-teachers, teachers and administrators, funded by Fulbright Hays to support research and training efforts which focus on non-western foreign languages and area studies

**Associate Director (2002-20011)**

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

- Developed and implemented administrative processes necessary for successful undergraduate and graduate student advising activities as requested by the Director
- Contributed to the design and development of the African Studies Program to reflect changing needs, working closely with the program director
- Advised students on course requirements, individual research, study abroad, internships and service learning opportunities in African countries
- Planned events such as public lectures, film series, workshops, symposia, conferences and outreach to schools and to the wider Pittsburgh community
- Served as resource person for the African Region, providing requested information to faculty and students and also to the wider Pittsburgh community, ensuring partnerships and participating in networking workshops
- Developed and submitted four successful grant proposals:
  - Association Liaison Office (ALO) for University Cooperation in Development, now called Higher Education for Development (HED), funded by USAID, \$124,081 to support an 18-month capacity building partnership between the University of Pittsburgh and Moi University in Kenya (2003 – 2005)
  - U.S. Department of Education under the Fulbright Hays Group Projects Abroad Program, \$64,000 to support a curriculum development project for 14 teachers from the Beaver Pennsylvania School District to travel to Ghana for 6 weeks (2005)
  - U.S. Department of Education under the Title VI Program for “Strengthening International Studies and Foreign Language Teaching,” \$186,000 to support activities to enhance the Undergraduate African Studies Certificate Program and broaden its reach (2007-2010)
  - U.S. Department of Education under the Fulbright Hays-Group Projects Abroad Program, \$87,000 to support a six-week summer study abroad program in Tanzania (2010)

- U.S. Department of Education – Fulbright Hays-Group Projects Abroad Program, \$54,695 to support a six-week summer study abroad program in Tanzania (2014).
- Managed (2004-2006) an Access International Education Research Project funded by the U.S. Department of Education under Title VI of the Higher Education Act, investigating the participation of minority students in international education and study abroad programs in the United States
  - Ensured implementation of the project as per the proposal requirements – conducted survey questionnaires and follow up phone interviews, compiled the data
  - Participated in publicity of the project and its resources through presentations at professional and scholarly associations, such as NAFSA, AIEA, CIES, major language teaching associations and PACIE
  - Wrote and submitted the final research report to the U.S Department of Education
- Coordinated (2003-2004) University of Pittsburgh ALO partnership with Moi University, Kenya
  - Co-applied for funding with the Institute for International Studies in Education (IISE) at the University of Pittsburgh and Moi University, School of Education
  - Responsible for designing, organizing and the management of project activities, including coordination and communication with Moi University partners
  - Developed Strategic Plan workshop materials in collaboration with two faculty members from the University of Pittsburgh and two faculty members from Moi University and Participated in the strategic planning workshop at Moi University in May of 2004
  - Wrote the final project report for ALO and presented at the August 2004 “Synergy in Development Conference” in Washington, DC

**Adjunct Assistant Professor (2009-present)**  
**Department of Administrative and Policy Studies, School of Education**

**Courses Taught:**

- Social Theories of Education in Global Context
- Comparative and International Education
- Education in Africa

- Education, Culture, and Social Transformation in East Africa
- Introduction to East Africa: Culture, Society and Health (Study Abroad in Tanzania Summer Course)
- African Literature and Society (Department of Africana Studies)
- Contemporary Topics in African Studies (Department of Africana Studies)
- Swahili 1 – beginners level

**British Council, Kenya (1996-1997)**

Outreach Program Coordinator –worked in conjunction with the British Council Director of Western Kenya education improvement initiative to oversee implementation and development teaching materials with the teachers, providing a mobile library for the rural schools and professional teacher development workshops

**Maseno University College, Kenya**

**Library Assistant (1992-1994)**

Responsible for acquisition and cataloguing of library materials and providing a wide variety of basic public, technical, and clerical services including information and reference service, reader’s advisory, presenting programs and general administrative and logistical support for library operations.

**Secondary School Teacher, Teachers Service Commission (TSC), Kenya [1987-1989]**

Taught English language and African Literature in High School employed by the TSC—an independent government commission established under the Constitution of Kenya to manage human resource within the education sector. I also served as examiner during my tenure as a school teacher for the Kenya National Examinations Council (KNEC) the national body responsible for overseeing national examination in the country.

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**Publications**

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Picard, L.A., T. Buss, T. Seybolt, & M.C. Lelei (Eds.). (Forthcoming, 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. (forthcoming, 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. (forthcoming, 2015). *Expanding the Discourse on Educational Development in Kenya: Listening to Village Voices*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.

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.

Weidman, J.C., D.W. Chapman, M.Cohen, and M.C. Lelei (2004). Access to education in five newly independent states of Central Asia and Mongolia. In S.P. Heyneman & A.J. DeYoung (Eds.), *Challenges for Education in Central Asia*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing.

### **Selected Presentations**

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2015: "Addressing the Opportunity Gap: Are African Countries Ready to Talk about Equity in Education?" A presentation made at the African Studies Association Conference held in San Diego, CA November 19-21, 2015

2014: "Free Primary Education in Kenya: Opportunities and Challenges" (with John C. Weidman), Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), April 3, Philadelphia, PA.

2012: "Women and development in Africa in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A presentation made during the "Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa: An International Conference" held at the University of Pittsburgh, March 29-30.

2011: "Rural Women as Agents of Social Change and Development in Africa." Presented in a panel on "Women Around the World: Achievements and Challenges Today," March 8, World Affairs Council, Pittsburgh.

2011: "Education Development in Kenya: Enhancing Access and Quality" (with John C. Weidman). African Education Research Forum (AERF), October 21-22, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

2008: "Education Quality Improvement in Kenya." Comparative and international Education Society (CIES) 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference "Gaining Education Equity Around the World." March 17-21, Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York.

2007: "Challenges of the Millennium Development Goals for Education in Africa." CIES Annual Conference "Engaging our Differences." February 25-March 1, Baltimore, MD

2006: "Participation of Undergraduate Ethnic & Racial Minorities in International Education Opportunities in US Colleges." CIES 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Conference "Rethinking the Comparative." March 14-18, Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu.

2005: “Education Systems of African Countries in Crisis: Dilemmas of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.” CIES 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, March 22-26, Stanford University, CA.

2004: “Exploring the Range of Grassroots Support for Education Provided by NGOs in Africa.” CIES 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 9-12 March, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2003: “War in Sudan: The Role of the International Community in Restoration Efforts.” African Studies Conference, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, April 3-5.

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### **Memberships in Professional Organizations**

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Association of African Studies Programs (AASP) since 2014

International Studies Association (ISA) since 2008

The Pennsylvania Council for International Education (PaCIE) since 2006

African Studies Association (ASA) since 2005

NAFSA Association of International Educators since 2004

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) since 1999

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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 t – since December 2014

Member of the Board of Trustees – Brothers Brother Foundation (BBF)  
Since January 2015

National Chair, Association of African Studies Programs, USA. Since April 2016

April 25, 2016