

Elaine Christian, PhD, MA

Building relationships and understanding through research and partnership facilitation

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Summary

Award-winning bilingual researcher and partnership facilitator with over 10 years cross-cultural experience in Canada, US, UK, and Africa; using qualitative and participatory methods to uncover and share knowledge, promote dialogue, and build bridges of understanding. I specialise in qualitative social research (including design, methodology, data collection, analysis, interpretation, reporting, and knowledge-sharing) and I work with humanitarian and civil society groups to develop a just way of working, through stronger and equitable relationships with partner organisations.

Core Competencies

- Designing, managing, and implementing qualitative research and learning programmes
- Communicating effectively and appropriately to different audiences
- Delivering insightful, detailed, and well-organised analyses
- Taking a measured and imaginative approach to decision-making and problem-solving
- Collaborating with multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams to achieve shared goals
- Adapting to new situations; learning skills to deal with challenges and meet needs

Area Expertise

- Development: Humanitarianism, partnership, faith-based and secular development, literacy, human rights, environmentalism, community-based advocacy, education, MEL
- East Africa: Swahili-speaking areas, religion, politics, ethnicity, language, environment
- Methodology: Qualitative research design, literature review, ethnography, feminist approaches, iterative and grounded research, report writing, knowledge-sharing
- Training and facilitation: Workshop design and delivery, participant-led learning programmes

Consultancies

Partnership & Companion Link Consultant (01/2023 – 04/2023)

Anglican Communion Office, London, UK

- Supported Anglican dioceses worldwide to build and maintain stronger and more equitable international partnerships, by creating comprehensive, useful, and culturally relevant resources
- Reviewed guidelines for international diocese links; collaborated with working group to update and revise guidelines; developed survey tools and research existing links

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning Support (03/2021 – 01/2023)

REAL Consulting & Porticus Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

- Collaborated with a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural team of 4 to support two national religious organisations in building MEL capacity; designed assessment tools and surveys
- Spearheaded a 10-week workshop series on MEL for faith leaders, focusing on personal, organisational, and social change; and on building MEL systems. This workshop was highly popular and received strong positive feedback.

Editing Support (01/2022 – 10/2022)

TreeAid, Bristol, UK

- Provided technical and content editing for Livelihood Needs Assessment Practical Guide, a 56-page handbook outlining assessment implementation for field staff
- Advised on data collection and assessment methodologies and tools, and on ways to communicate these for ease of implementation by non-specialist users

Employment

Associate Lecturer (08/2017 – 08/2018)

University of Kent, Canterbury

- Convened two modules; researched, designed, and delivered lectures and discussions
- Set and evaluated essays, assignments, presentations, and exams; supervised dissertations
- Reviews noted that lectures were well-planned and engaging, and assessment fair and consistent

Transcription & Data Analysis Intern (06/2013 – 02/2014)

International Rescue Committee and Teachers College, New York

- Contributed to collaborative research on quality education for refugee students in Kenya, which resulted in several academic and policy publications
- Analysed data on teacher training and education quality using inductive & deductive coding, and contributed to collaborative data interpretation

Graduate Research Assistant (09/2012 – 06/2013)

Columbia University Teachers College, New York

- Managed (in collaboration with other researchers) 40+ years of longitudinal data
- Uncovered historical trends by digitising and visualising geographic, survey, and census data
- Consulted linguistic specialists and conducted historical textual analysis

Database Technician (2005-2009, 01/2011 – 09/2011)

Kimber Resources, Vancouver, BC

- Maintained, and brought up to industry standard, databases of roughly 100,000 records
- Took initiative by proposing new projects: I overhauled data import/export by reviewing existing procedures, investigating best practice, making recommendations, and implementing new procedures; resulting in significantly decreased processing time, and increased accuracy.
- Improved the focus of our data analysis by using two different scripting languages (VBA & SQL)
- Contributed insights to and conducted research for news releases and internal/external reports
- Developed an innovative data transmission tracking app, working with a small team and contractor

Education

Ph.D., Anthropology & Education (2017)

Columbia University Teachers College, New York

Thesis title: *Shepherds, Servants, and Strangers: Popular Christianity and Mission among Tanzanian Lutheran Ministers*

- Designed and conducted 18 months research in Tanzania, using qualitative and participatory methodologies including ethnographic observation, surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, one-on-one work, document analysis, and archival research
- Established effective relationships with stakeholders including advisors, research participants, gatekeepers, funding bodies, permitting agencies, and colleagues
- Analysed research data, producing numerous written outputs for various audiences including academic publications, conference papers, knowledge sharing exercises
- Obtained four research grants

M.A., Social Anthropology of Development, with merit (2010)

School of Oriental and African Studies, London

Thesis title: *A Review of Literacy Practices and Critique of an Evaluation of Ugandan Adult Literacy Development Programmes* (awarded distinction grade)

B.A., Applied Linguistics, with distinction (2005)

Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, Canada

Service & Volunteer Roles

Seminar Coordinator (2012-2013)

Columbia University Teachers College, New York

- Collaboratively delivered an innovative 15-week seminar, attended by a variety of participants

President, Society for Anthropological Studies (2012-2013)

Columbia University Teachers College, New York

- Worked with other officers to plan and implement events, and advocate for anthropology students

Grant Writer (2011)

Shanti Uganda, Vancouver, BC

- Researched grant opportunities, and collaborated on writing and submitting applications

Immigration Detainee Visitor (2009-2010)

Student Detainee Support, London

- Supported women at Yarl's Wood IDC by visiting and liaising with solicitors/medical examiners

Additional Workshops & Training

Designing and Delivering Hybrid Events (2023)

Creative Strategy Solutions & Co-Creative Labs (online)

Building Inclusive Cultures (2023)

Bond UK (online)

MEAL DPro: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (2022)

Humanitarian Leadership Academy, Humentum, & Catholic Relief Services

(currently preparing to sit the PHAP Core MEAL certification assessment)

LSE/Columbia University PhD Exchange (2013-2014, 2016)

London School of Economics, London

Statistics and Causal Analysis for Qualitative Social Sciences (2014)

University College London, London

Selected Publications and Presentations

"The boundaries of moral communities: Human rights and the politics of international church partnerships in Tanzania." *American Anthropological Association, Vancouver. 2022.*

"Partnership and Race in Mission Encounters in Tanzania." *Open Theology 2(1): 767-784. DOI: 10.1515/opth-2016-0058. 2016.*

"Hospitality as Reconciliation: Hosts and Guests in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania." *Critical Hospitality Studies Symposium, Edinburgh. 2016.*

"Cultural, Moral, and Political Dimensions of Lutheran Environmental Theology and Tree-planting Schemes on Mt. Kilimanjaro." *RAI conference on Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change, London. 2016.*

Languages

English Native

Kiswahili Full Professional Proficiency (ILR 4)

French Limited Working Proficiency (ILR 2)