

LEKPOH DWANYEN, PH.D.

Michigan State University – Human Development and Family Studies
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EDUCATION

Degree	Institution	Date Degree Granted
Ph.D. Family Social Science	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN	2020
M.S. Family Sciences Couple & Family Therapy	University of Kentucky Lexington, KY	2016
B.S. Family Social Science	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Minneapolis, MN	2014

ACADEMIC POSITION

Assistant Professor Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University Core Faculty Member, Couple and Family Therapy Program Core Faculty Member, Youth Equity Project	August 2022–Present
College of Social Science Dean’s Research Associate Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University	August 2020–August 2022

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies	September 2019–Present
National Council on Family Relations <i>Ethnic Minorities Section Member</i> <i>Family Therapy Section Member</i>	October 2015–Present
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy <i>Intervention Research Network</i> <i>Family Therapists in Healthcare Settings</i>	September 2014–Present

RESEARCH AWARDS

African Studies Center Transforming Institutions Award	2022
Alliance for African Partnership Strategic Partnership Award	2021
Priscilla Rugg Family Social Science Fellowship	2019-2020
Common Ground Consortium Fellowship	2017-2020
Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality (RIGS) Studies Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship	2018
CEHD Alumni Society Board Advanced Study Scholarship	2018
Women's Philanthropic Leadership Circle Award	2018
M. Janice Hogan Fellowship	2017-2018
Diversity of Views and Experiences (DOVE) Fellowship	2016-2017
School of Human and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student of Excellence	2016
Alice P. Killpatrick Fellowship	2015-2016
Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society, University of Kentucky Chapter	2015
Lyman T. Johnson Fellowship	2014-2015

RESEARCH**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

Dwanyen, L., Wieling, E., & Griffes, S. (accepted). "People are Still Living with Pains of the War": An Assessment of Long-term Adjustment and War-Related Traumatic Stress Among Liberian Refugees.

Asiimwe, R., Nuwabaga-K, R. D., **Dwanyen, L.,** Kasujja, R. (2023). Sociocultural considerations of mental healthcare in Uganda. *SSM Mental Health*. doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmmh.2023.100232

Dwanyen, L., Holtrop, K., & Parra-Cardona, R. (2022). Reducing mental health disparities among racially and ethnically diverse populations: A review of couple and family intervention research methods (2010-2019). *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. doi:10.1111/jmft.12573

Smith, E., Yzaguirre, M., **Dwanyen, L.,** & Wieling, E. (2022). Culturally relevant parenting approaches among African American and Latinx children and families: Toward anti-racist, resilient, and trauma-informed practices.

Asiimwe, R.*, **Dwanyen, L.,** Subramaniam, S., Kasujja, R., & Blow, A. (2022). Training of interventionists and cultural adaptation procedures: A systematic review of culturally adapted evidence-based parenting programs in Africa.

Wieling, E., Derrick, J. M., **Dwanyen, L.,** Escobar-Chew, A. R., Gassas, R. F., ... & Yumbul, C. (2020). Letters to the field from systemic family therapists who represent and work with international and racial/ethnic communities. In K.S. Wampler, R. B. Miller, R. B. Seedall, L. M. McWey, ... & R. Singh. (Eds.), *Systemic Family Therapy and Global Health Issues*.

Ballard, J., Wieling, E., Forgatch, M., & **Dwanyen, L.** (2020). Parenting practices in the Karen refugee community. *Contemporary Family Therapy*, 42. doi:10.1007/s10591-019-09509-6

Morgan, E., Wieling, E., Hubbard, J., & **Dwanyen, L.** (2020). Perceptions of war trauma and healing of marital relations among torture surviving Congolese couples participating in multi-couple therapy. *Family Process*. doi:10.1111/famp.12487

Dwanyen, L., & Solheim, C. (2019). Human ecology theory. In J. Ponzetti, M. Blankemeyer, S. M. Horan, H. Lyons, & A. Shigeto (Eds.), *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Families, Marriages, and Intimate Relationships*, (pp. 446-449). Cengage Publishing. ISBN: 9780028664613

Ballard, J., Wieling, E., Solheim, C., **Dwanyen, L.** (Eds.). (2019). *Immigrant and refugee families: Global perspectives on displacement and resettlement experiences* (2nd ed.). St. Paul, MN: University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing. ISBN: 9781946135018

Dwanyen, L., & Hans, J. D. (2017). Postpartum depression: Novel use of video-based interventions. *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology & Health*, 32, 128–148.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Dwanyen, L., Blow, A., Luberenga, I., Asiimwe, R., & Kasujja, R. (2023, November). Perspectives on traumatic stress: An ethnographic assessment of national mental health efforts in Uganda. The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Los Angeles, California.

Dwanyen, L., & Griffes, S.* (2023, November). Examining gender and family resilience after war with Liberian refugees. Poster presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Griffes, S.*, & **Dwanyen, L.** (2023, November). Mapping social justice principles onto common themes in couple relationship education programs. Presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Huang, Y.*, Edwards, C., **Dwanyen, L.**, & Holtrop, K. (2023, November). Cultural adaptation: A critical approach for couple and family intervention research. Presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Wieling, E., **Dwanyen, L.**, & Mittal, M. (2023, September). Lessons from the field: Systemic implementation experiences with underserved families nationally and globally. Invited panel at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Intervention Research Conference, Provo, Utah.

Wittenborn, A., Holtrop, K., **Dwanyen, L.**, & Tseng, C. F. (2023, September). Engaging underrepresented populations in couple and family intervention research: Recommendations and considerations. Presentation at American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Intervention Research Conference, Provo, Utah.

Dwanyen, L. (2023, April). Developing needs assessments to explore opportunities for systemic family-level interventions in refugee post-conflict settings. Invited presentation at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

- Dwanyen, L.,** Campbell, A., & Coffman, K. (2022, November). Language Matters: Evaluating the Use of Systemic Terms of Oppression (STOp) in Family Relations From 2000–2021. Presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Dwanyen, L.,** Kasujja, R., Asiimwe, R. *, Luberenga, I. *, & Blow, A. (2022, October). Mental health in Uganda: An ethnographic assessment of the mental health system and opportunities for systemic interventions. Presentation at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Intervention Research Conference, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Holtrop, K., **Dwanyen, L.,** Lamson, A., & McWey, L. (2022, October). Reflections on the JMFT decade review special issue: Stepping stones and next steps. Panel discussion at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Intervention Research Conference, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Asiimwe, R. *, Blow, A., & **Dwanyen, L.** (2021, November). Expanding our international reach: Trends of systemic family therapy in Africa. Presentation delivered at the Systemic Family Therapy Conference, virtual.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2021, May). Exploring the role of war trauma exposure on youth and parents in a community sample of resettled Liberians. Presentation delivered at the Michigan State University Youth Equity Project Meeting, virtual.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2020, November). Integrating Family Therapy Models to Address the Systemic Effects of Trauma: An Autoethnography from Post-conflict Uganda. Flash talk presentation at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Meeting, virtual.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2020, November). The Long-term Effects of War-related Traumatic Stress on the Mental, Relational, Community Health of Liberian Refugees. Poster presentation at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Meeting, virtual.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2020, November). Addressing Traumatic Stress at Relational and Community Levels: Lessons Learned from Gulu, Uganda. Presentation delivered Michigan State Couple and Family Therapy Student-Faculty Meeting, virtual.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2020, November). Gender, family, and social change: Case study of Liberian mothers and peace activists. Paper presentation delivered at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, virtual.
- Solheim, C., & **Dwanyen, L.** (2019, November). Resettlement and economic adjustment of Karen refugee families: A Family Stress Perspective. Lightning paper presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.
- Wieling, E., Erolin, K., Cooper, D., Kraus, E., & **Dwanyen, L.** (2018, November). Narrative Exposure Therapy: A treatment for posttraumatic stress. Institute presentation at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Conference, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Dwanyen, L.,** & Cooper, D. (2018, November). Insider, outsider, or in-between? Managing the self in research and practice with diverse populations. Poster presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, San Diego, California.

- Dwanyen, L.** (2018, September). Engaging with families in Northern Uganda. Presentation at the Family Social Science Immigrant and Refugee Discussion Series, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2018, March). Theoretical applications to parent-child acculturation gaps in war-affected families. Research presentation at the International Family Therapy Association World Family Therapy Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2018, March). Navigating the emic or “insider” self: Lessons from exploring war trauma and resettlement. Research presentation at the International Family Therapy Association World Family Therapy Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Dwanyen, L.,** Wieling, E., Kraus, E., & Cooper, D. (2017, November). A needs assessment of Liberian immigrant and refugee families. Paper presentation at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Dwanyen, L. &** Wieling, E. (2017, October). A needs assessment of Liberian immigrant and refugee families. Research discussion presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Ballard, J., Cooper, D., **Dwanyen, L.,** & Kraus, E. (2017, April). *Working with refugee families: Key areas of assessment and intervention.* Workshop presentation at the Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Annual Conference, Edina, MN.
- Hans, J. & **Dwanyen, L.** (2016, November). *Attitudes toward postpartum depression based on risk factors and diagnosis.* Poster presentation presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- Dwanyen, L. &** Hans, J. (2016, November). *The effects of an educational intervention on postpartum depression stigma.* Poster presentation presented at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2016, May). *Postpartum depression: The effects of a video intervention on knowledge and stigma.* Oral presentation presented at the University of Kentucky School of Human and Environmental Sciences Graduate Student Research Day, Lexington, KY.
- Dwanyen, L.** (2013, November). *The maternal experiences of HIV-positive women.* Oral presentation presented at the McNair National Conference, Lake Geneva, WI.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

COURSE INSTRUCTOR

HDFS 982 **Qualitative Research Methods** (Ph.D.)
Human Development and Family Studies Department, Michigan State University

HDFS 444 **Interpersonal Relationships in the Family** (Undergraduate)
Human Development and Family Studies Department, Michigan State University

HDFS 993 **Clinical Practicum** (Ph.D.)
Human Development and Family Studies Department, Michigan State University

FSoS 1202 **Human Development in Families: LifeSpan** (Undergraduate)
Family Social Science Department, University of Minnesota

FSoS 2107 **Preparation for Family & Community Engagement** (Service Learning)
Family Social Science Department, University of Minnesota

GUEST LECTURES

HDFS 472 Helping Skills	December 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Traumatic Stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder 	
HDFS 830 Survey of Couple and Family Therapy Theories	October 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative Family Therapy and Exposure Therapy 	
HDFS 830 Survey of Couple and Family Therapy Theories	December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Narrative Exposure Therapy 	
HDFS 842 African American Families	March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Immigration and the African Diaspora 	
EPSY 8403 Social/Cultural Contexts: Counseling and Skills	February 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling Multicultural Clients 	
FSoS 2107 Preparation for Family and Community Engagement	April 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising Resources 	November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Environments 	November 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-on-one Relational Meetings 	October 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Facilitation Practice as a Community Engagement Strategy 	
FSoS 2105 Methods in Family Research	September 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence-based Traumatic Stress Interventions with War-affected Families 	
FSoS 4107 Traumatic Stress and Resilience in Vulnerable Families	April 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical and Research Experience Surrounding Traumatic Stress 	

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ibrahim Luberenga (HDFS) – First-year doctoral student
Aya Maxudov (HDFS) – Second-year doctoral student
Francesca Pratt (HDFS) – Third-year doctoral student

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Morgan Titus (HDFS) – Comprehensive exams completed
Caitlin Edwards (HDFS) - Dissertation proposal approved
Emily Jensen (HDFS) – Comprehensive exams completed
Anneliese Samples (HDFS) – Pre-comprehensive exams
Joana Lampe (Social Work) – Pre-comprehensive exams
Jessica Saba (Social Work) – Comprehensive exams passed

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate Therapist** December 2016–Present
Kente Circle, LLC., virtual telehealth
- Provide culturally sensitive psychotherapy services with clients affected by complex trauma and related individual-, couple-, and family-level stressors
- Traumatic Stress and Complex PTSD Clinical Trainer** August 2019 – Present
The Family Partnership, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Deliver trainings on traumatic stress, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), culture and mental health, and topics relevant to culturally sensitive
- US-based Narrative Exposure Therapy Trainer** August 2018–Present
USA, North America
- Deliver trainings on Narrative Exposure Therapy, an evidence-based treatment for complex posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) to mental health providers, researchers, and stakeholders
- Graduate Research Assistant** August 2017–December 2019
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minnesota
- Analyzed qualitative interviews on economic adjustment of Karen families, coordinated and hosted local Immigrant and Refugee Discussion Series, co-edited revised open-access textbook
- Project Assistant and Case Manager** June 2018–August 2018
vivo International, Gulu, Uganda
- Provided weekly consultation to 16 counselors delivering Narrative Exposure Therapy, managed intakes and clinical case loads, and tracked pre- and post-test assessments
- Family Relations Editorial Assistant** January 2015–August 2016
National Council on Family Relations, Minneapolis, MN Headquarters
- Processed manuscripts through peer review and publication processes, liaison between the Editor, editorial board members, corresponding authors, and manuscript reviewers
- Research Assistant** August 2014–May 2016
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- Supported qualitative data analysis on suicide research, yielded local and national research funding announcements, supported literature development on assisted reproduction

SERVICE, OUTREACH, AND ENGAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT-LEVEL SERVICE

HDFS Hearing Board for Graduate Students August 2023–Present
Michigan State University Department of Human Development and Family Studies

HDFS Methods Committee August 2022–Present
Michigan State University Department of Human Development and Family Studies

Clinic Renovation Lead January 2022–Present
Michigan State University Couple and Family Therapy Clinic

Diversity Committee Member October 2016–May 2018
University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science

Applicant Welcome Weekend Student Co-chair September 2017–February 2018
University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science

Graduate Student Faculty Meeting Representative September 2016–May 2017
University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science

COLLEGE-LEVEL SERVICE

Black Girls in Social Science Faculty Advisor August 2020–Present
Michigan State University College of Social Science

Youth Equity Project Core Faculty Member October 2020–Present
Michigan State University College of Social Science

Alumni Society Board Member August 2017–May 2020
University of Minnesota College of Education & Human Development

FIELD-LEVEL SERVICE

Editorial Board Member January 2021–Present
Journal of Marital and Family Therapy

Proposal Reviewer March 2018–March 2019
National Council on Family Relations

On-site Conference Volunteer November 2016–November 2018
National Council on Family Relations

Family Relations (Journal) Trainer September 2016–March 2017
National Council on Family Relations

LEADERSHIP

Co-Chair, Clinic Director Search Committee September 2022–December 2022
Michigan State University Couple and Family Therapy Clinic

Board President Minnesota Trauma Recovery Institute	October 2019–December 2020
Vice President GradSEHD – Graduate and Professional Students in Education and Human Development	October 2017–May 2018
Vice President University of Kentucky Student Association of Marriage and Family Therapists	January 2015–March 2016
Director of Communications Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society	May 2013–May 2014
African American Outreach Initiative Lead Facilitator Minnesota Office of Higher Education	January 2012–May 2013

OTHER INVITED PANELS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Speaker: “Developing Needs Assessments for Systemic Interventions” University of Georgia Human Development and Family Studies, Athens, GA	April 2023
Panelist: Journal of Marital and Family Therapy Decade in Review Facebook Live, Virtual	September 2022
Panelist: “Ubuntu in Mental Health Discourse and Practice” Michigan State University African Studies Center, East Lansing, MI	April 2022
Panelist: “Youth, System Involvement, and Trauma” Michigan State University Youth Equity Project, East Lansing, MI	October 2021
Speaker: “Engaging with Families in Northern Uganda” University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science, Minneapolis, MN	September 2018
Panelist: “Exploring Graduate School and Self-Care” Preparation for Working with Families Undergraduate Class, Minneapolis, MN	November 2017
Speaker: “Young, Gifted, and At Risk”: Mental Health and Resources Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Minneapolis, MN	April 2017
Panelist: “Exploring Horizons Within Your Major” CEHD Undergraduate Student Networking Event, Minneapolis, MN	March 2017
Speaker: “Intersectionality” University of Minnesota Department of Family Social Science, Minneapolis, MN	December 2016