**TEXAS STATE VITA**

**Name:** Dr. Anissa Sheena Chitwanga **Title:** Assistant Professor

Texas State University Phone: (217) 766-2390

School of Social Work E-mail: chitsan@txstate.edu

712 N Comanche Street

San Marcos, TX 78666

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.** University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**July 2024** School of Social Work

Thesis Title: Intersections of Agency, Identity and Gender: Exploring the Experiences, Needs, and Aspirations of Malawian Women in Blesser Relationships and their links to Mental, Sexual and Reproductive Health

**MSW** Michigan State University

**2017** School of Social Work

Concentration: Organization and Community Leadership

**2017** Michigan State University

Certification In Community Engagement

**BA** University of Malawi

**2010** College of Arts and Humanities, Department of English

Major: English

Minor: Psychology

**TEACHING INTERESTS**

Diversity and Social Justice

Poverty & Social Change

Macro Social Work Practice

Social Welfare Policy

Social work with women

Research Methods

Human Behavior

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**Fall 2024 –**

**Spring 2025 Assistant Professor-Texas State University**

**Courses: SOWK 4310.006 - Diversity and Social Justice in Social Work**

Teaching competencies, concepts and theories that inform social work’s understanding of diversity in a variety of social contexts. Supporting students in developing skills for culturally competent social work generalist practice with diverse populations using student reflections, discussions, and critical engagement with class materials.

**Summer 2024 Adjunct Instructor, SOCW 451A**

**University of Illinois School of Social Work**

HBSE1: Human Development

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Teaching major theories that inform social work’s understanding of human behavior in a variety of social contexts

**Fall 2022 – 2024 Adjunct Instructor, SOCW 300**

**University of Illinois School of Social Work**

Diversity: Identities and Issues in Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Lead Instructor: Janet Carter-Black, PhD

Teaching Gender and sexuality modules

Teaching Race and Ethnicity module

**Spring 2023 Guest Lecturer, SOCW 451**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Human Behavior

Guest Lecture on young adulthood

**Fall 2022 Guest Lecturer, SOCW 451**

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Human Behavior

Guest Lecture on young adulthood

**Fall 2021 –**

**Spring 2023 Teaching Assistant, SOCW 300**

**University of Illinois School of Social Work**

Diversity: Identities and Issues in Social Work

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Lead Instructor: Janet Carter-Black, PhD

Teaching assigned section(s)

Participation and discussion about course content and choice of text/content

Assisting in the preparation of special notes

Grading papers for sixty students

Keeping attendance records

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Mental health

Poverty and international social development

International Social Work

Women and Gender

Gender equity and women empowerment

Social Welfare Policy

Macro Social Work Education

Simulations

Youth, Mentoring and HIV

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**2023 Research Assistant**

Child Tax Credit Study

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Labor Education Programs

Principal Investigator: Dylan Bellisle, Ph.D

Collaborated with principal investigator on developing processes for coding interview data and identifying emerging themes from the interviews. Coding process involved:

reading interviews, identifying themes, and writing memos corresponding to individual interviews and across interviews.

Contributed to research summaries that report on analysis findings.

Conduct literature review on topics related to research on family financial decisions.

**2023 Research Assistant**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work

Principal Investigator: Moses Okumu, Ph.D

Collaborated with principal investigator on Screening articles for developing a systematic review on the effectiveness of technology based and/or digital interventions to promote sexual health among adolescents and young adults (10–24 Years) in sub-Saharan Africa.

Contributed to research summaries that report on analysis findings.

Conduct literature review and helped in drafting sections of manuscripts on topics related to health, vulnerability and mental health and HIV among African Youth.

**2022- 2023 Collaborator**

Racial Healing Project

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Social Work

Collaborators: Teresa Ostler, Ph.D., Kevin Tan, Ph.D., Chi-Fang Wu.,

Coordinated and conducted research on macro-level social work and social innovation education, social-purpose collaboration, and social innovation. Collaborating on implementation of social simulations to advance racial healing and social justice.

**2021 –**

**Spring 2023** **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Principal Investigator: Teressa Ostler

Collaborate in developing, conducting, and administering simulations focused on teaching death and dying, and cultural competency in social work practice. Collaborate in developing manuscripts, proposals, and presentations and focus groups following simulations.

**2020 – 2021** **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Principal Investigator: Zhan Min, Ph.D.

Utilized Qualtrics and SPSS to analyze qualitative and quantitative data on MSW and BSW field placement data. Conducted literature searchers for upcoming manuscripts.

**2019 – 2021** **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Principal Investigator: Anderson Steven, Ph.D.

Assisted in the development of publications examining access to public benefits by minority populations in the United States. Conducted literature searchers focused on access to public benefits.

**2020 – 2021** **Collaborator**

Simulations in Social Work Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Collaborators: Teresa Ostler, Ph.D.; Kevin Tan, Ph.D., Nicole Cantoni, Jeanna Campbell.

Coordinated and conducted research on macro-level social work and social innovation education, social-purpose collaboration, and social innovation. Collaborated on implementation of social simulations to advance social work education.

**2019** **Research Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

Principal Investigator: Anderson Steven, Ph.D.

Gathered data and maintained accurate records for the Dean of Social Work. Provided first class communication and collaboration with coworkers

Skilled at detecting, resolving issues, and understanding and analyzing data

Preparing presentation slides for the Dean

**FUNDING AND AWARDS**

**2024** Research Enhancement Program (REP). Texas State University

**2023** Daniel S. Sanders Fellowship in International Social Development ($2660)

**2023** Daniel S. Sanders Peace and Social Justice Memorial Fund Travel Award ($3000)

**2023** Jean M. Due & Marianne Ferber International Research Fund ($1000)

**2022** School of Social Work International Studies Dissertation Scholarship ($3500)

**2022** UIUC School of Social Work Conference Travel Award ($700

**2022** Cares Grant ($250)

**2021** Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) ($1000)

**2021** UIUC School of Social Work Professional Development Grant ($1000)

**2021** Cares Grant ($5000)

**2021** School of Social Work Cynthia Bell Ph.D. Memorial Scholarship ($1200)

**2020** UIUC School of Social Work Conference Travel Award ($100)

**2020** Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) ($1000)

**2020** Supplemental Summer Block Grant Program (SSBG) ($4800)

**2020** Graduate College Block Grant ($2800)

**2019**  UIUC School of Social Work Conference Travel Award ($500)

**2015** The MasterCard Foundation Scholarship (100,000)

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

**Chitwanga, A.,** & Ostler, T. (2022). Experiences and Dreams of a Young Malawi Slay Queen and Her Children: How Peer Support, Trust, and Sharing Can Address Stigma, Mistrust, and Shame. *Zero to Three*, *43*(2), 13-18.

Okumu, M., Logie, C. H., **Chitwanga, A. S**., Hakiza, R., & Kyambadde, P. (2023). A syndemic of inequitable gender norms and intersecting stigmas on condom self-efficacy and practices among displaced youth living in urban slums in Uganda: a community-based cross-sectional study. *Conflict and Health*, *17*(1), 38.

Wu, C. F., Anderson, S. G., **Chitwanga, A. S**., & Yoon, S. (2022). What Do We Know About Access to Public Benefits and Services Among Low-Income Minority Families? A Scoping Review of the Literature. *J. Soc. & Soc. Welfare*, *49*, 94.

Jones, K.V., **Chitwanga, A**., Qiu, Q., Avery, A., Hicks, C., Theard-Griggs, C., Yemets, D., Vavilala, M., Theard, A. Trends in Applications and Enrolment to Summer Research Intensive and Asynchronous Online Injury and Violence Prevention Education Programs by Race and Ethnicity*. Journal of Higher Education (Under Review)*

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Andrade F., **Chitwanga, A**., Sun K., “Simulations in Teaching Social work Practice” in *Social Work and Simulations: Teaching Practice, Research, Policy & Social Injustices,* edited by Kevin Tan, Chi-Fang Wu, Teresa Ostler. Oxford University Press

Laursen, T., Mahoney, J., **Chitwanga, A.,** “Trauma Informed Response and Racial Healing through Simulations” in *Social Work and Simulations: Teaching Practice, Research, Policy & Social Injustices*, edited by Kevin Tan, Chi-Fang Wu, Teresa Ostler. Oxford University Press.

**PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION**

**Chitwanga A**., Ostler T., Relationships and Mental Health of Slay Queens in Sub Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review

**Chitwanga A**., Exploring the role of resilience in women’s agency and mental health coping strategies within Blesser relationships in Malawi.

**Chitwanga A**., The prevalence of mental health concerns among Malawian Women in Blesser Relationships and the Role of Culture in mental health access and utilization.

**Chitwanga A**., The impact of Blesser relationships on the sexual and reproductive health of Malawian women.

Sun K., **Chitwanga A**., Making Meaning, Performing Culture: Engaging Cultural Competence via Performers' Voices in Simulation Learning

Cantoni N., **Chitwanga A**, Uncovering Themes of Mental Health Treatment Stigma When Offered an Animal-Assisted Intervention

Campbell J., **Chitwanga A**. S., Cantoni N., Simulation as a tool for the Advancement of Social Work Values and Ethics in Social Work Education.

Banda L., **Chitwanga A.**, A 'girl' or a 'child'? Examining a Rights-Based Approach to Child Marriage through an Intersectionality/African Feminist Lens.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Sun K., **Chitwanga A**., Making Meaning, Performing Culture: Engaging Cultural Competence via Performers' Voices in Simulation Learning. Paper Presentation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) annual conference 2024. (Kansas City, Missouri)

**Chitwanga A**., Ostler T., Relationships and Mental Health of Slay Queens in Sub Saharan Africa: A Scoping Review. Poster Presentation at Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) annual conference 2023 (Phoenix, Arizona)

**Chitwanga A.S**., Navigating the Greener Pastures: A Narrative of An African immigrant Woman’s Experiences Upon Arrival in the United States and Access to Public Benefits. Oral presentation at the University of Missouri Black Migration’s Symposium, 2019 (Columbia, MO)

Banda L., **Chitwanga A.**, A 'girl' or a 'child'? Examining a Rights-Based Approach to Child Marriage through an Intersectionality/African Feminist Lens. Poster Presentation at Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) annual conference 2024 (Washington D.C)

Cantoni N., **Chitwanga A**., Uncovering Themes of Mental Health Treatment Stigma When Offered an Animal-Assisted Intervention, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry 2023 (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Anderson S.,Wu, C., **Chitwanga, A. S**., Yoon S., What Do We Know About Access to Public Benefits and Services Among Low-Income Minority Families?: A Scoping Review of the Literature. Poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) annual conference 2020. (online)

Cantoni N., **Chitwanga A. S**., Campbell J., Simulation as a tool for the Advancement of Social Work values and Ethics in Social Work education. Poster presentation at the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) annual conference 2020. (online)

**SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

**2022** UIUC CITL Grad Academy for Teaching Assistants

**2022** Attachment Style Interview Training

**2016**  Michigan State University Graduate Professional Training

**2015-2017** Leadership Academy for African Development Training (LAAD)

**2013-2014** Cambridge Teachers Training

**2008-2010** ZAMANAWE Peer Educators Training

**PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**2024- Present Member,** MSW Committee, Texas State University School of Social Work

**2024-Present Member,** Pre-TenureCommittee, Texas State University School of Social Work

**2022-2024** **Co-president**, Doctoral Social Work Association, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

**2022-2024 Member,** Ph.D. Committee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

**2023 Member,** Diversity Committee,University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

**2022-2023 Student Representative,** Women and Gender in Global Perspectives (WGGP) Executive Committee. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**2022 Moderator,** Panel Discussion on feminist research method, Hosted by the Department of Women and Gender Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**2022** **Volunteer Actor**, Simulations in Social Work Education Project. a community based participatory research aimed at fostering better relationships between the community and law enforcement in Champaign County. Simulations were also conducted and filmed to enhance learning and for use in social work education settings.

**2021 – 2022** **International Student Chair**, Doctoral Social Work Association, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work.

**2020-2023 Volunteer Actor,** Acting in simulations for social work education and research

**2019 – 2020** **Media and Outreach Chair**, Doctoral Social Work Association, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work

**2015 – 2017** **Member**, Phi Alpha Honor Society 2016, Michigan State University School of Social Work Chapter