



PROF ZIBONELE FRANCE ZIMBA

SOCIAL WORK ACADEMIC

NRF Y2 RATING

CONTACTS



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REFERENCES

- Prof Lambert Engelbrecht - Professor, Stellenbosch University, 084 951 2448, lke@sun.ac.za
- Prof Frank Rapholo – Professor, University of Limpopo, 0799707404, frank.rapholo@ul.ac.za
- Prof Shahana Rasool -Professor, University of Johannesburg, 0814412442, shahanar@uj.ac.za

EDUCATION

PhD in Social Work, University of Fort Hare

MA Social Work, University of Fort Hare

RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

- Nine years of experience in academia
- Familiarity with the higher education sector demands in terms of research, teaching, and social impact, both online/in-class.
- Familiarity with developing and delivering blended learning modules
- Comprehensive knowledge of social work methods, practice perspectives, and theories
- Knowledge of community development theories
- Deep understanding of social welfare policy and legislation
- Experience with managing and coordinating social work practice education modules
- Sound knowledge and expertise in indigenous social work
- Thorough knowledge of qualitative research methodologies and Autoethnography
- Experienced postgraduate supervisor
- Proficient in English, Siswati, XiTsonga, Xhosa
- Computer and Internet skills
- Moodle experience

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I have eight years of academic experience in higher education as an educator and a researcher in Social Work and Community Development. My teaching experience spans various levels within the social work and community development programme, and I have actively contributed to curriculum development, crafting and adapting content for various courses. Over the years, I have successfully supervised and graduated five master's students while maintaining a manageable workload in postgraduate supervision. I have served in various leadership positions, including Deputy Head of Department for a period of one year (2023). My scholarly research contributions extend to local and international spheres, with a robust presence in reputable peer-reviewed journals. I have published 17 publications showcasing my diverse research interests in social work education and practice. The publications incorporate a mixture of single authorship, collaborative efforts with postgraduate students under my mentorship, joint projects with fellow social work educators from different universities, and interdisciplinary initiatives focusing on two main themes of my research interest: cultural competence and radical social work. This track record underscores my ability to conduct research independently and operate within a research network, emphasizing my collaborative spirit and aptitude for teamwork. I am a productive researcher and well-rounded academic, leveraging every available opportunity and resource to contribute to research, refine teaching methodologies, and actively engage in impactful social initiatives. Upholding the values of excellence, accountability, integrity, innovation, and leadership in my research and teaching practices, I am dedicated to conducting high-quality research that improves social work education and practice. Based on my consistent and commendable research trajectory, I have an **NRF Y Rating**, which I received in 2023.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Johannesburg| Senior Lecturer-2022-2024| Associate Professor 2024- Present

Teaching:

- Present a theoretical course on theories related to participatory community practice for first-year Community Development students
- Present a theoretical course on Advanced skills in participatory Community Practice for second year Community Development students
- Present a theoretical course on Community Development Models, Approaches, & Practice for honours students in Community Development
- Present a theoretical course on Ethics in Social Work for social work third-year students
- Present a theoretical course on Integrated Social and Community Development for Community Development Masters students

Research:

- Conduct research and publish scholarly journal articles and book chapters
- Present papers at national and international conferences
- Supervise postgraduate social work students

Community Engagement:

- Collaborate with the University's Division of Social Engagement
- Serve on various committees within the Department and the University community at large

Administrative and Management Duties:

- Serve as the deputy Head of the Department of Social Work and Community Development
- Coordinate an internship for community development master's students
- Coordinate the Bachelor of Community Development undergraduate programme
- Serve as a compliance officer for the Department of Social Work and Community Development
- Update the departmental website
- Coordinate master of the community development programme
- Create an enabling writing environment for academic staff

Stellenbosch University | Junior Lecturer | January 2016 – 2021

Teaching:

- Facilitate third-year practice education module
- Present a theoretical course on community work for first-year students
- Present a theoretical course on theories, perspectives, and models for third-year students
- Present a theoretical course on Cultural Complexities for fourth-year students

Research:

- Conduct research and publish scholarly journal articles and book chapters
- Present papers at national and international conferences
- Supervise postgraduate social work students

Community Engagement:

- Collaborate with the University's Division of Social Impact to assist with the volunteering programme for the first-year practice education module
- Serve on various committees within the Department and the University community at large

Administrative and Management Duties:

- Coordinate third-year practice education orientation and placements for third-year students
- Allocate group supervision to students according to their timetables
- Facilitate weekly first-year supervisors' meeting
- Plan and oversee the implementation of the third-year practice education programme

Child Welfare, King Williams Town| Social Worker | 2014 March – December 2015

- Rendered psychosocial services to families and children
- Provided counseling and support to patients and their families
- Provided protection and care services to children
- Conducted home visits within surrounding communities
- Conducted awareness campaigns on pertinent issues within the community such as child abuse
- Rendered family re-unification services
- Coordinated substance abuse services
- Provided integrated services to people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS
- Supervised auxiliary social workers and student social workers

RESEARCH OUTPUTS (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2597-2167>)

Publications

- Aghardien N, Pillay R, Schmidt K, Mabvira A, September U, Perumal N, Khosa P...**Zimba, Z.** 2025. Biographic and Institutional Entanglements: Reframing Differences through a Diffraction Lens. *Education as Change*. Volume 29 (pp 1-24) <https://doi.org/10.25159/1947-9417/19273>
- **Zimba, Z.F**, Shongwe, N., & Nyoni, S. 2025. Deconstructing Social Work in Africa: An autoethnographic approach. *Journal of Comparative Social Work*, 20(1), 14-46. <https://doi.org/10.31265/jcsw.v20i1.707>
- **Zimba, Z. F.** 2024. Radical social work in South Africa: a rapid systematic review. *Critical and Radical Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1332/20498608Y2024D000000026>
- **Zimba Z. F.** 2024. Promoting the Rights of Older Persons in Africa through Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice. *African Journal of Social Work*, 14(4), 294-302. <https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ajsw.v14i5.8>
- Rapholo, S. F., & **Zimba, Z. F.** 2024. Social Work and Pastoral Counselling in South Africa: Inter-sectoral Partnership. In *Routledge Handbook of African Social Work Education* (pp. 96-104). Routledge.

- **ZIMBA, Z. F., TANGA, P. & NTSHONGWANA, Z.** 2023. Effects of Family Preservation Services on Family Cohesion: Views of Family Heads. ***Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk***, 59(4), 260–281. <https://doi.org/10.15270/59-4-1167>
- **MOLALA, T. S., & ZIMBA, Z. F.** 2023. Ethically-sound Artificial Intelligence for Potential Deployment in Social Work Education and Practice: **A Global South Perspective**. ***Southern African Conference for Artificial Intelligence Research***.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F., & NOMNGCOYIYA, T.** 2022. Roles and Challenges of Traditional Healers in helping communities to stay healthy during COVID-19 pandemic: Implications for Community Education in the Social Work Practice. ***Indilinga: African Journal of Indegenous Knowledge Systems***, 21:2.
- **RAPHOLO, F., & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2022. Clinical and Forensic Interviews in Child Sexual Abuse Allegations in South Africa: Literary Reflections on the Roles of Practitioners. ***Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development***, 34 (2). <https://doi.org/10.25159/2708-9355/8444>
- **NYEMBEZI, S., & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2022. Social Workers' Perceptions of Their Role to Advocate Social Justice of Sexual Minorities. ***Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development*** 34 (1):17. <https://doi.org/10.25159/2708-9355/8739>.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2022. The racially-based land distribution and ownership in South Africa: A challenging discourse for social work. ***Critical Social Work Studies in South Africa: Prospects and Challenges***. Nelson Mandela University Press, Gqeberha, South Africa.
- **PERUMAL, N., PILLAY, R., ZIMBA, Z.F., SITHOLE, M., VAN DER WESTTHUIZEN, M., KHOSA, P., NOMNGCOYIYA, T., MOKONE, M. & SEPTEMBER, U.** (2021). Autoethnographic view of South African social work educators during the COVID-19 pandemic: highlighting social (in)justice. ***Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk Journal***, 57(4), 393-406. <https://dx.doi.org/10.15270/52-2-964>
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2021. Practice experiences of South African social workers living with disabilities. ***Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk Journal***. Vol 57 No 2; Issue 8. Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15270/52-2-932> **Impact Factor- 0.67**
- **ENGELBRECHT, L.K., ORNELLAS, A., STRYDOM, M., SLABBERT, I., ZIMBA, Z.F., KHOSA, P. & CORNELISSEN-NORDIEN, T.** 2021. Authentication of an academic culture in a Social Work programme offered at a South African University: A value-driven approach towards a decolonised curriculum. ***International Social Work***, 64(4):556-570. doi:[10.1177/0020872819842934](https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872819842934)
- **ZIMBA, Z. F., KHOSA, P. & PILLAY, R.** 2020. Using blended learning in South African social work education to facilitate student engagement. ***Social Work Education***. DOI: [10.1080/02615479.2020.1746261](https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2020.1746261) **Impact Factor- 1.000**
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2020. Cultural Complexity Thinking by Social Workers in Their Address of Sustainable Development Goals in a Culturally Diverse South Africa. ***Journal of Progressive Human Services***. Doi: [10.1080/10428232.2020.1732270](https://doi.org/10.1080/10428232.2020.1732270) **Impact Factor- 0.90**
- **SPOLANDER, G., KHOSA, P. & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2019. Anti-racist Social Work – South African perspectives. ***Anti-racist Social Work: International Perspectives***.
- **MDLANKOMO, P.M., FIGLAN, S., MHARADZE, R., NJONGI, A.G, CHIWARA, E., ZIMBA, Z.F. & OYELANA, A.A.** 2017. Investigating the Impact and Attitudes of Social Workers in Assisting People with Disabilities in Alice in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. ***Journal of Human Ecology***, 59 (2-3): 72-81. doi. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09709274.2017.1357227>

- **ZIMBA, Z.F. & TANGA, P.T.** 2014. Challenges Faced by Traditional Healers When Treating People Living with HIV and AIDS: The Case of Intsika Municipality, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa. **Studies on Ethno-Medicine**, 8 (3): 269-275.doi. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09735070.2014.11917643> **Impact Factor- 0.173**

Conference Presentations

- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2022. The use of African Proverbs in Advancing Afrocentric Social Work: A cultural competence practice. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) Conference**. KwaZulu Natal: South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F. & GOBODWANA, A.** 2021. Multilingualism as an asset for decolonial education in South Africa. **ALASA International Conference**. East London: South Africa.
- **WILLEMS, M., & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2021. Logistical challenges of undergraduate students with visual impairments at a selected university. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) Conference**. University of Zululand: South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2021. Locating social workers' response on climate change using local indigenous knowledge. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) Conference**. University of Zululand- South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2021. Black Lives Matter and Social Work: From standing in solidarity to leading in front. **Social Work Action Network- International Conference**. Online conference. [SWAN-I – SWAN \(socialworkfuture.org\)](https://socialworkfuture.org)
- **ZIMBA, Z.F. & MAGERMAN, A.** 2019. Ethical Leadership as a tool in building student communities. **Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I)**. Student Summit. Stellenbosch University: South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2019. Using cultural complexity thinking to understand cultural boundaries in building healthy relationships in social work practice within a culturally diverse South Africa. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)** Cape Town: South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F., KHOSA, P. & PILLAY, R.** 2019. Using blended learning in South African social work education to facilitate student engagement. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)** Cape Town: South Africa.
- **NYEMBEZI, S., & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2019. Services provided by social workers to sexual minorities in practice: A social justice perspective. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)** Cape Town: South Africa.
- **MWOYOUNAZVO, N., ZIMBA, Z.F. & ENGELBRECHT, L.K.** 2019. South African frontline social workers' contributions to the Global Agenda for social work and social development. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)**. Cape Town: South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F. & KHOSA, P.** 2018. The use of Blended Learning in Social Work education: Uncomfortable Shift. **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference**. Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, South Africa.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2018. Challenges experienced by social workers in promoting rights of families and children through family preservation services in South Africa. **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development**. RSD, Dublin, Ireland.
- **ALBIEN, A.J., KHOSA, P., MASHIMBYE, Z., & ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2017. Reflections on the use of Blended

Learning in Social Work education. **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference**. Lord Charles Hotel, Somerset West, South Africa.

- ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2017. Towards the authentication of an academic culture in a social work programme offered at a training institution: A value-driven approach. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)**. Pretoria: South Africa.

Webinar, Symposium and Seminar Presentations

- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2024. Promoting the rights of older people in Africa through cultural competence intervention in Social Work Practice: A Scoping Review. Symposium: Symposium to Advance Social Justice and Human Rights of Older Persons in Contemporary Africa. 4-5 June. University of Johannesburg. Auckland park.
- PERUMAL, N. & **ZIMBA, Z.F.** 2023. Can social work be decolonised given the loud silence to ongoing colonial-capitalist systemic realities and epistemic injustices?
Seminar: UJ Decolonisation dialogues: the state of higher education on the eve of 30 years democracy.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.**, KHOSA, P. & PILLAY, R. 2020. Emergency Remote Learning in Social Work Education during COVID-19 Pandemic: South African Realities. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)**.
- **ZIMBA, Z.F.**, KHOSA, P., PILLAY, R. NOMNGCOYIYA, T., PERUMAL, N., SITHOLE, M. VAN DER WESTHUIZEN, M. 2020 Social work academics' voices during covid-19: Turning up the volume. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI)**.

Op-Ed

- TURTON, J., **ZIMBA, Z.**, SMITH, L., & PERUMAL, N. The social work sector speaks out: A radical response is urgently needed. 03 June 2020. Daily Maverick. <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-06-03-the-social-work-sector-speaks-out-a-radical-response-is-urgently-needed/>

Publications under Review

- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** The use of social media in social work for protest in South Africa in opinion expression, and activism. **Critical and Radical Social Work Journal**

Articles Accepted and in Press

- **ZIMBA, Z.F.** Cultural Competency Practice in Social Work: A literature review. **International Journal of Cultural Studies**. (in press)

Research Projects in Progress

- Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice: Views of Social Workers on the Barriers and Opportunities to Cultural Competence- REC-01-421-2023
- Use of Social Media in Social Work for Protest in South Africa in Opinion Expression, and Activism- REC-01-346-2023
- Social Work Education post COVID-19 Course Redesign-Rediscovering new way of learning and teaching in Africa/South Africa (NRF Funded Research project: 2023-2025)

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SUPERVISION

- Students Graduated = 5 Masters' students

Name	Year	Status
Masters		
Netsayi Mwoyounazvo	2017-2019	Completed- South African frontline social workers' contributions to the Global Agenda for social work and social development.
Sinazo Nyembezi	2018-2019	Completed- Services provided by social workers to sexual minorities in practice: A social justice perspective.
Keagan Blight	2020-2021	Completed- The influence of cultural beliefs on social work intervention in mental health: views of frontline social workers.
Melanie Willems	2018-2021	Completed- Logistical, Teaching and Learning Challenges of undergraduate students with visual impairments at selected University.
Bilqees Mohamed	2022-2023	Completed- Views of mental health practitioners on the influence of religion on mental health intervention: A study of Johannesburg Metropolitan City.
Caroline Nemabaka	2022-2024	Completed- Views of Young people on the influence of culture on mental health in Pimville, Soweto
Tommy Molala	2023-2024	Completed- Views of Social Workers on The Potential Use of Artificial Intelligence in Social Work
Doctoral		
Luvo Kasa	2022	Data collection

- Students in Progress = 2 Masters' students and 1 PhD student
 - 2 Data analysis and finalization stage
 - 1 PhD student (data collection)

GUEST LECTURE

- Digital Guest Lecture- Ludwigsburg Protestant University of Applied Science. **Topic- Praxis of reclaiming social work as a human right profession (2023).**
- Guest Lecture- Ludwigsburg Protestant University of Applied Science. **Topic- African**

spirituality and social work (2023).

- Guest lecturer- Brunel University. **Topic- Anti-Oppressive practice in social work: A South African outlook (2022).**
- Guest Lecturer- Liverpool Hope University. **Topic- Racism and discrimination: A challenging arena for social workers in South Africa (2021).**
- Guest Speaker- Social Work Action Network- International. **Topic- Fight racism worldwide: South African perspective (2020).**

International Collaborations

- **Transdisciplinary Intercultural International Partnership Project (2023-2025):**
Role: Africa Leader
Partners: Vives University; University of Gdansk, Poland; Benguet State University, Philippines; and the Ludwigsburg Protestant University of Applied Science.
- **The Eswatini Higher Education Council (ESHEC):**
Role: Programme evaluator

EXTERNAL MODERATOR/EXAMINER

- **Total number of theses examined: 14 Masters & 4 PhD**
- **Total number of courses/modules moderated: 1 course**

Institution	Role	Duration	No. of students
Central University of Tamil Nadu	Doctoral Assessor	2024	1
Durban University of Technology	Doctorate Assessor	2024	1
VIVES University of Applied Sciences	Doctoral Assessor	2023	1
University of Cape Town	MA Thesis Examiner	2022	10
University of the Western Cape	MA Thesis Examiner	2022-2023	2
University of Venda	MA Thesis Examiner	2023	1
University of Zululand	MA Thesis Examiner	2023	1
Stellenbosch University	Internal Examiner: MA & PhD	2019-2021	3 (MA) 1 (PhD)
University of the Witwatersrand	Moderator: Micro social work	2021-2022	30

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- I serve as a Board Member for Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk Journal
- I served on the Central Disciplinary Committee of Stellenbosch University
- Chair ASASWEI and SACSSP Stakeholders RoundTable on Ethics in Social Work Practice (2024)
- Chair of ASASWEI colloquium on Pandemics, Poverty and Inequality: Interrogating the Social Work Response (2020)
- Co-ordinator of Social Work Action Network South Africa (SWAN-SA) (2020 to date).
- Chair of a webinar on Violent Racism organized by Social Work Action Network South Africa (2020).
- I have served as a peer reviewer for the following accredited journals:
 - International Social Work
 - International Journal of Social Welfare
 - Social Work Education
 - Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk
- **Total number of articles peer-reviewed: 20**

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES ATTENDED

2024

- Basic Moodle Training

2023

- UJ compliance Workshop

2022

- Introductory course on Atlas.Ti 22 (24-28 January 2022)

2021

- Preparation for Publication – a webinar for SU postgraduates (9 September 2021)
- POPIA Public Consultation Forum (03 May 2021)

2020

- Social Work Academia in Africa (ASASWEI-ASSWA Joint Conversation, 15 May 2020)
- The Wits Trauma Model (ASASWEI Webinar, 20 April 2020)
- Workshop on Evaluation and Examination of Postgraduate Work (13-14 February 2020)
- DSD consultative workshop on the Social Service Professions' Bill (4 February 2020)

2019

- DSD consultative workshop on the Supervision Framework for Social Service Practitioners (22-23 February, 27-28 June & 5-6 December 2019)
- Language Centre Writing Retreat (20-22 May 2019)
- Introduction to ATLAS.ti for qualitative data analysis (14-18 January 2019)

2018

- Workshop on “Fall in Love with Presenting” (28- 29 November 2018)
- Writing Retreat for Teaching & Learning Research (6-9 November 2018)
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Writing Retreat (26-27 October 2018)
- Advanced PowerPoint workshop (2 October 2018)
- DSD consultative workshop on the Review of Social Work Practice (17-18 March 2018)

2017

- Writing Retreat for Teaching & Learning Research (30 October -2 November 2017)

2016

- Professional Educational Development for Academics (PREDAC) programme for newly appointed academics at SU (26-28 June 2016)

AWARDS RECEIVED

Performance/Recognition Awards

- 2021 - ASASWEI: Social Work Emerging Educator of the Year Award
- 2018 - Certificate of merit for a presentation that competed for the best research-based paper at the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) Conference

Financial Awards**NRF Rating Incentive 2023-2027**

- R50 000 per year

University Capacity Development Programme (UCDP):

- 2023: R66 680,00

DST-NRF Research Development Grants for New Generation of Academics Programme (nGAP) Scholars:

- 2018: R 100 000