

Elaine Christian

Qualitative research. Partnership advising.
Hopeful acts of friendship.

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Get in touch!

Summary

Researcher and partnership facilitator with 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 understanding. I specialise in qualitative research (including design, methodology, data collection, analysis, interpretation, reporting, and knowledge-sharing), and I work with organisations to develop a just way of working, through stronger and equitable relationships with their partners.

Core Competencies

- Managing, analysing, and reporting on qualitative and quantitative data
- Facilitating healthier organisational partnerships; promoting localisation and power-shifting
- Facilitating workshops, focus groups, and participant-led collaborative learning activities
- Communicating effectively and appropriately to different audiences
- Delivering insightful, detailed, and well-organised analyses
- Collaborating with multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams to achieve shared goals

Area Expertise

Development & humanitarianism	Partnership, education, literacy, human rights, environmentalism, community-based advocacy, MEL, faith-based organisations
East Africa	Swahili-speaking areas, public religion, politics, ethnicity, language, environment
Facilitation	Workshop design and delivery, participant-led learning programmes, focus groups,
Methodology	Qualitative research design, literature review, ethnography, feminist approaches, iterative and grounded research, action research, report writing, knowledge-sharing

Consultancies

Partnership Research Consultant (2024) – *Dolen Cymru Lesotho, Cardiff, Wales*

- Designing and delivering a research programme to investigate the impact and effectiveness of Dolen's partnership model and develop an evidence-based approach to partnership working
- Collecting, synthesising, and analysing data from a wide range of stakeholders
- Facilitating workshops, collaborative design & analysis sessions, and knowledge-sharing exercises

Partnership & Companion Link Consultant (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 researched existing links

Monitoring, Evaluation, Research & Learning Support (2021–2023) – *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.

Employment

Associate Lecturer (2017–2018) – *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 (2013–2014) – *International Rescue Committee, 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 (2012–2013) – *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 (2005–2011) – *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 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

M.A., Social Anthropology of Development, with merit (2010) – *Soas University of 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

Boulder Buddies (2024–present) – *Borderlands, Bristol, UK*

- Supporting refugees and asylum seekers in access to sport, through social indoor climbing sessions

Editing Support (2022) – *TreeAid, Bristol, UK*

- Provided technical and content editing for a handbook on assessment implementation for field staff
- Advised on data collection and assessment tools for implementation by non-specialist users

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) - *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

- **Session Design Lab**, FabRiders (2024) - training in workshop facilitation
- **Designing and Delivering Hybrid Events**, Creative Strategy solutions (2023) - hybrid facilitation
- **Building Inclusive Cultures**, Bond UK (2023) - training in diversity, equity, & inclusion
- **MEAL DPro: Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning**, Humanitarian Leadership Academy, Humentum, & Catholic Relief Services (2022)
- **LSE/Columbia University PhD Exchange**, London School of Economics (2013-2014, 2016)
- **Statistics and Causal Analysis for Qualitative Social Sciences**, UCL (2014) - training in quantitative analysis for social research using R

Selected Publications & 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)