

Atota Halkiyo

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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

- Global learner and educator
- Master degrees in Education Policy (U.S.) and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (Ethiopia)
- More than 9 years' professional experience in higher education in roles ranging from direct teaching to teachers' development and training and quality assurance
- Varied skills: curriculum/content design, instruction, implementation of strategic pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching with diverse student populations, program management, leadership
- Research interests: learners' diversity and education equity; dynamics between global West/North (as knowledge/policy producers) and global East Africa (as knowledge/policy borrowers/consumers); internationalization of higher education

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Education Policy and Evaluation (Student)*** 05/22
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 3.89 Cumulative GPA
- Master of Arts in Education Policy*** 05/18
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 3.90 Cumulative GPA
 - Arizona Graduate Scholar, Mary Lou Fulton College of Education
- Master of Arts in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)**** 07/10
Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
- 3.54 Cumulative GPA
 - Thesis- "The Primary Purpose of Teachers' Feedback on Students' Written Work: Evaluative vs. Instructional"
 - *Degree equivalency has been evaluated by Foundation Services International, Inc. and has been determined to be equal to a MTESOL degree from a regionally accredited institution in the USA
- Bachelor of Education in English Language and Literature, Afan Oromo Minor*** 07/07
Jimma University, Ethiopia
- 4.0 Cumulative GPA
 - Gold Medallion, Commencement Ceremony
 - Best Thesis Award, "Comparative Study of Public vs. Private Schools in Spoken English Performance"

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MLFTC FACULTY INTERNAL GRANTS PROGRAM

04/2020

Reviewer

- Reviewed/evaluated faculty internal grants proposals

GENDER- AND CULTURE-BASED EQUITY IN ETHIOPIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

05/19 – Present

Principal Investigator

- Designed original research project, coordinated bi-national research team
- Obtained research ethics approval at U.S. and Ethiopian institutions
- Led data collection during Summer 2019 including interviews with 30+ individuals and focus group discussions with 100+ university students at Madda Walabu University in Ethiopia
- On-going data analysis

PERCEPTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION EXPECTATIONS, EXPERIENCES, AND
TRAJECTORIES AMONG AFRICAN STUDENTS IN GHANA AND THE U.S.:
A LONGITUDINAL COMPARITIVE STUDY

08/18 – Present

Arizona State University, Dr. Aryn Baxter, Dr. Yekui Mlambo, and Prof. Iveta Silova

Graduate Research Assistant

- Codes, manages, and analyzes qualitative data
- Proficiency with Dedoose software

RISE: RESEARCH IMPACT IN STEM EDUCATION

05/17 – 08/2018

Arizona State University, Dr. Jeremi London

Graduate Research Assistant

- Assists with qualitative research analysis for multiple National Science Foundation-funded projects focused on broadening participation of African American and female students in STEM education and impact of emerging engineering education research.

“ENGENDERING HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULA” RESEARCH PROJECT

06/13 – 06/14

Mada Walabu University, Bale Robe, Ethiopia

Principal Investigator

- A year-long, institution-wide exploratory research project aimed at describing gender inequities in curriculum (course content, teaching-learning processes, and university environment) and then providing trainings and tools to instructors, staff, and the student population to create a more gender responsive education setting.
- Collected primary data, aggregated secondary data, analyzed gender inequities in local education system, and responded with university-wide trainings, support materials, and capacity building of gender office.
- Liaised with the national Ministry of Education’s Gender Directorate.
- Awarded 120,000 Ethiopian Birr (\$4,500 USD, equivalent to 24 months’ pay for average university professor), approved by Mada Walabu Institutional Review Board.

MORKACHU INITIATIVE

Founder

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- Merit-based scholarship for outstanding economically disadvantaged high-school students in Ethiopia

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Halkiyo, A.B., Lott, B.E., Samuel, L., Aboma, B., Jemal, M., Silova, I., Mlambo, Y. (2020, March). *Students' Perspectives on Broadening Participation of Female Students and Improving Gender-Equitable Education in an East African University Setting*. Paper accepted at 2020 Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Miami, Florida, U.S.A.

Lott, B.E., **Halkiyo, A.B.**, Kebede, T., Dedefo, A., Worku, D., Ehiri, J., & Soliman, A. (2019, September). *"Save the mothers!" Provider perspectives on how to improve cervical cancer education and screening implementation in Ethiopia*. Poster presented at 2019 International Cancer Education Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Baxter, A., Mlambo, Y.A. & **Halkiyo, A.** (2019) Regional student mobility as a sustainable development strategy in Africa: Examining the lived experiences of regionally mobile scholarship recipients. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference, San Francisco, CA.

London, J.S., Lee, W.C., Watford, B., **Halkiyo, A.B.**, Pee, C.M., Holloman, T., Hawkins Ash, C.A. (2019). *Toward a National Agenda for Broadening Participation of African Americans in Engineering and Computer Science: Highlighting Barriers in the Workforce*. Paper submitted to the 2019 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

Holloman, T. K., Lee, W. C., London, J. S., **Halkiyo, A. B.**, Jew, G., & Watford, B. A. (2018, April). *A Historical and Policy Perspective on Broadening Participation in STEM: Insights from National Reports (1974-2016)*. 2018 Collaborative Network for Engineering and Computing Diversity (CoNECD) Conference, Race/Ethnicity Track Technical Session, Crystal City, Virginia. Retrieved from <https://peer.asee.org/29508>.

Lee, W. C., London, J., Watford, B. A., Holloman, T. K., Jew, G., & **Halkiyo, A. B.** (2018, June). *Towards a national agenda for broadening the participation of African Americans in engineering and computer science: Insights from year 1*. 2018 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference (ASEE) Annual Conference and Exposition, Salt Lake City, Utah. Paper ID #21996. Retrieved from: <https://peer.asee.org/29636>.

Halkiyo, A. (Abstract Accepted 2018, March). *Pedagogical Equity: By Design or Accident?* 15th International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, Champaigne, Illinois.

Hawkins Ash, C., Lee, W., London, J., Holloman, T., Jew, G., **Halkiyo, A.**, Watford, B. (2018, October). *Toward a National Agenda for Broadening Participation of African Americans in Engineering and Computer Science: A Methodological Overview of Phase II*. Frontiers in Education Conference, Diversity & Inclusion Initiatives Track, San Jose, California.

Holloman, T., Hawkins Ash, C., Lee, W., London, J., Jew, G., **Halkiyo, A.**, Watford, B. (2018, October). *Broadening Participation in Engineering and Computer Science: A Methodological Process for Exploring the Perspectives of the Subject-Matter Experts across Sectors*. Frontiers in Education Conference, San Jose, California.

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Lee, W.C., London, J., Watford, B., Holloman, T., Jew, G., **Halkiyo, A.** (2018, June). *Pushing Students Away: Developing a Research Agenda for Broadening Participation of African Americans in Engineering and Computer Science*. 2018 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Annual Conference and Exposition, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jew, G., London, J., **Halkiyo, A.**, Lee, W., Holloman, T. (2018, May). *Four Things We Should Be Doing, but are Not, in Examining the Broadening Participation in STEM*. Presentation at the 2018 Collaborative Network for Engineering and Computing Diversity (CoNECD) Conference, Crystal City, Virginia.

Halkiyo, A. (2018, February). Sexuality Around the World Panel Discussion. Guest Panelist for CPH 330: Human Sexuality. Instructor: Lee Ann Hamilton. University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

Switzer, H., **Halkiyo, A.**, & Lott, B. (2015, March). Girl Rising Documentary Screening and Gender Development Forum: Panel Presentation. Peace Corps Week, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

Halkiyo, A. & Lott, B. (2014, April). Grassroot Soccer SKILLZ Youth Workshop: Gender and Communication. Action for Gender Equality (AGE) Summit, Peace Corps Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. AGE Summit blog post retrieved from: <https://talesfromthebigcountry.wordpress.com/2014/03/15/action-for-gender-equality-summit-2014/>.

APPLIED RESEARCH

Garcia, D., Laczko-Kerr, I., Chachkhiani, K., Gibbs, P.N, Halkiyo, A., Kim, W. Y., Olsen, N., Rodriguez Martinez, S., Tewari, N. R., Vitrukh, M. (2020.) Evaluation report of the Professional Pathways Program for Mesa Public Schools. Mesa Public Schools.

-The project ("Evaluation report of the Professional Pathways Program for Mesa Public Schools") was conducted as a group/cohort- Program Evaluation II course, where all classmates participated led by the course professors. The skills developed include program evaluation/research skills developing proposal along with all elements: developing topic, RFP, evaluation plan, objective, research questions, methodology, conducting data collection, analysis, and reporting

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES, Tempe, Arizona 08/15 – 01/17

Adjunct Faculty, Paradise Valley Community College

- Designed, developed curricula to teach English as a Second Language to ~15 international students.
- Courses- ESL 097 Writing, ESL 011 Speaking and Listening, & ESL 010 Grammar
- Evaluated by direct supervisor (ESL evening supervisor), faculty-chair, and students. Overall rating of "effective" with 22/22 items rated effective by supervisor in March 2016 and 6/6 ESL Level 1 Grammar students answering "Yes, I will tell other students to take this teacher" in October 2016.

ESL Workplace Instructor, Rio Salado Community College 08/15 – 06/16

- Facilitated weekly workplace-based English classes for adult learners with basic English and literacy abilities, focused on practical application of language mastery. The ultimate goal was to increase learners' employability and/or advancement and mobility within current work position.

REFUGEE FOCUS, Phoenix, Arizona

08/15 – 08/16

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ESL Instructor

- Instructed newly arrived refugees in a daily English as a Second Language program with class size of 25-30 adult language learners with varying levels of proficiency.
- Built, fostered an international community among students facilitated cultural integration into U.S.

MADA WALABU UNIVERSITY, Bale Robe, Ethiopia

08/07 – 12/14

Teachers' Development Coordinator

- Continually assessed teachers' needs and provided appropriate development opportunities including original trainings and workshops, improved access to school resources, and referral where appropriate.
- Regularly contributed to and participated interdepartmental meetings, workgroups, initiatives, and programs.

Director, Higher Education Relevance and Quality Assurance Directorate

- Liaised between all university departments, senior management and the national HERQA agency.
- Assessed gaps in QA university-wide, intervened by organizing a training for 400 university lecturers over one week with the HERQA national agency, developed improved processes, and measured outcomes.

Coordinator, Higher Diploma Program

- Trained 40 Instructors on pedagogy during a year-long professional development and certification program.
- Coordinated all functions of the program including budgeting, management, administration, and reporting.

Director, English Language Improvement Center

- Led a team of 4 instructors and 5-6 student volunteers/workers to execute all functions of the center.
- Established customized ELIC programs and events such as English clubs and a library/resource center.
- Created user-friendly TEFL resources to be used at local & national levels including manuals and worksheets.
- Presented on best practices at national ELIC conferences hosted by the Ethiopian Ministry of Education.

Lecturer, English Language and Literature Department

- Developed curricula including teaching materials, academic modules, and assessment guides.
- Delivered content in English-focused classes to 20-60 students or staff members at a time.
- Held academic support hours to assist and mentor students.

AWARDS

- 2020 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (the Department), fiscal year 2020-2021 (\$51,253)
- 2020 Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Educational Policy & Evaluation Research Grant Award (\$903)
- 2020 Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Travel Grant (\$750)
- 2020 Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Doctoral Student Research Mini-Grant Awards (\$400)
- 2019 Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Mini-Research Grant (\$400)
- 2019 Graduate and Professional Students' Association Travel Grant (\$1000)
- 2019 Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College Travel Grant (\$750)
- 2016- Arizona Graduate Scholar Award (\$1000/semester)

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2018 Social Network Analysis Training, Arizona State University
- 2017 ATLAS.ti Training, Arizona State University, Office of the Dean for Research
- 2016 Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) 2016 Symposium
Center for Advanced Studies in Global Education, Arizona State University
- 2015 Adult Education Certificate, Arizona Department of Education (IVP Fingerprint Clearance)
- 2015 AZTESOL State Conference, Mesa Community College
- 2015 Preparing ESL Students for Academic Writing: Teaching Discourse Synthesis, Pearson U.S. ELT Webinar
- 2015 Four Skills Teaching, Pearson U.S. ELT Webinar
- 2015 Teaching with Technology and 21st Century Skills, Pearson U.S. ELT Webinar
- 2015 CANVAS Basics Training, Online Instructional Platform & Software Training
- 2010- English Language Improvement Center National Conference, Ministry of Education, Ethiopia
2012 Presentations: 1) ELIC Best Practices and 2) English Language Resource Sharing Workshop
- 2008 Higher Diploma Program Certification, Pedagogical & Professional Teacher Education, Ethiopia

COMMUNITY SERVICE & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- GIRL RISING DOCUMENTARY VIEWING AND PANEL DISCUSSION, Tempe, AZ 03/15
Arizona State University, Peace Corps Week
Volunteer Panelist
- Provided insight about girls' access to education, speaking from professional experience abroad.
- ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY SUMMIT, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 03/14
U.S. Peace Corps, Peace Corps Ethiopia Gender and Development Committee
Mentor/ Summit Leader
- Facilitated delivery and translation of formal and informal lessons on leadership, life skills, and gender concepts at a weekend-long youth summit.
- GRASSROOT SOCCER, Bale Robe, Ethiopia 08/13 – 03/14
Volunteer Coach
- Led a youth soccer team implementing standardized SKILLZ methodology developed in South Africa. Held bi-weekly soccer practices using specially developed lesson plans to teach Ethiopian youth about HIV prevention and life skills.
- ADVANCED SPOKEN ENGLISH BUSINESS TRAINING, Bale Robe, Ethiopia 12/10 – 03/11
Mada Walabu University

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Volunteer Teacher

- Developed lesson plans, modules and hand-outs for support staff on business-related English language, culture, and practices. Implemented during a four-month course as a form of Professional Development.
- Presented with University Community Service Recognition Award from the Office of the President for commitment to the program and community.

LANGUAGES

Afan Oromo (Oromifa)- Fluent, 1st language | Amharic- Fluent, 2nd language | English- Fluent, 3rd language