

CURRICULUM VITAE

RONALD ASIIMWE, PHD., LMFT (MICHIGAN)

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
 Department of Family Social Science
 Couple and Family Therapy Program
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ACADEMIC RANK**2023 - Present**

Assistant Professor, Couple and Family Therapy Program
 Department of Family Social Science

EDUCATION

Degree	Institution	Awarded
Ph.D.	Human Development and Family Studies CFT Specialization, Michigan State University	2023
M.S.	Marriage and Family Therapy Oklahoma Baptist University	2018
B.A.	Community Psychology Makerere University	2013

RELEVANT LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist-Michigan (LMFT# 4101007578).	2025- Present
Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist-Minnesota (LAMFT# 4730).	2025- Present
AAMFT Approved Supervisor in Training	2025- Present
Attachment-Based Family Therapy (ABFT)	2021- Present
PREPARE/ENRICH Facilitator	2016- Present
Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT)	2020- Present
Parent Management Training-Oregon (PMTO) Model	2019- Present

POSITIONS/EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (<i>Tenure-Track</i>) Department of Family Social Science University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	2023-Present
Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant Department of Human Development and Family Studies Michigan State University	2018-2023

MFT Clinical Intern Couple and Family Therapy Clinic Michigan State University East Lansing, MI	2018-2021
MFT Clinical Intern Marriage and Family Therapy Clinic Oklahoma Baptist University Shawnee, OK	2017-2018
MFT Clinical Intern Center for Christian Counseling Shawnee, OK	2017-2018
MFT Clinical Intern Bison Family Therapy Shawnee, OK	2017-2018
Research Assistant College of Arts and Letters Michigan State University	2022-2023
Process Evaluator College of Nursing Michigan State University	July-Dec 2022
Program Facilitator School of Public Health University of Maryland	Summer 2021
Research Assistant Citizen Pottawatomini Nation Shawnee, OK	Summer 2017
Leadership Training Coordinator Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) Uganda	2013-2014
Teaching Staff Legacy Academy, Iringa Tanzania	2014-2015

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Minnesota Association for Marriage and Family Therapy	2023-Present
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)	2022-Present
Uganda Counseling Association (UCA)	2022-Present
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)	2016-Present
Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Network (AAMFT)	2021-Present
International Center for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy	2020-Present

AWARDS AND HONORS

Training Awards

2024	Training support grant, International Center of Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy (ICEEFT)
Amount:	\$75,000 <i>Funds supported ongoing training initiatives in emotionally focused therapy in Uganda and Kenya</i>

Teaching Awards

2022	Excellence in Graduate Teaching Citations Award
Awarding Agency:	Office of the Provost for Faculty and Academic Staff Development Michigan State University
Amount:	\$1,000 <i>Recognized as an Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor for undergraduate course instruction.</i>

Awards from Professional Organizations

2023	John Douglas Award, the International Center for Excellence in Emotionally Focused Therapy (ICEEFT) <i>Awarded as pioneer leader of training initiatives for emotionally focused therapy in Africa</i>
2023	New Writers Fellowship, The Family Process Institute
2021	Leadership Fellowship award, Michigan State University's Graduate School Leadership Institute
2020	Certificate of Leadership, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
2021	National Student Ethics Competition (3 rd place) Award, AAMFT

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

2024	Nominee, Family Social Science Department for the Community Engaged Scholar: Early Career Award, University of Minnesota <i>Outcome: Not Received</i>
2025	Nominee, Family Social Science Department, Community Engaged Scholar: Early Career Award, University of Minnesota

RESEARCH GRANTS & AWARDS

Funded Internal Grants as a Faculty Member at the University of Minnesota

2024-2026	Principal Investigator
Project Title:	Parenting After Trauma: A Qualitative Exploration of Parenting Practices and Youth Mental Health Outcomes in Minnesota's African-Immigrant Families Following George Floyd's Murder
Funding Source:	Grant-in-Aid (GIA), Research and Innovation Office, University of Minnesota
Award Amount:	\$35,688
2024-2026	Principal Investigator
Project Title:	Training Ugandan Mental Health Professionals in a Family-Based Intervention for Adolescent Suicide Prevention: A Qualitative Exploration of Cultural Feasibility.
Funding Source:	Global Engagement Grants, Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility (CGHSR), University of Minnesota
Award Amount:	\$14,900
2024-2025	Principal Investigator
Project Title:	Voices from the Field: Stakeholder's Perspectives on Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in Uganda.
Funding Source:	CEHD Global Signature Grant, University of Minnesota
Award Amount:	\$10,000
2024-2025	Principal Investigator
Project Title:	Self-of-the-Therapist Experiences and Influence on the Process of Therapy for Couple and Family Therapists who Identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Living and Practicing in the US.
Funding Source:	Family Social Science Small Grants Program
Award Amount:	\$2,000
2024-2025	Principal Investigator
Project Title:	Building Capacity to Implement Emotionally Focused Therapy in Africa

Funding Source: International Travel Grant Award, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance,
University of Minnesota
Award Amount. \$1,500

External Grants Under Review

2025 **Principal Investigator**
Project Title: Perspectives of Ugandan Caregivers and Mental Health Providers
Towards Adolescent Suicide and Prevention Strategies.
Funding Source: Family Process Institute (FPI)
Award Amount. \$4,960

Grants Not Funded

2024 **Co-Investigator** (Dwanyen, PI)
Project Title: Increasing Family Engagement Skills to Enhance Mental Health System
Capacity: Global Mental Health Collaboration Efforts in Uganda and
Kenya
Funding Source: Vision Grant, Spencer Foundation
Award Amount. \$75,000

2025 **Principal Investigator**
Project Title: Understanding Suicide Among Adolescents in Uganda: Parents' and
Professionals' Perceptions and Prevention Strategies.
Funding Source: Global Health Seed Grants, Center for Global health & Social
Responsibility
Award Amount. \$25,000

Student Grants Received at Michigan State University

**Denotes awards with mentors*

2022 to 2023 **Principal Investigator:** Validation of the Alabama Parenting
Questionnaire among Runyankole-Speaking Caregivers in Western
Uganda: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed-Methods Study
Funding Source: Dissertation Completion Award, Family Process Institute. \$4,340

2022 to 2023 **Principal Investigator:** Validation of the Alabama Parenting
Questionnaire among Runyankole-Speaking Caregivers in Western
Uganda: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed-Methods Study
Funding Source: Dissertation Completion Award, College of Social Sciences, Michigan
State University \$7,500

2022 to 2023	Student Investigator (Dwanyen, PI): A Strategic Partnership to Strengthen Mental Healthcare Capacity and Clinical Training in Primary Care in Uganda	
Funding Source:	Alliance for African Partnership (AAP) Strategic Partnership, Michigan State University	\$20,000
2022	Research Scholars Award, College of Social Sciences,	\$1,600
2022	Nnamdi Azikiwe International African Student Fellowship <i>Awarded as an outstanding African graduate student at Michigan State University</i>	\$2,000
2021	Professional Development Award, Council of Graduate Students, Michigan State University,	\$500
2021	Wampler Scholarship Award, Couple and Family Therapy Program, Michigan State University. <i>Awarded as outstanding CFT student</i>	\$500
2020	Mary Lewis Scholarship research award, Department of Human Development and Family Studies	\$1,000
2019	Miriam J. Kelly African Scholarship Award, Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS), Michigan State University, <i>Awarded as an outstanding African graduate student at Michigan State University</i>	\$1,000
2019	Alice Cutler Thorpe enhancement award	\$2,000
2019	Doctors Robert E. Lee and Patricia A. Ball research award	\$2,000
2019	The Paolucci Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000
2019	Mansfield Endowed Award	\$2,000
2018	Research Enhancement Award. HDFS, Michigan State University	\$700

PUBLICATIONS

**Denotes manuscripts with graduate students*

Total Publications (all types):	37
• Published Peer-Reviewed Articles	15
• Non-Peer-Reviewed articles	6
• Peer Reviewed Articles under Review	4
• Articles in Preparation	9
• Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters	3

Peer Reviewed Articles Published (n= 15)

Asiimwe, R., Lesch, E., Galukande, P., & Kasujja, K. (in press). Acceptability of emotionally focused therapy in Uganda: The views of trained Ugandan mental health workers. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*.

Heiden-Rootes, K., **Asiimwe, R.,** Rastogi, M., & Miller, R. (2025). Pathways to public impact: Translating systemic family therapy research initiatives to policy and practice. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.70076>

Asiimwe, R., Lesch, E., Galukande, P., & Kasujja., R. (in press). Ugandan practitioners' perspectives on emotionally focused couple therapy: Insights on training, theory, and cultural fit. *Marriage & Family Review Journal*. 10.1080/01494929.2025.2527208

Asiimwe, R., Welch, T., Bowles, R., Blow, A. J., Kasujja, R., & Mukisa, J. (2025). Measuring parenting practices: A psychometric analysis of the adapted Alabama Parenting Questionnaire among caregivers in a Uganda cultural context. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*. 1623-1634. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-025-03081-4>

Asiimwe, R., Blow, A. J., Mugumya, F., Birungi, M., & Bosco, J. (2025). Culturally informed parenting assessment: The adaptation of the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire with input from Ugandan experts and parents. *Family Process Journal*, 64(2). <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.70035>

Mugarura, J., Musanje, K., Levin, E. M., **Asiimwe, R.,** Ndeezi, M., Kizito, S., White, R. G., & Kasujja, R. (2025). Adapting the Comprehensive assessment of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy processes (CompACT) questionnaire for contextual relevance in Uganda: A comprehensive approach. *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health*, 12, e57. doi:10.1017/gmh.2025.10018

Amanyire, J. M., Aheisibwe, I., **Asiimwe, R.,** & Rukundo, G. Z. (2025). Counselling and depressive symptoms in older adults with HIV/AIDS in mbarara, Uganda. *BMC psychology*, 13(1), 840. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-025-03178-x>

- Dwanyen, L., Luberenga, I., **Asiimwe, R.**, Galukande, P., Blow, A., & Kasujja, R. (2024). Voices from the ground: Ethnographic perspectives on strengthening the Ugandan national mental health system: An ethnographic needs assessment. *PLOS Mental Health*, 1(6). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmen.0000077>
- Asiimwe, R.**, Nuwagaba-K, R. D., Dwanyen, L., & Kasujja, R. (2023). Sociocultural considerations of mental health care and help-seeking in Uganda. *SSM-Mental Health*, 15(4), 2666-5603. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmmh.2023.100232>
- Casaburo, G., **Asiimwe, R.**, Yzaguirre, M. M., Fang, M., & Holtrop, K. (2023). Identifying beneficial training elements: Clinician perceptions of learning the evidence-based GenerationPMTO intervention. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 32(8), 2331-2346. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-023-02600-5>
- Huerta, P., Edwards, C., **Asiimwe, R.**, PettyJohn, M., White, J., Morgan, P., & Wittenborn, A. K. (2022). Exploratory analysis of pursue-withdraw patterns, attachment, and gender among couples in Emotionally Focused Therapy. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 51(1), 57-75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01926187.2022.2129521>
- Asiimwe, R.**, Dwanyen, L., Subramanian, S. M., Kasujja, R., & Blow, A. J. (2022). Therapist training and cultural adaptation procedures: A systematic review of culturally adapted evidence-based parenting programs in Africa. *Family Process*, 62(1), 160-181 <https://doi.org/10.1111/famp.12780>
- Asiimwe, R.**, Lesch, E., Karume, M. W., & Blow, A. J., (2021). Expanding our international reach: Trends in the development of systemic family therapy training and implementation in Africa. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 47(4), 815-830. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmft.12514>
- Asiimwe, R.**, Tseng, C., Murray, S., Ojuka, J.C., Arima, E.G., & Familia-Lopez, I. (2022). Association of pregnancy-related stigma, intimate partner violence with psychological distress among teenagers in rural Uganda. *Journal of Adolescence*, 92(2), 270-275. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12008>
- Yzaguirre, M. M., PettyJohn, M. E., Tseng, C.F., **Asiimwe, R.**, Fang, M. & Blow, A. J. (2022). Marriage and family therapy masters' students' diversity course experiences. *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, 43(1), 15-37. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08952833.2022.2052534>

Peer Reviewed Articles Under Review (n= 4)

- Asiimwe, R.**, McIntosh, L. D., Gathumbi, N. R., & Kasujja, R. (revisions submitted in September 2025). Cultural threads: An Afrocentric paradigm for integrating social justice principles in the practice of family therapy in Africa. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*.

Asiimwe, R., Ngafeeson, V., Niyonzima, J. B. (submitted, September 2025). Ubuntu and Family Therapy: Bridging African Roots and Modern Family Therapy Concepts and Practices. *Journal of Family Therapy*.

Amanyire, J. M., Aheisibwe, I., Alain, F., **Asiimwe, R.,** Kaggwa, M. M., & Rukundo, Z. G. (revisions ongoing). Psychosocial interventions led by primary healthcare providers in the management of depression in Sub Saharan Africa: A systematic review. *Global Mental Health Journal*.

Asiimwe, R., Welch, T., Kasujja, R., Mugumya, F., Dwanyen, L., Blow, A. J., & Mussa, K. (submitted in August, 2025). The impact of father involvement and positive parenting on child mental Health: Insights from a survey of Ugandan households. *Family Process*.

Non-Peer Referred Articles (n= 6)

Asiimwe, R. (2025, October). Working to reduce adolescent suicide in Uganda. *Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility*. University of Minnesota. [Link](#).

Harris, S. M., & **Asiimwe, R.** (2025, March/April). Contemporary family therapy practices and practitioners: A resource for couple/marriage and family therapy educators and students. *Family Therapy Magazine*, 24(2). [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R., Siu, G., Kemeza, I., & Kasujja, R. (2025). Honoring African family dynamics in the assessment of parenting: An approach to culturally responsive research. *Family Focus on Methods and Measures, NCFR Report Magazine*. [Link](#).

Karume. M., **Asiimwe. R.,** Gathumbi., R., & Maxwell. M (2024, September/October). Embracing new territories: The journey of emotionally focused therapy (EFT) in Kenya. *Family Therapy Magazine*, 23(5). [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R., Blow, A. J., Heiden-Rootes, K., Jonathan, N., Kaminsky, S., Manigat, D., Schaefer, E. C., Williams, I. D., Willis, M. E., Gibson, M. A., Michaels, C., & Olarte, S. N. (2024, November/December). Enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusivity in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. *Family Therapy Magazine*. 23(6). [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R., & Lesch, E. (2023, September/October). On the horizons: Barriers and trends in the development of systemic family therapy in Africa. *Family Therapy Magazine*, 22(5). [Link](#).

Articles in Preparation (n= 9)

**Denotes articles with students*

Asiimwe., R., Opondo, H., Siu., Mugumya, F., & Blow, J., A. Culturally relevant parenting practices in Uganda: perspectives, challenges, and implications for child development

- Asiimwe, R.,** & Maxwell, M. Uniting expertise, honoring culture: Culturally responsive emotionally focused therapy training in three African countries
- Asiimwe, R.,** Lesch, E., & Gathumbi, N. R. Beyond the basic theory: Rethinking attachment theory through an *ubuntu* cross-cultural lens.
- Kasujja, R., Makumbi, B., **Asiimwe, R.,** Goodluck, C., Umugwaneza, M., & Luberenga, I. Training and Supervision of Lay Mental Health Workers in Community-Based Interventions in East Africa: A Scoping Review
- Galukande, P., Fatahian, H., Luberenga, I., Marvin, M., & Asiimwe, R. Culturally Informed Adaptation of Emotionally Focused Couple Training and Therapy for a Ugandan Population.
- Dansby Olufowote, R. A., **Asiimwe, R.,** Fontus, F., Thomas, B., Watters, E. R., Hsieh, A., (in progress). Cross-cultural validation of the ECR-R: examining attachment, relational outcomes, and mental health in Black, African, and Afro-Caribbean populations.
- *Song, S., Kawer, U., Zhou, H., & **Asiimwe, R.** Connecting cultures in family therapy: Global trends from Korea, Bangladesh, Uganda, and China.
- *Zhou, H., Mussa, K., **Asiimwe, R.,** Welch, T., & Reinman, R. Exploring the mediating role of child warmth in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and parenting difficulty: A structural equation modeling approach.
- Rukundo, Z. G., Kaggwa, M. M., Kinengyere, A. A., **Asiimwe, R.,** Bapolis1, A. M., Valladares, M. B., Atim, L. M., Akena, D. H., & Obua, C. A systematic review of suicide risk among medical professionals in low- and middle-income countries.

Book Chapters (n= 3)

- Mitchell, T., Mao, D., Mao, M., & **Asiimwe, R.** (2024). The influence(s) of culture on relationships. In T. Mendenhall, E. Plowman, L. Trump, and Dysart, P. (Eds.), *Intimate relationships: Where have we been? Where are we going?* (4th edition). Kendall Hunt Publishing.
- Jarrad, K., **Asiimwe, R.,** Zaloudek, J., & Schacher, G. (2024). Religion and spirituality in intimate relationships. In T. Mendenhall, E. Plowman, L. Trump, and Dysart, P. (Eds.), *Intimate relationships: Where have we been? Where are we going?* (4th edition). Kendall Hunt Publishing.
- Asiimwe, R.,** Karume, M., & Kasujja, R (2023). Systemic Family Therapy in Africa: Past, Present, and Future Trends. In *The Routledge International Handbook of Couple and Family Therapy* (pp. 155-187). Routledge.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Total Presentations (all types):	56
Research conference presentations (posters & papers):	24
Invited keynote presentations:	3
Invited presentations (internal):	4
Invited presentations (external):	25

Research Conference Paper Presentations (n= 15)

Astericks () denotes presentations with students.*

Asiimwe, R. (2024, November). *Building strong foundations: Advancing couple therapy training in Uganda*. Symposium presentation at the annual conference of the National Council for Family Relations (NCFR), Seattle, WA, United States.

*Luberenga, I., *Galukande, P., Dwanyen, L., Mitchell, E., **Asiimwe, R.**, Kasujja, K., & Blow, A. J. (2024, November). *Beacons of resilience: The lived experiences of mental health service users in Uganda*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the National Council for Family Relations (NCFR), Seattle, WA, United States.

Asiimwe, R., Karume, M., Kosgey, C., & Patricia, A. (2024, November). *Trailblazing new grounds: The evolution and trends of systemic family therapy in Kenya*. Paper presented at the annual Systemic Family Therapy Conference. Orlando, FL, United States.

***Asiimwe, R.**, *Galukande, P., *Kateregga, A., & Lesch, E. (2024, November). *Embracing new territories: The journey of becoming an emotionally focused couple therapy practitioner in Uganda*. Paper presented at the Systemic Family Therapy Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.

Heiden-Rootes, K., Rastogi, M., **Asiimwe, R.**, & Miller, R. (2024, November). Creating an impactful program of research towards policy. Panel discussant at the Systemic Family Therapy Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.

Asiimwe, R., & Lesch, E. (2024, November). "In emotionally focused therapy, I found my own healing": Experiences of Ugandan practitioners in learning emotionally focused couple therapy. Paper presented at the emotionally focused therapy (EFT) World Summit, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Dwanyen, L., Blow, A., Luberenga, I., **Asiimwe, R.**, & Kasujja, K. (2023, November). *Perspectives on traumatic stress: An ethnographic assessment of national mental health efforts in Uganda*. Paper presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS). Los Angeles, CA, United States.

Dwanyen, L., Kasujja, R., **Asiimwe, R.**, Luberenga, I., & Blow, A. J. (2022, October). *Mental health in Uganda: An ethnographic assesement of the mental health system and*

- opportunities for systemic interventions*. Paper presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.**, Mugumya, F., Siu, G., & Bangirana, C. (2022, October). *The state of Ugandan fathers: A scoping review*. Paper presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.**, Tseng, C., & Familiar-Lopez, I. (2022, November). *Teenage pregnancy and its impacts on adolescent mental health in Uganda; Opportunities for systemic-based interventions*. Paper presented virtually at the Annual Systemic Family Therapy Conference (virtual).
- Miller, D. L., **Asiimwe, R.**, Casaburo, G., Yzaguirre, M., Bayardo, J., Gray, L., & Holtrop, K. (2022, October). *Advancing intervention reach through academic-community partner research strategies*. Workshop presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Yzaguirre, M. M., Tseng, C. F., PettyJohn, M. E., Blow, A. J., Fang, M., & **Asiimwe, R.** (2022, October). *Marriage and family therapy masters' students' diversity course experiences*. Paper presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.**, Dwanyen, L., & Blow, A. J. (2021, November). *Barriers to mental health treatment in Africa; Moving towards the implementation of systemic family therapy practices*. Presentation at the Systemic Family Therapy conference of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Virtual.
- Camille, L., **Asiimwe, R.**, Simonini, C., & Monge, A (2019, August). *Experiences of foreign-born US-trained couple/marriage and family therapists practicing internationally*. Paper presented at the annual American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy conference. Austin, TX, United States.
- PettyJohn, M., Tseng, C., T., Blow, A., **Asiimwe, R.**, Fang, M., & Yzaguirre, M (2019, August). *Intersectionality of therapist/client identities in treatment*. Paper presented at the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy conference. Austin, TX, United States.

Posters or Exhibitions (n= 9)

- Asiimwe, R.,** Kateregga, A., Kasujja, R., Opondo, H., Okello, E., & Mugumya, F. (2025, September). Impact of IPV on Family Relationships in Uganda: A Case for Culturally Responsive Systemic Therapy Interventions. Poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference. Columbus, Ohio, United States.
- Kateregga, A., **Asiimwe, R.,** Luberenga, I., & Galukande, P. (2025, September). Systemic Family Therapy Practices and Interventions in Africa: A Scoping Review. Poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference. Columbus, Ohio, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.,** Kateregga, A., & Atugonza, V. (2025, March). *Perspectives of Ugandan professionals on antecedents and culturally responsive interventions for intimate partner violence.* Poster presented at the CEHD Research & Innovation Day, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.,** & Mussa, K. (2024, March). *Exploring the impact of father's engagement in parenting on child mental health: Insights from a survey of Ugandan households.* Poster presented at the CEHD Research & Innovation Day, Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2023, November). *Expert feedback and cognitive interviews in establishing the validity of survey items measuring Parenting Practices in a Ugandan Context: A qualitative Study.* Poster presented at the Family Therapy Section of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) Conference, Orlando, FL, United States.
- Galukande, P., **Asiimwe, A.,** & Lesch, E. (2023, September). *Assessing the initial feasibility and acceptability of emotionally focused therapy's Hold Me Tight couples' workshop on a group of middle-class Ugandan couples.* Poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy Annual Conference of the AAMFT, Salt Lake City, UT, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.,** & Blow, A. J. (2021, August). *Measuring parental involvement in Uganda: A Rasch analysis of the Alabama Parenting Questionnaire.* Poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy conference. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.,** Dwanyen, L., & Blow, A. J. (2021, August). *A systematic review of culturally adapted parenting programs in Africa.* A research poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy conference. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.,** & Blow, A. (2021, August). *Mental health challenges of adolescent pregnancy in Uganda; opportunities for intervention.* Poster presented at the Intervention Research in Systemic Family Therapy conference. Virtual.

Invited Keynote Presentations (n= 3)

Asiimwe, R. (2024, April). *Positioning ourselves to engage in cutting-edge research in international settings; A Global scholar's perspective*. Keynote presentation at the Colloquium on the World's Education Systems hosted by CEHD International students community (CISC), Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Asiimwe, A. (2023, November). *Addressing power imbalances in the therapeutic context*. Presentation at the Oklahoma Association of Marriage and Therapy Students and New Professionals state conference. Edmund, Oklahoma, United States.

Asiimwe, R., & Edwards, C., (2021, September). *The importance of, and guidelines for discussing intersectionality between the therapist/client identities in the therapy*. Presentation at the Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy State conference. Virtual.

Invited Presentations (Internal) (n= 4)

Asiimwe, R. (2025, September). *Navigating the realities of cultural adaptation research*. A class discussion with students in the CFT research methods class, Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota. St. Paul, Minnesota, United States.

Asiimwe, R., Wojciak, A., Harris, S., Curtis, M., & Mendenhall, T. (2024, September). *Preparing for the job market*. Panel appearance at the CFT monthly forum, St. Paul, MN, United States.

Asiimwe, R., Mak, C., & Mehus, C (2024, March). *Innovative and culturally responsive approaches to research in parenting and parenting interventions*. Presentation at the Department of Family Social Science Research Colloquium, University of Minnesota. St. Paul, Minnesota, United States.

Asiimwe, R. (2023, September). *Culturally responsive CMFT: Positioning ourselves to remain relevant in a constantly evolving research, clinical, and practice world*. Presentation at the CFT Forum, Family Social Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, United States.

Invited Presentations (External) (n= 25)

Asiimwe, A. (2025, September). *Emotionally focused therapy in cross-cultural settings: Lessons from Ugandan practice and research*. Presentation at the EFT Externship training. Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Asiimwe, A. (2025, September). *Preventing suicide among college-going young adults*. Panel discussant during suicide awareness month in Uganda. Hosted online (via Google Meet) by students at Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, Uganda.

- Asiimwe, A.** (2025, August). *Being, Not Just Doing: The Self-of-the-Therapist in Emotionally Focused Therapy*. Presentation at the EFT Externship training. Harare, Zimbabwe, Africa.
- Asiimwe, A.** (2025, March). *Does culture matter in emotionally focused therapy? Weaving our diverse self-of-the-therapist experiences into the practice of emotionally focused therapy*. Webinar presentation at the Arizona EFT community quarterly meeting.
- Asiimwe, A.** (2024, September). *Braving beyond boundaries: Integrating cultural matters in the practice of emotionally focused therapy*. Presentation at the EFT Externship training. Minneapolis, MN, United States.
- Galukande, P., & **Asiimwe, R.** (2024, July). *Insights into male emotions within committed romantic relationships*. Webinar co-hosted with Dr. Tina Timm (Marriage and Family Therapist and Sex Therapy Expert). Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.,** & Jeffrey, S. L. (2024, July). *Self-of-the-therapist: Bringing our authentic selves into the therapy room*. Presentation at United States International University-Africa (USIU-A), Nairobi, Kenya.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2024, May). *Intersecting paths: a journey in leadership through cultural attunement, work-life balance, and continuous evolution*. Presentation at the AAMFT Certificate in Leadership Development Meeting. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.,** Galukande, P., & Maxwell, M. (2024, March). *Preparing a multicultural team to engage in therapy work with professionals from culturally diverse African settings*. Presentation at the AAMFT leadership Symposium. Pheonix, Arizona, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2023, July). *The self-of-the-therapist in the practice of emotionally focused therapy (EFT)*. Presentation at the EFT externship training in Kampala, Uganda.
- Asiimwe, A.,** & Galukande, P. (2023, March). *Couple therapy in Uganda: Trends in the training and implimentation of emotionally focused therapy in Uganda*. Presentation at the Wiscosnin Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (WIAMFT). Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.,** de Bruin, K., & Galukande, P. (2023, January). *Introduction to emotionally focused therapy (EFT)*. Workshop conducted for the Uganda Counseling Association members, Kampala, Uganda.
- Asiimwe, R.,** Galukande, P. Kasujja, K., & Wamala, K. (2023, April). *The context of couple and family therapy practice in Uganda, Africa*. Presentation on cultural considerations for practicing CFT in Uganda and African settings. Virtual.
- Guillory, P., Rheem, K., **Asiimwe, R.,** Galukande, P., Maxwell, M., & Wamala, K. (2023, October 7). *TANGO across cultures*. Panel discussion on the EFT process and cultural matters. Virtual.

- Asiimwe, R.**, (2022, March). *I carry my culture wherever I go: Reflections from my early career days as a foreign-born therapist in America*. Presentation at the International Conference on Cultural Lens in Therapy. Raha Foundation. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2022, November). *Building stronger communities through relationship transformation in Uganda*. Presentation at the EFT Supervisors Collaborative. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R., & Miller, D.** (2022, March). *Building a trauma-informed teaching culture: Mental health first aid in the classroom*. Presented at the Graduate Student and Faculty Teaching & Learning workshops. Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R., Muhwati, P., & Lesch, E.** (2021, July). *Feeling promotes healing; attachment and emotionally focused couples therapy (EFT) in African contexts*. Presented Online.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2021, January 5). *The four diamonds model of inclusive leadership*. Presentation at Michigan State University Leadership Academy, East Lansing, MI, United States. Virtual.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2020, November). *Examining our leadership potential using the 5 levels of leadership paradigm*. Presentation at the monthly meetings with MSU graduate student fellows in the graduate leadership program. East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2019, February). *Uganda the pearl of Africa; an overview of the current and past economic and sociopolitical environment in Uganda*. Invited presentation at the Africa Study Center, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2019, March). *Career choice & making professional connections: A discussion with undergraduate students*. Invited presentation at the Department of Human Development & Family Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2018, July). *Family systems therapy: Re-thinking traditional psychotherapy approaches in the Ugandan healthcare system*. Invited presentation at the Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation (BCMCF). Kampala, Uganda.
- Asiimwe, R.** (2017, August). *Creating awareness of mental health issues among international students and available mental health services*. Presentation given at the 2017 International Students' Orientation. Invited by the Office of International Students of Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), Shawnee, OK, United States.
- Asiimwe, R. & White, A.** (2018, February). *Demystifying myths about anxiety and other mental health issues of students*. Invited at Oklahoma Baptist University Recreation and Wellness Center (RAWC), Shawnee, OK, United States.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A Family Intervention to Reduce Teen Suicide in Uganda.

July 30, 2025

Led a two-day teen suicide prevention training workshop in Western Uganda in which 38 mental health professionals were trained in Attachment-Based Family Therapy (ABFT), a family-based EBP for teen suicide. We also explored cultural beliefs about suicide, promoted the idea of engaging caregivers in prevention efforts. [Link to article](#). The engagement concluded with conducting 25 post-training evaluation interviews and a local TV outreach (see links below).

Building Capacity to Implement Emotionally Focused Therapy in Africa

2023- To date

In partnership with a California-based nonprofit, Conexa International, I lead cross-cultural collaborative efforts to expand Emotionally Focused Couple Therapy (EFCT) into African contexts, where research and training remain limited. Together with colleagues from North America, South Africa, and across Africa, we have organized three major EFCT training workshops. In 2023, we trained 120 Ugandan professionals, followed by 122 in Kenya (2024) and 75 in Zimbabwe in 2025. We are conducting ongoing evaluation research to assess EFCT's cultural fit and feasibility before large-scale trials, with discussions underway to extend training to Ethiopia. This work builds capacity while advancing knowledge on adapting EFCT to diverse African settings. More here; <https://www.conexaintl.com/eastafrica>

Couple/Relational Therapy in African Contexts

December 5, 2024

Featured guest on the *Mentally Flexible* podcast, hosted by psychotherapist Tom Parkers. Discussed topics related to trauma, relational health and healing in cross-cultural contexts, community and connection, and the introduction of Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) in Uganda.

Black Men and Fatherhood

November 16, 2024

Panel discussion regarding *fathers as positive role models in society*. Featured discussions on current research and prevailing perspectives on Black fathers and their engagement in childrearing as well as positive contributions to society.

Co-parenting Curriculum

Spring-Fall 2024

Curriculum reviewer for the *Parents Forever* program manuals at the University of Minnesota Extension. Contributions focused on enhancing activities related to attachment and co-parenting exercises.

MEDIA (TV, RADIO, PODCASTS, ETC.) APPEARANCES

Asiimwe, R. (2025, September). *Teenage mental health and suicide prevention*. Interview for Rochester Post Bulletin. Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Asiimwe, R. (2025, June). *Preventing the risk of suicide among youth_part 1*. Interview on "Omuhumuriza Wangye (My Counselor)." Revival TV, Uganda. [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R. (2025, July). *Preventing teen suicide risk through safe and supportive conversations*. Interview on “Omuhumuriza Wangye (My Counselor).” Revival TV, Uganda. [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R. (2025, May). *Understanding mental health [episode 1]*. A conversation on the TJK Foundation Podcast. [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R. (2025, May). *Reducing stress in our lives*. Interview on “The Mary Hansen Show.” Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) - MCN6, Cable Channel 6. [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R. (2024, December). *Emotionally focused healing in a cross-cultural context* [Audio podcast episode 67]. In T. Parkers (Host), *Mentally Flexible*. [Link](#).

Asiimwe, R. (2023, September). *Common challenges couples face*. Interview on “The Mary Hansen Show.” Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) - MCN6, Cable Channel 6. [Link](#).

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

University of Minnesota, Department of Family Social Science,

2023- To date

Course ID	Course Title	Level	Role	Semester and Format
FSoS 4111	Introduction to Family Therapy	Undergraduate	Instructor	Fall 2025, In-person
FSoS 8196	Couple/Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum	Graduate (PhD)	Instructor	Fall 2025, In-person
FSoS 8196	Couple/Marriage and Family Therapy Practicum	Graduate (PhD)	Instructor	Spring 2025, In-person
FSoS 4111	Introduction to Family Therapy	Undergraduate	Instructor	Spring 2025, In-person
FSoS 4111	Introduction to Family Therapy	Undergraduate	Instructor	Fall 2024, In-person
FSoS 4111	Introduction to Family Therapy	Undergraduate	Instructor	Fall 2023, In-person
FSoS 4155	Parent-Child Interactions	Undergraduate	Instructor	Fall 2023, Online

Michigan State University, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, 2018-2023

Course ID	Course Title	Level	Role	Semester and Format
HDFS 414	Parenting	Undergraduate	Instructor of Record	In-person (once, Fall 2022), Hybrid (Twice, Spring 2021 & 2022), Online (Twice, Summer & Fall 2020)
HDFS 414	Parenting	Undergraduate	Teaching Assistant	Twice (In-person, Fall 2019 & Hybrid, Spring 2020)
HDFS 238	Introduction to Personal Finance	Undergraduate	Teaching Assistant	Online, summer 2019
HDFS 212	Children, Youth, & Family	Undergraduate	Teaching Assistant	In-person, Spring 2019
HDFS 225	Lifespan Human Development in the Family	Undergraduate	Teaching Assistant	In-person, Fall 2018

Guest lectures (N= 5)

Asiimwe, R. (2025, May). *Emotionally focused therapy in cross-cultural settings*. Guest lecture with CFT masters-level students. The Ohio State University. Online via Zoom.

Asiimwe, R. (2022, August). *Introduction to attachment-Based Family Therapy (ABFT) for suicidal adolescents*. Guest lecture in group supervision for Couple and Family Therapy (HDFS 993). Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States.

Asiimwe, R. (2020, October). *Religion, spirituality, and help-seeking behaviors in Uganda*. Guest lecture in HDFS 888-Diverse Families and Communities. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States

Asiimwe, R. (2020, October). *Self-of-the-therapist work: Balancing between therapist restraints and resources*. Guest lecture in group CFT supervision (HDFS 993.) Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI, United States

Asiimwe, R. (2019, October). *Introduction to narrative therapy*. Guest lecture in HDFS 830-Survey of Couple & Family Therapy Models, East Lansing, MI, United States.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING AND MENTORING

Student	Degree Track	Role
Vianney Atugonza	MA/PhD, Family Social Science	Committee Member
Anita Katerega	PhD., Couple & Family Therapy	Co-advisor

SERVICE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Service to the Profession of Systemic Family Therapy

Board Member, AAMFT 2024 Present

Responsibilities: Member of the DEI Oversight Committee.
review and support the implementation of AAMFT's DEI policy

Director (volunteer-basis) 2023-Present
Conexa East Africa

Mentor, AAMFT
Certificate in Leadership Development Program 2024-Present

Reviewer, Journal of Marital and Family Therapy 2020-Present

Department of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota 2023-Present

Undergraduate faculty committee member, Department of Family Social Science

FSOS Teaching Subcommittee 2025-Present

Responsibilities: coordinate the teaching matters series as other faculty development workshops related to undergraduate instruction.

Student awards committee 2025-Present

Responsibilities: Review student fellowship applications and make fellowship decisions.
Working with students to learn about and apply for external awards and fellowships

Service in Other Institutions

Michigan State University

Search Committee Member 2021-2022

Faculty in Human Development and Family Studies
Department Thematic Area for Marginalized Youth position

Co-coordinator 2020-2021

Graduate School Leadership Institute

Search Committee Member 2020-2021

Vice President Chief Diversity Officer (CDO)

Committee Member 2020-2021

International Graduate Students

Student Representative 2018-2019

Couple & Family Therapy Program

General Secretary 2010-2011

Makerere University Psychology Student Association