

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

Full Name Alexander Kagaha

Qualifications: PhD (2021), MA (Sociology, 2008), MSc. Development Management, 2007, and BA (Social Sciences, 2003).

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About Alexander Kagaha

Alexander Kagaha is a medical sociologist and a Wellcome Trust postdoctoral researcher at Makerere University School of Public Health. His research interrogates the power and politics of medical practice and healthcare policy, as well as material technologies. His current research on malaria in infants and young children explores how boundaries of consciousness shape and limit malaria control and obscure understanding of how human entanglement with ecological materialities shapes bodies and bodily risks of disease. His doctoral research investigated how power operates through the policy and practice of abortion care delivery in Uganda's restrictive moral, legal and policy context, revealing how risk emerges from surreptitious healthcare practices aimed at evading state regulation. His findings, informed by a concern with power, illuminated how injustice and healthcare inequity against certain social groups become concealed within institutionalised healthcare practice and are normalised by legal and normative frameworks that mediate health policy directions. In an instrumental world, Alexander illuminates how induced abortion care becomes an instrumental practice, appropriated by health workers involved, and how vulnerable women become materials in transactional healthcare practice, stripping it of ethical value.

He is also engaged in a project examining the influence and politics of absence in global health and postdoctoral training in Africa. This initiative highlights how global neoliberal frameworks foster a desire for symbolic dominance, create distance from local realities, and transform scholarship into a tool rather than a means of genuine expression of experiences. The project also reveals how colonial legacies persist, hindering the authentic articulation of African identity.

Prior to doctoral training and postdoctoral research, Alexander served as an assistant lecturer in the sociology of technology in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) in the College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) at Makerere University. He also served as a postgraduate Research Fellow at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), had teaching responsibilities in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Makerere University (2009-2011), and was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Gothenburg School of Public Health and Community Medicine (2022-2023).

Research Interests include: Sociological theory, Ethnography, Sociology of Health and Medical Systems, and Social Inequality.

Education

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| 2021 | PhD, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. |
| 2008 | Master of Arts in Sociology, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), Makerere University, Kampala. |
| 2007 | Master of Science in Development Management, Department of Global Development and Planning, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway. |
| 2003 | Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala. |
| 1998 | Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE), Jinja Senior Secondary School, Jinja, Uganda |
| 1996 | Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE), Budini Senior Secondary School, Kamuli, Uganda. |

Certification

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| 2 -6 November 2019 | Certificate in scientific writing and publishing, African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya |
| 5-9 November 2018 | Advanced research methodology, African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya |
| 5-30 November 2017 | CARTA Joint Advanced Seminar II, 2017-11, Research Methods in public and population health- APHRC & University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg |
| 12-23 June 2017 | Certificate in philosophy of methods, Makerere University Directorate of Research and Graduate Training. |
| 10-21 July 2017 | Certificate in advanced research methods, Makerere University Directorate of Research and Graduate Training. |
| 28-30 March 2007 | Certificate in methods and challenges in qualitative gender research and sexual/reproductive health research, Makerere University Faculty of Social Sciences. |
| 1 July-30 August 2004 | Certificate in program monitoring, learning and evaluation, International Rescue Committee, Kampala, Uganda. |

19- 23 May 2003 Certificate of training of trainers in gender, policy analysis and advocacy, International Rescue Committee, Kampala, Uganda.

Honours and Awards

2017	Awarded a 4-year PhD fellowship by the Consortium for the Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA).
2018	Awarded a 2-year Advanced Doctoral Dissertation and Research Fellowship (ADDRF).
2009	Received a qualitative research fellowship from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)
2005	Received a NOMA scholarship to study a Master of Science in Development Management at the University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway.
1999	Awarded a government scholarship for the pursuit of a BA (Social Sciences) degree at Makerere University.

Research Grants Awarded

1. Holder of Grant Reference: 225136/Z/22/Z 'Reimagining Malarial Infection Control in Terms of Planetary Health Boundaries'- GBP£340,000 Wellcome Trust UK. — (2022 On-going)
2. Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) CARTA Covid-19 Mitigation Grant- USD\$3750 awarded in 2021 by SIDA and the African Population Research Centre (APHRC).
3. Advanced Doctoral and Dissertation and Research Fund (ADDRF)- USD10,000 awarded in 2018 by the African Population Research Centre (APHRC).
4. Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)- USD\$100,000, awarded in 2017 by the African Population Research Centre (APHRC).

Academic Appointments

2023 March +	CARTA Facilitator, Joint Advanced Seminar (JAS 1& 3); JAS 1, teaching PhD students ontological and epistemological foundations of research, and research methodology; JAS 3, Qualitative data analysis writing, Makerere University School of Public Health.
2023 March +	Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Health Policy, Planning and Management, School of Public Health, Makerere University
2002-2023	Postdoctoral Researcher, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
2021-2024	Honorary Researcher, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.
2013-09 - 2017-11	Assistant Lecturer, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), Makerere University.

Courses taught:

- 1) TEC 2101, Sociology for Technology: Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering departments

- 2) TEC1201, Introduction to Sociology, Electrical and Computer Engineering department.
- 3) CIV 3101, Organisational theory, Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) department.

2009-09 - 2012-12 Postgraduate Research Fellow, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Makerere University, Kampala

Courses taught:

- 1) SOC2100, Social Research Methods I
- 2) SOC2201, Social Research Methods II: Ethnographic theory and methods
- 3) SOC3103, Social inequality and mobility

Research tasks;

- 1) Developed a research protocol for the qualitative synthesis of factors influencing uptake of malaria presumptive treatment among pregnant women in developing countries.
- 2) Together with the supervisor, developed the quality of a qualitative research assessment tool and used it to assess the quality of qualitative and mixed methods papers included in the qualitative synthesis.
- 3) Screened studies for inclusion.
- 4) Together with the supervisor, reviewed all qualitative and mixed methods studies, developed a framework tool for analysis and applied it in the analysis of the findings.
- 5) Together with the supervisor, drafted a research manuscript and published it in *BMC Med Res Methodol* **12**, 62 (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-12-62>.
- 6) Participated in teleconferences with technical team members on qualitative synthesis.

Committees Memberships

2021	Technical team member – COVID-19 Social Science and Policy Response Committee (CARTA), Science Policy Engagement Work on COVID-19 in Africa of the African Academy of Sciences, the African Research and Impact Network (ARIN).
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Manuscript Reviews

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- 1) June 2021 Ref: SSM-D-21-01988, Manuscript Title: Medicalisation and manhood: Assessing the potential for medicalisation and ADHD diagnosis of allegedly troublesome boys in Accra, Ghana, *Social Science & Medicine*.
 - 2) October 2020 Ref: SSM-D-20-02246R1, Manuscript Title: When abortion becomes public - Everyday politics of reproduction in rural Zambia, *Social Science & Medicine*
 - 3) December 2019 Ref: SSM-D-19-03370, Manuscript Title: Cardiac Remodelling of Social Relations: How Concepts of Efficacy and Accountability Affect Engagement in Heart Failure Care in Southwestern Uganda, *Social Science & Medicine*.

Professional Association Memberships

As of 2026, Alexander is a member of the following national and international professional associations:

- 1) Uganda Sociological and Anthropological Association
- 2) 2026 Member of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- 3) Society for the Anthropological Study of Consciousness
- 4) Society for Medical Anthropology
- 5) Association for Feminist Anthropology
- 6) International Sociological Association

List of published works

- 1) Kananura, R. M., Birabwa, C., Ssanyu, J. N., Kizito, F., Kagaha, A., Namutanba, S., ... & Waiswa, P. (2024). Increasing coverage and uptake of voluntary family planning in Uganda's emerging municipalities and secondary cities: An implementation research study protocol. *Plos One*, 19(5), e0293351. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0293351>
- 2) Kagaha, A., & Manderson, L. (2022). Reproductive materialism and justice for women with abortion care needs in Uganda. *Global Public Health*, 17(12), 3476–3492. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2022.2129722>
- 3) Kaunda-Khangamwa, B. N., Kagaha, A., Pillay, N., & Manderson, L. (2022). Power, visibility and sexual and reproductive health in Southern Africa. In *Sex, Sexuality and Sexual Health in Southern Africa* (pp. 111-126). Routledge.
- 4) Kisaka S, Makumbi FE, Majalija S, Kagaha A, Thumbi SM (2021) "As long as the patient tells you it was a dog that bit him, why do you need to know more?" A qualitative study of how healthcare workers apply clinical guidelines to treat dog bite injuries in selected hospitals in Uganda. *PLoS ONE* 16(7): e0254650. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0254650>
- 5) Alexander Kagaha, Lenore Manderson, Power, policy and abortion care in Uganda, *Health Policy and Planning*, Volume 36, Issue 2, March 2021, Pages 187–195, <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czaa136>
- 6) Manderson, L., Chavarro, D., Kaunda-Khangamwa, B. *et al.* Containing COVID-19 and the social costs on human rights in African countries. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 9, 347 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01357-4>
- 7) Chavarro, D., Kagaha, A., Kaunda, B., Zakumumpa, H., & Manderson, L. (2021). COVID-19 policies: human rights approaches to protecting vulnerable groups in Africa. *African Academy of Science*, 10.
- 8) Kagaha, A., & Manderson, L. (2020). Medical technologies and abortion care in Eastern Uganda. *Social Science & Medicine*, 247, 112813. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.112813>
- 9) Atkins, S., Launiala, A., Kagaha, A. *et al.* Including mixed methods research in systematic reviews: Examples from qualitative syntheses in TB and malaria

control. *BMC Med Res Methodol* **12**, 62 (2012). <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2288-12-62>

- 10) Chapman, C., & Kagaha, A. (2009). Resolving conflicts using traditional mechanisms in the Karamoja and Teso regions of Uganda. *Minority Rights Group briefing*.

List of works under review

- 1) Kagaha, A, Manderson, L., Waiswa, P., & Bukuluki, P. Ecological Ruination: Absent Materiality and Child Health in East-Central Uganda. *Medical Anthropology Theory*.
- 2) Kagaha, A, Manderson, L., Waiswa, P., & Bukuluki, P. Rethinking Syndemic Theory in an Era of Recurring Ecological Crises. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly (MAQ)*.
- 3) Kagaha, A. & Manderson, L. (Under Review). Silence and concealment during and post abortion care in eastern Uganda. *Women's Reproductive Health Journal*
- 4) Kagaha, A (Under review). The power and politics of 'lack' in the context of infectious disease control. *Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory*.

Blogs

1. Kagaha, A (2021). Invisibility and futures during the pandemic and beyond. Open Research, African Academy of Science. Online: <https://blog.aasopenresearch.org/2021/07/28/invisibility-and-futures-during-the-pandemic-and-beyond/>
2. Kagaha, A (2022). Sexuality and reproductive health for invisible populations in Uganda's emergent towns. Maternal Neonatal and Child Health Centre of Excellence, Makerere University School of Public Health. Online: <https://mnh.musph.ac.ug/blog/sexuality-and-reproductive-health-for-invisible-populations-in-ugandas-emergent-towns/#!>

Referees

1. Professor Lenore Manderson,
Distinguished Professor of Medical Anthropology and Public Health, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
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