

ISABELLA JESO, Ph.D., MBA


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AREAS OF ACADEMIC EXPERTISE

Areas of Expertise in the Humanities:

1. *Literature*: World Literature in Translation, Literature in English
2. *Literary Theory and Practice*: Deconstructionism; New Historicism; Colonization/Post-Colonialism; Feminism
3. *Intellectual History*, focusing on the classics and how those ancient viewpoints dialogue with modern mindsets
4. *Writing and Communication*: Jeso is a published author of creative writing
5. *Trained Teacher*, with expertise in Education Theory and Practice

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Versatile college teacher with extensive education, training, and experience leading diverse and inclusive learning communities.
- Engaging communicator with expertise in cultivating nurturing learning environments with a focus on building positive academic professional practices, student experience, supported by intercultural competency
- Accomplished presenter of scholarly papers at higher education academic regional, national, and international professional conferences
- Skilled academic advisor with a background in guiding and supporting adult students in traditional and online course work.
- Author of *Bitney Adventures* and Co-Owner of Bitney Adventures Children's Books & Gifts; and published poet.
- Experienced academic researcher and writer.
- Software Competencies: Canvas and Blackboard Learning Management Systems; Google Suite/Workspace; and MS Office Suite; Salesforce; Elucian Colleague; ImageNow.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE, Burlington, VT

September 2016-present

On-Campus Adjunct Faculty

- Plan course materials and instruct courses on Philosophical Ways of Knowing; Making Garments/Doing Justice (an experiential learning class); Rhetoric of Self; and Rhetoric of Community (all of them writing intensive); to first-year and second-year students in the on-campus Core Division.
- Select course materials and upload them to the Canvas Learning Management system for student access.
- Manage the in-person classroom meetings with students and manage the online component of the on-campus hybrid class format.
- Deliver course content, assessing student academic performance, in collaboration with my cohort teaching partners and as a solo instructor.
- Incorporate technology and mixed media into teaching materials, to enhance students' learning experience.
- Support students, coaching those who struggle toward successful completion of the courses that I teach.

Online Adjunct Faculty

May 2016-December 2019

- Instruct online courses in the adult student Division of Champlain College Online, teaching General Education and Business courses: Research Methods; Managing Behavior in Organizations, Principles of Business; Project Management; and Interpersonal Communication
- Recipient of multiple meritorious teaching cash awards in the Champlain College Online Division.
- Support students, coaching those who struggle toward successful completion of the courses that I teach.

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE ONLINE, Burlington, VT

Senior Academic & Student Services Advisor

January 2015-February 2020

- Support adult students in the Business Management degree and certificate programs, as well as students in the Masters

in Executive Leadership degree program.

- Perceptive to students' needs and focused on partnering with campus units to provide a welcoming environment
- Featured speaker for the college's Black History Month as part of the Diversity and Inclusion Initiative; presented "Reflections on an Evening with James Baldwin: Seizing Opportunities for Growing Your Mind as a Student," 2015.

RESCARE WORKFORCE SERVICES, San Diego, CA

February 2013-July 2014

Workshop Facilitator

- Designed and delivered curriculum content to prepare new Americans for employment in the United States.
- Collaborated with management, job developers, case managers, and support staff to create a seamless service delivery for international participants with varied educational and cultural experiences.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, Burlington, VT

January 2005-May 2012

Lecturer – Department of English

- Taught a diverse group of undergraduate courses via classroom lecture and discussion, using the online Blackboard Learning Management System. Courses taught included World Literature, African Literature, Race and Ethnicity Literature, College Composition as well as Women's and Gender Studies courses
- Co-convended the 35th Annual African Literature Association Conference, 2009
- Recipient of Faculty Development Award of \$999.00 for CE Course Conversion which funded travel to 2010 Harvard English Institute on the figure of the author
- Recipient of a Cochran Grant of \$250.00 which funded travel to 2011 Harvard English Institute on the act of reading, Fall 2011
- Faculty Development award of \$2,480.00 funded conference registration, travel to, and lodging in Honolulu to present "Theoretical Considerations: Re-Framing African Thought," at the Hawaii University International Conference on Arts and Humanities in January 2012, Fall 2011
- Co-convended the 35th Annual African Literature Association Conference at the University of Vermont in 2009 with Professors Lokangaka Losambe and Helen Scott.

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE, Harare, Zimbabwe

November 2003-July 2004

Lecturer

- Taught undergraduate courses for Primary School teachers at the B.Ed. level, as well as reading and curriculum issues at the M.Ed. level
- Served on Departmental Committees, Research Committee, Academic Examining Sub-Committee, and The Zimbabwe Bulletin of Teacher Education Editorial Board, 2004

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, Arlington, TX

1999-2003

Lecturer to Senior Lecturer

- Instructed undergraduate literature classes, including surveys of British, American, and World Literature; as well as postcolonial literature and college composition courses
- Member of the Departmental Scholarship / Awards Committee, 2002-2003
- Served on the Departmental Hearing Committee (Student Appeals), 2002

VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANT CORPORATION, Winooski, VT

1997-1998

Education Finance Loan Counselor I

- Advised higher education borrowers regarding FFELP (Federal Family Education Loan Program) regulations pertaining to loan repayment, deferments, and forbearances
- Entered and retrieved data related to loan histories
- Received and verified loan payments

UNIVERSITY OF TULSA, Tulsa, OK

1991-1997

Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature (Tenure track)

- Instructed graduate and undergraduate level courses, including surveys of British Literature, Postcolonial Theory and Practice, African and African American Literature, and College Composition.
- Recipient of an Outstanding Teacher's Award of \$2,000.00, 1995.
- Co-convended an international scholarly conference on postcoloniality at the University of Tulsa with Professors Hermione de Almeida and Lars Engle.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, Colchester, VT

1989-1991

Assistant Professor of English/Lecturer

- Instructed College Composition, Introduction to Literature, African Literature, and the college's Team-Taught Freshman Seminar.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH, WRITING, PUBLICATIONS

- Developed expertise in advanced explorations that position Africanist imaginative writing as a potentially effective translator of how spiritual traditions function as the watershed of African knowledge systems in as far as these systems are significant determinants in the distribution of political, economic and social power.
- Utilize these African knowledge systems as important resources for creative writers and artists who wish to give a more original voice to the African character.

Publications:

Bitney Adventures (original stories for young readers). Mustang, Oklahoma: Tate Publishers, 2013. Re-issue by BookWhip. 2020

Bitney Adventures: Book II (original stories for young readers). Los Angeles, CA: BookWhip Publishing, 2020.

“Beyond Revolution: Nationalism and the South African Woman Author,” published in *Writing the Nation: Self and Country in Post-Colonial Imagination*. Ed. John C. Hawley, Amsterdam: Rodopi Critical Studies Series, 1996. 139-151

“Thoughts on the Future of Post-Colonial Studies,” *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* (Autumn, 1996)

“Shimmer Chinodya (Zimbabwean Award-Winning English Language Author): An Interview with Dr. Isabella Matsikidze,” *ALA Bulletin: A Publication of the African Literature Association* 20.2 (Spring 1994) 46-60

“Toward a Redemptive Political Philosophy: Bessie Head's *Maru*,” *World Literature Written in English*, 30.2 (Autumn 1990) 105-109

The Zimbabwean Collectibles, (a book of original poems) Stone Mountain, Georgia: Linwood Publishers, 1990

EDUCATION

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE, Burlington, VT

January 2018-May 2020

Master of Business Administration Degree Program

- Completed undergraduate level Business Management classes at the University of Vermont and Argosy University, San Diego, California, 2011 to 2014
- Human Resource Management Certificate – December 2019

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS/Amherst, Amherst, MA

1986-1991

Doctor of Philosophy

- Dissertation on South African writer Bessie Head about the nature of the soul, with emphasis on her novel *A Question of Power*. Thesis directed by Professor Ketu H. Katrak.
- Assisted in the training and mentoring of composition college graduate teaching assistants, while an advanced doctoral student in the program

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, Burlington, VT

1984-1986

Master of Arts Degree Program

- Master's thesis on British writer Doris Lessing's four Rhodesian novels, focusing on political consciousness. Thesis directed by Professor Michael N. Stanton

SAINT MICHAEL'S COLLEGE, Colchester, VT

1982-1984

Bachelor of Arts Degree Program

Senior Thesis on Nigerian author Chinua Achebe and the author's exploration of gender roles in Igbo society. Thesis directed by Professor Cary Kaplan

COTTEY COLLEGE, Nevada, MO

Associate of Arts Degree Program

- English Language and Literature

1980-1982

MOUNT SILINDA TEACHER'S COLLEGE, Chipinge

Rhodesian (now Zimbabwe) Teacher's Certificate

1975-1977