

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Member-at-large Candidate

Biography

Pempho Chinkondenji is an Assistant Professor of Educational Foundations and Research at the University of North Dakota. Her research broadly examines structural inequalities within educational policies and practices, with emphasis on African and African diaspora communities. More specifically, Dr. Chinkondenji's research lies at the intersection of education, gender justice, student pregnancy, refugee education, education in emergencies, and participatory visual methods. Grounded in African onto-epistemologies, her scholarship draws from African feminisms, *Ubuntu* (an African philosophy of relational humanity and collective wellbeing), and post/de-colonial thought to interrogate gender and power dynamics in international education. Dr. Chinkondenji's forthcoming book (April 2026), *Drop-out, Push-out, or Walk-out?*, centers on issues of social justice and equity for pregnant learners and school-aged mothers in international contexts, critically challenging dominant notions of studenthood and motherhood within and beyond educational spaces. Her research has been published in leading journals, including *Comparative Education Review*, *Gender and Education*, *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, and *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*.

In 2025, Dr. Chinkondenji was named a National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow. With the support of this selective grant program, she is currently conducting a visual critical ethnography with pregnant learners and school-aged mothers at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi. Dr. Chinkondenji has also received other prestigious awards, including the 2024 Gail P. Kelly Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation and the 2024 Joyce Cain Award for Distinguished Research on People of African Descent, both conferred by the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES). She earned her Ph.D. in International Education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an M.A. in Cross-cultural and International Education from Bowling Green State University. She also holds a B.A. in Mass Communication from African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi.