

Seif Sekalala, Ph.D.

**Curriculum Vitae (As of FA-2022)**

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**Education**

**Academic Degrees**

PhD in Communication, Culture, and Media

**Drexel University**, Philadelphia, PA

Date of Graduation: 09/05/2015

Dissertation Title: *Narratives & Discourses of Rwandan Former Refugees & Genocide Survivors in the USC-Shoah Archive & Western (US, UK, Italy, Canada) Newspapers*

Supervisor: Dr. Rachel Reynolds

M.A. in Communication Studies

Kean University, Union, NJ

Graduation: Spring 2010

B.A. in English-Writing

Kean University, Union, NJ

Graduation: Spring 2008

**Select Other (Post-Doctoral) Training, Professional Development, And Continuing-Ed. Credits\***

*\*(Note: Also related to page six, “Select Skills & Certifications.”)*

- FA 2022: **The University of New Mexico** & “*Data-Science Dojo*”; **Data Science Bootcamp Certificate** (Continuing-Ed).
- FA 2021; **CAPM Project-Management Certification By the Project-Management Institute (PMI)**.
- FA 2020; *Elements of AI, Google Data-Analytics*
  - >> Details: Online MOOC And Interactive Training By “Reaktor”/University of Helsinki & Google;
  - >> Credential: Certificates of Completion;
  - >> Professional Relevance: Computer-Mediated Communication, Social-Media, etc.
- FA 2020; *The Odin Project, FreeCodeCamp*
  - >> Details: Online Software-Development And Product-UX Design Education Programs;
  - >> Professional Relevance: Computer-Mediated Communication, Social-Media, etc.

**Teaching Abilities And Interests (Related to “Teaching Experience” Section Below)**

- **Communication and Social-Science:** Introductory-to-advanced communication-studies; mixed research-methods (including statistics); introductory-to-advanced sociology; introductory and select intermediate-to-advanced social-science—e.g. psychology and anthropology.
- **English and Humanities:** Introductory-to-advanced English—e.g. English composition, and business and professional writing; introductory English-literature; history (e.g., East African); philosophy.

## Teaching Experience

### **Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI / Online-Instruction; Role: Adjunct Professor**

FA '22: Introductory to Psychology

### **Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Hays-KS & Online; Role: Assistant Professor (NTT)**

SP '20: Communication and Conflict Management

FA '19 to SP '20: Fundamentals of Oral Communication (Communication Basic Course)

### **Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ; Role: Adjunct Professor**

SP '19: Intercultural Communication

### **Wenzhou-Kean University, Wenzhou, P. R. China; Role: Lecturer (NTT)**

FA '17: Speech Communication as Critical Citizenship (Communication Basic Course)

FA '17: Business and Professional Communication

### **Middlesex County College, Edison NJ; Role: Adjunct Professor**

SP '16: Introduction to Public Speaking

### **Kean University, Union NJ; Role: Adjunct Professor**

FA '10 to SP '17 (Intermittently): Speech Communication as Critical Citizenship (Basic Course)

SP '16: Business and Professional Communication

FA '16: Listening (Communication Special Topics Course)

FA '16: English Composition

FA '15: Senior Capstone Course: Communication Research Methods (Note: *Included Statistics*)

FA '11: Communication and Conflict Resolution

### **Gwynedd Mercy University, Gwynedd Valley, PA; Role: Adjunct Professor**

FA '16: Media Technology—Online Course

### **Drexel University, Philadelphia PA; Role: PhD Student and Adjunct Professor**

WI '13 to FA '13: Principles of Communication

WI '13 to SP '14: Intercultural Communication

SP '14 to WI '15: Introduction to Sociology

### **Temple University, Philadelphia PA; Role: Adjunct Professor**

FA '12: Intercultural Communication

## Research Experience

### **Funded Scholarship/Research**

#### **Approved/Disbursed Funding (Grants, Fellowships, Graduate Assistantships, etc.):**

Graduate Assistantship; FA '08 to SP '10; Funder: Kean University

➤ **Estimated Amount (Based on Current Cost, Inflation-Adjusted): ~\$30,350**

➤ Details/Purpose: For Master's degree's full tuition & fees, health insurance, and living stipend for administrative duties in English department.

Int. Travel Award for Kigali, Rwanda June 2015 Conference; WI '15; Funder: Drexel U.

➤ **Amount: \$1150**

Undergraduate Research Experience Grant; FA '19—SP '20; Funder: FHSU.

- **Amount: \$3,000**
- Details/Purpose: For the primary purpose of exposing undergraduate students to, and training them in empirical/theoretical/other research.
  - Project Title: “*Are You Listening, Doc?*” A Cross-Cultural (USA-Uganda) Study of Health-Workers’ (HWs’) Best Practice-Based Listening Skills: Phase 1

**Other Select Future/Pending and Past/Unapproved Funding, etc.:**

Faculty Summer Grant For Research and Creative Activities, FHSU, SP 2020:

- **(Unfunded) Amount: ~\$1000**
- Details/Purpose: For the primary purpose of executing the research in the summer 2020 semester.
  - Project Title: “*Are You Listening, Doc?*” A Cross-Cultural (USA-Uganda) Study of HWs’ Best Practice-Based Listening Skills: Phase 2, Uganda-Based Pilot Study Fieldwork, Summer 2020

**Publications**

***Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:***

Sekalala, S. (*In Press [Revise & Resubmit]—FA 2022—WI 2023*). “*Are You Listening Doc?*” Qualitative Examination of Health-Workers’ Best Practice Based Listening Skills. *International Journal of Listening Studies (IJoL)*.

Porpora, D. V., & **Sekalala S.** (2019). Truth, Communication, and Democracy. *International Journal of Communication*, 13(2019), 938-955.

Sekalala, S. (2016). The dynamics of deliberate and unintentional amnesia in narrative sensemaking and enaction of resilience: A case study of four Rwandan narratives of genocide survival. *Cogent Social Sciences*, 2(1), 1221604. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2016.1221604>

***Peer-Reviewed Books & Edited Volumes:***

Sekalala, S. (2022). *A Social-Scientific Examination of the Dynamics of Communication, Thought, and Selves*. IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-7507-9>

Sekalala, S., & Niezgoda, B. C. (Eds.). (2018). *Global Perspectives on Health Communication in the Age of Social Media*. IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-5225-3716-8>

***Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters:***

Sekalala, S. and Maki, K., 2018: Introductory Sample Insights into Sub-Saharan African (SSA) Discussions of Clinical Anxiety & Depression Online. In Sekalala, S. & Niezgoda, B. (Eds.), *Global Perspectives on Health Communication in the Age of Social Media* (107-130). Hershey, PA: IGI-Global Press.

Sekalala, S. 2016: Efficacy of Narrative/Discourse Analysis, and Autoethnographic Research Methods in Communication/Media and Ethnic Conflict Studies: A Reflection on Research About Rwandan Former Refugees and Genocide Survivors (FRGSs). In Gibson, S. & Lando A.L. (Eds.), *Impact of Communication and the Media on Ethnic Conflict* (38-58). Hershey, PA: IGI-Global Press.

**Book Review:**

Sekalala, S. Roger Kreuz and Richard Roberts, *Getting Through: The Pleasures and Perils of Cross-Cultural Communication*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017

**In Review & Unpublished Manuscripts**

**Unpublished Manuscript:**

Sekalala, S. (2019) *A Basic Critical Discourse Analysis of Right-Wing Anti-Immigration Mass Media Rhetoric From the Eras of Obama to Trump*.

**Select Refereed Conference Presentations**

National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, Seattle, WA 2021

Presenter (International Listening Association Div.): *“Are You Listening, Doc?” A Qualitative Study of Health-Workers’ (HWs’) Best Practice-Based Listening Skills*.

Marks, Traces, Footprints and Their Significance for Social Sciences, Rome (/Online), Italy 2021

Presenter: *The Peril and Potential of Surveillance and Tracking Technologies in Developed and Developing Countries*.

Society for Text & Discourse Conference, Atlanta, GA 2020

Presenter (Poster Presentation): *A Basic Critical Discourse Analysis of Right-Wing Anti-Immigration Mass Media Rhetoric From the Eras of Obama to Trump*.

Eastern Communication Association (ECA) Convention, Providence, Rhode Island 2019

Co-Presenter (Communication-Philosophy Div., Top Papers Panel): *Truth, Communication, and Democracy*.

International Association of Critical Realism Meeting, Lillehammer, Norway 2018

Co-Presenter: *Truth, Communication, and Democracy*.

Popular Culture and American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Convention, Seattle, WA 2016

Co-Presenter (Medical Humanities Panel): *Phenomenological Analysis of Illness Narratives*.

National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, Las Vegas, NV 2015

Presenter (Peace and Conflict Studies Div.): Top Students’ Papers Panel: *Insights From Rwandan Former Refugee and Genocide Survivor Narratives & Discourses*.

Human Dignity And Humiliation Studies Conference, Kigali, Rwanda 2015

Co-Presenter (Ad-hoc Panel Format): *Global Citizenship in Rwandan Reconstructive Dialogue*.

Drexel Research Day, Philadelphia, PA 2015

Co-Presenter: *Pragmatics of Meretricious vs. Meritorious Indy Cinema*.

ECA Convention, Philadelphia, PA 2015

Presenter (Intercultural Communication Panel): *Autoethnographic Reflection on Research into Rwandan Former Refugees and Genocide Survivors*.

Wayne State U. Citizenship Conference, Detroit, MI 2014

**Presenter (“Place for Minorities” Panel): *A Discourse-Analysis of Valentina Iribagiza’s PBS Frontline Story.***

National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, Washington, DC 2013

Presenter (Scholar-to-Scholar); Competitive Paper: *Immigrant Digital Subjectivities.*

Eastern Communication Association (ECA) Convention, Cambridge, MA 2012

Presenter (Intercultural Communication Div.): *Refugee & Asylee Identity Negotiation.*

### **Select Future Projects In Early Planning, IRB, Data-Gathering, Writing & Other Phases**

Ongoing Research Project; Working Title: “US Government Project-Management Mistakes Under The Obama And Trump Administrations, as Reflected In the US Mass-Media.”

### **Department and University Service**

FA '19 to SU '20: FHSU Communication Studies Department Graduate Examination Committee

### **Select Service to the Discipline and Community**

FA '20-Ongoing: Volunteer for Rodeph Shalom synagogue’s “Breaking Bread On Broad,” for distribution of food and essential family supplies (e.g. diapers, personal hygiene products, etc.).

FA '20-Ongoing: Volunteer Instructor, African Community Center For Social Sustainability (<https://accessuganda.org/health-training-institute/>). *Preparing and delivering a course on communication for healthcare professionals—esp., nurses. With a particular emphasis on active listening, emotional intelligence, and conflict resolution, for better outcomes with patients and caretakers.*

FA '17: US Shanghai Consulate-General Warden for Wenzhou-City, Zhejiang Province.

Fall '17: Alternate faculty adviser to Toastmasters Club and Model UN, Wenzhou-Kean U.

SP '17: Manuscript-Reviewer for health-comm. div. of NCA, for the 2017 convention (Dallas).

WI '15 to SP '16: Founding member of the African Studies Association steering committee of the students’ and early career professionals’ caucus.

WI '15: Reviewer of manuscripts for the conflict studies division of NCA, for the 2015 convention (Las Vegas).

### **Select US And International Media Appearances And Productions**

#### **International:**

- Columnist for “The Observer” (a Ugandan national-weekly) newspaper
- Magic-100 FM (Kampala, Uganda):
  - US-News Analyst,
  - General station & show-specific voice-over contributor.

### **Consulting**

2016-2019; Founder & Principal Consultant, *Higher-Ed Exchange* (Philadelphia, USA & Kampala, Uganda).  
Services: International College Student Admissions Consulting.

### **Select Honors, Awards, and Grants**

- Spring (March) 2019: ECA Philosophy of Communication Division Top Papers Panel
- Fall (November) 2015: NCA Peace & Conflict Division Top Students' Papers Panel
- Spring 2008: Bachelor's Degree with Honors (*Cum Laude*) at Kean University

### **Select Present And Past Professional Affiliations**

- African Studies Association
- Cognitive Science Society
- Eastern Communication Association
- Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies Group
- International Communication Association
- National Communication Association
- Public Relations Society of America (Associate Member)
- Society For Text & Discourse

### **Select Skills & Certifications**

- Intermediate software-development skills; e.g. HTML, CSS &-JavaScript, MERN full-stack development/engineering, etc.
- Data-Science training and experience (intermediate-to-advanced); e.g. IBM-SPSS (/PSPP), R, Python, etc.
- Basic Proficiency: NodeXL and UCINET Network Analysis Software.
- WordPress
- Google Analytics
- Communication & Leadership (a continuing studies certificate), Kean U., 2008.
- Student-Pilot License (No.: 4419450\*) And Training For Private Pilot License

(\*To be furnished upon request.)

### **Languages**

**(Apart From English; Order: Advance to Intermediate & Beginner)**

- Luganda (Native/Fluent)
- French (Functional-Intermediate)
- Kiswahili (Beginner)
- Kinyarwanda (Beginner)
- Mandarin (Beginner)
- German (Beginner)
- Spanish (Beginner)
- Arabic (Beginner)
- Hebrew (Beginner)

### Select Non-Academic Professional Experience

Project-Management Fellow (For “Impact Sprint”/Contract July-Oct Contract [With Possible Renewal])  
Code For America (CfA); Project: [Open-Columbus & TCAT](#) 07/2022 – Present

- Representing CfA, to help with Accelerating the Open-Columbus brigade's mapping of crosswalks and sidewalks for general pedestrian accessibility needs.
- Other activities and achievements: recruitment of volunteers; GIS mapping; and management-consulting for brigade. Tools: GitHub, Hot Tasking Manager (<https://tasks.hotosm.org/>), Slack, Google Drive.

#### Recovery Facilitator

The Consortium, Inc. (Community Behavioral Health, Funding: Philadelphia’s DBHIDS) 12/2021 – 06/2022

- Working with psychiatrists, nurses, and therapists to provide comprehensive mental-health support services to members.
- Equipping members with coping techniques and general life skills to enable successful community re-integration.

#### Strategic Communication Consultant

Self-Employed 09/2015 - Present

- Partner with community, corporate, government and philanthropic leaders to help end-users and community stakeholders with data collection and analysis; design and deploy message and marketing platforms, e.g., via WordPress. Clients include Social Contract LLC and Higher-Ed Exchange LLC.
- Plan and implement international (USA & East-African) commercial venture for assembly of custom-made computers for avid video-gamers.

#### Linguistics Researcher

University of Pennsylvania Linguistics Data Consortium 08/2017—09/2019

- Execute research and analysis tasks for various linguistics projects.

#### Research Analyst

Social Contract LLC 09/2018—01/2019

- Execute qualitative research related to various state and nonprofit projects.
- Network and collaborate with state and nonprofit sector officials so as to advance various initiatives related to community development

#### IT & Business Development and Communications Specialist

Power Consulting Group, NY 04/2011—09/2011

- Assisted in the day-to-day resolution of IT consulting issues
- Looked out for, and harnessed relevant business development opportunities
- Documentation: wrote manuals, reports, and other relevant internal literature
- Wrote and revised website copy and other marketing literature, created and used marketing plans, etc.

#### IT Specialist

Union County College 07/2010—06/2012

- Provided quick IT solutions over the phone.
- Carried out on-site investigation and troubleshooting for simple IT issues.
- Handled complex IT issue referral (i.e. to specialists, off-campus contractors, etc.)

#### Graduate Assistant & IT Lab Supervisor

Kean University English Dept. 09/2008—05/2010

- Was in charge of IT labs and lab assistant recruitment/training.
- Assisted faculty with new course research and planning.
- Executed special projects as assigned by the department chair (e.g. poetry contest for high school students on university campus, sponsored by the English department).

## References

### Part 1:

Fort Hays State University (FHSU),

600 Park Street

Hays, KS 67601-4099

1) Prof. Carl Sage; Assistant-Professor (Theatre)

Email: [clsage2@fhsu.edu](mailto:clsage2@fhsu.edu)

Phone: 785-259-0511

>> Professional Relationship & Notes:

- Relationship: FHSU Colleague; recommendation-letter referee.

2) Prof. Bader Abukhodair; Instructor (Mathematics)

Email: [bmabukhodair@fhsu.edu](mailto:bmabukhodair@fhsu.edu)

Phone: (785) 628-4779

>> Professional Relationship & Notes:

- Relationship: FHSU Colleague; recommendation-letter referee.

### Part 2:

Drexel University

Communication, Culture, and Media (CCM) Department Graduate Program

3141 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia, PA 19104

1) Dr. Rachel Reynolds; Assoc. Professor (CCM Graduate Faculty)

Email: [rrr28@drexel.edu](mailto:rrr28@drexel.edu)

Phone: 215-895-0498

>> Professional Relationship & Notes:

- Relationship: Doctoral dissertation adviser.
- Recommendation-letter referee.

2) Dr. Douglas Porpora; Professor (CCM Graduate Faculty)

Email: [porporad@drexel.edu](mailto:porporad@drexel.edu)

Phone: 215-895-2404

>> Professional Relationship & Notes:

- Relationship: Former: professor; dissertation committee member; and co-author.
- Recommendation-letter referee.