



Title: A Comparative Study of Policies and Practices Pertaining to Postgraduate Research in Universities in East and Southern Africa today: Implications for the Quality of Research.”

Coordinator: Professor Munyae M. Mulinge, United States International University (USIU), Nairobi, Kenya

Members :

- **Dr. Josephine N. Arasa, United States International University (USIU), Nairobi, Kenya**
- **Dr. Margaret M. Munyae, United States International University (USIU), Nairobi, Kenya**
- **Dr. Gwen N. Lesetedi, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana (Co-coordinator)**
- **Dr. Maitseo Bolaane, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana.**
- **Dr. Eunice Seekoe, University of Fort Hare, South Africa**

Summary

The project is an analysis of the policies and practices underpinning postgraduate research in institutions of higher learning in Kenya, Botswana and South Africa. Utilizing a comparative research design, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection, the study aims to:

1. Document the existing postgraduate supervision, progress review, quality control, and examination policies and practices in selected Universities in East and Southern Africa.
2. Gauge the levels of knowledge about existing postgraduate supervision, progress review, quality control, and examination policies and practices among both students and faculty.
3. Measure student and faculty views about the quality and applicability (practicality) of existing postgraduate supervision, progress review, quality control, and examination policies and practices.
4. Appraise the level of adherence to existing policies and practices on postgraduate supervision, progress review, quality control, and examination by Universities in general and by specific postgraduate programs.
5. Determine whether and how existing postgraduate supervision, progress review, quality control, and examination policies and practices in Universities in East and Southern Africa impact on the quality of postgraduate research.

Data will be collected from individual interviewees utilizing self-administered structured questionnaires. These will be supplemented with in-depth interviews with key informants

selected from among Heads of academic programs, Deans of Faculty and Directors and/or Deans of postgraduate studies. The bulk of the data will be managed and processed utilizing the SPSS-PC quantitative data analysis software. The results are expected to show the overall similarities and/or differences in policies and practices pertaining to postgraduate research and reveal student-faculty similarities and/or differences in views about the policies and practices in each country and across the three countries focused on by the study. It is also anticipated that the results will have important implications for quality of postgraduate research in all institutions studied and a discussion to this effect is expected to form part of the final project report.