

# Miantso Ursula Soloharison

## Community-Driven Development Expert

Antananarivo, Madagascar | miantso.soloharison@fulbrightmail.org | +261 34 439 8206

### EDUCATION

**Master of Education in Community Development and Action**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

*Fulbright Scholar, U.S. Department of State*

May 2025

Thesis: "We're Not Just Fighting for Something That's Outside of Us; We're Fighting for Something That's Inside of Us:" A Decolonial Examination of Queer Youth's Sources of Resilience in Madagascar Confronting Cultural Stigma

- Achieved 4.0 GPA and built network of 50+ professional connections through international exchange program
- Organized and led 5 workshop sessions that centered Malagasy knowledge at Vanderbilt and facilitated cross-cultural learning experiences for university community
- Created original pottery exhibition that combined storytelling with personal narrative and showcased cultural adaptation experience to 25 attendees at the Curb Center of Vanderbilt University, utilizing the event as a fundraising initiative that raised \$1,000 for Camp Fihavanana (community-based association in Madagascar) programming

**Master of Education, Population and Development**

August 2022

Catholic University of Madagascar, Antananarivo, Madagascar

Thesis: *Land Titling and Informal Micro-Entrepreneurship in Malagasy Slums*

**Bachelor of Arts, Social Sciences Applied to Development**

August 2019

Catholic University of Madagascar, Antananarivo, Madagascar

### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Development & Communications Consultant**, Kids & Coaches, Non-profit

June 2024 – May 2025

- Conceptualized, filmed, and produced impactful documentary showcasing youth-coach partnerships through intensive field recording and advanced post-production techniques. Created compelling visual storytelling content that served as primary fundraising asset for nonprofit revenue generation.
- Established critical community-based operational partnerships and coordinated organizational match-making services in Nashville to leverage local network development. Created strategic partnerships that enhanced collective community impact across multiple youth-serving organizations.
- Developed detailed collaboration framework documentation serving as reference guide for Kids and Coaches Nashville. Facilitated targeted strategic consultation on collaboration methodologies that resulted in secured long-term partnership agreements through effective donor cultivation.

**Community Development Research Assistant**, The Curb Center, Vanderbilt University

July 2024 – May 2025

- Developed comprehensive research synthesis on Communities of Practice with expertise in organizational culture and collective learning models, and designed culturally responsive program evaluation framework for the Forklift neighborhood-based arts and community development initiative.
- Applied participatory research methodologies that recognized diverse cultural perspectives and supported careholder engagement through inclusive data collection methods across varied community contexts.
- Delivered program evaluation results through innovative visual presentations combining art and graphic design skills with evaluation methodologies, and analyzed organizational culture impacts to identify program strengths and development areas.

**Country Program Officer**, Omena Movement, Non-profit

January 2021 – December 2023

- Established Madagascar's first Community of Practice for Social-Emotional Learning and trained board members nationwide to implement evidence-based youth programming aligned with local cultural contexts and traditions.
- Designed participatory evaluation frameworks employing qualitative, quantitative, and storytelling methodologies, and facilitated 50+ structured cross-cultural engagement sessions achieving 90% positive participant satisfaction through culturally sensitive approaches.
- Led organizational change initiatives during program growth periods and coordinated all Madagascar-based operations to ensure alignment between global mission and local community needs across 11 large-scale community events.

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

### Camp Director, Camp Fihavanana

September 2019 – Present

- Focus on curriculum development, facilitator training, and program evaluation to enhance community-based youth programming
- Design curriculum that allows youth to take ownership of their identity, creativity, and critical thinking through peer-to-peer learning approaches

### Communication Officer, International Mentorship at Peabody (iMAP), Vanderbilt University

October 2024 – May 2025

- Created and published promotional content across Instagram and Vanderbilt's internal communication systems to increase cross-cultural event engagement

### Communication Officer, Peabody Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA), Vanderbilt University

August 2024 – May 2025

- Developed social media content strategy and managed digital communications to build community engagement among APIDA students

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Community Development and Action Thesis, Vanderbilt University

August 2024 – May 2025

- Pioneered community-based participatory research that amplified Malagasy queer youth voices across diverse cultural contexts and collaborated with local community members to co-develop culturally grounded assessment tools with multiple perspectives.
- Synthesized critical literature on cultural stigma, colonization, and resilience within Indigenous and colonial systems and designed inclusive research protocols that emphasized cultural safety and community protection across varied contexts.
- Bridged Indigenous methodologies with Western research approaches to create comprehensive knowledge frameworks and facilitated in-person panel discussions that ensured equitable participation among marginalized youth from diverse backgrounds

### Graduate Research Assistant, Research Institute for Development

June 2020 – August 2021

- Led exploratory research in Antananarivo examining informal social protection mechanisms in urban settlements and designed place-based mixed-methods research protocol i.e. literature review, interview development, and data collection
- Executed in-depth interviews and surveys with 50+ families in informal settlements and analyzed spatial relationships between land tenure, entrepreneurship, and economic mobility to contribute to national social protection study

## ACADEMIC PROJECTS

### Program Evaluation Class, Vanderbilt University

August 2024 – December 2024

- Co-developed program evaluation proposal for Girls Write Nashville and applied participatory evaluation methods across 8 Nashville schools with culturally inclusive careholder engagement strategies
- Delivered comprehensive evaluation findings and recommendations to organizational leadership to inform program improvements and strategic decision-making

### Community Inquiry Class, Vanderbilt University

August 2023 – December 2024

- Constructed theoretical framework integrating Contemporary trauma-informed approaches and community-based participatory research methods
- Synthesized literature on emotional violence and collective healing practices in post-colonial contexts

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Soloharison, M.U.** (2024). Session Convener with C. Etienne. at the Jumpstart Conference. Nashville, TN.
- **Soloharison, M.U.** (2022). Understanding Emotional Abuse: Perspectives and Prevention. Omena Madagascar & UNICEF Partnership Conference, Institut National des Sciences Comptables et de l'Administration d'Entreprises (INSCAE). Antananarivo, Madagascar.

## RESEARCH & TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Software:** SPSS; Stata; Dedoose; Canva; CapCut; Microsoft Office (Advanced Excel for data analysis, data tracking, and program management)
- **Research:** Mixed-method research design and implementation, survey development, and administration
- **Participatory Research Methods:** Expertise in designing and implementing inclusive research methodologies
- **Program Evaluation:** Expertise in culturally responsive assessment and evaluation methodologies
- **Facilitation & Training:** Advanced skills in cross-cultural facilitation and capacity building
- **Languages:** Malagasy (Native), English (AMCAT Certified Proficiency), French (DALF C2)