

## DR JESSICA KAAHWA



Biography: Jessica Kaahwa, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer in the Departments of Music, Dance and Drama at Makerere University. She has taught at the University of Maryland, College Park, (USA) and University of Stellenbosch (SA) Dr. Kaahwa obtained her PhD (2001) from University of Maryland, in Theatre History, Theory and Criticism. She has won numerous research awards and has published widely.

She possesses a long and varied career in facilitation and designing of participatory communication methodology for development. Dr. Kaahwa has been the architect of a number of national initiatives that have sought to use theatre as a constructive tool of analysis in conflict settings and for health improvement. She has and continues to experiment with theories that expand the discourse on theatre applications. A good example is her recent experimentation with “Theatre for Personal Meaning” and “Theatre for Conflict Analysis.” She is currently working on integrating “Processes Theory” into main-stream Applied Theatre practice.

Dr. Kaahwa is a great believer in "teaching by doing" and has in recent years, conducted training facilitation for both international and national organizations and Institutions of Higher Education.

### **Course Unit taught on the 2009-10 MAIPR at Warwick, Amsterdam and Helsinki: Participatory Theatre**

The module on Participatory Theatre (or Interactive Performance) Methods for Social Change and Problem Analysis is multi-disciplinary in nature and embraces various arts of social communication process, Forum Theatre and allied techniques of theatres of spontaneity and contrary to conventional theatre. Therefore the primarily goal of the course is to offer students specialized training in participatory theatre performance, which includes:

- Students exposure to different aspects of interactive theatre performance theory and practice in light of candidates’ preferred specialization areas within the [MAIPR] programme;
- Equipping of students with methods and techniques to transfer knowledge and skills into practical application relevant to research and practice in creation of the possibility of personal and social transformation through theatre;
- and offering students of basic standard practice knowledge necessary to ensure unlimited opportunity to practice in diverse social situations.