

Dr. Lisa Limeri, Ph.D - Assistant Professor in Biology education, Motivation and Psychometrics



Dr. Lisa B. Limeri is an assistant professor in the Biology department at Texas Tech University. She received her Bachelor of Science at Binghamton University then pursued her Ph.D in Biological Sciences at the University of Pittsburg. She continued postdoctoral research in Biology Education at the University of Georgia. Dr Limeri currently researches the social and psychological factors that motivate students' decisions to leave or persist in STEM career pathways. In her lab, referred to as the "Limeri Lab" they investigate the impacts of social-psychological factors on undergraduates' performance and retention in STEM. Her research also focuses on transforming this knowledge into practical classroom interventions that can improve academic outcomes and well-being by reducing negative stressors so that all students can grow in their education. She has also had many publications contributing to furthering the study of student identity and performance in the sciences.

Dr. Maria G. Onyango, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences



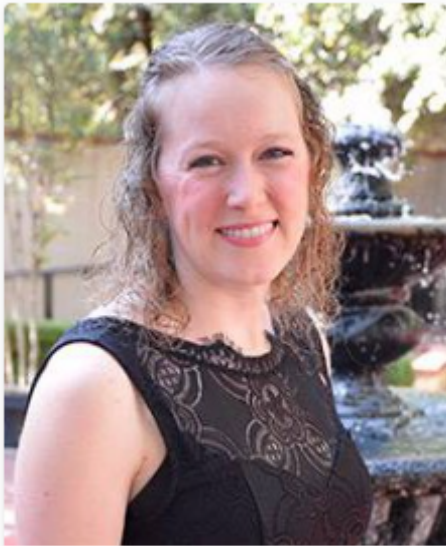
Dr. Maria Onyango is an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University. She attended the University of Nairobi in Kenya, studying Biochemistry and Zoology at the undergraduate level before completing a Master's degree in Applied Parasitology. She completed her PhD in Veterinary Entomology at Deakin University in Australia, and received postdoctoral training in the Yale School of Public Health, the New York State Department of Health, and the Wadsworth Center. Her research is in virology and medical entomology, studying the biology of ticks and mosquitos that transmit viral infections. By understanding their underlying biology, Dr. Onyango endeavors to understand disease emergence and identify ways to block transmission.

Dr. Christy Rogers, Ph.D- Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies



Dr. Christy Rogers is an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Studies. Her current program of research investigates adolescent development and the transition into emerging adulthood through a family lens at multiple levels of analysis. Her research highlights that families, particularly sibling relations, can promote positive adolescent development, including greater school commitment, regulation, safe decision-making, and healthier perceptions of the self and interpersonal relations, as well as lower engagement in externalizing problems. She uses an interdisciplinary approach to capture how siblings and parents support adolescent development, including behavioral coding of family interactions, obtaining questionnaires to assess perceptions of relationships and well-being, and acquiring behavioral and brain imaging data to examine the social influence on decision-making. She stated, “I am interested in examining how families contribute to positive youth development socio-emotionally, biologically, and cognitively, and how interactions between these domains of development inform youth well-being.”

Dr. Jessica Spott, PhD- Director of STEM CORE



Dr. Jessica Spott is the Director of STEM CORE at Texas Tech University. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Communication Studies at Texas Tech University. She joined the STEM Center for Outreach, Research & Education formally in 2015, but has worked with outreach coordination and funded program management, specifically with undergraduate researchers since 2011. She is responsible for the day to day operations of STEM CORE, and she focuses on outreach initiatives and program development. She has a PhD in Educational Psychology, and is passionate about researching MotherScholars and girls in STEM fields. She is working to continue to publish and get grants for STEM CORE. She is particularly passionate about increasing equity and diversity in STEM fields. When she is not working in the office, Jessica can be found playing with her 2 boys, or adventuring around the globe with her husband! She is particularly a fan of podcasts, a long game of dominoes or cards, and never-ending cups of hot chocolate.