The University of Nevada, Reno; the Departments of Anthropology; Gender, Race, and Identity; and the Religious Studies Minor Program Proudly Present a Public Talk Sponsored by the Hilliard Foundation:

Strategies for Taming a Swahili Husband: Zanzibari Women’s Talk about Love in Islamic Marriages

By

Katrina Daly Thompson, PhD
Associate Professor of African Languages and Literature; African Languages Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin, Madison

Thursday, March 27th at 7:00 pm in the William Raggio Building, room 2003

Professor Thompson's interest in African languages began in 1996 in Zimbabwe, where she began learning Shona during an undergraduate semester abroad. Returning to Grinnell College, where she majored in English, she focused on African and African American literatures. She went on to earn a Master's degree and a Ph.D. from the Department of African Languages and Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focusing on the use and representation of African languages in the verbal arts. During graduate school, she mastered Swahili alongside Shona. She has taught Swahili at the African-American Ethnic Academy, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Middlebury College, and UCLA, as well as to groups of volunteers preparing to work in East Africa. Because of her expertise in language pedagogy, Professor Thompson was asked to coordinate the African languages program at UCLA and later to serve as Languages Coordinator for the Department of African Languages and Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is responsible for the training and supervision of the instructors for various languages as well as supervising self-instructional tutorials on languages not currently offered.

Professor Thompson has conducted research on translation, postcolonial language problems, language use and identity in African film and television, language attitudes in Tanzanian comics, the use of technology in advanced-level second language instruction, representations of ethnicity in Tanzanian hip-hop music, and Muslim discourse about gender and sexuality in Zanzibar. Her current research focuses on the transgression of cultural boundaries of gender and sexuality through Swahili talk about the supernatural.