



Dr. Natasha Muna has a BSc (Hons) in Biodiversity and Zoology, and an MSc and PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Cape Town (UCT). During her PhD she worked as a student consultant at the UCT Writing Centre, and the knowledge, training and experience she gained in that role motivated her to completely shift her focus from the pursuit of disciplinary knowledge to the language practices we use to produce and communicate this knowledge. She has a lectureship position as coordinator of the Faculty of Health Sciences Writing Lab., located within the Department of Health Sciences Education. The Writing Lab. provides dedicated academic literacies support, teaching and capacity development for staff and students across the Faculty. Her research has broadly focussed on the integrated literacies required for learning within scientific contexts, with a special interest in multimodal social semiotics and visual literacy. Her work has explored the literacy practices critical to student success, the challenges which students experience in acquiring multimodal scientific literacies, and how acquisition of multimodal disciplinary knowledge and practices can be enabled within curriculum contexts. She has established a research interest in how students' authorial identity development can be enabled within an African Health Sciences context. The goal is to deepen our understanding of the role that identity development plays in student access and success within academia, and how identity development can be enabled through academic literacy practices.