



# HARTZMAN AWARD HIGHLIGHT

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REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

**International  
Conference of the  
Learning Sciences  
(ICLS)**

**Helsinki, Finland  
June 2025**



The Hartzman International Conference Travel Award enables SoE graduate students to present their work at international conferences. It is made possible through generous support from Marlene Hartzman.



**Global Engagement Office**  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Thanks to this Hartzman award financial support, I was able to attend the International Conference of Learning Sciences at the University of Helsinki (Finland). This was an incredible opportunity for me, as I was able to present a long and short paper to colleagues working with similar frameworks and towards similar aims. Doing so at the home of Cultural Historical Activity Theory (CHAT) was inspiring! I connected with other scholars who use Change Labs, Learning Labs, and other transformative models that help support communities who are looking to make positive change toward equity, healing, and freedom in their environments. The experience was a powerful opportunity to build connections, grow professionalism, and expand my thinking in relation to my studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

At the conference, my advisor introduced me to key people whose work has influenced my studies and aligned with how I approach analysis at the University. These in-person connections were maintained throughout the week as I attended their sessions and discussed the impact of their research. Not only did I build connections, but I had the opportunity to be the sole presenter of Dr. Mawene's and my work. I developed the presentations and crafted the details I chose to share. It was also an interesting experience to hone a narrative that could be understood by participants from around the world.

Finally, attending presentations of others doing similar work around the world was inspiring. The emphasis on de-colonialism and expanding research frameworks aligned with my thinking and helped me consider the role of the researcher in a more nuanced way—not as a theorist only, but also a supporter, ally, and storyteller.

I cannot express my gratitude thoroughly enough. This opportunity has been such a growing opportunity for me, and a really exciting way to build my connections – and our research team's connections—around the world. Thank you kindly.

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