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Education

D. Phil. Sociology

University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa
November 1999 to October 2003

Dissertation topic: Theory-based evaluation of Community Development: A South African Case Study.

M.Ed Curriculum and Instruction

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John's Newfoundland, Canada
September 1989 to June 1991

Thesis topic: A participatory process towards a critical discourse: Teachers as reflective practitioners.

BA, Senior Teachers Diploma

University of the Western Cape, Cape Town
January 1978 to December 1982

Current Status recent and relevant projects

Senior Consultant and Associate with Southern Hemisphere

- Senior Evaluator and Team Lead for the Evaluation of the Sesotho and isiZulu Reading Project (SIRP) in selected Higher Education institutions. 2024 to 2027
- Teaching BUS5056W Programme Evaluation Masters: Module – Principles of Programme Evaluation. University of Cape Town March – June 2025.
- Lead Researcher: Development of M&E framework for Sihamba Sonke – Moving with purpose. A programme using Chess to share a value-based skills programme to build healthy communities. October 2024 to March 2025.
- Lead Researcher for the Annual Survey of Philanthropy in Higher Education (ASPIHE) in South Africa. Contracted by Inyathelo; The South African Institute for Advancement. 2024.
- Senior researcher, evaluator for the External Evaluation of TRACE Academia for Mastercard Foundation. 2023/2024.
- Senior researcher, evaluator for the Enhancing Education Research (EERA) Project in partnership with Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA). 2023/2024
- Teaching of BUS5037W: Programme Evaluation Masters: Module – Principles of Programme Evaluation. University of Cape Town March, June 2024.
- Education and Evaluation Expert for the evaluation of the Reading and Leadership Strengthening in South African Schools for Learning during COVID-19 and Beyond (REALS SA) Programme. With Palmer Development Group (PDG). 2022 – 2023.
- Annotated bibliography of “Decolonisation of Higher Education/ teacher education in the global South” for Education Faculty, University of the Western Cape. 2023.

- Head of programme development for Programme Implementation of Capacity Development on the Kenya Evaluation Guidelines: For CLEAR AA, WITS University, 2021.
- Senior consultant for the review of the M&E Short Course and the review of the Postgraduate Diploma in M&E methods of the University of Zambia; for CLEAR AA at WITS University.2020.
- Teaching advanced Monitoring and Evaluation course for development practitioners operating in Syria. Gaziantep, Turkey. November 2017/2018.
- Teaching Advanced Evaluation Methods for WITS CLEAR Anglophone Africa – Winter School. August 2017.

Employment history

Senior Research Associate and Consultant

Southern Hemisphere, Cape Town, South Africa
2022 to Present

Programme Lead

Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (EDP)
February 2022 – September 2022

- Development of Theory of Change for the Organisation – provide training for colleagues and staff to understand programme cycles.
- Jointly develop programme frameworks to use for measuring programme outcomes – assist with report writing.
- Teaching of BUS5037W: Programme Evaluation Masters: Module – Principles of Programme Evaluation. University of Cape Town - until July 2022.

Senior Associate and Consultant

Southern Hemisphere, Cape Town, South Africa
2016 to 2022

- Lead Researcher for the Annual Survey of Philanthropy in Higher Education (ASPIHE) in South Africa. Contracted by Inyathelo; The South African Institute for Advancement. 2021
- Lead Evaluator for the evaluation of Gender-Responsive Pedagogy for Early Childhood Education (GRE4ECE) in KZN for VVOB/Department of Basic Education (DBE); with Palmer Development Group (PDG). 2021
- Team leader for the Final Evaluation of the Socio-Economic Justice for All (SEJA) of the Foundation for Human Rights, funded by the European Union. 2021
- Lead Researcher for the Evaluation of the Primary Teacher Education Project (PrimTEd - All universities in South Africa) for the Department of Higher Education and Training. Outcome evaluation in 2021.
- Annotated bibliography of “Decolonisation of Higher Education/ teacher education in the global South” for Education Faculty, University of the Western Cape.2020.
- Senior Evaluator for the evaluation of the Civil Society Development Fund (CSDF) of the French Embassy in South Africa.2020.
- Senior Evaluator for evaluation of the Hewlett Foundation; Transparency, Participation & Accountability (TPA programme). 2020.

- Lead Researcher for the evaluation of the Deep Engagement Grant project in Uganda, managed by Frontline Aids and funded by the Elton John Aids Foundations (EJAF). 2020.
- Strategic planning and review for Workers World Media Production (WWMP) based in Khayelisha, Cape Town. 2019
- Lead Researcher for the Evaluation of the (Higher Education) CHEC/Western Cape Government Annual Research Programme. Regional. 2019.
- Senior Researcher for the Mid-term Evaluation of the Capacitation of Technical Vocational Educational and Training (TVET) College Lecturers teaching Life Orientation. For DHET, GIZ and HEAIDS. 2018.
- Senior Researcher for the diagnostic evaluation of the implementation of Community-Based Worker (CBW) systems across government implementing Departments. Department of Social Development. National. 2018.
- Senior Researcher for the Design Evaluation of the Gauteng City Region Anti-Corruption Strategy and Integrity Management Programme. Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province. 2017/2018.
- Senior Researcher for the Evaluation of the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Programme. South Africa, Ghana and Uganda. 2017/2018.
- Senior Researcher for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Capitec Foundation Maths Tutoring Pilot Programme. Regional. 2017.
- Quality Assessment of national evaluations - Evaluation of the Non-Profit Regulatory System for PDG – Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). 2017..
- Planning and reporting frameworks for the Labour Research Service (LRS). Cape Town. 2017.
- Evaluation Advisory Board Member – Tekano – Training of Activists programme, funded by Atlantic Philanthropy. Regional. 2017/ 2018.
- Programme Manager for Implementation Evaluation of TVET College expansion and capacity development programme, for DHET and DPME. National. 2017/2018.
- Facilitation of end of year review for the Labour Research Service (LRS) – Cape Town. November 2017
- Introductory course in M&E. Concepts, approaches and M&E framework. Faculty of Engineering of Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). 2016.
- Senior Researcher for the evaluation of the Moshal Scholarship Foundation in South African Higher Education. 2016/2017.
- Development of evaluation framework for Adopt-a-School Foundation; working in 612 schools in South Africa, Mozambique and Lesotho. 2016.
- Quality assessment of national evaluations for DPME. A baseline assessment for future impact evaluation of informal settlements targeted for upgrading: Implementation evaluation of Western Cape Government Corporate Service Centre: Implementation evaluation of the Citizen Based Monitoring (CBM) Model. 2016.
- Realist Evaluation: Its conception, application and implementation in the African context. A workshop for SAMEA AGM programme. 2016.

Independent Consultant

Self-employed, Cape Town, South Africa
2014 - 2016

Managed independent contracts with various stakeholders and partners

- Review of Peer Review system for Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency with Palmer Development Group (PDG). 2014.
- Quality assessment of national evaluations: Management Performance Assessment Tool (MPAT): Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG) for DPME in the Presidency. Implementation Evaluation of Citizen-Based Monitoring Model. 2015.
- Teaching B.Ed Honours Research Methods course (EDN5098F) at the University of Cape Town until July 2015.
- External M&E consultant to the HRSC, for the final Evaluation of the Access to Justice and Promotion of Constitutional Rights (AJPCR) programme managed by the Foundation of Human Rights (FHR) and Funded by the European Union. 2016.
- Scoping opportunities for collaboration in evaluation education and training across Anglophone African Higher Education and Public Sector Training Institutions. For CLEAR WITS Enterprises. 2016.
- An Implementation Assessment of M&E Systems and Capabilities within the M&E unit in the Mpumalanga Provincial Government. With JET Education Services. 2016.

September 2011 to August 2014

Senior Researcher – Division for Lifelong Learning. (DLL) University of the Western Cape.

January 2005 to August 2010

**Third Term Coordinator/ Senior Lecturer
Centre for Open Learning: University of Cape Town**

January 1993 to May 2004:

Regional Director: Centre for Community Development (CCD-Western Cape) Vista University

January 1983 to December 1992:

High School Teacher – Heideveld Secondary School

Professional Memberships/Awards

South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association – Founder member and former chairperson

African Evaluation Association - Member

African Evaluation Association – Founding and past Editor-in-chief of the African Evaluation Journal

At the SAMEA 6th Biennial Conference in 2017 Mark Abrahams was given a distinguished service award for leadership and contribution to the organisation.

African Evaluation Association – Award for significant contribution to M&E on the African continent. Awarded 17 June 2025. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Skills

- People Management/ Networking
- Project Management, participatory leadership
- Monitoring and Evaluation systems building
- Capacity building/ facilitation of learning

- Research training and supervision
- Reflective thinking strategies

Publications and accessible online writing

Forthcoming, 2025. Beyond Made in Africa evaluation. Submitted to African Evaluation Journal.

A case study of Made in Africa Evaluation – a book chapter in, The Handbook: Made in Africa Evaluation. Ouedrago, M., Frehiwot, M., Abrahams, M., Ponge, A., Etta, F., Chilisa, B., & Baddoo, E (editors). 2025.

Editorial 2024. Dr Sulley Gariba Special Edition. Addressing Knowledge Asymmetries. African Evaluation Journal. With, F. Etta, M. Frehiwot, E. Kanini, J.P. Nzabonimpa and N. Theunissen. Vol. 12. No 1.

Editorial: Mixed methods and mixed messages in evaluation: Engaging stakeholders, including children in the evaluation process. The African Evaluation Journal. Vol 2. 2024.

Editorial: Addressing knowledge asymmetries: The African Evaluation Journal Sulley Gariba memorial issue. 2024.

‘Participation in Evaluation is not dead’. Insights from attending the AfrEA conference 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda, Southern Hemisphere blog. April, 2024.

Editorial: The African Evaluation Journal and the field of monitoring and evaluation in Africa. 21 December 2023.

Annual Survey of Philanthropy in Higher Education 2022 Main Report Beverley Thaver and Mark Abrahams INYATHELO The South African Institute for Advancement, 2023.

Southern Hemisphere Blog: Beyond Made in Africa Evaluation (MAE) ...an invitation to join us on a journey. November 2022. SAMEA website.

Editorial: 2022. Growing and nurturing Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) on the African continent. African Evaluation Journal | Vol 10, No 2 | a666 | DOI:

Editorial: 2022. Made in Africa Evaluation. With S Masvaure and C Morkel. African Evaluation Journal | Vol 10, No 1 | a665 | DOI:

VOPEs respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa: Contested policy, economic and social environments. With M Ramasobana, in eVALUation Matters: Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) African Development Bank. 2021.

Editorial: 2021. Evidence-based decision-making in the era of big data. With F Etta, M Tarsilla and K Wotela. African Evaluation Journal. Vol 9, No 1 | a602 | DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4102/aej.v9i1.602>.

Conveying evaluative messages: Infographic, chocolates and full inboxes. 2020: <https://www.samea.org.za/blog?slug=blogconveying-evaluative-messages-infographics-chocolates-and-full-inboxes>.

Thinking evaluatively about our actions during COVID-19. 2020: <https://wordpress.com/post/sameawcsite.wordpress.com/767>

Editorial: 2020 The Seventh Biennial South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association Conference 2019: Shaping M&E for a sustainable future. With M. Amis, C H Hartley, C Blaser-Mapitsa, V Schoer and N Pophiwa. African Evaluation Journal ISSN: (Online) 2306-5133,

Editorial: 2020 The African Evaluation Association Conference Edition. With K Wotela, M Tarsilla and F Etta. African Evaluation Journal ISSN: (Online) 2306-5133,

Editorial – 2019: Omniscience of monitoring and evaluation; African Evaluation Journal | Vol 7, No 1 | a433 | DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4102/aej.v7i1.433> | © 2019

8th AfrEA International Conference edition editorial. African Evaluation Journal: Vol 6, No 1. 2018. <https://doi.org/10.4102/aejv6.1.330>. With F. Etta, M. Tarsilla and K Wotela.

Editorial. African Evaluation Journal: Vol 5, No 2. 2017, 2 pages. doi: 10.4102/aej.v5i2.296.

The Role of the Civil Society Organization in Promoting Democracy: The Case of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association. Book chapter in peer reviewed text: Democratic Evaluation and Democracy – Exploring the Reality. Edited by Donna Podems. Information Age Publishing 2017.

A realist assessment of the implementation of blended learning in a South African higher education context. With S. Witbooi, South African Journal of Higher Education. <http://dx.doi.org/10.20853/30-2-577>. Volume 30. Number 2. 2016.

Editorial. African Evaluation Journal; Vol 4, No 1. 2016, 2 pages. doi: 10.4102/aej.v4i1.204

Keeping the doors of learning open for adult student workers within higher education? With S. Walters and S. Witbooi. The Irish Journal of Adult and Community Education. The Adult Learner 2015 (p. 31-44).

A review of the growth of Monitoring and Evaluation in South Africa: A Profession, industry and governance tool. African Evaluation Journal. Vol 3, No 1. 2015.

Editorial. African Evaluation Journal 2(1). Mark Abrahams & Nkamleu, G.B. 2014 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/aej.v2i1.100>

Making sense of part-time students' transition into higher education; recognising the self, family and work. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science. Vol 3, No. 21 (Special Issue). 2013.

Editorial. African Evaluation Journal 1(1). Mark Abrahams & Nkamleu, G.B. 2013 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/aej.v1i1.50>

Accountability, autonomy and authenticity: Assessing the development waltz conducted to a 'kwaito' beat. In Development in Practice, Volume 18, Number 1, February 2008.

Theory of Change Evaluation, with G. van der Westhuizen, in Education as Change. Vol. 6, No. 1: 2002.

Human development in further education and training in South Africa: Concepts and Principles. Eds. Van der Westhuizen, Maja and Odora-Hoppers. 2001.

Collaborative space in South African Schools: A comparative perspective. Journal of Negro Education. Vol. 66, no. 4, 1998.

Reflections on the evaluation of an in-service teacher training programme. With G. Moonsammy, and G. Van der Westhuizen. Journal of Educational Evaluation. Vol. 4, 1996.

Between a rock and a wet place. Conference Report; Kenton 21 Conference, in Perspectives in Education, 1995. (proceedings) Crossing the Boundaries of INSET, in Conference Proceedings; Kenton Olwandle, 1995.