

SARAH FRANCES GORDON

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PROFILE

I am an early career researcher, writer and academic, focusing on critical social issues in the developing world. I am passionate, hard-working and efficient.

EDUCATION

- 2011-2015 University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
Ph.D., Psychology
Dissertation: *Imagining identity: Exploring the psychological impact of a culture of violence on women.*
- 2009 University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
M.A, Psychology, Upper Second Class Pass (71%)
- 2008 University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
B.Soc.Sc. (Hons.), Psychology, Upper Second Class Pass (74%)
- 2005-2007 University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
B.Soc.Sc (Psychology; Industrial Psychology), Upper Second Class Pass (71%)

EMPLOYMENT

- August 2016 - Present **Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa**
As a postdoctoral researcher I generate research publications for the university, edit literature, write comprehensive articles and present at international conferences in the field of gender and politics.
- October 2015 - August 2016 **Research Consultant, Career Services, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa**
I conducted research and evaluations primarily in the area of career development, whilst also providing consulting services.
- June 2015 - September, 2015 **Research Consultant, Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching (CILT), University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa**
In this role I conducted a three month qualitative research project on UCT educators' capacity and attitudes to online teaching, utilising interviews and NVivo software.
- February 2015 - August 2016 **Freelance Research Assistant, Writer and Editor**
I worked freelance and have experience cataloguing literature, conducting literature reviews, writing articles and editing theses, reports, articles and resumes.
- January 2013 - 2014 August **Support Group Facilitator, Sisters 4 Sisters, Cape Town, South Africa**
I facilitated a support group for survivors of domestic violence with mainly African refugees in the Cape Town area. As part of this role I wrote and piloted a manual on how to run a support group for survivors of domestic violence and coordinated other psycho-social projects, such as a young girls' mentorship programme.
- January 2012 - July 2014 **Undergraduate Humanities Curriculum Advisor, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa**
I provided curriculum and career development advice to undergraduate students at the University of Cape Town.
- January 2013 - April 2014 **Co-supervisor of a Clinical Psychology Masters Student, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa**

- September 2012 - November 2012 I was responsible for co-supervising the research thesis of a clinical psychology masters student, which was a photo-narrative study on the identity construction of young refugee women in the Cape Town area.
Girls' Group Co-Facilitator, Lawrence House (Children's Home), Cape Town, South Africa
- January 2012 - July 2012 I conducted workshops in a children's home with girls between the ages of 13 and 18, surrounding issues such as functional versus dysfunctional relationships, self-esteem and how to identify an abusive relationship.
Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- February 2011 - June 2014 I researched and wrote a paper on how war-time rape is used as a weapon during genocides in Africa for a symposium.
Undergraduate Psychology Tutor, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa
- January 2010 - December 2010 I tutored the following modules: first year psychology; second year research statistics and third year health psychology at the University of Cape Town.
HIV/AIDS Data Capturer and Referral Line Operator, HIV 911: Centre for HIV/AIDS Networking, Durban
- September 2009 - September 2011 I liaised with HIV/AIDS-related organisations, wrote descriptions for an HIV/AIDS Directory and the Children's Services Directory and promoted HIV/AIDS awareness and knowledge. I also trained as an HIV/AIDS counsellor as part of my job.
Research Assistant, Department of Psychology, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- February 2009 - January 2011 I worked as a researcher focused on HIV/AIDS research (the disclosure process; ARV adherence; masculinity & HIV/AIDS).
Trauma Counsellor, LifeLine, Durban, South Africa
- April 2008 I worked as a LifeLine counsellor and conducted the following duties: counselling; writing client reports; reception duties and training LifeLine counsellors.
Life Skills Facilitator, Fast Forward Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- February 2008 - November 2009 I was a life skills facilitator and conducted workshops on safe sex, HIV/AIDS and career guidance with previously disadvantaged youth from rural and urban townships.
Undergraduate Psychology Tutor, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa
- I tutored the following modules: first year psychology and second and third year research statistics. I also organised a postgraduate research conference.

PUBLICATIONS

- Gordon, S. F. (In Press). Narratives of resistance and resilience: Re-imagining stories of violence against women. *Agenda*.
- Boonzaier, F. A., & Gordon, S. F. (2015). Responding to men's violence against women partners in post-apartheid South Africa: On the necessity of identification across identity's intersections. *British Journal of Criminology*, 55(6), 1096-1114.
- Gordon, S. F. (2014). A culture of violence against women in South Africa: Exploring young women's stories. In C. Pracana (Ed.). *Psychology applications & developments* (pp. 328-336). Lisbon, Portugal: InScience Press. ISBN 978-989-97866-9-1

- Gordon, S. F., & Collins, A. (2014). "We face rape. We face all things": Understandings of gender-based violence amongst female students at a South African university. *African Safety Promotion*, 11(2), 93-106.
- Gordon, S. F. (2013). A culture of violence against women in South Africa: A case study analysis. In C. Pracana & L. Silva (Eds.), *InPACT 2013: International psychological applications conference and trends: A book of proceedings* (pp. 254-258). Lisbon: W.I.A.R.S. ISBN: 978-989-97866-0-8.
- Bhagwanjee, A. M., Reardon, C., Johnstone, L., Govender, K., Petersen, I., George, G., Akintola, O., & Gordon, S.F. (2013). Gendered constructions of the impact of HIV and AIDS in the context of the seroconcordant heterosexual relationship. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 16(18021), 1-11.
- Dageid, W., Govender, K., & Gordon, S.F. (2012). Masculinity and HIV disclosure among heterosexual South African men: Implications for HIV/AIDS intervention. *Culture, Health & Sexuality: An International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care*, 14(8), 925-940.
- Gordon, S. F. (2011). Understanding the Social Problems of Gender-based Violence and HIV/AIDS from the South African Experience. In E., Fourie, S., Hagen, Y., Mitchell, & B., Semanya (Eds.). *Re-Imagining Psychology: Proceedings of the 2009 Southern African Students' Psychology Conference* (pp. 375-389). Pretoria: University of South Africa Publication.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Gordon, S. F. (2017, June). *I'll show you how a real woman should act: Exploring gender and identity in post-apartheid South Africa*. Paper presented at the European Conference of Politics and Gender, Lausanne, Switzerland: 2017.
- Gordon, S. F. (2017, April). *The culture of violence against women in South Africa*. Lecture presented at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico City, Mexico: 2017.
- Gordon, S. F. (2013, December). *Imagining fear: Exploring a culture of violence against women in South Africa*. Paper presented at the Harry Crossley Seminar, Cape Town, University of Cape Town, South Africa: 2013.
- Gordon, S. F. (2013, June). "It's just not going to happen to me": Addressing fear and gender-based violence amongst female residence students at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Paper presented at the *Strategies for Non-Violence in Education Conference*: Durban, Durban University of Technology, South Africa: 2013
- Gordon, S. F. (2013, April). A culture of violence against women in South Africa: A case study analysis. Paper presented at *International Psychological Applications Conference and Trends- 2013- InPACT*: Madrid, Spain: 2013.
- Gordon, S. F. (2012, November). Re-imagining Fear: Exploring the psychological impact of a culture of violence on women. Paper presented at the *Second Annual International Symposium on Responses to Interpersonal Violence*: Stellenbosch, South Africa: 2012.
- Gordon, S. F. (2012, July). Re-imagining identity: Exploring the psychological impact of a culture of violence against women. Paper presented at the *International Congress of Psychology- 2012*: Cape Town, South Africa: 2012.
- Gordon, S. F. (2011, June). Researching the researcher: Addressing the emotional implications of researching sensitive material. Paper presented at the *University of South Africa: Re-imagining Psychology: Southern African Psychology Students' Conference 2011*: Pretoria, South Africa: 2011.
- Gordon, S. F. (2009, October). Discursive constructions of gender-based violence and safe sex practices among female residence students at UKZN. Paper presented at the *University of KwaZulu-Natal Psychology Postgraduate Conference 2009*: Durban, South Africa: 2009.
- Gordon, S. F. (2009, June). Understanding the social issues of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS from the South African perspective. Paper presented at the *University of Botswana, Gaborone: South African Students' Psychology Conference 2009*: Gaborone, Botswana: 2009.

- Gordon, S. F. (2009, October). The breast cancer experience of women: Exploring the doctor-patient relationship. Paper presented at the *University of KwaZulu-Natal Psychology Postgraduate Conference 2008*: Durban, South Africa: 2008.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund (MMF) World Bank Grant (2014)
- University of Cape Town (UCT) Conference Travel Grant (2013)
- National Research Foundation (NRF) Conference Travel Grant (2013)
- National Research Foundation Free (NRF) Standing Doctoral Scholarship (2012-2014)
- Elected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Art of Living Yoga University of Cape Town Society (2011-2013)
- University of Cape Town (UCT) Doctoral Research Scholarship (2011-2014)
- University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) Academic Scholarships (2005-2007; 2008; 2009)
- Seven Certificates of Merits at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (2005-2008)
- Two Deans Commendations at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (2005; 2006)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS, COMPETENCIES AND INTERESTS

Qualitative research

- I have an excellent knowledge of qualitative methodology and evaluation. I have used a variety of qualitative data collection (focus groups and interviews) and analysis techniques and am familiar with qualitative analysis software. My expertise in research and evaluation, as well as my dedication to my post-graduate studies also highlights my problem-solving skills and resilience.

Academic writing and editing

I have strong writing and editing skills, as well as experience in writing literature reviews and reports, which is demonstrated in my publications, educational qualifications and professional work.

Communication and teaching skills

I have worked as a curriculum advisor, tutor, support group facilitator, girls' group facilitator and counsellor, demonstrating my communication, teaching, interpersonal, listening and group facilitation skills. I also have strong public speaking skills as I have spoken at seven international conferences and events. I will be speaking at a politics conference in Switzerland in June for my current job.

Counselling skills and ability to work under pressure

I was a trauma counsellor at LifeLine and facilitated a support group for survivors of domestic violence with mainly African refugees. This demonstrates my counselling and group facilitation skills. It also demonstrates my ability to work well under stressful conditions and in diverse teams

Organizational, leadership and time management skills

I have excellent organizational, leadership and time-management skills, which is shown in my commitment to both educational and professional development. I have occupied various leadership roles. I facilitated a support group, coordinated a mentorship programme, chaired a university society, and co-supervised a clinical psychology masters student, all whilst working part-time and completing a PhD full-time. These roles also reflect my strong leadership and time management skills. I am highly efficient, work quickly and always meet deadlines. I am also very confident in my abilities and highly motivated.

Languages and interests

I am fluent in (mother tongue) English, have working proficiency in Afrikaans and Spanish, and elementary proficiency in isiZulu and Kiswahili. I enjoy reading and continuous learning.

References

Professor Amanda Gouws
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