

Vayda Megannon

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Socio-political researcher and PhD candidate at The University of Cape Town. Areas of interest: women's rights (improved access to and realisation of socio, economic and cultural rights), children's rights, prevention of violence against women and children, transformative justice (intersectional realisation of policy implementation) and family relations. My mission is to enhance the realisation of rights through an intersectional feminist lens promoting policy transformation.

Education

2021- 2024: **PhD (Sociology)**, University of Cape Town (UCT)

2018-2020: **MPhil (Political Studies: Justice and Transformation)**, University of Cape Town (UCT)

Awarded National Research Foundation Chair in Customary Law, Human Rights and Indigenous Values Scholarship. Dissertation: *The Lived Experience of Inheritance for Muslim Widow's in Contemporary South Africa*. Areas of focus included transformative justice, political science and family lives. Subjects included: Development, Conflict and Political Change, Comparative Transitional Justice, Post Conflict Justice. First Class pass.

2017: **BSocSci (Sociology: Development Studies)**, UCT

Areas of focus included adolescents, political sociology, and public health. Mini dissertation: *An Analysis of the South African Public sector's Response towards Nyaope through Critical Discourse Analysis*. Completed in the First Class. Subjects Included, Development Theory, Political Sociology, Worlds of Work, Sociology Research Methods: Quantitative, Sociology Research Methods Qualitative, Gender Families and the State, Social Theory and Sociology/Gender/Globalisation. First Class Pass.

2017: **Professional and Continuing Education Specialisation (Poverty and Development)**, London School of Economics and UCT

2014-2016: **Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Psychology)**, University of the Witwatersrand

Certificate of First Class for Psychological Research Design and Analysis IIA & IIB

Conferences & Publications

July 2021: *IPSA World Congress of Political Science*, Portugal: Cape Muslim Women's Experiences of Inheritance.

February 2021: *ISA Forum of Sociology*, Brazil (to be held online due to COVID-19): To present paper as part of Research Committees session "Culture, Religion and Gender Inequality".

Megannon, V. (2020) *Practices of Inheritance Among Muslim Women in Cape Town*. Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper No. 450. Available at:

http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/256/Publications/WP450Megannon.pdf

June 2020: *Centre for Research on Families and Relationships International Conference*, University of Edinburgh: To present paper on intersectionality, Families and Relationships session. (cancelled due to COVID-19)

October 2019: *South African Association of Political Studies Regional Colloquium*, University of the Western Cape: Presented paper on “The Lived Experience of Succession for Muslim Women in South Africa: Time for a Transformative Justice Agenda?”

September 2019: *Engendering Access to Justice International Conference*, University of the Western Cape: Presented a paper on “To Give or To Gift: Lived Experience of Inheritance for Muslim Widows in Contemporary South Africa”

Work Experience

February 2021: **Administrative Assistant**, COPSAN (Care of Older Persons in Southern Africa Network)

Providing administrative and research support to build a cross-disciplinary network of scholars, policymakers and practitioners in ageing research across Southern Africa.

February 2021: **Quantitative Internship**, Afrobarometer

A partial PhD scholarship with The Centre for Social Science Research and The Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa linked to an internship with Afrobarometer.

September 2020: **Research Assistant**, The UKRI GCRF Accelerating Achievement for Africa’s Adolescents Hub, UCT

COVID-19 Parenting: Promoting Positive Parenting and Preventing Violence Through e-Parenting for Lifelong Health (ePLH) Parent Support Groups pilot study, conducted in six counties, has been developed to provide evidence-based parenting information via online platforms as a response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Aiming to reduce child maltreatment and improve parent-child relationships and child well-being. The role’s responsibilities include a variety of research support activities (both qualitative and quantitative), budgeting, report writing monitoring and evaluation.

February - July 2020: **Researcher**, The Children’s Institute (UCT), Cape Town

The Intersections Project, funded by the Ford Foundation, at the Children's Institute in the faculty of Health Sciences at The University of Cape Town has been developed to address two global public health and human rights issues: violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC). The project aims to facilitate collaboration and joint programming efforts between VAW and VAC sectors in South Africa.

The project has been designed to directly inform policy and build capacity amongst researchers, implementors and policymakers, to make public health services more effective in their response to the intersections between VAW and VAC in South Africa and across the Global South. Phase one included scoping review of the intersections of VAW and VAC in South Africa and from the global South. Communication of this information done so through a peer-reviewed journal article and policy brief. This will guide the programme design of a community-based intervention in phase two.

February 2018: **Socio-Political Researcher**, Centre for Social Science Research (CSSR-UCT), Cape Town

Socio-political researcher part of the Families and Societies Research Unit interdisciplinary research team housed within the CSSR-UCT. The Unit was established to conduct research across Sub-Saharan Africa focusing on families, care, inequalities, social protection and customary law. Duties

include mixed methods data collection, management of large sets of data (qualitative and quantitative), iterative data analysis, writing up of findings (papers, presentations and news media), dissemination of communication materials (presentations, news, social media).

January 2018: **University Tutor**, UCT, Cape Town

(2018) Sociology and Political Studies Tutor for four undergraduate courses: Politics of International Economic Relations, Introduction to Sociology, Introduction to Politics and Individual and Society.

(2019) Housed at the Education Development Unit in the Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town, I began tutoring as an EDU tutor for extended degree programmes. Role requires providing extra psycho-social and academic support to students on extended degree programs for two courses: Introduction to Sociology and Individual and Society.

(2020) Emergency Distance Learning Tutor during the Covid-19 pandemic, the role has been developed to further engage with those students who are not able to partake in Emergency Remote Learning and can do distance learning.

June 2018-September 2018: **Research Internship**, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Research internship at the HSRC in the Democracy, Governance and Service Delivery Department. Intensive internship aimed towards enhancing my strategic policy relevant research capability. Contributed in multiple capacities to several projects: conducted a case study for the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances; literature reviews for the Open Society Foundation for South Africa proposal on municipal skills and proficiency, and on protest action in Gauteng; conducted the preliminary literature studies for the Transformative Governance Index Project; drafted a quantitative IEC Online Vision Survey; Institutionalising the Separation of Powers: The Judiciary's strained relationship with The Executive chapter review and editing.

January 2016-Novemeber 2016: **Internship**, The Smile Foundation, Johannesburg

The Smile Foundation in a non-governmental organisation supporting a comprehensive healthcare vision for children living with facial conditions operating out of South Africa's academic teaching hospitals. Role involved multi-disciplinary teamwork with paediatric plastic surgeons, surgical teams, hospital administration and communication-based intervention officers. Implementation of surgical weeks at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital, Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital and Doctor George Mukhari Hospital. Dissemination of health communication and messaging. Increase access to the services and increased referrals through collaboration with community-based intervention officers. Assist and support with grant writing proposal and reporting and arrange fundraising events.

Skills

- Qualitative & Quantitative Research
- Drupal (Senior Content Manager)
- NVivo
- Teaching and Facilitating
- Organisation and Management

References

Professor Jeremy Seekings, CSSR Director, UCT/Harvard: Jeremy.seekings@uct.ac.za

A/Professor Elena Moore, HOD: Department of Sociology, UCT: elena.moore@uct.ac.za

Professor Shanaaz Mathews, Director of the Children's Institute, UCT: Shanaaz.mathews@uct.ac.za

Doctor Yul Derek Davis, Senior Research Specialist, HSRC: ydavids@hsrc.ac.za