

Lambrecht Wessels

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Nationality Dutch
Date of birth 18 October 1970



Summary of Qualifications:

- Seasoned project- and people management skills as well as Lobby, PR and Media.
- 18 Plus year's experience in international conflict and development (18+ years) in larger Middle East, including Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq.
- 10 years of teaching experience in conflict analysis and Middle East studies (incl. op-eds and media appearances).
- Information broker on conflicts and development for NGOs and Media.
- Up to date knowledge of the Syrian conflict with its political, peace-process and developmental challenges.
- At ease in tactical as well as executive operations | Broad language skills.
- Bid management EU and Dutch funding on broader Middle East.
- Documentary production (International conflicts, including Afghanistan, Turkey and Lebanon).

Work Experience:

2017 - 2018 **Regional Programme Manager SPARK**

Executive and strategic implementation of scholarships for 4500 plus Syrian student- scholarships in the Middle East. Programmes run in Syria itself, Turkey, Northern-Iraq, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. Programmes run under Al Fakhoora (Education Above All, Qatar), Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union MADAD fund.

2016 - 2017

- **Freelance Trainer conflict analysis / Syria at:**
The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).
Dutch Military Academy (KM) in Breda, the Netherlands.
Netherlands Institute for International Relations (Clingendael Institute).
- **Expert and co-Founder, Het Grote Midden Oosten Platform** ("Greater Middle East Platform") Expert on Middle East issues, consulting on Syria-Iraq for Dutch governmental organisations, NGOs and media. Writing articles, media appearances on national and national business news radio.

2014 - July 2015

Head of Mission Syria / Country Programme Manager, Norwegian People's Aid

- Country Programme Manager. Supervising multi-million-euro Democracy, Development, Protection & Relief Syria programmes from Gaziantep, Turkey. Special support programme for Syrian political opposition outside and inside Syria. Security responsible. Media coordination in Turkey for Norwegian and other foreign press.

Results & Successes (selection):

- Training Syrian Interim Government and Syrian parliament in exile (ETILAF) in various subject on parliamentary systems, PR and Conflict Resolution/Mediation.
- Training over 4000 Local Council officials in project cycle management and monitoring and evaluation.

- Training over 400 senior FSA and 'FSA related' senior commanders in Syria on Laws of war, through Syrian partner AFAQ. T
- Providing over 500.000 civilians in the province of Hama with electricity and 20.000 civilians in the provinces of Idlib and Hassakeh with reliable access to water.

2000 – June 2014

Freelance Conflict Analyst

- Researcher/Assistant Producer TUVALU media for documentary series on migration and Iraq 'Rot op naar je eigen land'/Go Back to Where You Came From. Preparatory research, research trip and negotiations with officials, media, (I)NGOs in 6 countries. 2014. 1 Million viewers per episode.
- Key Messages Workshop (International Alert/Open Society Institute OSFIE project on 'Framing' and xenophobia around the EU elections) 2014.
- Academic Lead Researcher (design/statistical analysis/writing) for the report "Radicaal (On)Zichtbaar"/Radically (in)visible" for the City of Amsterdam into the potential for female Muslim radicalisation. In cooperation with the Verweij Jonker institute and University of Tilburg. 2011 – 2012.
- Successful multi-million Bid Management/Proposals Writing for Dutch and Middle East NGOs for Hivos. Lead writer. (2011 – 2012)
- Training, research and consultancy on conflict and development work on location for various NGOs in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine, Iran, Iraq.
- Conflict analysis lecturing: Dutch, foreign universities.
- Information broker or media appearances in leading Dutch media outlets, on larger Middle East especially (Arab Revolutions).

2013

Lobbyist/Programme Manager (Interim) Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan CORDAID EU/Hague lobby on Israel-Palestine. Programme management Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti and Great Lakes Region.

Results & Successes:

- Getting all programmes up to date financially in terms of content and output.
- Media and political attention around new EU rules and NL pension funds divestment.
- Getting all programmes up to date and running on time.

2008 – 2010

Editor/Producer, BNN TV series on conflicts: Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Albania, Afghanistan and Haiti: Initiating, researching, producing and promoting a series of documentaries in conflict- and development countries for the Dutch youth TV channel BNN TV. Pre- and Post-production.

Results & Successes:

- Creating a successful new travel TV programme concept for conflict and development countries.
- Producing four well received documentaries on Haiti, Lebanon, Albania and Sierra Leone with over 400.000 viewers each.
- Co-editor on a famous series of documentaries on Dutch soldiers in Afghanistan.
- Producing a post-earthquake documentary on Haiti for Dutch TV within two months of the catastrophe.

The documentaries are viewable at: [Patrick Ramptoerist](#), here on [Haiti](#) and here on [Refugees and Migration](#).

- 2004 – 2007 **Media-coordinator, United Civilians for Peace UCP** in Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories. UCP is a joint effort of Dutch Peace and Development organisations Oxfam-Novib, Cordaid, ICCO and IKV-Pax Christi: Managing & Coordinating lobbying on Dutch media with the press- and lobby officers from Dutch development and peace organisations organised under UCP. Israel and Palestinian election monitoring. Regular op-ed writing.
- Results & Successes:
- Leading an official 2006 Palestinian election monitoring group from Holland (The election in which Hamas defeated Fatah)
 - Producing and 'fixing' more than 25 TV specials, 150 radio interviews & hundreds of mass media articles.
 - Successfully organising eight well covered trips of journalists and politicians to the region.
 - Successfully placing documentaries on the conflict on Dutch mass media TV.
- 2005 – 2005 **Head of Democratisation and Peacebuilding Unit**, Dutch Development Corporation ICCO, Kenya and Uganda. Organising two ICCO partner conferences in Kenya and Uganda for strategy development and training purposes on DDR, SSR, lobby, gender & conflict and democratisation. Leading a team of eight country coordinators, lobby- and development specialists from ICCO. Making a reader. Inviting key note speakers and leading specialists for the conference from African think-tanks.
- Results & Successes:
- Two well organised conferences with strategic plans on lobbying and project proposal writing
 - Transfer of knowledge to 40 participants from Africa and the Netherlands.
- 2004 - 2004 **Manager, European Centre for Conflict Prevention ECCP (now GPPAC)** Managing & coordinating the research-, Middle East- and publication units of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC): Commissioning articles on conflict topics from leading conflict resolution scholars. Reviewing financial reporting of Middle East Partners.
- Results & Successes:
- Publication of People Building Peace II (Lynne Rienner 2005)
 - Publication Bridging the Divide, Peace-building in the Israel-Palestinian Conflict (Lynne Rienner 2006).
 - Publication and distribution of articles on conflict transformation for the Global Partnership.
- 1999 – 2004 **Teacher/Course Developer, Conflict Studies Programme The Network University TNU/University of Amsterdam**: Creating and teaching online and regular courses on conflict analysis/transformation, Gender & Conflict, Youth & Conflict and project management. Target audience: professionals working with conflicts such as OSCE, Doctors without borders, NATO, International Alert, students, journalists, government officials and NGOs from the 'South'. Creating and marketing online courses with NGOs, Universities and international partner organisations (UNOY, International Alert, Bradford University, etc.). Training, supervision, coaching of students.
- Results & Successes:

- Writing the first online course on conflict analysis in the world.
- Winning the International Security Network ISN Zurich EMPIRE Grant for “Excellence in online education.”
- Training over 700 professionals in conflict analysis in over five years.

Education

- 1998 Peace Studies, Oslo University summer school, Norway.
- 1990 - 1997 MA in Political Science: International Relations and International Public Law (focus: Laws of War/Int.Humanitarian Law/Int. Human Rights Law), University of Amsterdam.
- 1993 – 1996 BA in Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
- Various project management, media promotion and writing skills trainings.

Internships

- 1998 European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP) now Global Platform for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC): fundraising, Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- 1997 - 1998 Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy IMTD, Cyprus conflict project, Washington DC, USA.
- 1993 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute SIPRI, Military Expenditure MILEX Stockholm, Sweden.

Publications

- Radicaal (on)zichtbaar, “Radically (In)Visible, March 5, 2013. As lead researcher (including research design) with Annebregt Dijkman. Research into the magnitude, features and causes of possible radicalisation of isolated Muslim women in the city of Amsterdam for the city's anti-terrorism unit. With the use of statistical analysis (SPSS/SPAW) and narrative biographical model (Schütze).
- Yearbook on Peace and Security 2006, International Security Issues in the Dutch Perspective (in Dutch), Bomert, den Hoogen, Wessels (eds.). Chapter: “Israel and Palestina in 2006. Parade van falende politiek.”
- [Developing an Online Learning Pedagogy for Conflict Resolution Training](#) Bradford University, Department of Peace Studies May 1, 2001 with Laina Reynolds.

Languages

Fluent: Dutch, English, Swedish, Good: French, German. Basic Spanish. Arabic beginner.

Miscellaneous

- Co-Founder of [Het Grote Midden Oosten Platform](#). A collective of Dutch Middle East analyst and professionals 2014.
- Honorary Ambassador of the Dutch National Ballet.
- Dramaturg for the theatre production ‘Homebody | Kabul’ & Chairman of Opera Dance Drama foundation ODD Continent (2013-2015).
- Coach of the USA women's World championship freediving team 2006 (3rd place in Egypt team-competition) and 2009 World Championships in Denmark (bronze medal individual women-competition) respectively.