

Monique Bennett

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Email: moniqueben@sun.ac.za

Phone: +27 68 468 8155

Experience

Policy Innovation Lab

Stellenbosch, RSA

Policy Advice Analyst (August 2024 – present)

- Organise and deliver multi-stakeholder events, including webinars and policy dialogues, to foster collaboration and engagement between government partners, academia and international partners.
- Deliver feedback and technical support for AI-focused capacity-building workshops, contributing to curriculum development, event management and participant engagement.
- Produce briefing notes, background materials and synthesis reports to support policy dialogue planning and follow-up across project initiatives.
- Co-manage public-facing communications through LinkedIn and web articles, increasing stakeholder engagement and visibility across South Africa's policy ecosystem.

Good Governance Africa, SADC

Johannesburg, RSA

Senior Researcher (March 2020 – August 2023)

- Developed applied research tools, including a multi-country election tracking framework and a subnational local governance index for South Africa.
- Advanced public-facing knowledge translation by publishing in national media and securing weekly op-ed partnerships, increasing visibility and institutionalising outreach across the research division.
- Introduced and embedded data visualisation practices using R, enhancing the clarity and impact of research outputs across programmes. Standardised the organisation's visual communication practices and conducted internal training for junior staff.
- Authored policy-relevant research on governance, elections, food security, conflict and climate risk, contributing to the organisation's international credibility and collaborative reach.

Political Science Department, Stellenbosch University

Stellenbosch, RSA

Academic Tutor (Feb 2024 – Dec 2024)

2U GetSmarter

Cape Town, RSA

Head Tutor and Course Coordinator (Sept 2023 – Jan 2024)

Public Management and Governance online short course.

International Relations Department, University of Witwatersrand

Johannesburg, RSA

Academic Tutor and Office Administrator (Jan 2016 – Dec 2019)

In On Africa

Johannesburg, RSA

Research Intern (Jan 2017 – June 2017)

Education

Stellenbosch University

Stellenbosch, RSA

PhD in Political Science (March 2022 – submitted 10 October 2025)

- In partnership with and sponsored by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, Norway (PRIO) project [DISARM](#).
- Thesis title: “Peacebuilding fragility and the dynamics of implementation: The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration process during ONUMOZ in Mozambique”, supervised by Dr Guy Lamb (SU) and Dr Julia Palik (PRIO).

Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Trondheim, NO

PhD level Course, GIS and the Geography of Armed Conflict (June 2023)

Research School on Peace and Conflict, PRIO

Oslo, NO

PhD level Course, International Mediation: Theory, Cases and Skills (June 2023)

University of Oslo

Remote

International Summer School – Peace Research course with PRIO (28 June – 5 Aug 2021)

- Top grade awarded for my presentation on “The Tigrayan Conflict: A Collier & Hoeffler Causal Analysis of Conflict Onset”.

University of Witwatersrand

Johannesburg, RSA

Master of Arts in International Relations (Feb 2019 – March 2020)

- Principles of Statistical Social Research & Advanced Quantitative Research Methods using R
- Thesis title: “Does good governance have a positive effect on environmental performance? A cross-country analysis of developing countries”, supervised by Prof Rod Alence.

University of Witwatersrand

Johannesburg, RSA

Bachelor of Arts with Honours (cum laude) in International Relations (Feb 2016 – Dec 2016)

- Research Paper: “Going Hungry or Going Green? Agricultural Science and Food Security: The case of AGRA and Malawi”.

Courses and Certificates

Afrobarometer and UCT Geomatics Department

Geographic Information System Workshop using QGIS (17 – 28 July 2023)

Afrobarometer

Social Science Statistics Summer School (3 – 25 Nov. 2022)

- Awarded best presentation in the group for my topic: “The role of political and social attitudes in African citizen’s evaluations of the United Nations and African Union”.

International Committee of the Red Cross

All Africa Course on International Humanitarian Law (25 Jan – 5 Feb. 2021)

Alliance Française Johannesburg

DELF B1 achieved with 73% (2019) and DELF A2 achieved with 88% (2019)

Skills & Interests

Technical skills: Policy brief and report writing; R programming and data visualisation; qualitative and quantitative research; stakeholder-focused knowledge translation; workshop and webinar coordination; digital communication (LinkedIn, Teams, Mailchimp).

Soft skills: Strategic communication; multi-stakeholder engagement and facilitation; project and time management; cross-cultural collaboration; adaptability and resilience; mentoring and team collaboration.

Languages: English (native), French (intermediate) and Afrikaans (beginner).

Interests: Running and weight training, cooking, traveling, coffee and viticulture.

Publications

Editor-reviewed

The impact of COVID-19 on Africa: Health and Economic Implications (Palgrave Handbook of African Economic Sectors: Chapter 14) [link](#)

Tana Forum Policy Paper 2024 - Addressing climate-conflict risks through the Adoption of AI in Disaster Preparedness in Africa: Lessons from the Desert Locust Outbreak. [link](#)

Media Outlets

1. Desert locust outbreak highlights gaps in risk governance ([PreventionWeb: DDR Voices Blog](#))
2. Science may not be enough to prevent the desert locust plague in East Africa ([Daily Maverick](#))
3. New breeding swarms of desert locusts pose major threat to food security in Horn of Africa and Yemen ([Daily Maverick](#))
4. No country, no future: The bleak plight of stateless children in South Africa ([Daily Maverick](#))
5. South Africa's world-class fight against Covid19: The data tells the story ([Daily Maverick](#))
6. The impact of South Africa's lockdown on the spread of Covid-19 ([Daily Maverick](#))
7. Africa's farmers must adapt to survive ([Mail and Guardian](#))
8. Going hungry or going green? A critical look at the 'Green Revolution' project in Africa ([Mail and Guardian](#))
9. Fewer child marriages mean a brighter future ([Mail and Guardian](#))
10. Bridging the divide – citizens, civil society and the African Union ([Mail and Guardian](#))
11. How to boost voter participation in the 2024 elections ([Mail and Guardian](#))
12. How to silence the guns in Cabo Delgado ([Mail and Guardian](#))

Good Governance Africa

1. The role of local governance in achieving political stability: A joint public-private effort towards sustainable development ([GGA](#))
2. Coups in West Africa – a critical look at AU and ECOWAS responses ([GGA](#))
3. The Russia-Ukraine War and Addressing Africa's Food Security Challenges ([GGA](#))
4. Shell case exposes holes in SA's commitment to transnational climate agreements ([GGA](#))
5. Transnational climate governance or national climate policy – what matters more? ([GGA](#))
6. New breeding swarms of desert locusts pose major threat to food security in Horn of Africa and Yemen ([GGA](#))
7. Elections tracking in Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa and Angola ([GGA](#))
8. South Africa's COVID-19 vaccine roll-out – a dream deferred? ([GGA](#))
9. Elections in a time of Covid – India's cautionary tale ([GGA](#))

10. Mozambique's Displacement Dilemma ([GGA](#))
11. A clear and present threat: climate change perceptions and experiences ([Africa in Fact](#))
12. Armed and dangerous ([Africa in Fact](#))
13. Rising tides, waning fortunes: Climate change and coastal fishing communities in Sub-Saharan Africa ([Africa in Fact](#))

Conferences

Conflict Research Society (Sept 2024) – panel presentation titled “Who’s fighting and why? Understanding the long-term implications of DDR on conflict recurrence – Mozambique”

British International Studies Association (June 2023) – panel presentation titled: “The Fragility of Post-Conflict Peacebuilding – examining Mozambique’s return to armed conflict two decades post-accord”

Junior Scholar Symposium hosted at PRIO in Oslo (May 2023)

Countering Transnational Organised Crime in Africa (March 2023) – conference hosted by the Attorney General Alliance and GGA, presentation titled: “Armed and dangerous: illicit arms trafficking in South Africa and Mozambique.”

References

1. Dr Craig Moffat
+47 994 50 647, craig@gga.org
2. Dr Julia Palik,
+47 925 26 687, julpal@pri.org
3. Busisipho Siyobi
+27 72 437 7171, busisipho@gga.org
4. Prof Rod Alence
+27 11 717 4494, rod.alence@wits.ac.za
5. Dr Itai Makone
+27 64 340 8651, itai@sun.ac.za