

## DR. ABIGAIL ORNELLAS

### RESUME 2022

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

Nationality: South African

Home Address: 6 Milton Road, Observatory, Cape Town, 7945

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- 2009-2012 – Bachelor of Social Work: Stellenbosch University
- 2014 – Masters, Social Work (Mental Health Policy, *Cum Laude*): Stellenbosch University
- 2017-2018 – PhD, Social Work (Socioeconomic Policy & Organisational Management): Stellenbosch University. Topic: *Social Workers' reflections on implications of neoliberal tenets for social work in South African non-governmental organisations.*
- 2018-2019 – Two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship: *Towards decolonised social work practices in Africa: Mapping neoliberal tenets influencing management and supervision of social workers.*

#### CURRENT DESIGNATION

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CSSR, University of Cape Town (July 2022 - Present)  
ParentApp Cost Effectiveness Lead

#### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Study Manager, Oxford Research South Africa (Feb 2021 - Present)  
HEY BABY study (Helping Empower Youth Brought up in Adversity with their Babies and Young Children)
- Social Worker (Part-time), The Net, 12 Kommetjie Rd, Fish Hoek (Homeless Transitioning Day Programme) (August 2020-February 2021)
- Independent Research Consultant (2017-2020)
- January 2018 – December 2019: Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Social Work Department, Stellenbosch University
- June 2016 – May 2017: Research Fellow, EPRI, Cape Town
- June 2014 – May 2016: Research Associate, European Commission FP7, Stellenbosch University (SA) & Coventry University (UK)
- January 2013 – December 2014: Marketing and HR assistant, Grove Group, Cape Town and UK
- January 2013 – December 2013: Social work practice education supervisor, Stellenbosch University
- January 2012 – December 2012: Social Work Trainee, Somerset Hospital, Cape Town

#### CONSULTANCY, RESEARCH & PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- 2020: Researcher, **private commission**. National situational analysis: linking vulnerable pregnant women to social protection in South Africa. *Responsible for entire report.*
- 2020: Researcher, **JET**, Theme 2: Education Researchers Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis. *Responsible for: Survey design, thematic coding, report structure support and input coordination.*
- 2020: Research Consultant, **Department of Social Development**, Develop Costing Options for Linking Children Grants to other Social Protection Systems (RFQ17/2019). In partnership with Blue Oceans Information Solutions (BOIS). *Responsible for fieldwork, desktop review and deliverables coordination.*

- 2020: Research Consultant, **UNICEF South Africa**, Isibindi AYD Project Evaluation. In partnership with Amendit Group.  
*Responsible for report review, address of comments, alignment with UNICEF structure and funder expectations.*
- 2020: Research Consultant, **BlackSash**, Concept Note on a Basic Income Grant for South Africa. The concept note was in support of funding applications.  
*Responsible for concept note development and environmental analysis.*
- 2019: Research Consultant, **Global Institute for Social Protection**, application for SDG Global fund on Social Protection in South Africa, ILO South Africa.  
*Responsible for concept note development and write up. This bid was successful.*
- 2019: Editing and Document Review Consultant, **Department of Social Development**, National Plan of Action for Children 2019-2024, South Africa. In partnership with Amendit Group. *Responsible for content review and overall reporting structure.*
- 2019: Fieldworker and Research consultant, **BlackSash**, Decommissioning of SASSA pay points. *Responsible for Focus Group Discussions, Key Informant Interviews, Community Mapping and Site Report, Final Report coordination and Data Analysis.*
- 2019: Lead Research Consultant, **Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)**, Systematic literature review on hope in Africa in the context of economic hardships, psychosocial and mental wellbeing.  
*Responsible for overall project management, finalisation of the report and development of two journal articles.*
- 2018: Research Consultant, **Department of Higher Education**, Annual Performance Plan (APP) for the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training 2018/19, South Africa. Presented to Parliamentary Portfolio Committee in partnership with Madestar.  
*Responsible for review, research, write-up, and power-point presentation on the Report.*
- 2018: Academic writer, **Interactive Research and Development (IRD) SA**. TB in the Mines Surveillance Model Pilot Study in Southern Africa. The TIMS programme aims to increase TB case finding and linkage to care among current key populations. IRD SA was responsible for the development of four context-specific surveillance models.  
*Responsible for reviewing of documents and country pilot data and drafting the final report for submission.*
- 2017: Qualitative and programme coordinator, **USAID and FHI360**. *Programme review for strengthening the youth health and social services workforce in South Africa.* Part of a four-person team responsible for 1) fieldwork review of youth workforce programmes, focus group discussions with unemployed youth and interviews with key government and private sector stakeholders; 2) notes and transcription of fieldwork; 3) assistance in write-up of the report.
- 2016: Research Fellow, **UNICEF India and the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)**. *Building an Integrated Social Protection System for India.* Concept Note for Roundtable and Base Paper.

- 2016-2017: Lead Research Fellow, **Department of Social Development (DSD)**. Feasibility study: exploring pathways for linking the Child Support Grant with additional services. Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town. South Africa.  
*Responsible for overall project coordination (extended over a year), including fieldwork, report development, consultation with DSD expectations and feedback, logistics of fieldwork travel, meetings, payments and performance.*
- 2014-2015: Member of the management committee of **Marie Curie Action, International Research Staff Exchange Scheme** (Contract no. 295203: Impact of Neoliberal Management on Social Work) with the **European Commission**, as part of the Seventh Research and Technological Development Framework Programme (FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES), involving 6 Countries: Laurea University (Finland), Loyola College (India); Calabria University (Italy), St Petersburg State University (Russia), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Coventry University (United Kingdom).  
*Responsible for in-person project management and coordination of deliverables and output quality across participating country teams.*
- 2014-2016: Member of the management committee of Marie Curie Action, International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (Contract no. 318938: Civil Engagement in Social Work: Developing Global Models) with the European Commission, as part of the Seventh Research and Technological Development Framework Programme (FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES), involving 10 countries: Coventry University (United Kingdom), Università Della Calabria (Italy), Instituto Universitario De Lisboa (Portugal), Universidad De Alicante (Spain), Kocaeli Üniversitesi (Turkey), St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University (Russia), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), Loyola College Society (India), Sun Yat-Sen University (China), Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (Brasilia).  
*Responsible for in-person project management and coordination of deliverables and output quality across participating country teams.*

#### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

March 2015	European Commission FP7 Research Dissemination Workshop, St. Petersburg, <b>Russia</b>
August 2016	Social Protection Policy, EPRI, IDS and UNU-MERIT, Cape Town, <b>South Africa</b> <i>(Organising team)</i>
September 2016	3 <sup>rd</sup> National Course on Social Protection Public Financial Management, INSPIRE and UKaid, Segunbagicha, <b>Bangladesh</b> <i>(Organising team)</i>
October 2016	EPRI Social Protection Policy, Chiang Mai, <b>Thailand</b> <i>(Organising team)</i>
November 2016	14 <sup>th</sup> Development Dialogue Conference, International Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, <b>The Netherlands</b>
November 2016	International Forum: Social Protection Initiatives for Achieving Food Security and Improved Nutrition, World Food Programme, Cape Town, <b>South Africa</b> <i>(Organising team)</i>

#### TEACHING, SUPERVISION & DISSEMINATION

##### Supervision

- Co-supervision Master's students, Department of Social Work, Stellenbosch University and Gothenburg University (3)
- Thesis support, Red & Yellow Creative School of Business, Cape Town (1)
- Supervision and practice education, first year social work students, Stellenbosch University (2013)

## Teaching

- Postgraduate seminar: Research (Masters and PhD social work students) Stellenbosch University (2019 and 2020)

## Keynote Lectures

- Program PhD Act, TISSA (The International Social Work and Society Academy); 'Why Ontology Matters in Social Work Research', Ghent University, Belgium (February 2022)
- Stellenbosch University, Social Work, **Stellenbosch**, South Africa (March 2018)
- Coventry University, Social and Health Care Management, **Coventry**, United Kingdom (November 2015)
- ISCTE University, Social Work Postgraduate, **Lisbon**, Portugal (October 2015)
- Laurea University, Social Work, **Hyvinkä**, Finland (November 2014)

## Scientific Review and Editing

- [Cactus](#) Global, Subject-expert Scientific Reviewer and Editor (2019-present)
- [Enago](#), Manuscript Proof-reader and subject-expert (2019-present)
- International Journal of Social Welfare, October 2019 (1)
- International Social Work, October 2019 and 2020 (2)

## Dissemination Summary

Articles published in accredited peer reviewed journals: **12**

Published peer reviewed academic book chapters: **4**

Book chapters accepted for publication: **1**

Published Research Reports: **1**

Media Articles: **2**

Papers delivered at national and international academic conferences: **11** Papers delivered as Keynote addresses at conferences/congresses/symposia: **7** [Google-h Index](#)

## SIGNIFICANT AWARDS RECEIVED

### Financial Awards

2019: Post-doctoral Fellowship, Social Work Department, Stellenbosch University: R220 000

2018: Outstanding Postdoctoral performance, Stellenbosch University: R10,000

2018: Post-doctoral Fellowship, Social Work Department, Stellenbosch University: R220 000

2012: Marie Curie Action: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (contract no. 295203: EU FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES), NL\_SOCIAL (Impact of neoliberal management on social work): Team project award: € 220 000 (shared amount)

2013: Marie Curie Action: International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (contract no. 318938: EU FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES), CIVIL\_SW (Civil engagement in social work: Developing global models): Team project award: € 292 000 (shared amount)

### Performance Awards

2018: Outstanding Postdoctoral Performance, Dean Award. Stellenbosch University

2010: Golden Key Membership, top academic achievers, Stellenbosch University

2011: Class Top Three Academic Achievers for Social Work, Stellenbosch University

2012: Excellent Academic Achievement, Honours, Stellenbosch University

## OTHER COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- Media Campaign Against Human Trafficking (MeCAHT) – International Conference Coordinator (June – December 2018)
- Board of Directors, Global Institute for Social Protection (GISP), Cape Town, South Africa (2018-2020)
- Tedx Youth@, Organising Team, Cape Town, South Africa (2016)
- Tedx Cape Town, Speaker Coach, Cape Town, South Africa (2013)
- United Nations Student Chapter (UNASA), Chairperson, Stellenbosch University, South Africa (2011)

## CONTACTABLE REFERENCES

Professor L K Engelbrecht (HoD, Department of Social Work, Stellenbosch University);  
[lke@sun.ac.za](mailto:lke@sun.ac.za) / +27218082073

Miss Jane Kelly, Research Officer, Accelerate hub; [Jane.Kelly@acceleratehub.org](mailto:Jane.Kelly@acceleratehub.org)

Mr. Ashley Theron (Director, Amendit Group); [ashley@amenditgroup.co.za](mailto:ashley@amenditgroup.co.za)

Mrs Carolyn Axmann (Director, The Net) [axmann.pc@gmail.com](mailto:axmann.pc@gmail.com) / +27842058248

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## FULL LIST OF ALL PUBLICATIONS

### Articles published in accredited peer reviewed journals (12):

12. ORNELLAS, A., ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & ATAMTURK, E. 2020. The fourfold neoliberal impact on social work and why this matters in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. **Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk**, 56(3): 235-249.
11. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L.K. 2020. Neoliberal impact on social work in South African Non Governmental Organisations. **Southern African Journal of Social Work and Social Development**, 32(1): 1-21.
10. ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & ORNELLAS, A. 2019. Financial Capabilities Development: Essential Discourse in Developmental Social Work. **International Journal of Social Economics**, 46(10): 1234-1246.
9. ORNELLAS, A., SPOLANDER, G., ENGELBRECHT, LK, SICORA, A., PERVOVA, I., MARTÍNEZ-ROMÁN, M., LAW AK, DAS DORES GUERREIRO, M., CASANOVA, CL, GARCIA, MLT., ACAR, H. & MARTIN, L. 2019. Mapping social work across ten countries: structure, intervention, identity and challenges. **International Social Work**, 62(4): 1181–1182.
8. ENGELBRECHT, L. K., ORNELLAS, A., STRYDOM, M., SLABBERT, I., ZIMBA, Z., KHOSA, P. & CORNELISSEN-NORDIEN, T. 2019. Authentication of an academic culture in a Social Work programme offered at a South African university: A value-driven approach towards a decolonised curriculum. **International Social Work** DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872819842934>.
7. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2018. The Life Esidimeni Crisis: Why a neoliberal agenda leaves no room for the mentally ill. **Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk**, 54(3): 296-308.
6. ORNELLAS, A., SPOLANDER, G. & ENGELBRECHT, L.K. 2018. The Global Social work definition: Ontology, implications and challenges. **Journal of Social Work**, 18(2) 222–240.

5. MARJANEN, P., ORNELLAS, A. & MANTYNEN, L. 2017. Determining Holistic Child Well-being: Critical Reflections on Theory and Dominant Models. **Child Indicators Research**, 10(3): 633-647.
4. ORNELLAS, A., ENGELBRECHT, L. K., MARTÍNEZ-ROMÁN, M. A., TORTOSA-MARTÍNEZ, J., CASANOVA, J. L., & DAS DORES GUERREIRO, M. 2017. Neoliberalism and Austerity in Spain, Portugal and South Africa: The Revolution of Older Persons. **Journal of Gerontological Social Work**, 60 (6-7): 535-552.
3. ENGELBRECHT, L. K., ORNELLAS, A., MARTÍNEZ-ROMÁN, M-A., TORTOSA-MARTÍNEZ, J. 2016. NGOs in Spain and South Africa: In the line of two fires. **Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk**, 52(4):459-470.
2. PERVOVA, I.L., KELASEV, V.N., SPOLANDER, G., ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & ORNELLAS, A. 2016. Global'noye opredeleniye sotsial'noy raboty, yego ontologiya, znachenkiye i posledstviya. [*The global social work definition: Ontology, meaning and consequences*]. **The journal of sociology and social anthropology**, 84(1): 149-165.
1. XAVIER, A. G., ORNELLAS, A. SPOLANDER, G. & BUSCEMA, C. 2016. Returning the 'Social' to Social Work: Recommitting to Social Development in an Age of Neoliberalism. **The Indian Journal of Social Work**, 77(3): 295-310.

#### Published peer reviewed academic book chapters (2):

4. JEHOMA, S., ORNELLAS, A. & NYONKANGI, E. M. 2022. Social Security in South Africa: An Historical Perspective. Social Security Review, Human Sciences Research Council.
3. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2020. Effective supervision and organisational culture. In: O'Donoghue, K. & Engelbrecht, L.K. International Handbook of Social Work Supervision, Routledge.
2. ORNELLAS, A., ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & STRYDOM, M. 2020. South Africa's Social Policy Dynamics, Developments and Well-Being: Between Developmentalism and the Open-Market. In: PERVOVA, L. (ed.) **Neoliberalism, Social Policy and Welfare in Developing Countries (Russia, India and South Africa)**. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing
1. ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & ORNELLAS, A. 2015. A conceptual framework for a strength's perspective on supervision of social workers within a mental health context: Reflections from South Africa. In: FRANCIS, A., LA ROSA, P., SANKARAN, L. & RAJEEV, S.P. (eds.) **Social work practice in mental health: Cross-cultural perspectives**. New Delhi: Allied Publishers.

#### Book chapters accepted for publication (3):

3. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2021. Can the Global Definition and Neoliberalism be friends? Reflections from South African Social Workers. In: Baikady, R., Sajid, S.M., Przeperski, J. et al. **The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Change – a major reference work**. UK: Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter abstract [accepted](#).

#### Published research reports (1):

1. DIENER, O., ORNELLAS, A., KATZ, K., & NATHERSON, R. 2018. South Africa Health Workforce Assessment. Washington, DC: USAID's YouthPower Implementation, YouthPower Action.

#### Media articles (2):

2. JEHOMA, S., ORNELLAS, A. & SENONA, T. 2020. Op-Ed: BIG: There's an urgent need for a basic income grant for the unemployed. Daily Maverick, 22 April. Read [here](#).
1. ORNELLAS, A. 2018. Opinion: Life Esidimeni tragedy shows SA gives economic gain priority over social justice. Business Day. 28 June. Read [here](#).

Papers delivered at national and international academic conferences (11): \*Presenter is underlined.

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11. ORNELLAS, A. & ZASTRAU, E. 2019. A systematic literature review on hope in Africa: Literature Findings on Issues of Hope in Africa in the context of Mental Health, Psychosocial Wellbeing, Psychosocial Support and Economic Hardship. **PSS Forum**. 27-29 August 2019. Windhoek, Namibia.
10. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2019. Unseen Neoliberal Implications on Social Work: Voices of South African NGO-based Frontline Social Workers. **Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions**. 27-29 August 2019. Cape Town, South Africa.
9. PERVOVA, I. L., STRYDOM, M., ENGELBRECHT, L. K., KELASYEV, V., & ORNELLAS, A. 2019. Parallel Changes in Russia and South Africa: Challenges in Social Development. **International Conference on Social Science, Economics and Management Research (SSEMR)**. 26-27 May 2019. Hangzhou, China.
8. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2018. Mapping Social Work Across Ten Countries: Understanding structure, intervention, identity and challenges of social work in an international context. 8th European Conference for Social Work Research (ESWRA). Edinburgh: Scotland.
7. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, LK. 2018. Neoliberalism and Mental Health in South Africa: Death by Negligence and Business Opportunity. **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development**. Dublin: Ireland.
6. FERREIRA, J.M., SPOLANDER, G., ORNELLAS, A., BELCHIOR, H. M. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2016. Contextualising the Global Definition of Social Work across ten countries: Implications, challenges, similarities and differences. **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development**. Seoul: South Korea.
5. ORNELLAS, A., SICORA, A., CITRONI, G., SPOLANDER, G. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2016. The Role of Best Practice in Social Work: International Collaboration and Lessons Learned. **European Conference for Social Work Research (ESWRA)**. Lisbon, Portugal.
4. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L.K. 2016. The Deinstitutionalisation of mental health care in South Africa: Moral progress or neoliberal copout? **Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development**. Seoul: South Korea.
3. MARJANEN, P., ORNELLAS, A. and MANTYNEN, L. 2015. Determining Holistic Child Well-being: Critical Reflections on Theory and Dominant Models. **European Early Childhood Education Research Association (EECERA)**. Barcelona: Spain.
2. ORNELLAS, A., SPOLANDER, G., ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2015. The Emperor's New Clothes: Is Social Work in Transition? **European Association of Schools of Social Work conference (EASSW)**. Milan: Italy.
1. SPOLANDER, G., ORNELLAS, A. XAVIER, G., MARTIN, L., BUSCEMA, C., ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2015. Is social work education able to confront the challenges of Neoliberal Practice? **European Association of Schools of Social Work conference (EASSW)**. Milan: Italy.

Papers delivered as keynote addresses at conferences/congresses/symposia (7):

\*Presenter is underlined.

7. ORNELLAS, A. 2018. These Clothes Don't Fit Us Anymore: Expanding your idea of social work. **World Social Work Day Celebrations**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 20 March.

6. ORNELLAS, A. 2018. A value-driven approach towards decolonising the social work curriculum at Stellenbosch University. **Arts Faculty Centenary Panel Discussions**. Stellenbosch University. 23 October 2018.

5. ENGELBRECHT, L.K. & ORNELLAS, A. 2014. A conceptual framework for a strengths perspective on supervision of social workers within a mental health context: Reflections from South Africa. **International Conference on Social Work Practice in Mental Health**. Kochi: India.

4. ORNELLAS, A., SPOLANDER, G. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2015. The Global Social Work Definition. **Marie Curie EU FP7 IRSES Symposium**, ISCTE University, Lisbon, Portugal. 20 October.

3. ORNELLAS, A. & ENGELBRECHT, L. K. 2015. Is Neoliberalism the Star Player in South Africa's Post-1994 Shift in Mental Health Care? **International Week**, Coventry University, United Kingdom, 9-11 November.

2. ORNELLAS, A. 2018. These Clothes Don't Fit Us Anymore: Expanding your idea of social work. **World Social Work Day Celebrations**, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 20 March.

1. ORNELLAS, A. 2018. A value-driven approach towards decolonising the social work curriculum at Stellenbosch University. **Arts Faculty Centenary Panel Discussions**. Stellenbosch University. 23 October 2018.