

Dr Nicole Miriam Daniels

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Current

Honorary Research Associate at the [Adolescent Accelerate Hub](#), Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town and New Program Doula at [Alignd](#).

Overview

Nicole is a medical sociologist working in a value-based healthcare start-up offering a unique blend of skills gained through transdisciplinary collaboration, teaching & learning, twenty years of daily meditation and Time to Think coaching & facilitation. Applying lived experience as a mother, doula, narrative researcher, lecturer, and doctorate in the sociology of childbirth, Nicole positions matrescence (the capacity for motherhood) as central to our shared humanity with the earth and the more-than-human world.



Peer Reviewed Publications <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0454-8164>

1. Daniels, N.M. (2026). Towards a care continuum: A socio-material analysis of intra-acting public-private maternity care in South Africa. *Social Science & Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2026.118998>
2. Daniels, N.M. (2024). Ultrasound scan as risk ritual in obstetric prenatal care in South Africa. *Health, Risk & Society*, 26(1-2): 1-18. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698575.2023.2289025>
3. **Daniels, N.M.**, Goolam Hoosen, T., Jayakumar, J & Behari-Leak, K. (2024). South African New academics' becoming and (un)becoming the condition of colonial precarity through collective reflexivity. *Critical Studies in Teaching and Learning*, 12(1): 40–62. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.14426/cristal.v12i1.2097>
4. **Daniels, N.M.** & R.J. Chadwick (2018). Doing homebirth like a man? Constructions of masculinity in South African men's narratives of homebirth. *Journal of Gender Studies*, 27(6): 725-739. Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2017.1301811>

Peer Reviewed Publication Pipeline

5. **Daniels, N.M** & Schneidermann, N. (accepted, forthcoming). Technologies of care and the enactment of difference(s) in South African motherhoods. In A. Banerjee & P. Sharma (Eds.) *Technology, Mothering, and Care Ethics* (Vol ii). Leuven: Peeters Publishers
6. Daniels, N.M. (under review). Obstetric demise or obstetric resilience? The vilification of independent midwives in an affective atmosphere generated by obstetric medico-legal litigation risk. *Midwifery*
7. Daniels, N.M. (under review). Affective labour on display: Couple negotiations of gender difference via reproductive and relational homebirth scripts. *Families, Relationships & Society*

Edited Peer Reviewed Special Issue Pipeline

8. Mayra, K., Correa, M & **Daniels, N.M.** (Eds.) (accepted, forthcoming) Prioritizing Pleasure in Reproductive and Maternal Health to Address Obstetric Violence. *Frontiers in Global Women's Health*

Academic & Professional Experience

7 October 2024 - present	New Programme Doula – In Maternity & Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) at Alignd Working within the Alchemy Lab to ideate, design, develop and implement new innovative products and services in maternity and CKD with raised start-up capital.
03 January 2023 – 30 September 2024	Medical Sociologist and Maternal Health Specialist at Percept Actuaries & Consultants Value Based Maternal & Newborn Care Global Collaborative Co-lead of Usha Lesizalo. Conceptualised, writing – original draft, writing – review & editing of: Gender Inequality Report and associated news media. Qualitative research support: Wits Reproductive Health Institute (WRHI), Conceptual Framework: O'Neill-Lancet Commission on Racism, Structural Discrimination and Global Health
01 January 2022 – 31 December 2023	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Centre of Excellence in Human Development, School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg Conducted engaged scholarship on Obstetric Violence: Featured in: Psychological Society of South Africa HPSIG Podcast; Invited Panellist on CELLS Obstetric Violence: A multidisciplinary Analysis;

	Workshop facilitator with Dr Veronica Mitchel and Assoc Prof Camilla Pickles at: the South African Society for Obstetrics & Gyneacology SASOG 2022 Conference
4 October 2023	Guest Lecturer, Reproduction & Masculinities in Reproductive health and rights In: Sociology of Health (SOC232), University of Western Cape (UWC)
31 March 2023	Seminar Presenter, Writing fieldnotes: An ethnographic approach In: Family Caregiving, Care of older persons in Southern Africa
9 May 2022 & 22 May 2023	Guest Lecturer, 'Matters of Care' in Studies of Science & Technology In: Gender, Families & The State (SOC4019F), Sociology, UCT Honours Programme
2 August 2022; 19 July 2021	Guest Lecturer, Doing Narrative Research. In: Feminist Research Methodologies, Women's and Gender Studies, UWC. Masters and Honours
31 January – 17 April 2020	Local Public Health Faculty Member, School for International Training (SIT) International Honours Programme (IHP), Health and Community Module
July – December 2019	Contract lecturer, Humanities Education Development Unit, University of Cape Town <i>Working with concepts in the Social Sciences</i> (DOH1009S)
July 2017 – December 2019	Full time Assistant Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town Undergraduate Courses lectured: <i>Introduction to Sociology</i> (SOC1001F, 2019), <i>Social Research Methods</i> (SOC3007F, 2018) <i>Individual & Society</i> (SOC1007S, 2017) Undergraduate Courses lectured & convened: <i>Social Research Methods</i> (SOC3007F, 2019) and <i>Individual & Society</i> (SOC1007S, 2018) Postgraduate Course lecturer & convener: <i>Interviewing & Qualitative Analysis</i> (SOC5030: 2018/9)
18 October 2017	Guest Lecturer, Motherhood and the Burden of Social Reproduction In: School for International Training (SIT) International Honours Programme (IHP)
24 March 2016	Guest Lecturer, Listening Guide Narrative Methodology In: Interviewing & Qualitative Analysis (SOC5030), Sociology, UCT Masters Programme

Academic & Professional Training & Awards

December 2025	Time to Think Ltd. Thinking Environment Facilitation training
September 2022	Time to Think Ltd. Thinking Environment Coaching Accreditation https://www.timetothink.com/coach/nicole-daniels/
31 January 2020	Teaching Project Panelist: Summer New Academics Practitioners' Programme (NAPP)
July – November 2019	Graduate: Winter New Academics Practitioners' Programme, Centre for Higher Education Development (CHED). https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2019-11-12-help-us-change-our-institution
February – June 2019	Graduate: Summer Core Concepts in Teaching and Learning Online Course, Centre for innovation in Learning and Technology (CILT). http://www.cilt.uct.ac.za/core-concepts
2016 - 2017	National Research Foundation (NRF) Innovation Doctoral Scholarship
November 2015	Time to Think Ltd. Accredited Thinking Partnership Practitioner (www.timetothink.com)
2014	OMT Award & Merit Scholarship Oppenheimer Memorial Trust & Harry Crossley Fund
2013 – 2014 & 2016-2017 & 2019	Masters Fellowship Grant holder & Doctoral Scholarship, Family Studies Research Unit (FaSRU), CSSR, UCT
February 2013 – December 2014	DST-NRF HSD Teaching Internship Awardee & Accompanying Bursary (& renewal) Humanities Educational Development Unit (HUMEDU), University of Cape Town
2013 & 2014	Various Conference Grants: ISCHP, 9th Biennial Conference Bursary, Bio-Social Society Conference Bursary, BSA Medical Sociology Annual Conference Bursary
June 2006	Wombs Doula Accreditation

Select Workshops & Facilitation

Sept 2025	Institute for the Preparedness and Prevention of Pandemics, TC6 Responsive Communities and Agile Service Provision Systems Facilitated two-day workshop with representatives from nine universities across South Africa. Co-hosted alongside Prof Elona Toska (UCT) and Prof Gavin George (UKZN)
Sept & Oct 2023	Injecting Compassion into Maternity Services Workshops

	Delivered to staff at New Somerset Hospital. Jointly facilitated by: Dr Nicole Daniels & Dr Veronica Mitchell, with Dr Camilla Pickles joining virtually.
18 & 25 April 2023	Delivering Respectful Maternity Care & Caring for the Caregivers Staff development workshops at Mowbray Maternity. Jointly facilitated by: Dr Nicole Daniels & Dr Veronica Mitchell. Mowbray Maternity Hospital.
2014-2016	Mindful Art Workshops, Women's Wellness Days & Power Wheel Facilitator

Academic Development: Community Roles

2025 Wellcome Trust mock interview (ECA) 2025 Dr Tessa Moll, International Grants Hub, UCT

2024 - 2025 Topic co-editor for *Frontiers in Global Women's Health* research topic: Prioritizing Pleasure in Reproductive and Maternal Health to Address Obstetric Violence

2024 Peer-Review assignments for *Health, Risk & Society*, *PLOS Global Public Health*, *Frontiers in Public Health - Public Health Education and Promotion*, *Feminism & Psychology*

2023 PhD Proposal Panellist, School of Management Studies Department, Commerce Faculty, UCT

2023 Emerging Assisted Reproductive Markets in Southern Africa, Wits University & Monash University, University of Pretoria, 2024 Re-worlding Reproduction. Emerging Knowledges, Politics & Practices of Justice Conference, SA. Steering Committee Member.

2022 Writing retreat coordinator: For both UCT UKRI GCRF Accelerating Achievement for Africa's Adolescents Hub & the Families & Society Working Group

2022 MRC/Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit (DPHRU). Postdoc Group. Member

2020 Lunchtime Seminar Presenter, Department of Sociology, UCT

2018 – 2019 UCT Department of Sociology, Tutor committee. Member.

2016 – 2019 UCT Department of Anthropology, First Thousand Days of Life. Writing group member.

2016 National Research Foundation (NRF): Confidential reviewer for NRF ratings, application review.

2014, 2015 & 2019 CSSR Lunchtime Seminar Series, Presenter, UCT

2013 – 2019 UCT Centre for Social Science Research, Family Studies Research Unit (FaSRU). Member

2013 – 2016 UCT Centre for Higher Education (CHED), Writing group member

2013 – 2015 UCT Department of Medicine, [Compassionate Birthing Tutorials](#). Tutor, Adjudicator & Advisor.

Engaged Scholarship: Once-off Public-facing Events

2018 – present Sexual & Reproductive Justice Coalition member & attendee at strategic convenings

2024 [Keynote Address](#) given, Seeding feminist futures: Ultrasounds, interbeing and foetal essences. At: Kinship with Humans, Nature, and the Universe/World-around-us. The Faroese Folk High School, Faroe Islands

2024 [Caring for the Future Webinar #2](#) with Dr Nanna Schneidermann

2023 [HPSIG Podcast. Obstetric violence: The harmful effects on pregnant women](#), with Dr Veronica Mitchell.

2023 Panellist. [Obstetric Violence: A multidisciplinary Analysis](#), Durham Law School, Durham University, UK, with Dr Rachelle Chadwick and Dr Sara Shabot Cohen and Dr Camilla Pickles

2023 Multi-dimensional Inequality presented at: Inequality in Southern Africa Seminar. The Royal Danish Embassy, Inclusive Society Institute and Southern African Trust, with Dr Beth Vale

2021 Due Date Club: Q&A with members on risk in childbirth

2021 Cape Talk Radio: Talk show with Pippa Hudson

2014 & 2015 Presenter & Participant at Cape Town's participant-led Midwifery and Birth Conferences

2014 Hosted public event with internationally renowned birth expert Dr Michel Odent

Select Conferences & Symposia (a full list is available on request)

- Daniels, N. 2024. Obstetric demise or dilemma? In *Re-worlding Reproduction. Emerging knowledges, politics and the practice of justice*. University of Pretoria, 16-19 September. <https://reworldingreproduction.org.za/>
- Daniels, N. 2023. Inequality in private sector maternity care. [National Sexual and Reproductive Justice Conference](#). Department of Social Development, National Population Unit, Pretoria, 22-24 March.
- **Daniels, N**, Schneidermann, N & Thanjan, S. 2022. Ethnographic interventions along an obstetric continuum: Stories from across the maternal healthcare divide. In *The First Thousand Days of Life; reproductive and early life interventions. African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) 4th Biennial Conference, HUMA, UCT*, 13-16 April. <https://2022conference.as-aa.org/>
- Daniels, N. 2021. Unborn, inter-connected personhood(s) and ambiguous reproductive pathways. *International Society for Critical Health Psychology (ISCHP) 12th Biennial Conference*, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 22-25 August. <https://sites.google.com/view/ischp21>

- Daniels, N. 2019. Baby shower displays: Gendered consumption and performances of good motherhood. *Consuming Gender: Intersections in Identity and Consumption in the Global South Symposium*, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 30 Oct. <https://www.ecrea.eu/page-18206/7757045>
- Daniels, N. 2019. How to create spaces of learning in which physicality matters? Dedicated to Uyinene Mrwetyana. *New Academics' Transitions into Higher Education (NATRC) Regional Colloquium*, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch
- Daniels, N. 2016. Relational masculinities: South African men's homebirth narratives. *Centre for Families and relationships (CRFR) International Conference*, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, 13-15 June.
- **Daniels, N.**, Rucel, J., Chadwick, R. 2015. Coming to life: Methodological challenges of researching birth and maternal health symposium. *ISCHP, 9th Biennial Conference*, Rhodes University, Makhanda, 12-15 July.
- Daniels, N. 2014. Men in relationships: The promise of dyadic research into fatherhood. *Promises & Challenges of Researching Fathering in South Africa Symposium*, Medical Research Council (MRC), Cape Town, 17 Nov.
- Daniels, N. 2014. "It was a great team thing": South African couples' narratives of homebirth. *British Sociological Association (BSA) Medical Sociology (MedSoc) Annual Conference*, Aston University, Aston, United Kingdom, 10-12 September.

Blogs & News Media

1. Wishnia, J., **Daniels, N** & Swanepoel, D (2023, 29 May) End Patriarchy, End Inequality / Gender pressure on men. [Cape Argus](#) and [The Star](#)
2. Swanepoel, D & **Daniels, N.** (2023, 15 May) Equity for women still an illusion / Equity for women a dream. [Cape Argus](#), [Daily News](#), [The Star](#)
3. Swanepoel, D & **Daniels, N.** (2023, 13 Feb) Grant needed to stave off poverty. [The Star](#), [Daily News](#)
4. **Daniels, N.** & Mitchell, V. (2021, 15 Dec) Tied2Beds: Spatial Hauntings in Obstetric Care, Obstetric Violence Blog: Durham University. Available online [Tied2beds - Durham University](#)

Other Select Open Access Publications (a full list is available on request)

1. Maru, C., Korgaonkar, K., **Daniels, N.**, Mbete, N., Roth, A., Chennels, K., Munshi, S., Merali, A. & Hariharan, S. (May, 2024). [A playbook for embedding compassion, quality and value into maternal and newborn care.](#)
2. Percept Actuaries and Consultants. Report Commissioned By: Inclusive Society Institute. (May, 2023) Available at [Understanding Gender Inequality](#)
3. Daniels, N.M (2022). Review of Jennifer C. Nash, *Birthing black mothers*. Duke University Press, 2021; 254, pp. ISBN 9781478021728. *Feminism & Psychology*, 32(4): 592-596. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/09593535221122558>

Tertiary Education

2016 – 2021: [2018: Leave of Absence]	PhD, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town <i>Dissertation title: Obstetric Risk Worlds: A Multi-site, Feminist Ethnography of Private-Sector Obstetric, Maternal and Unborn Caring Concerns in Cape Town.</i> A/Prof Elena Moore & A/Prof Amrita Pande
2013 – 2015	MSocSc (with distinction), Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town <i>Dissertation title: The Gendered Experiences of Women, Men and Couples who Plan, Have and Narrate Homebirths.</i> Supervisors: A/Prof Elena Moore & Dr Rachelle Chadwick
2012	BSocSc HONS, (first class pass) Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town <i>Thesis title: Reconciling Interference in Homebirth Narratives.</i> Supervisor: A/Prof Dr Elena Moore
2002	BSocSc, Gender & Development, Department of Gender Studies, UCT [Deans Merit List 2001]