

# Stuart Denoon-Stevens - Curriculum Vitae

---

Age: 35 (2020/2021)

South African Citizen, ID Number: 8507255236081

Registered Professional Planner: A/1985/2014

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7640-0970>

Google Scholar: <https://bit.ly/2m6FGSn>

Address: Urban and Regional Planning (IB 69), University of the Free State, PO Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300

Telephone: +27 73 035 1024 / 51 401 7136

E-mail: [DenoonStevensSP@ufs.ac.za](mailto:DenoonStevensSP@ufs.ac.za) or [stuartdenoon@gmail.com](mailto:stuartdenoon@gmail.com)

## Publications

### Journal articles

Adams, D., Andres, L., Denoon-Stevens, S., Melgaço, L. Challenges, opportunities and legacies: experiencing the internationalising of UK planning curricula across space and time. *Town Planning Review* (In press).

Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Andres, L., Jones, P., Melgaço, L., Massey, R., Nel, V. 2020. Theory versus Practice in Planning Education: The View from South Africa. *Planning Practice & Research*, OnlineFirst, DOI: [10.1080/02697459.2020.1735158](https://doi.org/10.1080/02697459.2020.1735158)

Ferranti, E.; Andres, L.; Denoon-Stevens, S.P.; Melgaço, L.; Oberling, D., Quinn, A. 2020. Operational Challenges and Mega Sporting Events Legacy: The Case of BRT Systems in the Global South. *Sustainability*, 12(4), DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12041609>

Andres, L., Jones, P., Denoon Stevens, S., Melgaco, L. 2020. Negotiating polyvocal strategies: re-reading de Certeau through the lens of urban planning in South Africa. *Urban Studies*, OnlineFirst, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098019875423>

Denoon-Stevens, S.P. and Mocwagae, K. 2019. The potential of the University of the Free State QwaQwa campus to enable growth of the economy of QwaQwa. *Town and Regional Planning*, 74 (Dec 2019): 1-11

Marais, L., Cloete, J., van Rooyen, D., Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Nel, V. 2019. Place attachment and social disruption in Postmasburg, a rapidly growing South African mining town. *GeoJournal*, 84(1): 71-83

- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. and Ramaila, E. 2018. Community facilities in previously disadvantaged areas of South Africa. *Development Southern Africa*, 35(4): 432-449
- Marais, L., Cloete, J., and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2018. Informal settlements and mine development: reflections from South Africa's periphery. *Journal of the Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy*, 118(10): 1103-1111
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2016. Developing an appropriate land use methodology to promote spatially just, formal retail areas in developing countries: The case of the City of Cape Town, South Africa. *Land Use Policy*, Vol 54 (July): 18-28.
- Görgens, T., & Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2013. Towards Facilitative and Pro-poor Land-Use Management in South African Urban Areas: Learning from International Experience. *Urban Forum*, 24(1): 85-103.

### Book chapters

- Nel, V. and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2020. Proactive Rezoning to Promote Inclusive Densification. In Rubin, M., Harrison, P., Todes, A., Appelbaum, A. Eds. *Densifying the City? Global Cases and Johannesburg*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishers. In press.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2019. Matjhabeng: Planning in the face of the Free State Goldfields Decline. In Marais, L and Nel, V. Eds. *Space and planning in secondary cities: Reflections from South Africa*. Bloemfontein: SUN Media.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Nel, V. & Mphambukeli, T. 2018. Spatial planning for Postmasburg. Chapter in Marais, L., Burger, P. and van Rooyen, D., eds. *Community and Mining in South Africa: from Small Town to Iron Town*. London: Routledge: 77-96.
- Cloete, J. and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2018. Mineworker housing. Chapter in Marais, L., Burger, P. and van Rooyen, D., eds. *Community and Mining in South Africa: from Small Town to Iron Town*. London: Routledge: 141-156.
- Marais, L., Van Rooyen, D., Burger, P., Lenka, M., Cloete, J., Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Mocwagae, K., Jacobs, M. and Riet, J., 2018. The background to the Postmasburg study. Chapter in Marais, L., Burger, P. and van Rooyen, D., eds. *Community and Mining in South Africa: from Small Town to Iron Town*. London: Routledge: 5-22.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2014. Using land use management to create transit-friendly cities. Chapter in *How to build Transit Oriented Cities*. Johannesburg: South African Cities Network: 97-118.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2014. The role of Land Management in Shaping (or Preventing) the Creation of Sustainable Human Settlements. Chapter in *From Housing to Human Settlements: Evolving Perspectives*. Johannesburg: South African Cities Network: 124-148.

## Conference papers and presentations

- Andres, L., Jones, P., Melgaco, L., and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2019. When strategies collide: de Certau and South African planning. Presented at American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Session on Planning in theory, theory in planning 1. Washington, DC, USA, 4 June.
- Nel, V., Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Andres, L., Smit, E. 2019. De-colonising land use management in South Africa. Presented at Local and Urban Governance: trends, challenges and innovations in a globalizing world, University of Cape Verde, Cidade da Praia, 4 - 7 September.
- Andres, L., Jones, P., Melgaco, L., Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2018. Idealism and resistance in spatial planning: questioning the new horizons of planning education. Presented at 2018 RSA Winter Conference, London, UK, 15-16 November
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2018. Presented at Planning Africa 2018, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town South Africa, 14-17 October.
- Denoon-Stevens, SP. 2018. Principles for designing safe low-income settlements in South Africa. Presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1-5 October.
- Denoon-Stevens, SP. 2018. Understanding the interface between geography and urban planning in South Africa. Presented at the Biennial Conference of the Society of South African Geographers, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1-5 October.
- Massey, R., Denoon-Stevens, S., and Nel, V. 2018. Planning practice at local government level in South Africa: challenges, implications and new approaches. Presented at International Conference: 50 years of Local Governance 1980-2030, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 4-5 September.
- Andres, L., Melgaco, L., Jones, P., Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2018. Responsibility and resistance planning for (and with) entrenched inequality. Presented at UK Ireland Planning Research Conference, Sheffield, UK, 3-5 September.
- Jacobus, M., Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Nel, V. 2017. Encouraging Inclusive Communities Through Zoning Reform: The case of Upper Ashbury, Bloemfontein. Presented at 53rd ISOCARP/OAPA Congress, Portland, Oregon, USA, 24-27 October.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2017. Translating normative concerns into law: an exploration within the field of land development regulation. Presented at 4th Annual International & Comparative Urban Law Conference on Law and the New Urban Agenda, Cape Town, South Africa, July 17-18.

- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2017. The use of decision making support tools for the assessment of land development applications of low-income settlements in South Africa: an exploration of their potential. Presented at 3rd Biannual ISibalo CRUISE Urban and Regional Science Conference, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 3-5 July.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2016. Finding hope in spaces of despair – furthering our understanding of the South African Spatial Economy. Presented at the ERLN Economies of Regions: Economic Development at the Sub-National Level conference, Protea Hotel Fire & Ice, Menlyn, Pretoria, South Africa, 14-15 November.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. and Bruce, S. 2016. Exploring the potential for Transit-Oriented Development in low-income settlements in the metropolitan cities of South Africa. Presented at the Southern African City Studies Conference, Urban Futures Centre, Durban University of Technology (DUT), Durban, South Africa, 17-19 March.
- Ramaila, E. and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2015. Leisure, open space and recreational planning in previously disadvantaged townships: a case study of Mahwelereng, Limpopo. Presented at the CPSYG-2015 Conference for Planning Students and Young Graduates, University of Johannesburg, Doornfontein Campus, Johannesburg, South Africa, 5-7 October.

### Professional

- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2017. *Matjhabeng Local Municipality: From gold to the unknown*. Paper for South African Cities Network Secondary Cities project. <http://www.sacities.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Matjhabeng.pdf>
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. and Nel, V. 2017. *Proactive upzoning of land in TOD developments to promote urban regeneration in South African cities*. Paper for South African Cities Network Urban Land Papers Series Volume 2. <http://www.sacities.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/The-Urban-Land-Paper-Series-Vol.2.pdf>
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P., Charman, A., Tonkin, C. and Demeestère, R. 2017. *Post-apartheid spatial inequality: obstacles of land use management on township micro-enterprise formalization*. Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation. <http://www.livelihoods.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/SLF-Post-Apartheid-Spatial-Inequality-Ir-version.pdf>
- Nel, V. and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2016. *Research on thematic areas: towards the development of the National Spatial Development Framework*. Draft background report for the National Spatial Development Framework.
- Nel, V.; Busani, M.; Denoon-Stevens, S.P. and Friedrich, M. 2016. *Research report: Spatial Economy*. Draft background report for the National Spatial Development Framework.
- Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2015. *Guidelines for Mixed-Income Housing*. Report for the Housing Development Agency, South Africa.

Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2015. *Guidelines for Mixed-Income Housing: case study report*. Report for the Housing Development Agency, South Africa.

Nel, V. and Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2015. *A literature review on the performance of local government over the past two decades*. For the South African Cities Network, July 2015.

## Popular

Denoon-Stevens, S.P. 2015/2016. Variety of articles for the website Urban Africa:

- *Can we use housing interventions to fight TB in South Africa?* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/can-we-use-housing-interventions-to-fight-tb-in-south-africa/>
- *The two faces of service delivery in South Africa.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/the-two-faces-of-service-delivery-in-south-africa/>
- *Community-driven informal settlement upgrading: the SDI approach.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/15392/>
- *The case for ecological sanitation in South Africa.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/the-case-for-ecological-sanitation-in-south-africa/>
- *Reimagining cemeteries.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/reimagining-cemeteries/>
- *Alternative construction techniques create jobs in South Africa.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/alternative-construction-techniques-create-jobs-in-south-africa/>
- *Making space for informal traders in SA's formal retail areas* - <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/promoting-inclusion-of-micro-enterprises-and-informal-traders-in-sas-formal-retail-areas/>
- *Trash to treasure: sustainable buildings for the poor.* <http://www.urbanafrica.net/urban-voices/trash-to-treasure-sustainable-buildings-for-the-poor/>

## Work experience

Urban and Regional Planning Department, University of the Free State

[January 2015-Present]

*Won the first place prize in the 2018 Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards for the category Curriculum Design and Innovation.*

Lecturing duties:

- Housing BEH612 (2015)
- Integrated Development Planning URID 7912 (2015)
- Professional Practice URPP7924 (2016)
- Research in economics for planners URRE6814 (2015-2020)

- Research in environmental planning for planners UREP6824 (2018-2020)
- Research methodologies for planners URRM7914 (2016 – 2018, 2020)
- Research project – URMD6808 (2018-2020)
- Tourism for planners URTD 7912 (2015)

Supervision (mini-dissertations): From 2015 to early 2020, I have successfully supervised 17 students, two of whom received distinctions. As of 2020, I am supervising 7 students (6 of whom are new masters students). Their mini-dissertation titles from the students who have completed their degrees are as follows:

2016	Hannes de Jager	How can we improve upon the current approaches to planning tourist precincts in small towns in South Africa?
2016	Mmapule Emma Ramaila	Post-crisis intergenerational land use zone gap in deprived townships: the case of Mahwelereng intergenerational multi-purpose interactive facility, Limpopo.
2016	Rossouw Smit	The implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (SPLUMA) development principles in the Western Cape.
2017	Willesia Dorfling	Can local economic development help build a community of artisanal miners? A case study of the Uiba-Oas crystal market community.
2017	Eva Ndahafa Fritz	Proposing alternative housing solutions for informal settlements in Namibia: a case study of the Okahandja Park B informal area.
2017	Mischka Jacobus	Re-evaluating land use regulations for Upper Ashbury, Heidedal.
2017	Rouve Velma Bingle	Urban planners feeding hungry minds: exploring the viability of food gardening as a component of the campus food system at the University of the Free State.
2018	Nthai Phuti Ngwepe	An assessment of the level of incorporation of environmental management principles into municipal planning processes.
2018	MC Janse van Rensburg	Economic growth and stability, income generation and income distribution in an emerging economy: a juggle to find the balance from a town planning perspective.
2018	Ruan Chipps	Mine closure in Welkom: the implication for future land uses.
2018	Kachinga Mosoang	The socio-economic potential of an accurate and complete government immovable asset register under the custodianship of provincial governments: the case of Gauteng Provincial Government.
2019	Refilwe Khabe	Planning today, for tomorrow. A post mine future for Kutlwanong.
2019	Rodney Gazide	Redressing the Spatial Imbalances of the Past Through LED Planning: A Case Study of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality LED Planning)

2020	Jacolene Bothma	The Hypothetical City: Planning a Responsive Built Environment through the Concepts of Home and Identification
2020	Rachel Naukushu	Views of town planners regarding their planning education: a case of post-independence towns in Namibia
2020	Mbali Chalale	An assessment of the extent to which the University of the Free State's Urban and Regional Planning curriculum addresses issues of specific relevance to Africa and South Africa
2020	Susan Groenewald	Incremental development options: layout vs efficiency

Research: I am involved in the following funded research projects (arranged by start date):

<p><i>Coal, energy, and development in South Africa: Reflections from Emalahleni– 2017-2019</i> Editor</p> <p>The overall aim of the research is to investigate the impact of (1) mining production or decline, (2) the changes in mining-labor regimes, and (3) the policy approaches followed by mining companies or contained in government policies on the social and economic environments in mining settlements. The specific geographic focus is Emalahleni, Mpumalanga.</p>
<p><i>The appropriateness, usefulness, and impact of current urban planning curriculum in South African Higher Education – 2017-2019</i> Principal Investigator</p> <p>This is a multi-million rand project funded by the European Science Research Council (ESRC) and South African National Research Foundation (NRF). This project has the following objectives:</p> <p>O1: To investigate the social and economic value of planning education in SA particularly questions of equity and diversity in HE destination choices, graduation rates, and employability outcomes.</p> <p>O2: To deconstruct how the development and delivery of the urban planning undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum addresses issues raised by a changing post-colonial context in SA.</p> <p>O3: Drawing on O2, to assess to what extent issues raised by a changing colonial context is considered and addressed in the UK undergraduate and postgraduate planning curriculum. By doing so and reflecting on lessons from O1, the research will explore the implications for urban planning lecturers in the UK when working with students from Africa and the wider Global South.</p> <p>O4: To create a platform for ideas-sharing between SA academics, professionals and students across the world in order to connect and inform curriculum shaping, teaching methods and wider HE strategies for planning education (especially via SACPLAN)</p> <p>O5: To develop a set of evidence-based resources for HE planning strategies that can address the Global South challenge in SA and across the wider continent.</p>

<p><i>NRF Thuthuka grant – Towards the development of an algorithmic approach to informal settlement upgrading in South African cities – 2017-2019</i></p> <p>Principal Investigator (Sole researcher)</p> <p>This project focuses on developing a settlement design algorithm/decision tree for low-income settlements in South Africa.</p>
<p><i>Background research for the National Spatial Development Framework (South Africa) – 2016</i></p> <p>Co-author</p> <p>This project provided the analytical background to a national level spatial plan which will guide future investment and land use regulation by the South African government.</p>
<p><i>Unpacking the potential of university land to support university growth, local economic development and student learning - the case of Qwa Qwa – 2016-2018.</i></p> <p>Principal Investigator</p> <p>A mixed methods research project looking at the economic potential of this region, and how to expand the University of the Free State campus in the town of Qwa Qwa in such a manner that it supports both local economic and university growth.</p>
<p><i>Land System Constraints on microenterprises in low-income settlements in South African cities – 2016-2017.</i></p> <p>Co-investigator</p> <p>This project is a review of existing knowledge on the role and potential of land management to support the growth and development of microenterprises in low-income settlements in South African cities.</p>
<p><i>From small town to iron town - mining and community in a South African mining town – 2015 - 2018</i></p> <p>Co-investigator</p> <p>Research into the socio-economic dynamics of Postmasburg in the Northern Cape in order to understand the effects of mining on the economy and social dynamics of a small municipality, as a case study with wider implications for South Africa in general.</p>
<p><i>Re-engineering of civic infrastructure – 2015- 2017</i></p> <p>Co-investigator</p> <p>Survey-based research looking at the retrofitting of land use and infrastructure in Jagersfontein in the Free State. The aim is to investigate the sustainability of current approaches for providing infrastructure in small towns in South Africa through this case study.</p>

### Terraplan Town Planners

[July 2013 – December 2014]

Town Planner working under Tinus Scott. Some of the larger projects I was involved in included:

Aforementioned South African Cities Network publications and Housing Development Agency guidelines.

Cape Farm 821, Schaap Kraal: Application to permit 405 dwelling units in a series of walk-up apartment blocks.



Stellendale: Implementation and amendment of approved development rights for a development of 1979 residential units, and 94,642m<sup>2</sup> of commercial and retail GLA.

Engen: Various projects throughout Cape Town for the redevelopment and construction of new Engen Service Stations.

Erf 1425 Scottsdene: Application for development of 35 single residential units.

Erf 825 Hafele Street: Amendment of conditions to permit a 35 unit block of flats.

Tijer Park, Bellville: Assistance with implementation of development rights and upgrades to office complex (development of around ±70 000m<sup>2</sup>).

#### City of Cape Town – Town Planner: Land Use Management

[July 2010-June 2013]:

This involved, but was not limited to, processing of applications (involved in 120-150 applications) for rezoning, subdivision, consent use, departures, with the area covered spanning Cape Towns Southern Suburbs (one of 11 planners dealing with an area of ±270 525 people, covering ±40 000 ha).

### Qualifications

*Registered for a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Free State, 2016-present.*

*Postgraduate certificate in GIS at Leeds University (correspondence), graduated 2013.*

*Masters in City and Regional Planning at the University of Cape Town, 2008-2009, upper second class pass.*

Completed standard planning masters, with studio projects including training in new town plans, regional development frameworks, municipal spatial development frameworks and contextual development frameworks. Awarded 2008 SAPI Award for the best first-year student (joint award).

*BSocSci (Honours) at the University of Cape Town in 2007, upper second class pass.*

Majored in Cultural Geography, covering courses that dealt with the interaction between space and culture, the anthropology of development and conflict management. Awarded scholarship as South African Geographical Societies Honour scholar.

*BSocSci with Subject Distinction in 2004-2006 at the University of Cape Town, upper second class pass.*

Majored in EGS and Sociology, with focus on the interaction between humans and their environment.

Awarded Two Class Medals (Top of my class for Environmental Analysis and Cities of the South), Dean's Merit List (2004-2006) and completed degree with Subject Distinction in Environmental and Geographical Science.

## References

- Professor Verna Nel - University of the Free State - +27 83 657 2965 / [nel.vj@ufs.ac.za](mailto:nel.vj@ufs.ac.za)
- Professor Lochner Nel - +27 82 678 77 35 / [MaraisJGL@ufs.ac.za](mailto:MaraisJGL@ufs.ac.za)
- Associate Professor Lauren Andres – University College London - +44 79 64 383 449 / [l.andres@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.andres@ucl.ac.uk)
- Dr. Phil Jones - University of Birmingham (UK) - +44 121 414 5546 / [p.i.jones@bham.ac.uk](mailto:p.i.jones@bham.ac.uk)
- Dr. Ruth Massey- University of Huddersfield- +44 75 96 136 157 / [r.t.massey@hud.ac.uk](mailto:r.t.massey@hud.ac.uk)