

# CURRICULUM VITAE FOR CHANTELL BEVERLEY WITTEN

## 1 PERSONAL INFORMATION

Surname:	Witten
Names:	Chantell Beverley
Home address:	12 Louis Leipoldt Street, Potchefstroom
Phone: (W)	018 2992473
Phone: Cell	0714855893
Fax (Work):	018 2992464
Email address:	Chantell.Witten@gmail.com
Nationality:	South African

## 2 BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

*(give a short summary of job history and highlights=300 words)*

Chantell has a MSc from the University of the Western Cape (UWC). She is a senior lecturer and is in her final year of her PhD at the North West University, South Africa.

Chantell's work experience spans 21 years in the public health sector and in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural settings. Chantell's opportunity for in a senior position of leadership was catapulted in 2005 when she was headhunted by Helen Keller International as the Country Director for its largest country programme in Bangladesh. At the time, the country programme commanded a budget of almost US Dollars 2 million and an office staff of over 60. Chantell's strong technical skills in nutrition programming and analytical skills stood her well in steering the organization from August 2005-July 2008. Chantell worked closely with a competent team of twelve senior staff providing strategic leadership, stakeholder liaison and fundraising. Chantell co-chaired the INGO Network of 40 from 2006 until her departure in July 2008.

In October 2008, Chantell joined the Medical Research Council as a Senior Researcher coordinating and supporting the WHO Landscape Analysis for South Africa. In 2010/2011, Chantell lead on behalf of the MRC the WHO/UNICEF Landscape Analysis in Egypt. Providing technical oversight and budget control for this project. Chantell developed the technical proposal and provide insights for the financial proposal that won the bid.

In August 2011, Chantell joined UNICEF/South Africa as the Nutrition Specialist working predominantly in infant and young child feeding. The highlight of Chantell's term with UNICEF was the legislating of the Regulations Relating to Foodstuff for Infants and Young Children (R991) which controls the marketing and promotion of designated food products for children. Chantell also provided technical assistance to the Nutrition Programme in KwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces. Managing and supporting projects with a collective budget of R4 million.

Chantell joined the North West University, Department of Nutrition in January 2015 and registered for her PhD in 2016. Since 2015, Chantell has served as a member of the National Department of Health's Ministerial Committee for the Morbidity and Mortality of Children under five in South Africa, as the Nutrition Lead for the South African Civil Society for Women's, Adolescents', and Children's Health (SACSoWACH) and as the technical expert for Nutrition for Gateway Health Institute (GHI).

Chantell currently leads the BSc Nutrition Programme and is a Senior Lecturer in the Dietetics Programme lecturing in both undergraduate and post-graduate programmes.

This CV particularly speaks to Chantell's technical expertise in academic student training, student programme implementation and organizational and project leadership over the past 10 years 2009 - 2019.

### 3 ACADEMIC HISTORY

#### 3.1 Tertiary Education

(\*list from most recent)

Institution	*Qualification	Specialisation	Date obtained
North West University	PhD (Nutrition)		Registered 2016 expected to submit in Nov 2019
University of the Western Cape	MSc (Nutrition Management)		September 2002
University of the Western Cape	BSc (Dietetics)		March 1996

### 4 OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY

(\*list from most recent)

Institution	Position	*Date
North West University	Senior Lecturer	1 January 2015 to date
UNICEF/South Africa	Nutrition Specialist	1 August 2011 to 31 Dec 2014
Medical Research Council	Senior researcher	1 Nov 2008 – 31 July 2011
World Food Programme (UN/WFP)	Consultant	15 August 2008 – 30 Sept 2008
Helen Keller International	Country Director	1 August 2005 – 31 July 2008
University of Cape Town	Lecturer/Clinical Associate	1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005
University of the Western Cape	Researcher / Project Coordinator	1 March 2001 – 31 March 2004
South African Sugar Association	Community Nutrition Officer	1 July 1997 – 28 February 2001
Livingstone Hospital, Department of Health, Eastern Cape Province	Clinical Dietitian	1 January 1996 – May 1997

### 5 OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY

Organization	Position	Dates of service	Reference
North West University	Senior Lecturer	1 Jan 2015 to date	<a href="mailto:Grieta.Hanekom@nwu.ac.za">Grieta.Hanekom@nwu.ac.za</a> <a href="mailto:Marius.Smuts@nwu.ac.za">Marius.Smuts@nwu.ac.za</a>

**Main responsibilities** Academic programme development for Nutrition and Dietetics – sourcing learning materials, presenting blended learning activities for under- and post-graduate students (face-to-face and online learning), academic formative and summative assessments. Representation and service on the School and Faculty committees, community engagement projects for students' work integrated learning, context-specific learning and scenario problem-solving learning. Research proposal development, Masters student supervision, technical assistance and resource expertise to internal and external working groups. Service as technical expert for the National Department of Health Ministerial Committee for the Morbidity and Mortality of Children under 5 years (CoMMiC), Technical expert on the National Department of Health Breastfeeding Technical Working Group, Nutrition Lead for the South African Civil Society for Women's, Adolescents' and Children's Health (SACSoWACH), Member of the Child Health Priorities Conference and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the Child Health Priorities Conference 2019. Representation for NWU at national and international events. Fundraising for nutrition-related activities for SACSoWACH.

Technical resource and proposal development for Gateway Health Institute (2016 to date), PhD proposal development, source funding, research execution, data management, research team management and publications (2015 -2019). Represented NWU at national and international events as an invited speaker and subject matter expert. I currently serve for the consecutive year as a mentor and resource person for TEKANO Health Equity Programme supporting fellows in their proposal development and write up for their fellows through the Atlantic Philanthropies Fellowship Programme (2018 and 2019)

**UNICEF/South Africa Nutrition Specialist**      **1 Aug 2011 to 31 Dec 2014**      [smabhena@unicef.org](mailto:smabhena@unicef.org)

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for Nutrition for UNICEF/South Africa in the areas of Child Health and Development, Social Protection, Early Childhood Development and in emergencies. Project Manager and oversight for the development of the Regulations for Foodstuff Relating to Infant and Young Child Feeding gazetted on 6 December 2012. Project Manager and budget oversight for the development and training of the Community Caregiver Training Materials for the Department of Health: KwaZulu-Natal 2012-2014, Project Manager and budget oversight for the UNILEVER WASH Programme (2012-2014), Project Manager and budget oversight for Nutrition in Early Childhood Development (2013-2014), Project Manager and budget oversight for the Hospital Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition in the Eastern Cape (2012-2014). Donor liaison for internal and external funders, funding proposal development, and representation for UNICEF/South Africa at National and Regional events (2011-2014), Acting Officer-In-Charge (OIC) for the Chief of Health & Nutrition.

**Medical Research Council Senior researcher**      **1 Nov 2008 – 31 Jul 2011**      [Ali.Dhansay@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Ali.Dhansay@mrc.ac.za)

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for Nutrition in Infant and Young Child Feeding, Community-based nutrition programming and in food and nutrition household food security. Research and funding proposal development, scientific article writing, Project Coordinator for the scoping exercise for a Center of Excellence for Nutrition in South Africa (2008-2009), Project Coordinator and budget oversight for the WHO Landscape Analysis of South Africa (2008 -2010) and the WHO/UNICEF Landscape Analysis for Egypt (2010-2011). Represented the MRC at national and international events

**World Programme (UNDP/WFP) Food Consultant**      **15 Aug 2008 – 30 Sep 2008**

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for nutrition in Infant and Young Child Feeding, Community-based nutrition programming and household food and nutrition security for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programme implementation. Technical report writing and presentation to the Integrated UN project team

**Helen Keller International Country Director**      **1 Aug 2005 – 31 Jul 2008**      [nhaselow@hki.org](mailto:nhaselow@hki.org)

**Main responsibilities** Country office strategic programming and oversight, direct supervision of eight senior national and international staff members and subordinates. Fundraising for country office programme for flagship programmes the Nutrition Surveillance Project with a budget of USD1.2 million/year (2005-2008) from the Royal Netherlands Embassy (2005-2007) and from 2007 until my departure in July 2008 from the European

Union. Fundraising and proposal development for the flagship programme the Homestead Food Production Project for USD600 000/year with Save the Children. Served as the Co-Chair with UNICEF/Bangladesh on the Nutrition INGO Network coordinating programme outcomes and collective action for strategic outputs with the government of Bangladesh. Initiated the Essential Nutrition Actions project with seed funding from Concern World Wide. Developed more than five funded proposals for work in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and the UNHCR Rohingya Refugee camps (2006-2008). Represented HKI at national and international events.

**University of Cape Town**                      **Lecturer/Clinical Associate**                      **1 Apr 2004 – 31 Mar 2005**                      [Seyi.Amosun@uct.ac.za](mailto:Seyi.Amosun@uct.ac.za)

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for nutrition in Infant and Young Child Feeding, Community-based nutrition programming and household food and nutrition security. Academic programme development for Dietetics – sourcing learning materials, presenting blended learning activities for undergraduate students, Academic formative and summative assessments. Representation and service on the School and Faculty committees, Community engagement projects for student work integrated learning, context-specific learning and scenario problem-solving learning. Research proposal development, Honours student supervision, technical assistance and resource expertise to internal and external working groups. Represented UCT at national and international events.

**University of the Western Cape, School of Public Health**                      **Researcher / Project Coordinator**                      **1 Mar 2001 - 31 Mar 2004**                      [MChopra@worldbank.org](mailto:MChopra@worldbank.org)

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for nutrition in Infant and Young Child Feeding, Community-based nutrition programming and household food and nutrition security. Distance-learning material development and training on the UWC/SOPH Winter and Summer Schools (2001-2004). Project coordinator for USAID-funded project 'Mdtansane for Vitamin A' (2002-2004). Donor liaison, report writing and scientific article writing. Represented UWC at national and international events.

**South African Sugar Association**                      **Community Nutrition Officer**                      **1 Jul 1997 - 28 Feb 2001**                      [Carol@kiteco.co.za](mailto:Carol@kiteco.co.za)

**Main responsibilities** Technical Lead for nutrition in child health, diabetes and oral health. Training and capacity development for health professionals most notably nurses, doctors and dentist on the role of sugar in the human diet and disease management for diabetes, hypertension and HIV/AIDS. Stakeholder liaison with schools, universities, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture and other private sectors like media and food and beverage manufacturers. Served on my professional association –the Association for Dietetics in South Africa (1998-2001). Supported material development and testing for school children, universities and health professionals. Managed the distribution of SASA education materials (1998 – 2001). Represented SASA at national and regional events.

**Livingstone Hospital, Department of Health, Eastern Cape Province**                      **Clinical Dietitian**                      **1 Jan 1996 - 31 May 1997**                      [annatjie.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:annatjie.smith48@gmail.com)

**Main responsibilities** Nutrition clinical management for paediatric and adult wards with specific focus on ICU, gastroenterology, renal and surgical care for inpatients and Diabetes and Hypertension management for outpatients. Management and budget oversight of the therapeutic diet kitchen services and six staff. Stakeholder liaison with other clinical departments, suppliers and the provincial leadership of the time. Represented the Department of Health at provincial and national events.

## 6 RESEARCH PROFILE

- Dissertation

Thesis title: **Mothers' breastfeeding experiences and practices: An explorative mixed methods study in the sub-district of Tlokwe, North West Province, South Africa**

Chantell developed her proposal, executed the research and is currently writing up her PhD. She also secured funding of R400 000 for this project which included two Master studies for students from designated race groups. Both students will complete their studies in 2019.

### 6.1 Research reports for work purposes (not peer reviewed or published)

(\*list from most recent)

Institution for whom the work was done	Title/Activity	*Date
UCT/Children's Institute	Expert resource for the decade review of the Child Gauge 2009 – 2019	Feb 2019
Gateway Health Institute	Training package for promoting and supporting breastfeeding in the context of HIV	Oct 2018
SACSoWACH	Literature Review of monitoring and reporting systems to improve Code compliance	Sept 2017
SACSoWACH	Literature Review on interventions to improve breastfeeding at scale	Sept 2016
NWU	Project Evident: South Africa Case study for evidence-informed Nutrition Programming in South Africa	June 2016
FHI360/USAID	Literature Review on global evidence on effective programmes to improve under 5 child health and nutrition	Oct 2015
Advocacy Aid	Road to Health Booklet Survey in North West Province	Nov 2015
Discovery Health	SMARTSwitch Food App	Nov 2015

### 6.2 Project Management in the last 5 years

Institution for whom the work was done	Title/Activity	Collaborators	Date
NDoH CoMMiC	Better management of the stabilization phase in children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM)	Naude, C (SUN) Mareverwa, J (DoH:NW) Mashishi, M (DoH:LP) Mfolo, V (DoH:GP)	Sept 2018 - current
SACSoWACH	Roundtable on Breastfeeding Support in the work place	Save the Children, SABR, GHI, FHI360	22 Nov 2018 17 Oct 2017
SACSoWACH	Workplace support programmes for Breastfeeding women	NDoH, FHI360, SABR	June - Aug 2018

NWU	Mapping of training needs for Public Health Nutrition in SA	UWC, UCT, FS, UL	June 2017 - March 2018
NWU	Evidence-informed best practices in Nutrition from South Africa	University of Gent, Ethiopia Public Health Institute	Jan 2015 - June 2016
UNICEF	The Mid-Term Review of the Strategic Plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Women's Health (MNCWH) and Nutrition in South Africa	NDoH, PDoH and development partners	June - Nov 2015
UNICEF	Diagnostic Review of Nutrition Programmes for Children under 5 years	NDoH, PDoH and development partners	2014-2015
UNICEF	Nutrition Training for Community Caregivers in KZN	MCDI, PDoH, CMT	2013-2015
UNICEF	Monitoring of Code compliance in South Africa	NDoH, NWU	2012- 2013

### 6.3 Supervision of Master students

Student Surname and Initials	Masters Student or Doctoral Student?	Programme	Assessment completed? (Y/N)	Expected Graduation (mm/yyyy)
Olifant, B	Masters	BSc Nutrition	N	Nov 2019
Semenkane, NM	Masters	BSc Nutrition	N	Nov 2019
Van Rensburg, C	Masters	BSc Dietetics	N	Nov 2019

### 6.4 External examination

Institution	Doctorate / Masters / Honours Student?	Programme (where applicable)
University of Limpopo	Masters 2019	MSc (Nutrition) - Ms MM Monyela
University of Limpopo	Masters -2018	MPH - Solomon Makwela
University of Limpopo	Masters - 2018	MSc (Dietetics) - MA Mokhabuki
University of Pretoria	Masters - 2017	MSc (Dietetics) - CF Coutsides
University of Pretoria	Masters -2017	MSc (Nutrition) - Wezzie Kumwenda
University of the Western Cape	Masters - 2016	MPh – Halder Mathoto

### 6.5 Internal examination

North-West University	Masters - 2017	MSc (Nutrition) – T Seru
North-West University	Masters -2016	MSc (Dietetics) – SK Greyvenstein



## **6.6 Professional and research activities (last 5 years)**

Registered for PhD studies 2016 – to date

2019 Child Health Priorities Conference, 28-30 November 2019

Chair of the local organizing committee and secretary of the Child Health Priorities Association

2016 to date

Prof Haroon Saloojee (Haroon. [Saloojee@wits.ac.za](mailto:Saloojee@wits.ac.za))

UFS/ Continuous Nutrition Education Symposium

Breakfast and beyond: Navigating future landscapes

Invited speaker: 13 June 2019

Prof Corinna Walsh ([Walshcm@ufs.ac.za](mailto:Walshcm@ufs.ac.za))

NWU/Center of Excellence for Nutrition

PhD support programme

Invited speaker and resource person for qualitative research methods

25 March – 12 April 2019

Ref: Prof Edelweiss Wentzel-Viljoen ([Edelweiss.Wentzel-Viljoen@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Edelweiss.Wentzel-Viljoen@nwu.ac.za))

UCT/Children's Institute

Decade review of the Child Gauge 2009 -2019

Nutrition resource

11 February 2019

Lori Lake ([Lori.Lake@uct.ac.za](mailto:Lori.Lake@uct.ac.za))

SACSoWACH Breastfeeding Roundtable on maternity protection

22 November 2018

Speaker

Stasha Jordan ([stasha@sabr.org.za](mailto:stasha@sabr.org.za))

Launch for the Grow Great Campaign

17 October 2018

Invited panellist

Dr Kopano Mabasa ([kopano@growgreat.co.za](mailto:kopano@growgreat.co.za))

Baby Premie & Me Conference 2017

1-2 December 2017

Invited speaker: Protecting the Breastfeeding environment in South Africa

Annatjie Smith ([annatjie.smith48@gmail.com](mailto:annatjie.smith48@gmail.com))



SADC Launch of the 2017 Global Nutrition Report

21 November 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa

Invited panellist: The role of research and academia in improving nutrition advocacy

Rachel Toku ([RachelT@gracamacheltrust.org](mailto:RachelT@gracamacheltrust.org))

IUNS International Nutrition Conference

15-20 October 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Poster presentation: A systematic review of reviews on effective home, family and community based interventions from low- and middle-income countries to inform the breastfeeding action plan for South Africa

Prof Salome Kruger ([Salome.Kruger@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Salome.Kruger@nwu.ac.za))

TEKANO Leadership Programme

12-13 July 2017, Cape Town, South Africa

Resource person: Nutrition advocacy in building civil activism for food and nutrition security

Munya Saruchera ([munya@tekano.org.za](mailto:munya@tekano.org.za))

The 2nd World Breastfeeding Conference 2016

11-14 December 2016, Johannesburg, South Africa

Invited speaker: 20 years of breastfeeding advocacy from research to reaching hearts & minds

Sue Jones ([sjones@savethechildren.org.za](mailto:sjones@savethechildren.org.za))

The World Nutrition Cape Town 2016

30 August – 1 September 2016

Workshop Coordinator: 'Building competence in effective nutrition education training – imperative to improving public health nutrition' at the World Nutrition Conference in Cape Town, South Africa on 1 September 2016

Prof Rina Swart ([rswart@uwc.ac.za](mailto:rswart@uwc.ac.za))

Specialized Training in Translating Evidence into Country-specific Recommendations

ITM/Belgium and the Ethiopia Institute of Public Health

16-27 November 2015

Prof Johann Jerling ([Johann.Jerling@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Johann.Jerling@nwu.ac.za))

FAO/ENACT Education for Effective Nutrition in Action

29 June – 3 July 2015

[nutrition-education@fao.org](mailto:nutrition-education@fao.org)

ITM/Belgium International Course in Evidence-informed Nutrition & Health

11 to 22 May 2015

Prof Johann Jerling ([Johann.Jerling@nwu.ac.za](mailto:Johann.Jerling@nwu.ac.za))

Online Dynamic Leadership Certificate by UNICEF & Harvard Business School

October 2013 – May 2014

Sibenzile Mabhena ([smabhena@unicef.org](mailto:smabhena@unicef.org))

Technical Lead for MNCWH & N Strategy Review, National Department of Health

April – August 2014

Dr Lesley Bamford ([Lesley.Bamford@health.gov.za](mailto:Lesley.Bamford@health.gov.za))

UN Inter-Agency Task Team on Food, Nutrition & HIV – University of the Western Cape, Center of Excellence for Food Security

22-23 May 2014

Prof Rina Swart ([rswart@uwc.ac.za](mailto:rswart@uwc.ac.za))

Evaluation of the Nutrition Programmes for Children under 5 years in South Africa

UNICEF Nutrition Lead for The Presidency and the National Department of Health

June 2012 – March 2014.

Dr Ian Goldman ([Ian.Goldman@uct.ac.za](mailto:Ian.Goldman@uct.ac.za))

Women in Science and Engineering

November 2013

<http://www.sawise.uct.ac.za/sawise/people/profiles/witten>

WHO Landscape Analysis - Egypt

WHO Landscape Analysis – South Africa

2008 – 2010

Dr Ali Dhansay ([Ali.Dhansay@mrc.ac.za](mailto:Ali.Dhansay@mrc.ac.za))

## **6.7 Publications**

### **Child health, infant formula funding and South African health professionals: Eliminating conflict of interest**

Lake, L., Kroon, M., Sanders, D., Witten, C., Swart, R., Saloojee, H., Goga, A., Scott, C., Manyuha, M., & Doherty, T.

Ref.: SAMJ14336

### **Conflict of interest and the infant formula industry—a call to action**

Doherty, T., Lake, L., Kroon, M., Witten, C., Rhode, N. & Sanders, D

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2019/10/03/conflict-of-interest-and-the-infant-formula-industry-a-call-to-action/>

### **Local variations of exclusive breastfeeding rates in Africa**

Reimers, P., Witten CB & Coutsooudis, A

**[Nat Med.](#) 2019 Aug;25(8):1190-1191. doi: 10.1038/s41591-019-0532-1.**

**<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0532-1>**

### **South Africa is starting to accept public breastfeeding. But change is slow**

The Conversation, July 20, 2018

<https://theconversation.com/south-africa-is-starting-to-accept-public-breastfeeding-but-change-is-slow-80293>

## South Africa has made giant strides in breastfeeding. But it's still taboo in public places

The Conversation, July 19, 2017

<http://theconversation.com/south-africa-has-made-giant-strides-in-breastfeeding-but-its-still-taboo-in-public-places-80694>

## Community-based agricultural interventions in the context of food and nutrition security in South Africa

South African Journal of Clinical Nutrition, [Vol 24 No 1 \(2011\)](#)

### 6.8 Key skills and competencies

Skill /competencies	Rating
Organization leadership	Strong
Technical information sourcing, vetting and contextualizing	Strong
Report writing and presentation	Strong
Training and facilitation	Strong
Project management	Strong
Stakeholder liaison and strategic partnership	Strong
Data analysis	Adequate
Financial management and reporting	Adequate
Team oversight and management	Strong

## 7 REFERENCES

### 7.1 National

Institution	Name	Position	Tel/Cell	Email Address
CoMMiC	Dr Neil McKerrow	Head: Pediatrics	033 3952718	<a href="mailto:NEIL.McKERROW@kznhealth.gov.za">NEIL.McKERROW@kznhealth.gov.za</a>
NDoH	Dr Lesley Bamford	Child Health Specialist	+27 795158353	<a href="mailto:Lesley.Bamford@health.gov.za">Lesley.Bamford@health.gov.za</a>
North West University	Prof Edelweiss Wentzel-Vijoen	Researcher	+27 823790023	<a href="mailto:Edelweiss.Wentzel-viljoen@nwu.ac.za">Edelweiss.Wentzel-viljoen@nwu.ac.za</a>
WITS/School of Public Health	Dr Wiedaad Slemming	Researcher	+27 720356281	<a href="mailto:Wiedaad.Slemming@wits.ac.za">Wiedaad.Slemming@wits.ac.za</a>

### 7.2 International

Institution	Name	Affiliation	Email Address
Bangladesh Alive & Thrive	Dr Rukhsana Haider	BD NGO Network	<a href="mailto:Rukhsana.Haider@gmail.com">Rukhsana.Haider@gmail.com</a>
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Dr Martin Bloem	Previous HKI Regional Director	<a href="mailto:mbloem1@jhu.edu">mbloem1@jhu.edu</a>
TechnoServe	Larry Umunna	Previous Director GAIN - South Africa	<a href="mailto:lumunna@tns.org">lumunna@tns.org</a>