

# CURRICULUM VITAE FOR CHANTELL BEVERLEY WITTEN

## 1 PERSONAL INFORMATION

Surname:	Witten
Names:	Chantell Beverley
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## 2 BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

### **This cv focuses on my skill set and work experience in Child Health & Nutrition programming**

Chantell has a PhD in Nutrition from the North-West University/Center of Excellence for Nutrition in South Africa and by profession is a dietitian registered with the Health Professionals Council of South Africa (HPCSA). Chantell's PhD dissertation was a mixed-methods prospective cohort study titled 'Mothers' breastfeeding experiences and practices: An explorative mixed methods study in the sub-district of Tlokwe, North West Province, South Africa' (<https://repository.nwu.ac.za/handle/10394/36347>).

Chantell's work experience in child health and nutrition programming spans almost 15 years across several sectors namely academia, local NGOs and with international nutrition experience with the South African Medical Research Council, various UN agencies and Helen Keller International/Bangladesh.

Chantell's programming skills and work experience includes the conception, planning, execution and write-up of research, the most recent being her PhD (2016-2020) in which Chantell co-supervised two Masters' sub-studies and published her findings

(<https://internationalbreastfeedingjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13006-020-00320-w>).

Before joining the North-West University, Chantell served as the Nutrition Specialist for UNICEF/South Africa (2011-2014) and was the Nutrition Lead coordinating the Nutrition component of the mid-term review for the South African Strategic plan for Maternal, Newborn, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition (<https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/national-report-mid-term-review-strategic-plan-maternal-newborn-child-and-womens-health>). During her term at the Medical Research Council (2009-2011), Chantell was the project coordinator for both the WHO/UNICEF Landscape Analysis for South Africa ([https://www.who.int/nutrition/landscape\\_analysis/SouthAfrica/en/](https://www.who.int/nutrition/landscape_analysis/SouthAfrica/en/)) and Egypt

([https://www.who.int/nutrition/landscape\\_analysis/Egypt/en/](https://www.who.int/nutrition/landscape_analysis/Egypt/en/)). In her capacity as the Nutrition Technical lead and Country Director of Helen Keller International Bangladesh Office (2005-2008), Chantell provided technical oversight in the research work undertaken in the Nutrition Surveillance Program and the Homestead Food Production Program. Both these programs served as the evidence-base for many country-level interventions in Bangladesh including as primary country-level data source for WHO and UNICEF, particularly for anthropometric and micronutrient deficiencies for children less than five years old. During Chantell's tenure at HKI/Bangladesh, Chantell with the support of the then Vice-President for Programs, Dr Victoria Quinn introduced the Essential Nutrition Actions as a component to the Homestead Food Production Programme. Both in her capacity with at UNICEF, SAMRC and HKI, Chantell was responsible for proposal development, strategic partnership management and budget control.

During her services with the University of the Western Cape, School of Public Health (2001-2004), Chantell served as the project coordinator for South Africa's first-ever vitamin A supplementation pilot programme undertaken between 2001-2003 in the Eastern Cape. Chantell provided technical oversight for the vitamin A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice household survey and the facility-based quality improvement plan. Chantell also served as a data collector for the evaluation survey of the Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT) programme in the Eastern Cape (2002-2004) (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12570191/>)

Since 2015 to date, Chantell serves as the Nutrition Lead for the coalition network, the South African Civil Society for Women's, Adolescents' and Children's Health (<https://www.sacsowach.org.za/>), a member of the National Department of Health Breastfeeding Technical Working Group and as a member of the National Department of Health's Ministerial Committee for the Morbidity and Mortality of Children under 5 years (CoMMiC).

Chantell's currently serves as the Chairperson for the Child Health Priorities Association and serves on the editorial team for the 2020 University of Cape Town's Children's Institute's annual publication the Child Gauge which is focused on 'Food Security and Nutrition for Children'. Chantell's passion lies in child health and nutrition to which she brings her extensive experience and knowledge to bear. As a social justice activist and researcher, Chantell seeks opportunities to bring evidence and best practice to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable citizens.

### 3 OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY

Institution	Position	*Date
University of the Free State	Academic support	1 March 2020 – to date
North West University	Senior Lecturer	1 January 2015 to 28 February 2020
UNICEF/South Africa	Nutrition Specialist	1 August 2011 to 31 December 2014
Medical Research Council	Researcher	1 November 2008 – 31 July 2011
World Food Programme (UN/WFP)	Consultant	15 August 2008 – 30 October 2008
Helen Keller International	Country Director	1 August 2005 – 31 July 2008
University of Cape Town	Lecturer	1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005
University of the Western Cape	Researcher	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	Hospital Dietitian	1 January 1996 – May 1997

### 4 ACADEMIC HISTORY

#### 4.1 Tertiary Education

Institution	*Qualification	Specialisation	Date obtained
North West University	PhD (Nutrition)	Mixed methods research	2016 -2019
University of the Western Cape	MSc (Nutrition Management)	Nutrition Programming	September 2002
University of the Western Cape	BSc (Dietetics)	Dietetics	March 1996

#### 4.2 Short courses (last 3 years)

Institution	*Qualification	Specialisation	Date obtained
North West University	Short course in curriculum transformation	Blend teaching and learning strategies	March-July 2019
University of Cape Town	Children's Rights and Advocacy	Advocacy and leadership	July 2018
FUNDISA/UNISA	Mixed Methods Research	Mixed Methods research	4-9 November 2017
John Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health	Social Behaviour Change and Communication in a globalized world	Behaviour Change and Communication	1-21 June 2017
Ethiopian Public Health Institute	Using evidence for context-specific programming	Evidence-informed decision-making	14-21 September 2016
FAO/Kenya	ENACT for effective Nutrition Communication and Education	Social Behaviour Change and Communication	17-26 July 2015
North West University	Systematic reviews	Using evidence for programme relevance	10-17 May 2015

## 5 TEACHING-LEARNING PROFILE

### 5.1 Modules/ Responsibility

Module	Study yr	Description of responsibilities	Contact / Distance	Date
Postgrad Public Health Nutrition	Masters	Assist with selected lectures, support student assignments and student assessments	2 weeks	July – Nov 2017 / 2018
Community Nutrition (NUTC 411)	4th year	Assist with selected lectures, community profile study and student assessments	2 weeks	3 groups per year 2017/2018
Nutrition Research (NUTR 411)	4th year	Assist with selected lectures, student supervision and assessments	10 weeks	Groups of 3 2016 / 2017 / 2018
Nutrition through the lifecycle NUTB 211	2nd year	Prepare and deliver lecture material, plan and organize student exposures, excursions and work integrated learning placements, prepare formative and summative assessments	12 week contact sessions	Feb – July 2017 / 2018
Nutrients (NUTB 121)	1 <sup>st</sup> year		13 week contact sessions	Aug – Oct 2017 / 2018
Nutrition Policy and Programme Management (NPPM 471)	4 <sup>th</sup> year		10 week placement	
Nutrition Practice in Communities (NPCM 471)	4 <sup>th</sup> year		10 week placement	Jan-Nov 2016 Jan-Nov 2016
Nutrition in Public Health (411)	4 <sup>th</sup> year		6 weeks	Mar-April 2016
Nutrition Programming (321)	3 <sup>rd</sup> year		8 weeks	Apr-Jun 2015
Nutrition and Food Security (NFSY311)	3 <sup>rd</sup> year		3 weeks	Mar-Jun 2016

### 5.2 Examiner

#### 5.2.1 Internal examiner/moderator for undergraduate courses

Module/Subject Examiner	Module / Subject Moderator
Postgrad Public Health Nutrition	Community Nutrition (NUTC 321)
Community Nutrition (NUTC 411)	Community Nutrition (NUTC 411)
Nutrition Research (NUTR 411)	
Nutrition through the lifecycle (NUTB 211)	
Nutrients (NUTB 121)	
Nutrition Policy and Programme Management (NPPM 471)	
Nutrition Practice in Communities (NPCM 471)	
Nutrition in Public Health (411)	
Nutrition Programming (321)	
Nutrition and Food Security (NFSY311)	

#### 5.2.2 External examiner for undergraduate courses

Institution	Module/Subject	Date
University of the Western Cape	Community Nutrition (DIE 322)	Oct 2018/2017/2016
University of the Western Cape	Applied Community DIE 404	
University of Venda	Integrated Community Nutrition Practicum RNI4883	June 2015/2016
		March 2015 / 2016

## 6 RESEARCH PROFILE

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

### 6.1 Research reports for work purposes (not peer reviewed or published) (Last 3 years)

(\*list from most recent)

Institution for whom the work was done	Title/Activity	*Date
NWU/ImpENSA	Improved early nutrition for South Africa	Marc 2019 -Feb 2020
SACSoWACH	Concept Note for a Roundtable on Breastfeeding Support in the Workplace	October 018
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
FHI360/USAID	Literature Review on 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 Attendance of workshops/symposia (last 3 years)

#### 6.2.1 National workshops/symposia

National workshops/symposia details	Venue	Date attended
University of the Western Cape, CoE:Food Security and PLAAS	<a href="http://foodsecurity.ac.za/events/child-nutrition-during-covid-19/">http://foodsecurity.ac.za/events/child-nutrition-during-covid-19/</a>	9 December 2020
World Bank from Double Burden to Double Duties Actions	<a href="https://www.ifpri.org/event/virtual-event-new-nutrition-reality-time-recognize-and-tackle-double-burden-malnutrition">https://www.ifpri.org/event/virtual-event-new-nutrition-reality-time-recognize-and-tackle-double-burden-malnutrition</a>	7 December 2020
Child Health Priorities Conference 25-26 Nov 2020	Session moderator: Child Nutrition during COVID	26 November 2020
Vitamin Angels and SACSoWACH	A Review of the Latest Evidence and Global Recommendations to Consider on Micronutrient Support During Pregnancy in South Africa Confirmation <a href="https://www.goodthingsguy.com/opinion/protecting-pregnant-women-children/">https://www.goodthingsguy.com/opinion/protecting-pregnant-women-children/</a>	6 November 2020
FERL and NSSA titled: "Beyond #COVID-19: Unity in Growing and Sustaining Good Nutrition"	Online webinar	16 October 2020
"Stories of Challenge in Nutrition" research.	Online Consultation Meeting <a href="http://www.southernafricafoodlab.org">www.southernafricafoodlab.org</a>	14 October
The African Child Trauma Conference,	Online webinar invited panellist <a href="http://www.childtraumainconferenceafrica.com">www.childtraumainconferenceafrica.com</a>	7 October 2020
The Dullah Omar Institute and the Centre of Excellence for Food Security, University of the Western Cape,	Online seminar Student Hunger Seminar,	20 September 2020
SACSoWACH/ Breastfeeding Dialogue	Webinar moderator	6 August 2020
DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Human Development webinar	Invited speaker on 'Missing from the Conversation'	22 July 2020
UCT/Children's Institute Child Gauge	UCT, Cape Town	17 February 2020

Nutrition Lead, SACSoWACH Roundtable	UNHCR, Pretoria	22 November 2018
Invited speaker, BRIDGE ECD Community of Practice	Sandton, Johannesburg	23 October 2018
Panellist, Grow Great Campaign	Sandton, Johannesburg	17 October 2018
UNICEF/EASRO Code Monitoring and Enforcement Consultative Meeting	Sandton, Johannesburg	9 October 2018
Organizing Committee for the Child Priorities Conference 2018	WITS/Johannesburg	30 Nov – 2 December 2018
Facilitator SACSoWACH Roundtable on Maternity Rights and Breastfeeding Support in the Workplace	Pretoria	22 November 2018
Panellist BRIDGE Early Child Development Community of Practice	Johannesburg	23 October 2018
Panellist Grow Great Campaign	Johannesburg	17 October 2018
Panellist FHI260 Nutrition Day	Pretoria	19 September 2018
Invited speaker Baby Preemie & Me Conference,	Port Elizabeth	1-2 December 2017
Child Priorities Conference	UCT, Cape Town	30 Nov 2017
Panellist at the launch of the Global Nutrition Report	UN/WFP, Johannesburg	4 November 2017
SACSoWACH workplace support for breastfeeding	WITS/School of Public Health	27 October 2017
Regulations R991: Victories and violations	Gauteng Breastfeeding Forum/Johannesburg	1 September 2017
Mixed methods research	UNISA/Saint George Hotel	31 Aug – 1 September 2017
Building competence in effective nutrition education	UWC/Cape Town	31 Aug 2016
Civil society engagement	NWU/Potchefstroom	26 July 2016
PAN African conference on public service accountability	Centurion, Johannesburg	15-16 October 2015
9 <sup>th</sup> DOHaD Conference	Cape Town	9-12 Nov 2015

### 6.2.2 International workshops/symposia (last 3 years)

International workshops/ symposia details	Venue	Date attended
21 <sup>st</sup> IUNS Nutrition Conference	Buenos Aires, Argentina	15 – 20 October 2017
2 <sup>nd</sup> World Breastfeeding Conference	Johannesburg, South Africa	14-17 December 2016
World Nutrition Conference	Cape Town	29 Aug – 2 Sept 2016
EVIDENT Project Gent University	Brussels, Belgium	6-8 Dec 2016
European Federation of Associations for Dietetics (EFAD)	Amsterdam	21-25 October 2015
FAO/Effective Nutrition in Action (ENACT)	Effective Nutrition Education	29 Jun – 3 July 2015
Federation for African Nutrition Societies (FANUS)	Tanzania	30 May – 2 June 2015

### 6.2.3 Publications

Author	Publication	Date
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Chantell Witten	Why so many mothers give up breastfeeding their babies so soon <a href="https://theconversation.com/why-many-south-african-mothers-give-up-breastfeeding-their-babies-so-soon-14557">https://theconversation.com/why-many-south-african-mothers-give-up-breastfeeding-their-babies-so-soon-14557</a>	5 Oct 2020
Chantell Witten	Psychosocial barriers and enablers of exclusive breastfeeding: lived experiences of mothers in low-income townships, North West Province, South Africa <a href="https://internationalbreastfeedingjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13006-020-00320-w">https://internationalbreastfeedingjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13006-020-00320-w</a>	Aug2020
Lake et al	Child health, infant formula funding and South African health professionals: Eliminating conflict of interest <a href="http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/12787">http://www.samj.org.za/index.php/samj/article/view/12787</a>	27 Nov 2019
Reimers, Witten and Coutsoudis	Local variations in exclusive breastfeeding rates in Africa <a href="https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0532-1">https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-019-0532-1</a>	22 July 2019
Chantell Witten	South Africa is starting to accept public breastfeeding but change is slow <a href="http://theconversation.com/south-africa-is-starting-to-accept-public-breastfeeding-but-change-is-slow-80293">http://theconversation.com/south-africa-is-starting-to-accept-public-breastfeeding-but-change-is-slow-80293</a>	20 July 2018
Chantell Witten	South Africa has made giant strides in breastfeeding but it still taboo in public places <a href="https://theconversation.com/south-africa-has-made-giant-strides-in-breastfeeding-but-its-still-taboo-in-public-places-80694">https://theconversation.com/south-africa-has-made-giant-strides-in-breastfeeding-but-its-still-taboo-in-public-places-80694</a>	19 July 2017
Faber, M., Witten, CB & Drimi, S	Community-based agricultural interventions in the context of food and nutrition security in South Africa <a href="http://www.sajcn.co.za/index.php/SAJCN/article/view/461">http://www.sajcn.co.za/index.php/SAJCN/article/view/461</a>	27 Nov 2010

## 7 MANAGEMENT

### 7.1 Committee memberships

#### 7.1.1 North-West University Internal Committees

Institution	Name of committee	Role	Responsibility since year-----
NWU	Deputy Dean's BF Working group	Technical support and liaison for workplace support for breastfeeding	August 2018 – to date
NWU	Faculty Committee	Representation: School of Physiology, Nutrition & Consumer Science	2015-2017
NWU	Programme Committee	Representation Nutrition	2015-2017
NWU	Exam Committee	Representation Nutrition	2015-2017

#### 7.1.2 External Committees

Institution	Name of committee	Role	Responsibility since year-----
NDoH Ministerial appointment on COMMiC	Committee for the Morbidity and Mortality of Children under 5 years	Technical support	2015 – to date
Child Health Priorities Association Committee	Chairperson	Leadership / Technical	2020-2021
SACSOWACH	Nutrition Lead	Technical lead	2015 – to date
ADSA Spokesperson	Association of Dietetics in South Africa –World Breastfeeding media liaison	Spoke person	2015 – to date
NDoH	Breastfeeding technical Working Group	Technical support	2015 – 2018

## 8 REFERENCES

### 8.1 National

Institution	Name	Qualification	Specialisation	Email Address
Centre of Excellence for Food Security	Prof Julian May	PhD (Epidemiology)	Poverty studies	<a href="mailto:jmay@uwc.ac.za">jmay@uwc.ac.za</a>
African Nutrition Leadership Programme	Prof Salome Kruger	PhD Nutrition	Nutrition	<a href="mailto:Salome.Kruger@nwu.ac.za">Salome.Kruger@nwu.ac.za</a>

Institution	Name	Qualification	Specialisation	Email Address
SACSoWACH	Precious Robinson	BCur	HIV	<a href="mailto:Precious.Robinson@righttocare.org.za">Precious.Robinson@righttocare.org.za</a>
Committee for the Morbidity and Mortality in Children	Dr Neil McKerrow	MBCHB	Paediatrics	<a href="mailto:NEIL.McKERROW@kznhealth.gov.za">NEIL.McKERROW@kznhealth.gov.za</a>

## 8.2 International

Institution	Name	Qualification	Specialisation	Email Address
UNICEF/ESARO	Dr Joan Matji	PhD Nutrition	International Nutrition	<a href="mailto:jmatji@unicef.org">jmatji@unicef.org</a>
John Hopkins University	Dr Martin Bloem	MBCHB	International Health	<a href="mailto:mbloem1@jhu.edu">mbloem1@jhu.edu</a>
TechnoServe/Africa	Mr Larry Ummuna	MSc	International Development	<a href="mailto:lumunna@tns.org">lumunna@tns.org</a>
IFPRI/Africa	Dr Namcolo Covic	PhD Nutrition	International Nutrition	<a href="mailto:n.covic@cgiar.org">n.covic@cgiar.org</a>