

ERIN TORKELSON

Curriculum Vitae
March 2019

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Department of Geography
University of California, Berkeley
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EDUCATION

May 2019 **PhD**
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Geography

Collateral Damages: Geographies of Social Welfare in South Africa

Gill Hart (chair), Michael Watts, Sharad Chari, Donald Moore, Michael Burawoy

2005 **MPhil**
Trinity College Dublin
Department of English

2003 **BA**
Arizona State University
Department of English, Barrett Honors College

AWARDS AND HONORS

National Fellowships

2017 Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Completion Award, Woodrow Wilson
Foundation
2015 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Award, Wenner-Gren Anthropology
Foundation
2006 Fulbright Fellowship, International Institute of Education, Department of State

Institutional Fellowships

2018 Graduate Division Summer Fellowship, Graduate Division, Berkeley
2018 International Conference Travel Award, Graduate Division, Berkeley

- 2016 Rocca Scholarship in Advanced African Studies, Berkeley
 2015 John L. Simpson Memorial Research Fellowship in International Studies, Berkeley
 2015 Rocca Scholarship in Advanced African Studies, Berkeley
 2015 Center for African Studies Summer Language Scholarship, Berkeley
 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Berkeley
 2014 Foreign Language and Area Studies Award, Department of Education
 2014 Graduate Division Summer Fellowship, Graduate Division, Berkeley
 2014 Geography Department Summer Fellowship, Geography Department, Berkeley
 2013 Rocca Pre-Dissertation Award in African Studies, Berkeley
 2012 – 2018 Geography Department Award, Berkeley

PUBLICATIONS

- R&R Torkelson, Erin. “Taken for Granted: Cash Transfers as Debt Transfers.” *World Development*. resubmitted.

Newspaper

- 2017 Torkelson, Erin. “The World Bank’s Role in SA’s Social Grant Payment System.” GroundUp, 23 March. <http://www.groundup.org.za/article/world-banks-role-sas-social-grants-payment-system/>

*Reprinted by Mail & Guardian, Huffington Post, News24, Daily Maverick
Most viewed article on social grants on Google News (23-25 March 2017)*
- 2017 Torkelson, Erin. “Sophia’s Choice: Farm Worker has to Decide which Child to Feed.” GroundUp, 15 March. <http://www.groundup.org.za/article/sophias-choice-farm-worker-has-decide-which-her-children-feed/>

Reprinted by Independent Online and Daily Maverick
- 2017 Torkelson, Erin. “Deductions from Social Grants: How it All Works.” GroundUp, 3 March. <http://www.groundup.org.za/article/deductions-social-grants-how-it-works/>

Reprinted by Huffington Post, Business Day, and Independent Online
- 2015 Torkelson, Erin with Michael Watts, Camilla Hawthorne and Brittany Meche. “What we Learn from the Film ‘Concerning Violence’ about Franz Fanon’s Ideas. Africa is a Country, 8 April. <https://africasacountry.com/2015/04/movie-night-a-discussion-on-goran-olssons-2014-film-concerning-violence-about-franz-fanons-writings-and-ideas/>

Policy Briefs

- 2018 Torkelson, Erin. "Debt and Cash Transfers." *Black Sash Policy Brief*, Black Sash: Cape Town.
- 2017 Torkelson, Erin. "EasyPay Card Recourse." *Black Sash Policy Brief*, Black Sash: Cape Town.
- 2017 Torkelson, Erin. "Five Country Survey of Social Grant Payment Arrangements." *Black Sash Policy Brief*, Black Sash: Cape Town.
- 2012 Torkelson, Erin with Mark Eshbaugh, Greg Maly, Jonathan Moyer. "Putting the Breaks on Road Traffic Fatalities in Africa," *African Futures Brief No 3*, Pretoria: The Institute for Security Studies.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin with Keith Gehring, Patrick McLennan, Jonathan Moyer, Hopolang Selebalo. "Knowledge Empowers Africa: The benefits of increased investment in education," *African Futures Brief No 2*. Pretoria: The Institute for Security Studies.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin with Eric Firnhaber, Patrick McLennan, Jonathan Moyer "Taps & Toilets: How access can radically improve Africa's future," *African Futures Brief No 1*, 25 August. Pretoria: The Institute for Security Studies.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Considering Affordability for End Users," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(12), 1 May. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Land Use for Sustainable Housing," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(11), 1 April. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Good Design and Construction," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(10), 1 March. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Housing Typologies," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(9), 1 February. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2011 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Tenure Options," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(8), 1 January. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable People," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(7), 1 December. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Community Participation and Leadership," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(6), 1 November. Cape Town: Development Action Group.

- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Considering Livelihoods," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(5), 1 October. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "An Integrated Approach to Development," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(4), 1 September. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Good Location," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(3), 1 August. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "South African Housing Policy," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(2), 1 July. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin and Tonkin, Anzabeth. "Sustainable Urban Development," *Urban Land Matters*, 1(1), 1 June. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2010 Torkelson, Erin. "Netreg Housing Project: Remaking City and Vernacular Economy According to Communal Needs and Desires," *Inclusive Housing Case Studies*. Cape Town: Development Action Group.
- 2006 Torkelson, Erin and Ndashe, Sibongile. *Know Your Relationship Rights*, Cape Town: Women's Legal Centre.
- 2006 Torkelson, Erin and Ndashe, Sibongile. *Know Your Inheritance Rights*, Cape Town: Women's Legal Centre.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

- 2018 Torkelson, Erin with Esley Philander, Erna Curry, Johan Abrahams and Clinton Daniels. "Easy Come, Easy Go: Social Grants and the Green Card." *Cutting Edge*. South African Broadcasting Company. 27 March.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAY0T3R8UDI>
- 2017 Erin Torkelson. "Deductions from Social Grants: How it All Works." *Daily Maverick Podcast*, Cliff Central Radio, Johannesburg. Air Date: March 7.
<http://cliffcentral.com/the-daily-maverick-show/daily-maverick-show-social-grants/>

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERT SUBMISSIONS

- 2018 Debt and Cash Transfers
South African National Credit Regulator
with Lynette Maart and the Black Sash, Cape Town *Upcoming* December

- 2018 Black Sash Selected Recourse Case Studies
South African Constitutional Court, Panel of Experts
with Lynette Maart and the Black Sash, Johannesburg, 16 March
- 2018 FinTech and Cash Transfers
The Banking Association of South Africa
with Lynette Maart and the Black Sash, Cape Town, 28 February
- 2012 African Futures and South African Presents
**South African Department's of International Relations and Cooperation,
Trade and Industry, and Defense**
with the Pardee Centre from Denver University, Pretoria, 14 February
- 2012 African Futures
**African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and UN
Habitat**
with the Pardee Centre from Denver University, Pretoria, 13 February
- 2012 African Futures and Cape Town
Western Cape Department of Economic Development
with Hennie van Vuuren, Cape Town, 26 July
- 2011 Effective Responses to Organized Crime in Southern Africa
Kenyan Office of the Presidency
Mombasa, 29 August – 2 September
- 2009 The N2 Gateway Project
South African Parliament, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
with Kailash Bhana and the Development Action Group, Cape Town, 27 October
- 2008 Namibia's Country-Wide Slum Upgrading
UN Commission on Sustainable Development
with the Namibian Slum Dwellers Federation, New York, 5 – 16 May

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2019 Health as Fix: Geographies of the Biopolitical in Settler and Post Colonies
Panel organizer with Stephen McIsaac and Meredith Palmer
Association of American Geographers, Washington DC, April 4, 2019
- 2015 Race, Space, Violence
Conference organizer with Camilla Hawthorne, Andrea Marston, Meredith Palmer, and Brittany Meche
University of California Graduate Student Conference, Omni Commons, Oakland, June 2015

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2018 Taken for Granted: Cash Transfer as Debt Transfer
Center for African Studies, Berkeley, California, 19 September
- 2018 Collateral Damage: Debt and Social Grants
Hands Off Our Grants Strategic Review, Black Sash, Cape Town, 3-5 July
- 2018 Life on an Instalment Plan: Debt, Social Grants and South Africa
Africa in the World, American Anthropology Association and African Studies
Association, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 May
- 2017 The Moral Economy of Debt
Geography Department, Berkeley, California, 14 November.
- 2017 Living the Lottery: Social Grants and the Politics of Development Discourse
PLAAS Seminar Series, University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, 16 June
- 2017 Sophia's Choice: Do Social Grants (Really) Work?
Social Grants and Intergenerational Relations Conference, University of Cape
Town, Cape Town, 10 April
- 2017 South Africa's Social Grants in Context: Upending Development Thinking
Hands Off Our Grants Strategic Review, Black Sash, Cape Town, 29-31 May
- 2016 isiXhosa Articulations of Home: Thinking Alongside Gillian Hart
Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, California, 29 March – 2
April

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Summer 2018 World Peoples, Regions, Cultures
Instructor of Record
University of California, Berkeley

Graduate Student Instructor

Fall 2017 Introduction to Geography
Department of Geography, Jake Kosek
University of California, Berkeley

Spring 2014 Development in Theory and History
& 2013 International and Area Studies, Gillian Hart

University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2013 Introduction to Development
International and Area Studies, Michael Watts
University of California, Berkeley

Summer 2007 South Africa Summer Study Abroad Program
& 2006 Department of Social Justice
Arizona State University, Tempe

High School Teacher

2004 – 2005 English as a Second Language and Freshman English Literature
McClintock High School
Tempe Union High School District, Arizona

FIELDWORK

2019 Debt and Social Welfare, London School of Economics and Black Sash, Cape Town
LSE Funded Research into debt and social welfare with Deborah James and David Neves in 8 cities.

2017 – 2018 Intermittent Fieldwork, Black Sash, Cape Town
Completed a research project in four cities on indebtedness and social grants for the National Credit Regulator.

2016 – 2017 Fieldwork, Black Sash, Cape Town
Completed a research project in four cities on deductions and the EasyPay Everywhere card for the Constitutional Court; completed a research project on social welfare as collateral in five countries; participated in quarterly surveys at social grant distribution points.

2015 – 2016 Fieldwork, Siyakhathala, Cape Town
Conducted over one hundred interviews on household budgeting and social grants.

Summer 2014 Pre-Dissertation Research, Cape Town
Conducted research into the politics of home making between the urban township of Khayelitsha and the rural village of Cala; studied intermediate Xhosa.

Summer 2013 Pre-Dissertation Research, Cape Town
Conducted research into the politics of home making between the urban township of Khayelitsha and the rural village of Cala; studied beginning Xhosa.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2010 – 2012 Researcher, Corruption & Governance, Institute for Security Studies, Cape Town
Managed multi-country research project on urban areas dominated by alternative structures of authority and sustained by criminal economies; managed multi-country futures forecasting project on development in Africa; contributed to research projects on economic crime, environmental crime, and corporate tax evasion.
- 2009 – 2010 Researcher, Land and Housing, Development Action Group, Cape Town
Researched and wrote submissions to Parliament on the N2 Gateway Housing project; researched and wrote case studies on DAG's medium density urban development projects; wrote and designed twelve periodicals on medium density urban upgrading to undo apartheid spatial planning.
- 2009 Researcher, Urban Poverty Program, Asian Coalition of Housing Rights, Bangkok
Researched and reported on housing policy and social movements in Thailand, Hong Kong, South Korea, Mongolia, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.
- 2006 – 2008 Researcher, Urban Poverty Program, Shack Dwellers International, Cape Town
Researched and reported on housing policy and social movements in Kenya, Namibia, Malawi, Philippines, India and Sri Lanka; built and mentored a grassroots research team to collect data on SDI's tenure security and housing projects in 20 countries.
- 2005 – 2006 Researcher, Legal Education Program, Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town
Researched and wrote popular education materials on inheritance and marriage rights.

SERVICE

Departmental Service

- Graduate Student Representative to Faculty, Berkeley (2017 – 2018)
Graduate Student Representative for Colloquium Speakers, Berkeley (2014 – 2015)
Member, UAW Local 2865, Graduate Student Union, Berkeley (2012 – 2019)

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Pedagogy Training

- Pedagogy Seminar
How Students Learn
Assessing Teaching and Learning

Syllabus and Course Design
Developing a Statement of Teaching Philosophy
Creating Inclusive Classrooms
Working with Student Writing

TEACHING AREAS

Lower Division

Introduction to Geography
Introduction to Development Studies

Upper Division

Global Development in Theory and Practice
The Cultural Politics of Political Economies
Africas and Geographies
Southern Urbanisms
Postcolonial Science and Technology Studies
Geographies and African Memoir

LANGUAGES

Xhosa – basic spoken, intermediate reading
Spanish – basic spoken, intermediate reading
American Sign Language – dormant

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American Association of Geographers, (2012 – present)
Member, African Studies Association (2012 – present)
Member, Graduate Group on Gender and Difference, Berkeley (2012 – 2019)
Member, Radical Geographers Working Group, Berkeley (2012 – 2019)
Member, UAW Local 2865, Graduate Student Union, Berkeley (2012 – 2019)

REFERENCES

Gillian Hart
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Michael Watts
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