

Holle Linnea Wlokas

05 March 1985 in Hannover, Germany, Permanent Resident in South Africa

Contact

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Summary

- Social scientist on PhD-level with 6+ years experience dedicated to community development and transformation in the energy sector.
- Extensive experience across the research project cycle, including proposal writing, research design, fieldwork data analysis and writing for publication.
- High sensitivity for and ability to manage socio-political dynamics and needs of multi-stakeholder collaborations.
- Proven ability to manage multiple projects while meeting challenging deadlines.
- Fieldwork and professional travel experience in various European countries and the global South including Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Morocco, Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa.

Professional experience

October 2016 – present

Research Associate with the Centre for Complex Systems in Transition at **Stellenbosch University**

Teaching, supervision and research for the Center for Complex Systems in Transition, focusing on the developmental implications of energy transitions.

- DANIDA funded Tendering Energy Transitions (TENTRANS) project, project duration 3 years, start April 2018.
- IASS funded Cobenefits study of renewable energy benefits for marginalized communities in South Africa, project duration 6 month, start March 2018.
- Postgrad student thesis supervision (Fezeka Stuurman: graduated 2017, Henry Mooney: graduated 2018, Mkuseli Qwabe: submission 2018, Kyle Swartz: submission 2018)

October 2016 – present

Senior Consultant to Synergy Global Consulting

Consulting service to Synergy Global Consulting. Recent project experience include:

- Evaluability study for the investors of the Lake Turkana wind power project in Kenya
- Research project for the International Finance Corporation on benefit sharing models and delivery in the wind and solar energy industries

March 2017 – December 2018

Temporary Consultant to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Research assignment to explore the emerging social performance practices and lessons learnt of large-scale wind and solar power projects across sub-Saharan Africa. The study engages renewable energy stakeholders on their policies and

practices relating to skills development and job creation, community engagement and development and gender equality. Fieldwork includes the following countries South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Senegal, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Mozambique.

January 2014 – September 2017

PhD Candidate at the Energy Research Centre, **University of Cape Town**, supervised by Dr. Britta Rennkamp.

The PhD action research project investigated the institutional work associated with community benefit commitments and schemes established under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) in South Africa. The research involved an analysis of the REIPPPP's community benefit policy requirements, a review of submitted bid documents at the IPP-office and field work collecting insights from project stakeholders through over 60 interviews in 13 wind and solar projects across the country.

June 2015 – December 2017

Associate of the not-for profit organisation **Transformation Energy Trust (TET)**.

- Advisory service to renewable energy companies on strategy and implementation of SED/ED and local ownership.
- Research and report writing for social impact assessment of a solar PV project.
- Strategy and facilitation support to REIPPPP community trust.

May 2010 – June 2014

Research Officer in the Energy, Poverty and Development group at the Energy Research Centre, **University of Cape Town**.

My work consisted of fundraising for- and designing and implementing of social science research in an interdisciplinary context concerned with low-income household energy interventions, climate change mitigation and poverty and large-scale renewable energy projects in the context of inequality and poverty.

Teaching and supervision of postgrad courses and students in the field of energy, climate change and development. I supervised five successful postgrad student theses.

Examples of project work include:

- Community development through large-scale renewable energy projects (REIPPPP), South Africa // 2012-2014

South Africa's renewables procurement programme (REIPPPP) obliges energy companies to partner with local communities and contribute towards local economic development in communities around project sites. My work entailed fieldwork and report writing in support of the socio-economic development plans for project bid preparations for 15 wind energy projects.

- Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) Programme, Cape Town and Latin America // 2011-2014

Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) is a collaboration amongst developing countries to establish the evidence base for long-term transition to robust economies that are both carbon efficient and climate resilient. My

contribution focussed on the linkages between mitigation and poverty and inequality.

- Global Network on Energy and Sustainable Development (GNESD), Cape Town // 2010-2012

UNEP facilitated knowledge network including Member Centres of Excellence and network partners worldwide. The network and associated research activities aim to analyse and produce policy advice on energy and development related issues. My research assessed energy access and productive uses of energy in South Africa.

Voluntary involvement

November 2013 – present

Member and Chairperson (in 2017) of the Working Group on Community development in the **South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)**.

February 2015 - present

Member of the sub-committee on Socio-Economic Development and Enterprise Development in the **South African Photo Voltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA)**.

Jan 2017 – present

Member of the **World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)**.

June 2012 – February 2015

Director on the Advisory Committee of **Breadline Africa**, Cape Town, South Africa.

October 2012 – February 2014

Director on the Board of not-for-profit wind energy developer **Just Energy**, Cape Town.

Academic publications

Wlokas, HL & Westoby, P & Soal, S (2017). Learning from the literature on community development for the implementation of community renewables in South Africa, 28 (1), 35-44.

Sovacool, B & Burke, M & Baker, L & Kumar Kotikalapudi, C & Wlokas, HL (2017). Energy and moral judgment: Conceptual frameworks and new frontiers in energy justice. *Energy Policy*, 105, 677-691.

Marais, L & Wlokas, HL & de Groote, J & Dube, A & Scheba, A (2017). Renewable energy and local development: seven lessons from the mining industry. *Development Southern Africa Journal*, DOI: 10.1080/0376835X.2017.1389260.

Davies, M., Swilling, M., Wlokas, H.L. (2017) Towards new configurations of urban energy governance in South Africa's renewable energy procurement programme, *Energy Research & Social Science*, DOI 10.1016/j.erss.2017.11.010.

Wlokas, H.L, Boyd, A., Andolfi, M., (2012). Opportunities and Challenges for community development in private sector-led renewable energy projects in South Africa: an evolving approach. *Journal of Energy in Southern Africa* 23 (4): 46-52.

Wlokas, H.L. (2011). What contribution does the installation of solar water heaters make towards the alleviation of poverty in South Africa? *Journal of Energy in Southern Africa* 22 (2): 27-39.

Wlokas, H.L. (2009). The impacts of climate change on food security and health in Southern Africa. *Journal of Energy in Southern Africa* 19 (4): 12-20.

Research reports

Wlokas, HL (2015). A review of the local community development requirements in South Africa's renewable procurement programme. Cape Town, South Africa: WWF SA.

Baker, L & Wlokas, HL (2015). South Africa's renewable energy procurement: A new frontier? London, United Kingdom: Tyndall Centre.

Tait, L & Garside, B & Wlokas, HL (2013). Making Communities Count. Maximising local benefit potential in South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RE IPPPP). London, United Kingdom: International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Wlokas, HL & Ellis, C (2013). Local employment through the low-pressure solar water heater roll-out in South Africa. Cape Town, South Africa: Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town.

Wlokas, H & Rennkamp, B & Torres, M & Boyd, A & Tyler, E & Fedorsky, C (2012). Low carbon development and poverty: exploring poverty alleviating mitigation action in developing countries. Cape Town, South Africa: MAPS Programme.

Rennkamp, B & Wlokas, HL (2012). Poverty and climate change mitigation: A brief inspiration. Cape Town, South Africa: MAPS Programme.

Prasad, G & Boulle, M & Boyd, A & Rahlao, S & Wlokas, HL & Yaholnitsky, I (2012). Energy, water and climate change in Southern Africa: what are the issues that need further investment and research? Cape Town, South Africa: Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town.

Wlokas, HL (2011). A review of the solar home system concession programme in South Africa. Cape Town, South Africa: Energy Research Centre, University of Cape Town.