

Curriculum Vitae

Ingrid van Niekerk

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Profession Executive Co-Director and Senior Researcher, Economic Policy Research Institute

Nationality South African

Summary Ingrid has managed and carried out research projects for the Department of Social Development in South Africa as well as the inter-ministerial Committee of Enquiry for Comprehensive Social Security. She is responsible for EPRI's capacity building programme for government departments, and her teaching has included courses for the Department of Social Development. She lectures in the Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme in Economic Policy as well as at the University of the Western Cape. She has recently worked on projects for the 2005 Cabinet Lekgotla, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Inter-regional Inequality Facility, and civil society institutions. She is an Associate Member in the Department of Social Policy at Oxford University.

Key Skills **Technical Competence:**

1. Monitoring
2. Evaluation
3. Social Cash Transfer
4. Social Policy

Experience:

1. Capacity Building

Skills and Expertise:

1. Process Management

Country Experience

South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Nepal, Bolivia

Academic and Professional Qualifications

- 2009** University of the Western Cape, M. A. Economics
2000 Williams College (CDE), MA, USA - Course: 'Evaluating Macroeconomic Strategies.'
1994 National Institute for Economic Policy (NIEP), Johannesburg -- Advanced Certificate for Economic Policy and Planning, held at the University of the Western Cape
1989 University of Cape Town. BA Honours Economics
1987 University of Cape Town. Higher Diploma in Education
1986 University of Cape Town. BA Social Science

Present Position

Executive Co-Director and Senior Researcher, Economic Policy Research

Selected Relevant Consultancy Experience

2008 **Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of the Child Support Grant, UNICEF and Department of Social Development, South Africa**

Examined the impact of South Africa's Child Support Grant (CSG) on children's lives, in order to extend an emerging evidence base with more robust quantitative research (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

2008 **Sustainability of the South African Social Grants System, UNICEF and Department of Social Development Team Leader. Consortium includes International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Institute for Development Studies (IDS) and Oxford Policy Management (OPM).**

Employed a comprehensive modelling exercise to identify and analyse the drivers of South Africa's social grant spending, and to link this investment to broader poverty reduction and economic growth outcomes (see EPRI's organisational profile for details)

2008 **A Review of Means Tests for South Africa's Social Grants, Department of Social Development, South Africa.**

Reviewed the rationale for means testing and its effectiveness in the South African context, and evaluates the specific income threshold for each social grant in order to make policy recommendations (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

2008 **South Africa's Social Security Reforms and Improvements – A 15-Year Review, Office of the Presidency, South Africa.**

Reviewed South Africa's social security reforms over the last 15 years. Examined both social assistance, which targets the poor based on means testing, and social insurance, contributory schemes for the formally employed (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

2008 **Delivery Mechanism Design for OVC Transfer Programme, UNICEF & the Government of Lesotho, Lesotho.**

Addressed key design issues for Lesotho's forthcoming cash transfer programme for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), which will be established in three pilot areas before scaling up (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

2007 **Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes, DFID, South Africa and Thailand.**

The past three years EPRI has coordinated a two-week course in both Cape Town (July) and then in Chiang Mai (October). The course aimed to give participants an in- depth understanding of the theoretical and practical issues involved in developing social transfer programmes (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

2007 **Social Protection Study Tours, DFID, South Africa.**

EPRI was commissioned by DFID's Equity and Rights Team in the UK to host a series of one-week study tours for key government officials from developing countries (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).

- 2000 **Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme, South Africa**
The Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme was launched in 2000 to promote social and economic development in South Africa by enhancing capacity for economic policy analysis in the public sector (see EPRI's organisational profile for details).
- 1998 **Executive Co-Director and Senior Researcher, Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town, South Africa.**
Direct the capacity building programme for government departments. Lecture in the Parliamentary Capacity Building Programme. Produce research papers, discussion papers and reports on various aspects of the South African economy, with a particular focus on poverty eradication. Deliver presentations and seminars for Parliamentarians, government departments and NGOs.

Selected Publications

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene and Ingrid van Niekerk (2008). Feasibility study for a social pension in Malawi. Government of Malawi report.

Michael Samson, Cecile Cherrier, Kenneth Mac Quene and Ingrid van Niekerk (2008). A child-centred social protection strategy for Rwanda. UNICEF and Save the Children Rwanda.

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene, Ingrid van Niekerk and Sheshi Kaniki (2007). Feasibility study for a child grant in Lesotho. Government of Lesotho report commissioned by UNICEF.

Michael Samson, Kenneth Mac Quene, Ingrid van Niekerk and Sheshi Kaniki (2007). Implementation plan for the Livelihoods Empowerment Against Poverty cash transfer programme. Government of Ghana report.

Michael Samson, (with K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) *Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes*. EPRI Press: Cape Town, 2006.

Michael Samson, (with K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) "A Case Study of Social Security in South Africa". Commissioned 2005 by the Inter-regional Inequality Facility (NEPAD, African Development Bank, Economic Commission on Africa, et. al.)

_____, (with K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, J. Lorentzen, H. Rhee, S. Kaniki, G. S. Mabilo, E. Mtonga, R. Lamberti and K. Reynolds). "An Assessment of the Government's Microeconomic Reform Strategy and Overview of Developments and Outlook of South Africa's Real Economy". Commissioned 2004 by the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Office of the Director-General for the 2005 Cabinet Lekgotla.

_____, (with U. Lee, A. Ndlebe, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, V. Gandhi and T. Harigaya). "The Social and Economic Impact of South Africa's Social Security System". Commissioned by the Economics and Finance Directorate, Ministry of Social Development, 2004.

_____, "The Socio-economic Impact of South Africa's State Old Age Pension". Commissioned by the Economics and Finance Directorate, Department of Social Development, 2004.

_____, (with U. Lee, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, V. Gandhi) "The Social and Economic Impact of Social Assistance Grants". Research report commissioned by the Department of Social Development (South African Government), 2003.

_____, "HIV/AIDS and poverty in households with children suffering from malnutrition: The role of social security in Mount Frere". *South African Journal of Economics* Vol. 70:7, 2002.

_____, “The Social, Economic and Fiscal Impact of Comprehensive Social Security Reform for South Africa”. *Social Dynamics* Vol. 28:2, 2002.

_____, (with N. Sogaula, R. van Niekerk, M. Noble, C. Green, and M. Sigala) “Social security transfers, poverty and chronic illness in the Eastern Cape: an investigation of the relationship between social security grants, the alleviation of rural poverty and chronic illnesses including those associated with HIV/AIDS – a case study of Mount Frere in the Eastern Cape”. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.

_____, (with A. Stevens, T. McCarthy-Johnson, K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) “Linkages between poverty and the environment: evidence from cross-country studies and the 1999 October Household Survey”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 29*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.

_____, (with K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, and T. McCarthy-Johnson) “Poverty, HIV/AIDS and social security”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 30*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2002.

_____, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “The impact of the social security system on poverty in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 19*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “Methodological issues in evaluating poverty policy”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 23*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk, G. Khathi and O. Babson) “Social security take-up and the means test in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 24*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with O. Babson, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, G. Khathi, I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) “The impact of social security on school enrolment in South Africa”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 25*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with D. Rosenblum, C. Haarmann, D. Haarmann, K. Mac Quene and I. van Niekerk) “The socio-economic impact of “Workfare”: Welfare reform lessons from the United States and other international experiences”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 26*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with C. Green and R. van Niekerk) “AIDS, Poverty and Malnutrition”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 34*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2001.

_____, (with O. Babson, K. Mac Quene, I. van Niekerk and R. van Niekerk) “The macroeconomic implications of poverty-reducing income transfers”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 9*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

_____, (with A. Bayat and I. van Niekerk). “Gender equality and comprehensive social security reform”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 12*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

_____, (with I. van Niekerk and K. Mac Quene) “Macroeconomic Options for Job Creation and Social Development”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 15*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 2000.

_____, (with I. van Niekerk and N. Bovula) “Poverty-eradicating job creation”. *EPRI Research Paper No. 7*. Economic Policy Research Institute, 1999.