

KARREN MAAIKE VISSER
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QUALIFICATIONS

1983 – 1986 Bachelor of Arts, University of Cape Town
Majored in English, Fine Art Photography,
Art History and Eastern Religions
School in Cape Town, South Africa

WORK EXPERIENCE

2008 – Documentary photographer and research project co-ordinator

1. Photography focussed on **the burden of care for parents of children with disabilities and the many unseen faces of innovation** in Africa (2014 –).
2. **Scientific writing for publication:** a two-day workshop with an emphasis on collaboration to share best practice for improved written communication (2015 –).
3. **Photographs of children with neurological impairment and disabilities** in association with Autism Society of Kenya and Kenya Medical Institute-Wellcome Trust Collaborative Programme. Documented characteristic traits and changes in children affected by autism (2008 – 2014).
4. **Africa region research coordinator to Professor William Bosl**, University of San Francisco, Health Informatics Department, US. Research aim: to find biomarkers for the early detection of autism, epilepsy and other developmental disorders (2013 – 2014).
5. **Kenya-based project leader for a MIT Global Health Informatics programme** jointly offered with the University of San Francisco. Project focus: using social media to measure and change public perceptions of autism in Kenya (2014).
6. **Autism Society of Kenya and Autism Speaks, US** collaboration to raise awareness of autism in Africa (2014).
7. **Conference organiser for the first *Autism in Africa* scientific research meeting**, Accra, Ghana, April 2014.
8. **Presented at the *Autism in Africa* meeting** on Strategies for Raising Awareness of Autism in Africa, Accra, Ghana, April 2014.
9. **Collaboration with Professor David Sands**, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology, Montana State University, US. Research focus: global health and nutrition, the impact on neurodevelopmental disorders (2014).
10. **University of Oxford, Department of Psychiatry** collaboration in set up and design of website to be used as an online autism research portal (2012 – 2013).
11. **Copyediting neurology papers and reports** for the online Journal of the International Child Neurology Association (JICNA, 2014), Kenya Medical Research Institute–Wellcome Trust Collaborative Programme, Kilifi, Kenya. To include editorial assistance for neurology papers in *Brain, A Journal of Neurology* (2012); *Nature Reviews. Neurology* (2009); *Parasitic Immunology* (2009); *Epilepsy & Behaviour* (2012); *Neurology* (2014); systematic reviews on convulsive epilepsy and febrile seizures for the World Health Organization (2010).
12. **Freelance copyeditor** for Mac Keith Press, *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology Journal* and Jessica Kinsley Publishers. Subjects included: paediatric neurology, child development, and neurological complications of parasitic-borne diseases (2009).

2005 – 2007: Janssen-Cilag and **1998 – 2005:** Organon Laboratories

Pharmaceutical sales representative – promoted psychotropic medication to consultant psychiatrists. Responsibilities included sales account management; organising educational conferences for doctors and nurses; training meetings for nurses on administration of first long-acting injectable antipsychotic; reporting adverse events.

- 2007 & 2006: Promotion to achieve highest level within Janssen-Cilag sales division.
- 2005 & 2004: National Nominations by Pharma Times Journal – selected twice by clinicians as a Representative that 'really made a difference to them and their practice'.
- 2003: Promotion to achieve highest level in Organon Laboratories sales division.
- 2001: "Gold Club Excel Winner" – one of top six representatives within the division.
- 1999: Successfully passed Association of British Pharmaceutical (ABPI) examination.

1995 – 1998 Business & Project Manager: MVPS, Cape Town, South Africa

Manager and part-owner of a manufacturing company that was one of the first to have Black Economic Empowerment status. Duties involved running a small business (10 staff), including marketing, new product development, human resource management, liaison with clients and suppliers and export negotiations with UK client.

1992 – 1995 Academic Publishing: University of Cape Town Press (UCT Press)

Assisted in the **setting up and managing of UCT Press** gaining experience in the production process of publishing: copy editing and preparation of text for typesetting, designing UCT Press logo and book cover designs, liaison with authors, printers, and reproduction houses.

Examples of publications: *Contemporary Policy Issues: A Legacy of Inequality, Higher Education in South Africa*, Ian Bunting (1994). *Robben Island Dossier 1964 – 1974, Report to the International Community*, Neville Alexander (1994). *Philosophy for Africa*, Augustine Shutte (1993). *Imperialism or Solidarity? International Labour and South African Trade Unions*, Roger Southhall (1995). *Changing by Degrees – Equity Issues in South African Tertiary Education*, Bronwyn Kaplan (1994).

1987 – 1992 University of Cape Town and freelance employment, Cape Town

Archival and photographic researcher / historical archaeology illustrator: worked as a freelance researcher for photographer, **David Goldblatt**, photographic researcher with **Leadership**, a South African academic and business magazine that challenged the establishment of the 1980s and 1990s, and historical archaeology illustrator for **Professor Martin Hall**, Head of the Archaeology Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

REFERENCES – *Provided on request.*