

Curriculum Vitae of Elisabet le Roux

1. Personal information

Nationality: South African
Languages: Afrikaans (native); English (fluent); German (basic)
Expertise and interest: Religion and violence; Gender-based violence; Religious leadership; Conflict and violence

Academic qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Sociology: The role of African Christian churches in dealing with sexual violence against women: The case of the DRC, Rwanda and Liberia. 2014. Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- M.Th in Practical Theology: Clinical Pastoral Care - HIV/Aids Ministry and Counselling *Cum Laude*; 2007; Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Postgraduate Diploma in Theology *Cum Laude*; 2006; Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- MPhil in Translation *Cum Laude*; 2005; Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- BA Humanities *Cum Laude*; 2003; Stellenbosch University, South Africa

2. Professional career

January 2008 – to present date

Research Director, Unit for Religion and Development Research at Stellenbosch University

The Unit for Religion and Development Research (URDR) is an interdisciplinary research unit at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. My key research projects in the past ten years have included:

- ***Comprehensive Baseline Evaluation for the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Programme 'Engaging Faith-Based Organisations to Prevent VAWG', for Episcopal Relief and Development and UNTF (2019)***
Based on the promising progress of their VAWG programming in Liberia, UNTF has awarded Episcopal Relief & Development a second three-year grant from 2018 to 2021. The baseline evaluation is to gather and analyse relevant data and information on the project goal, objectives and outcomes in order to provide a baseline against which future evaluation data will be measured for impact and efficacy. The baseline includes quantitative and qualitative fieldwork in several counties in Liberia.
- ***Report on Religion, Development and Gender-Based Violence, for the International Partnership in Religion and Sustainable Development (2019)***
The International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), a network consisting of governmental and intergovernmental entities, civil society organisations and faith-based organisations (FBOs), aims to bring greater and institutionalised communication and coordination between secular and non-secular actors. On behalf of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, I have been asked to write a report and recommendations for the research agenda of PaRD's Gender Equality and Empowerment Workstream.
- ***Forgiveness, peace-making and reconciliation, under Nagel Grant (2018-2020)***
This project seeks to engage the lived theologies of inequality among young South African Christians (between the ages of 18 and 35), engaging with their conceptualizations of notions and processes of forgiveness among Black, Coloured and White South African young adults. Including qualitative fieldwork with different racial groups, I am part of an international research team.
- ***Evaluation of the CoH Gender Scale Up Project, for World Vision International (2018)***
Studying the international scale-up of World Vision's Channels of Hope Gender programming, the study conducted a survey and key informant interviews, as well as document and literature review. It also reflected on

the adaptation of the model to new religious contexts, in order to provide critical recommendations for World Vision's future use of the programming.

- ***The Zambian Anglican Mother's Union and Violence against Women and Children, for Episcopal Relief and Development (2018-2019)***
Studying how and why members of the Zambian Anglican Mother's Union contribute to or challenge violence against women and violence against children, this study uses innovative qualitative methods (Photovoice with mobile technologies, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions) over a period of eight months. Local research assistants are crucial to the process of data collection and analysis.
- ***Violence against women and women's inclusion in grassroots reconciliation processes, for the UN Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (2018)***
Relying on literature review, the study conducted research on women's roles in peace processes. Including case studies from different regions of the world, the report argued for a gender-relational approach to conflict transformation.
- ***The role of religious leaders in efforts to end child marriage, for Girls Not Brides (2018)***
Combining literature review, project documentation and key informant interviews, this project investigated and proposed strategies and tools for addressing child marriage with and through religious leaders. The project included perspectives and strategies relevant to the three major world religions: Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.
- ***Integral missiology and the human flourishing of internally displaced persons in Colombia, with Fundación Universitaria Seminario Bíblico de Colombia (FUSBC) (2016-2019)***
FUSBC was awarded a three-year Templeton grant to study six IDP communities within Colombia, as well as develop appropriate theological curriculum within five different themes. As part of an international team of 26 researchers, I ensure a gender analysis of the data, as well as a focus on sexual violence.
- ***Working effectively with faith leaders to challenge harmful traditional practices, for UK DFID (2017)***
As Research Lead for a Consortium of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, I investigated the role of faith leaders in addressing harmful traditional practices. The project included a literature review, case studies of five international faith-based organisations and their activities on harmful traditional practices, and an on-line survey.
- ***Christian Identity Research, for World Vision International (2015-2016)***
The project investigated how World Vision's Christian identity is expressed in its programmes and in its engagement with communities. The project included field research in Senegal, Peru and Sri Lanka, each different in terms of religious homogeneity and tolerance.
- ***Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict-affected Communities, for Tearfund (as part of a UK DFID grant) (2015-2018)***
Tearfund and HEAL Africa conducted a three-year intervention focusing on primary prevention of violence against women and girls in 15 conflict-affected communities in Ituri Province, Democratic Republic of Congo. The research project tracked the implementation and impact of the intervention, and included baseline and endline household surveys, panel studies with key beneficiary groups, and endline research with secondary beneficiaries.
- ***Scoping study on the role of faith communities in prevention and response to SGBV, for the UK Department for International Development (2015)***
UK DFID commissioned a scoping study on the role of faith communities in prevention and response to SGBV. The scoping study included a literature review, key informant interviews, and an electronic survey, and delivered a scoping report as well as a policy brief.
- ***Faith and Gender in Development project, for World Vision International (2014-2017)***
The implementation of World Vision's gender programming was investigated in South Africa and Uganda, in order to assess the influence of a particular programme on issues of gender, trust, and community systems strengthening. A qualitative, case study approach was used, and a participatory assessment tool developed and pilot-tested.
- ***Youth on the Margins international research collaboration (2013- 2018)***
This project focused on the nature of faith-based organisations and the extent to which they are contributing to the social cohesion of marginalised youths at the local level. Research locations include South Africa, Finland, Sweden, and Norway, and various research institutions and researchers from each country. Extensive literature review and theory development, as well as interviews and focus group discussions.
- ***The role of the church in sexual violence in South Africa, for Tearfund UK (2013)***

Five South African communities, two in the Western Cape and three from Kwazulu-Natal, formed part of this study. Research included surveys, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

- ***African Leadership Study, for Tyndale House Foundation (2011-2016)***

The nature of African Christian Leadership was investigated in this two-phased quantitative and qualitative research study. Three countries – Kenya, CAR and Angola – were part of the study, as well as an international research team. I was responsible for the research done in Angola and partnered with five tertiary institutions from across Angola in doing so.

- ***Monitoring and evaluation of HIV training programme in South Africa, for EMPACT Africa (2011-2013)***

EMPACT Africa is a USA-based NGO doing HIV-training with pastors in Africa. I assisted them in developing the research tools and protocol to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these trainings, specifically on HIV stigma, and implemented an initial monitoring and evaluation project.

- ***Evaluation of the Channels of Hope (CoH) methodology and programming in the Middle East, Eastern Europe Regional context, for World Vision International (2011)***

The research was a summative study to discover lessons learnt from the application of CoH in the MEER region. Conducting primary research and fieldwork in three countries (Russia, Romania and Armenia), secondary evaluation of four countries (Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Afghanistan), and extensive in-house document review, the evaluation assessed the methodology, its application and appropriateness, giving recommendations for future programming and implementation. Training and management of on-site evaluation teams and individuals was part of the evaluation process.

- ***Research on the role of the church in Burundi in care and prevention of sexual violence during armed conflict, for Tearfund UK (2011)***

This study was conducted in Burundi with the help of a trained fieldworker. I developed the research methodology and the research tools and materials, and virtually trained and supported the fieldworker.

- ***Explorative baseline on the role of the church in sexual violence in areas of armed conflict, for Tearfund UK (2010)***

The study was conducted within the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Liberia, and included questionnaire surveys, group sessions and in-depth key informant interviews. I was responsible for the design and implementation of the research methodology and tools, as well as for a comprehensive research report, including possible strategic policies and interventions.

- ***Countrywide impact survey on the knowledge, behaviour and attitudes of South African Anglican youth regarding sexuality and HIV&AIDS for the Anglican Aids and Healthcare Trust (2010)***

I was responsible for questionnaire design, sample design, the training of fieldworkers, management of data capturing and processing, and a research report compiling the data and findings.

January 2007 – June 2012 Management, HIV Consultant and Coordinator: Skills Development Legacy Community Development Corporation

Legacy Community Development Corporation is a NGO situated within Kayamandi, a Xhosa informal settlement outside of Stellenbosch (Western Cape, South Africa). As part of the management team, I was responsible for developing, coordinating, and evaluating the skills development programmes running at Legacy. I was also responsible for staff training and development and the facilitation of conflict situations and strategic planning sessions.

September 2008 – December 2009 Western Cape Coordinator Hospivision

Hospivision is a NGO based in Pretoria, South Africa. Its aim is support of sick people and those around them by giving them hope through counselling, spiritual care and physical support. I was responsible for coordinating and presenting their Choose Life programme in the Western Cape. Choose Life is a values-based HIV prevention programme.

January 2006 – November 2006 Extended short-term volunteer Growing Nations NGO/ AIM Lesotho

Based in Tebello, a small village in the highlands of Lesotho, I was responsible for infrastructure development of the HIV&AIDS home based care programme, targeting women in particular.

3. Academic research outputs

Recent journal publications

- Bartelink, B.E. & Le Roux, E. 2018. Navigating state, religion and gender: A case study of ABAAD's gender activism in Lebanon. *Politeia*, 37(2) <https://doi.org/10.25159/0256-8845/4653>
- Le Roux, E., Hankela, E. & McDonald, Z., 2018, 'Social justice required: Youth at the margins, churches and social cohesion in South Africa', *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies* 74(3), a5046. <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v74i3.5046>
- Currier, J.M., Rojas-Flores, L., McCormick, W.H., Koo, J.H., Cadavid, L., Pineda, F.A., Le Roux, E., & Givens, T. 2018. Spiritual struggles and ministry-related quality of life among faith leaders in Colombia. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/rel0000194>
- Le Roux, E. 2017. Faith-based HIV response in post-soviet Eastern Europe: the case of Channels of Hope in Russia, Romania and Armenia. *Development in Practice*, August 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2017.1327022>
- Le Roux, E. & Loots, L. 2017. The unhealthy divide: how secular-faith binary potentially limits GBV prevention and response. *Development in Practice*, August 2017. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2017.1327023>
- Le Roux, E. & Bowers-Du Toit, N. 2017. Men and women in partnership: mobilising faith communities to address gender-based violence. *Diaconia*, 8: 23-37.
- Le Roux, E. Kramm, N., Scott, N., Sandilands, M., Loots, L., Olivier, J., Arango, D.J., & O'Sullivan, V. 2016. Getting dirty: Working with faith leaders to prevent and respond to gender based violence. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 14(3): 22-35.

Books and chapters in books

- Le Roux, E. (forthcoming). Conflict in conflict: Mobilising against violence against women and girls in local faith communities in areas affected by armed conflict. In Van der Walt, C., Claassens, L.J. & Olojede, F. (ed.s) *Change agents in contexts near and far: Teaching gender, health and theology in Africa and beyond*. Stellenbosch: SUNMedia.
- Orsmond, E., Cloete, A., Le Roux, E. & McDonald, Z. (forthcoming). NEET young people in Franschhoek: A story of continued separatedness. Swart, I. (ed.) *Stuck in the Margins? Young People and Faith-based Organisations in South African and Nordic Localities*.
- Vähäkangas, A., Hankela, E., Le Roux, E. & Orsmond, E. (forthcoming). Faith-based Organisations and organised religion in South Africa and the Nordic countries. Swart, I. (ed.) *Stuck in the Margins? Young People and Faith-based Organisations in South African and Nordic Localities*
- Palm, S. & Le Roux, E. 2018. Households of Freedom? Faith's Role in Challenging Gendered Geographies of Violence in Our Cities. In De Beer, S (ed.). *Just Faith: Glocal Responses to Planetary Urbanisation* (HTS Religion & Society Series Volume 3), pp. 135-164, AOSIS, Cape Town.
- Kwaka-Sumba, T. & Le Roux, E. 2017. African women leadership: realities and opportunities. In Priest R. & Barine, K. (ed.s) *African Christian Leadership: Realities, opportunities, and impact*. New York: Orbis Books.
- Le Roux, E. & Sandoua, Y. 2017. Leadership responses during armed conflict. In Priest R. & Barine, K. (ed.s) *African Christian Leadership: Realities, opportunities, and impact*. New York: Orbis Books.
- Le Roux, E. 2015. "Telling stories": talking about VAW within the church and seminary. In Mouton, E., Kapuma, G., Hansen, L., & Togom, T. (ed.s). *Living with Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender Equality*. Stellenbosch: SUNPRESS.
- Hendriks, H.J., Mouton, E., Hansen, L., & Le Roux, E. 2012. *Men in the pulpit, women in the pews? Addressing gender inequality in Africa*. Stellenbosch: SUNPRESS.
- Le Roux, E. 2012. Why sexual violence? The social reality of an absent church. In Hendriks, H.J., Mouton, E., Hansen, L., & Le Roux, E. (ed.s) *Men in the pulpit, women in the pews? Addressing gender inequality in Africa*. Stellenbosch: SUNPRESS.

Recent presentations at international symposia

- Le Roux, E. 2018. "Agency or complicity? Religious women and violence." Princeton University School of Religion: Symposium on Religion and Violence.
- Le Roux, E. 2018. "Religion and gender-based violence: Responsible Development." Africa Diaconia and Community Development Conference.
- Le Roux, E. & Bartelink, B.E. 2017. "Exploring the Nexus between Harmful Traditional Practices, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Religion: Working effectively with Faith Leaders." Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2017.
- Le Roux, E. & Olivier, J. 2017. "Critiquing gender-based violence intervention models using a 'cascade approach' to changing (faith) community beliefs and behaviours." Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2017.
- Le Roux, E. 2017. "Sitting at the development table". Presentation at the Imagining Difference conference at the Centre for Religion, Conflict and Globalisation at the University of Groningen.
- Le Roux, E. & Bartelink, B.E. 2017. "Where is the 'harm' in 'harmful cultural practices'? Exploring conceptual challenges". Conference paper at the International Political Science Association, Global South Conference.
- Le Roux, E. & Kramm, N. 2016. "Working for social justice as a Christian minority: a three country case study of organisational Christian identity." Conference paper at the Global Network for Publican Theology Conference.
- Le Roux, E. & Loots, L. 2016. "Faith and gender justice: how the secular/ faith divide is limiting GBV prevention and response." Conference paper at the Global Network for Publican Theology Conference.
- Le Roux, E. 2015. "The role of faith communities in prevention and response to SGBV: a scoping study." Conference paper at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2015.
- Le Roux, E., Lele, U.B., & Sandilands, M. Conference paper. 2015. "Engaging with faith groups to prevent violence against women and girls in conflict-affected communities: A three-year tracking of 15 communities in the Orientale Province, DRC." Conference paper at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum 2015.
- Le Roux, E. 2015. "Taking a look at the evidence: the role of faith communities in prevention and response to SGBV." Presentation at the *World Bank Religion and Sustainable Development Conference*. 7-9 July 2015.

Recent research reports

- Le Roux, E. 2018. *Reflecting on the Scale Up Project: An external study of the scale-up and adaptation of CoH G*. Internal research report. World Vision International.
- Le Roux, E., and Palm, S. 2018. *What lies beneath? Tackling the roots of religious resistance to ending child marriage*. Research Report. Girls not Brides.
- Le Roux, E. 2017. *"Before they were in darkness, but today things have changed": findings from two-year panel study with VAWG intervention participants*. Research report. Tearfund UK.
- Le Roux, E. & Bartelink, B.E. 2017. *No more 'harmful traditional practices': working effectively with faith leaders*. Research report. London: Tearfund UK.
- Le Roux, E. & Olivier, J. 2017. *Channels of Hope in practice: A study of Channels of Hope Gender implementation in two countries*.
- Le Roux, E. & Palm, S. 2017. *Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent VAWG in Conflict-affected Communities: Internal Research Report*. Tearfund UK.
- Le Roux, E. & Kramm, N. 2016. *Christian identity within World Vision programmes: a multi-case case study of Area Development Programmes in three different religious contexts*.
- Le Roux, E. 2015. Research report for UK DFID. *A scoping study on the role of faith communities and organisations in prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence: Implications for policy and practice*

Recent policy briefs

- Le Roux, E., Bartelink, B.E., & Palm, S. 2017. *What's the harm in 'harmful traditional practices'?* Policy brief for UK DFID.
- Bartelink, B.E., Le Roux, E., & Palm, S. 2017. *Sleeping giants: Mobilising faith leaders as agents of change*. Policy brief for UK DFID.
- Palm, S., Le Roux, E., & Bartelink, B.E. 2017. *Amplifying development: Partnering with faith*. Policy brief for UK DFID.

- Abdulaziz, S., El Ella, O., Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, E., Hansen, E., Le Roux, E., Poirier, C., Riera-Cézanne, J., Stawski, H., Wilkinson, O. & Wilson, E.K. 2016. *Gender, Religion and Humanitarian Responses to Refugees*. UCL Migration Research Unit.
- Le Roux, E. 2015. *The role of faith communities and organisations in prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence: implications for policy and practice*. Policy brief for UK DFID.

4. Awards and recognition

2018. Resident Scholar on the Religion & Violence Seminar at the Centre of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, USA.
2017. Research published in *Research at Stellenbosch University 2017: Showcasing research excellence*.
2016. Research published in *Research at Stellenbosch University 2015: Showcasing research excellence*.
2016. Contributor to *Living with Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender Equality* (Mouton, E., Kapuma, G., Hansen, L., & Togom, T. ed.s), which received the Andrew Murray – Desmond Tutu Prize for the Best Theological Book in an official language of South Africa.
2014. Research published in *Research at Stellenbosch University 2013: Showcasing research excellence*.
2013. Runner-up in the South African Women in Science Awards (WISA), in the category *Emerging researcher on the role of science and research against violence towards women*.
2013. Recipient of the Mellon award, for being an early career academic staff member with the potential and demonstrated commitment to become an established researcher or research leader in her field.
2012. Research published in *Research at Stellenbosch University 2011: Showcasing research excellence*.
2011. Awarded a three-month research internship on the African Security and Governance Project at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).