

Dr. B Camminga

CONTACT

Dr. B Camminga

African Centre for Migration & Society

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EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2019 Research Fellow (Security at the Margins, University of Edinburgh)
- 2018- Postdoctoral Fellow (Wits University, African Centre for Migration & Society)
- 2018 Research Fellow (Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala University, Sweden)
- 2018 Lecture Postgraduate module *Differentiating Mobility: Gender, Age, Class and Power* for Introduction to Migration & Displacement
- 2013-14 Lecturer of Gender Studies (University of Cape Town, African Gender Institute)
- 2012-16 Doctoral Fellow (University of Cape Town, Institute for Humanities in Africa)
- 2012 Research Consultant, Transitioning Africa (South Africa and Uganda)
- 2010-12 Lecturer of History (Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town)
- 2010-12 Research Consultant, Gender DynamiX (Transgender NGO, South Africa)

EDUCATION

- 2016 PhD, University of Cape Town. Supervisors: Dr. Deborah Posel, Professor of Sociology (University of Cape Town); Dr. Susan Levine, Associate Professor Anthropology (University of Cape Town); Dr. Zethu Matebeni, Senior Researcher Institute for Humanities in Africa (University of Cape Town)
- 2009 MA Gender Studies *with distinction* (University of Leeds, Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies)
- 2008 Honours Politics *with distinction* (University Currently Known as Rhodes, Political and International Studies Department)
- 2007 BA History and Politics (University Currently Known as Rhodes)
- 2006 Rutgers/Rhodes University Certificate in Global Activism and Education
- 2001 IEB National Senior Certificate (Kings School, Johannesburg, South Africa)

Honors & Awards

- 2019 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) Catalyst Fellow
Visiting Research Fellow Security at the Margins (SEAM), Edinburgh, UK (May-June)
- 2018 *Mail & Guardian* 200 Young South Africans of 2018
Visiting Research Fellow Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), Uppsala, Sweden (April-June)

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- Runner up Young African Scholar Award *Africa Spectrum Journal*, the Institute of African Affairs of the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) and University of the Free State
- 2017 Awarded Travel Grant (\$2000 total) for international conference attendance (Social Science Research Council)
- 2016 Awarded the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Travel Grant (IASFM)
- 2016-17 Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$ 15 000), Social Science Research Council
- 2015-16 EU-Saturn/Erasmus Mundus Mobility Grant (University of Groningen)
- 2014 Hansi Pollack Bursary for Innovative Research Towards Bettering Social Conditions in South Africa
- 2013 Doctoral Research Scholarship (University of Cape Town)
- 2012 Four year Doctoral Research Fellowship, Institute for Humanities in Africa (University of Cape Town)
- 2008 British Council Chevening Scholarship for Study in the UK
- 2007 Deans List for Politics, Rhodes University
- 2006 Andrew Mellon Scholarship for Higher Education, Rhodes University
- 2006 Rhodes Woman of The Year: Student Leadership

Publications

IN PREPERATION

1. (Book Chapter) "Come Fetch Your Fave or Ways of Spelling Danger: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and the Maligned voices of Trans African Feminists". *TERF Wars* (The Sociological Review: London) (2020)
2. (Book Chapter) "Transgender Refugees". In the *Routledge Companion of Gender, Sexuality and Migration*. Eds Salvador Vidal- Ortiz & Maria Amelia Viteri Routledge: New York) (2020)
3. (Book Chapter) Waiting on the World to Change: Illegality as Orientation for transgender asylum seekers from the African continent in *Waitinghood': Unpacking the temporalities of waiting and irregular migration*. Eds Christine M. Jacobson, Mary-Anne Karlsen and Shahram Khosravi (Routledge: London) (2020)
4. (Book Chapter) "Marooned: Seeking asylum as a transgender person in Joburg" in *Anxious in Joburg*. Ed Nicky Falkoff (Wits University Press: Johannesburg) (2019)
5. (Book Chapter) "Transgender Refugees". In the *Routledge Companion of Gender, Sexuality and Migration*. Eds Salvador Vidal- Ortiz & Maria Amelia Viteri Routledge: New York) (2020)
6. (Book Chapter) "Encamped within a camp: transgender refugees and tensions of visibility in Kakuma, Kenya" in *Invisible Displacements in African Transnational Spaces*. Eds Jesper Bjarnesen & Simon Turner (Zed Books: UK) (2020)
7. (Book Chapter) "'The Stigma of Western Words': Asylum Law, Transgender Identity and Sexual Orientation in South Africa" in *Gender, Sexuality and the Law*. Eds Debra Dalaet & Renne Cramer (Routledge: New York) (2019)
8. (Documentary) "Phoenix Rising: Transgender Organising in Apartheid South Africa" (Proposal in Development)

9. *Southern African Transgender Models of Litigation, Policy Work and Conceptual Frameworks of Change* (Funded: The Other Foundation) (2019)
10. (Journal Article) "One for one and all for one? Human rights and transgender access to legal gender recognition in Botswana". *International Journal of Gender, Sexuality and Law* (2019)

KEY PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED)

1. (Journal Article) "'The Stigma of Western Words': Asylum Law, Transgender Identity and Sexual Orientation in South Africa". *Global Discourse* 9: 452-669 (2018)
2. (Journal Article) "'Gender Refugees' in South Africa – The 'Common Sense' Paradox'". *Africa Spectrum* 53 (1): 89–112 (2018) [Runner Up UFS/GIGA Young African Scholar Award 2018]
3. (Journal Article) "Categories and Queues: The Structural Realities of Gender and the South Africa Asylum System". *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, 3 (4): 61-77 (2017)
4. (Journal Article) "Shifting Borderlands – (Trans) 'Gender Refugees' moving to and through an Imagined South Africa. *Tijdschrift Voor Genderstudies*, 20(4), 359–378 (2017)
5. (Journal Article) (Co-authored with Louise Vincent) "Putting the 'T' into South African Human Rights: Transsexuality in the Post-Apartheid Order". *Sexualities*, 12 (6): 678-700 (2009)

MONOGRAPHS

Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa: Bodies over Borders and Borders over Bodies. (Palgrave: New York) (2018)

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

1. "'The Stigma of Western Words': Asylum Law, Transgender Identity and Sexual Orientation in South Africa". *Global Discourse* 9: 1-17 (2018)
2. "'Gender Refugees' in South Africa – The 'Common Sense' Paradox'. *Africa Spectrum* 53 (1), 89-112 (2018)
3. "Shifting Borderlands – (Trans) 'Gender Refugees' moving to and through an Imagined South Africa". *Tijdschrift Voor Genderstudies*, 20(4), 359–378 (2017)
4. "Am I Cait? Am I Abba? From MultiChoice to No Choice – Nollywood Representations of Transgender Identity". *Global Humanities*, 5: 61-79 (2017)
5. "Catch and Release: Transgender Migrants and the Opposite of Deportation in South Africa". *Lo Squaderno: Explorations in Space and Society*, 44: 29-31 (2017)
6. "Categories and Queues: The Structural Realities of Gender and the South Africa Asylum System". *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, 3 (4): 61-77 (2017)
7. "Where's your Umbrella? Decolonialism and Transgender Studies in South Africa". *Postamble*, 10 (1) (2017)
8. (Co-authored with Louise Vincent) "Putting the 'T' into South African Human Rights: Transsexuality in the Post-Apartheid Order". *Sexualities*, 12 (6): 678-700 (2009)

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BOOK CHAPTERS

1. "Shifting in the City: Being and Longing in Cape Town". *Beyond the Mountain: Queer Life in Africa's 'Gay Capital'* Eds. Zethu Matebeni and B Camminga (Pretoria: Unisa) (2019)

BOOKS AND EDITED COLLECTIONS

1. Camminga, B., & Matebeni, Z. (Eds.). (2019). *Beyond the Mountain: Queer life in Africa's 'Gay Capital'*. Pretoria: Unisa.

NON-SPECIALIST ARTICLES

1. (Book Chapter) "Feminism Is...For Every Single Body". *Feminism Is...* Ed. Jen Thorpe. Johannesburg: Kwela, 121-135 (2018)
2. (Article) "The Colonial Conundrum of Transsexuality in South Africa". *Notches: Transgender Histories* (2017) <http://notchesblog.com/2017/11/07/the-colonial-conundrum-of-transsexuality-in-south-africa/>
3. (Book Chapter) "Magic Man: Of Rainbows and Monsters". *Seismographic Sounds Visions of a New World*. Eds. Theresa Beyer, Thomas Burkhalter & Hannes Liechti. Bern: Norient Books, 374-379 (2015). Commissioned.
4. (Book Chapter) "Queer and Of Here". *Seismographic Sounds Visions of a New World*. Eds. Theresa Beyer, Thomas Burkhalter & Hannes Liechti. Bern: Norient Books 387-391 (2015). Commissioned.

Current Key Projects

1. (Key Partner) *EU/SA Dialogue: South Africa and Malta learning platform on the development of gender recognition legislation and protections* (EU Partners: Human Rights and Integration Directorate, Gender Studies University of Malt and South Africa Partners: Iranti, African Centre for Migration and the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development) (2019)
2. (Research Project) *Southern African Transgender Models of Litigation, Policy Work and Conceptual Frameworks of Change* (Funded: The Other Foundation) (2019)
3. (Monograph Project) *African '(Trans)Gender Refugees' in Northern Mediascapes, and Digital Diasporic Voices* (Sweden, Canada, Greece, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the USA) (2019-2022)
4. (Research Project) *Wellspring scoping exercise on transgender refugees: Global needs analysis and advocacy possibilities* (Wellspring: New York) (2019)
5. (Network Creator) *African LGBTQI+ Migration Studies (ALMS) – An Interdisciplinary Research Network*.
6. (Collection) *African LGBTQI+ Migration*. (Wits Press: Johannesburg) (2020)

Book Reviews

1. "Assuming a Body: Transgender and The Rhetorics of Materiality by Gayle Salamon – The Felt Sense and Withholding the Letter". *Gender Questions*, 5(1)(2018)

SUPERVISION

PHD Students

2018 - Co-Supervisor, Ntokozo Yingwana, "*Queering Sex Work and Mobility in southern Africa*", PhD Migration, University of Wits

Co-Supervisor, John Marnell, "*Walking into the lion's den*": *Experiences of care and protection as an LGBTQ+ migrant or asylum seeker living in South Africa*, PhD Migration, University of Edinburgh and University of Wits

MA Students

2019 Supervisor, Zvik Tsiga, "*Sexual expression and gender performance within immigrant communities: Investigating shifts in perceptions on sexual orientation and gender identity within the Zimbabwean immigrant community in South Africa*", MA Diversity Studies, University of Wits

LECTURES AND PAPERS

KEYNOTE LECTURES

1. "The History and Future of Transgender Organising in South and Southern Africa". *Annual General Community Meeting Gender Dynamix* (Cape Town, South Africa, September 2018)
2. "Decolonising and Depathologising Trans Identities in Africa". *Third African Trans Health, Advocacy and Research Conference* (IRANTI and Gender Dynamix, Johannesburg, South Africa, February 2017)

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANISED (BASED ON PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSELS)

1. (Organiser) "Crossing boundaries, crossing borders: subversion, disruption and LGBTQ migration on the African continent". 8th European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) (2019)
2. (Co-organised with Zethu Matebeni) "What is queer about Africa, and why now? - A panel discussion based on the books: *Queer African Reader* (Pambazuka Press, 2013) and *Queer Africa: new and collected fiction* (MaThoko's Books, 2013). Speakers: Makhosazana Xaba (SA writer & co-editor of *Queer Africa*) & Keguro Macharia (Kenyan writer, academic & contributor to *Queer African Reader*". *Queer in Africa: Confronting the Crises* (Cape Town, June 2013)

CONFERENCE PAPERS (BASED ON PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS)

1. "What's private about private parts? Archives, opacity, tabloids and transgender lives on and off the African continent", *The Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections (ALMS) Conference* (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, June 2019)

2. "To Exist is to Resist: The Survival Migration of Transgender Zimbabweans", 8th *European Conference on African Studies (ECAS)* (University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, May 2019)
3. "Digital borders, diasporic flows and the Nigerian transgender beauty queen who would not be denied", *NORA: Border regimes, territorial discourses & feminist politics* (University of Iceland, Reykjavik, May 2019)
4. "The Echo of the 'Knowing Subject': Geopolitics, Methodologies and Transgender Asylum Seekers", *European Masters in Migration (EMMIR) Conference Linking Scholarship and Activism in Migration Societies: Critical Inquiries* (University of Odenburgh, Germany, December 2018)
5. "Intersectional Silences: Transgender Asylum Seekers in South Africa", *International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) 17* (Thessaloniki, Greece, July 2018)
6. "Categories and Queues: The Structural Realities of Gender and the South African Asylum System", *XIX ISA World Conference of Sociology, Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses, Responsibilities* (Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, July 2018).
7. "Dangerous Bodies: Subversion, Survival and Security" *SeaM – Security at the Margins* (Wits University, Johannesburg, August 2018)
8. "To Exist is to Resist: The Survival Migration of Transgender Zimbabweans". *Association for the Study of Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) 9th Biennial Conference* (Pablo de Olavide University, Spain, November 2017).
9. "Transgender African Migrants in the Global North: Visibility and Voice in the Digital Diaspora". *ECREA Diaspora, Migration and the Media* (University of the Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain, November 2017)
10. "Am I a Crime to Somebody?" - 'Gender Refugees' and the Imagined South Africa". *ISAACS. Breaking Boundaries: Sexuality, Gender, Reproduction, Health and Rights*. (College of Public Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, July 2017).
11. "Intersectional Silences: A Reading of parliamentary debates about transgender asylum seekers in South Africa". *ISAACS. Breaking Boundaries: Sexuality, Gender, Reproduction, Health and Rights*. (College of Public Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, July 2017).
12. "Shifting in the City: Being and Longing in Cape Town". *Queer in Africa: The Cape Town Question* (District Six Museum and Centre, University of Cape Town, October 2016)
13. " 'Gender Refugees' and Asylum in South Africa- The 'Common Sense' Paradox". *IASFM 16: Rethinking Forced Migration and Displacement: Theory, Policy, and Praxis*, (Poland, June 2016)
14. "'Gender Refugees' and the South African Asylum Regime: 'There is no Queue for Gender Change'". *Trans*Formations: Lives and Politics Beyond the Gender Binary* (University of Lisbon, 2016)
15. "Not a 'Trans Trajectory': Borderlands, 'Bare Life' and Transgender Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South Africa". *Doing Gender in the Netherland: Trans* Approaches, Methods and Concepts* (University of Leiden, 2016)
16. "Something Sinister in the Archives: The South African Apartheid State and the 'Transing' of Sex". *Archives Matter* (Goldsmiths University, 2016)

17. "Not a 'Trans Trajectory': Borderlands, 'Bare Life' and Transgender Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South Africa". *The Neil Postman Graduate Conference* (New York University, 2015)
18. "To Exist is to Resist: The Familial Ties and Tactics Influencing the Survival Migration of Transgender Zimbabweans". *Blurred or Brittle Borders: Transnational Familial & Gender Relations Conference* (Oxford University, June 2015)

INVITED PAPERS AT TALKS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

1. "Transgender Refugees in Greece and Kenya: Predicaments, possibilities and early learnings from the field". *Contemporary Challenges facing LGBT+ Asylum Seekers: UK and Global Perspectives Seminar*, University of Reading (May, 2019)
2. "Gender Refugees' and the South African Asylum Regime – 'There is no Queue for Gender Change'". *Sky Advanced Research Seminar University of Helsinki*, (April, 2019)
3. (Co-lecture with Suma Abdelasamie of LGBTQ+ Refugees Welcome Greece) "Transgender Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Predicaments and Possibilities". *Security at the Margins (SEAM)*. Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh (May 2019)
4. "Waiting on the World to Change: Illegality as Orientation for Transgender Asylum Seekers from the African continent". *Waitinghood': Unpacking the temporalities of waiting and irregular migration* Athens, University of Athens (February 2019)
5. "'Gender Refugees' and the South African Asylum Regime: 'There is no Queue for Gender Change'". *Politics Department Invited Speaker Series*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, (September 2018)
6. "Beyond the Identitarian: The Radical Possibilities of Refugee Law for Transgender Asylum Seekers in South Africa". *Global Discourse Special Issue: The Role of International and Domestic Law in Attaining Gender and Sexual Equality*. Drake University, Iowa (October 2017)
7. "'Gender Refugees' and the South African Asylum Regime – 'There is no Queue for Gender Change'". *Institute for Humanities in Africa*, University of Cape Town (August 2016)

PUBLIC LECTURES

1. "Transgender Migration in Africa". *RFSL Sweden Rainbow Leadership Academy*. Iranti & RFSL (February, 2019)
2. "Talking Trans: a intersectional discussion". *Open Book Cape Town* (September, 2018)
3. "Feminism is: Talking Feminism". *Open Book Cape Town* (September, 2018)
4. "The Other Rainbow – Queer Rights and Writing in Africa and Beyond". *South African Book Fair*. South African Book Council (September, 2017)
5. "Bodies in Trans-ition". *My Body My Choice*. The City of Cape Town's Art and Culture Department and Rhodes University (December, 2012)

OUTREACH (CULTURAL EVENTS, MEDIA COVERAGE, PUBLIC WORKSHOPS)

PRINT AND ONLINE NEWS

1. "At home in your skin" Wits Curios.ty (May, 2019) (forthcoming)
2. "Transgender Refugees and the Imagined South Africa" (May, 2019) The Daily Dispatch (forthcoming)
3. "Transgender Refugees" National Public Radio (NPR), Addis Ababa Roundtable *Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, Africa as Method and Concept: Emancipation, Decolonization and Freedom (2019)*
4. "Gender Refugees and Border Lines: An Interview with Dr. B Camminga" Research Matters (June, 2017) <http://researchmatters.ssrc.org/gender-refugees-and-border-lines-an-interview-with-dr-b-camminga/>

WORKSHOPS

1. "*Invisible Displacements in African Transnational Spaces*", Tsvilde, Denmark (April, 2019)
2. "*Waitinghood': Unpacking the temporalities of waiting and irregular migration*", Athens, Greece (February, 2019).
3. *Africa as Method and Concept: Emancipation, Decolonization and Freedom*, Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (January, 2019)
4. (Drafter along with Gender DymamiX, SWEAT, Sisonke and Triangle Projects) "*Draft Transgender Standard Operating Procedure for the South Africa Police Service (SAPS)*". (2015)

REPORTS/ ORGANISATIONAL WORK

1. *Southern African Transgender Models of Litigation, Policy Work and Conceptual Frameworks of Change* (Funded: The Other Foundation) (2019)
2. *Wellspring scoping exercise on transgender refugees: Global needs analysis and advocacy possibilities* (Wellspring: New York) (2019)
3. *A Pamphlet for Parents and Carers of Transgender and Gender Diverse Children* (Johannesburg: Iranti-org, 2018)
4. '*(Trans)Lation?' The D/deaf transgender community in South Africa* (Johannesburg: Iranti-org, 2018)
5. '*National Intersex Meeting Report*' (Johannesburg: Iranti-org, 2018).
6. '*Gender DymamiX Transgender Activist Exchange Program Uganda 2011*' (Uganda, 2011).

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES, SYMPOSIA, AND LECTURES

- 2016 (Co-organised with Meredith Evans and Zethu Matebeni) *Queer in Africa: The Cape Town Question*, Panels and Venues planned with participants
- 2013 (Co-organised with Zethu Matebeni) "Failure and 'Other Queer Arts'" Public Lecture and Master Class by Jack Halberstam, Sponsored by the Institute for Humanities in Africa and the Deans Discretionary Fund (University of Cape Town)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 2019 Reviewer, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies
2018 Reviewer, Agenda Feminist Media and Gender Studies
2017-19 Social Science Research Council Next Generation Social Sciences in Africa Fellowship Program Applicant Reviewer
2016 Participant, Queer in Africa Writers Retreat "Queer in Africa: The Cape Town Question (University of Cape Town, October 2016)
2016-17 Reviewer, Agenda Feminist Media
2013 Reviewer, Agenda Feminist Media

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND NETWORKS

- 2018 International Sociological Association (ISA)
2015-18 International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM)
2017 Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)
2017 International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS)
2015-17 African Studies Centre Leiden (University of Leiden)

TEACHING

MIGRATION STUDIES

- 2018 2nd semester module *Migration, Health & Gender*
The Psychosocial and Health Consequences of Migration and Displacement
1st semester module *Differentiating Mobility: Gender, Age, Class and Power* for Introduction to Migration & Displacement

GENDER STUDIES

- 2014 2nd Semester Gender and History (co-instructor), University of Cape Town
2013 2nd Semester Gender and History (co-instructor), University of Cape Town

HISTORICAL STUDIES

- 2012 2nd Semester Gender and History (co-instructor), University of Cape Town
2011 1st Semester Gender and History (co-instructor), University of Cape Town
2010 1st Semester Introduction to World History (co-instructor), University of Cape Town

TUTORING AND ADMISSIONS

- 2013-14 Tutor (African Gender Institute, University of Cape Town)
2010-12 Tutor (Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town)
2006-8 Tutor (Department of Politics and International Relations, Rhodes University)

LANGUAGES

- English: Native Fluency
Afrikaans: Second Language Speaker

Dr. B Camminga

REFEREES

Dr. Zethu Matebeni

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Prof. Jo Vearey

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