

CURRICULUM VITAE

DR. REBECCA WALKER

Name: Rebecca J. Walker, Ph.D. *Edinburgh*.
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I am a postdoctoral fellow at the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS), The University of Witwatersrand where I work on issues relating to gender, migration and, health. I have a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh and a background in research on gender-based violence, women's activism and human rights. In South Africa I have taught Social Anthropology at undergraduate level and Research Methods at a postgrad level. I have led and been involved in a number of research projects and consultancies covering topics dealing with migration-related issues including human trafficking, sex work, children on the move and also, gender, migration and health policy. Much of my recent work has engaged with arts-based methods. I have worked both independently and collaboratively on research projects, consultancy positions and have published widely in a variety of spaces.

Research & Teaching skills: Gender and Development; Gender and Violence: Migration; Migration and health; Research Methods.

Education

- 2004-2010 **PhD in Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh**
Dissertation: "My Older Brother's Tree. Everyday Violence and the Question of the Ordinary in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka".
Supervised by Prof. Jonathan Spencer and Prof. Anthony Good.
Examined by Prof. Venna Das and Dr. Toby Kelly
- 2003-2004 **MSC in Research Methods, University of Edinburgh**
Dissertation: "Peripheral Imaginations. Movement and Dislocation in Sri Lanka".
Supervised by Prof Jonathan Spencer.
Examined by Prof Iris Jean-Klein and Dr. Stefan Ecks
- 1999-2003 **BA in Social Anthropology with Development, University of Edinburgh**
Dissertation: "The Many Faces of Peace. An exploration of the experiences of conflict and the subsequent meanings given to peace by civilians in Jaffna, Sri Lanka."
Examined by Prof Anthony Good.

Academic Publications

Peer-reviewed International Journals

- Walker, R. N. Yingwana and A. Echart. 2019. 'Sex work, Migration and Human Trafficking in South Africa: shifting the debate' in *Anti-Trafficking Review* (forthcoming)
- Walker, R. J & T. Galvin (2018) 'Labels, victims and negotiating insecurity: an exploration of the lived realities of migrant women who sell sex in South Africa, *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal*, Vol

- Walker, R. (2018) Migrant mothers and the burden of care: Reflections from Johannesburg' *Families, Relationships and Societies*, Volume 7, Number 2, July 2018, pp. 349-353: <https://doi.org/10.1332/204674318X15233477460409>
- Walker. R. J, Vearey and L. Nencel (2017) 'Negotiating the city: Exploring the intersecting vulnerabilities of non-national migrant mothers who sell sex in Johannesburg, South Africa' *Agenda: Intersectionality in Africa* (Special Issue). Vol 31(1).
- Walker. R (2016). 'If this isn't for my children who is it for?' Exploring the experiences of structural violence among migrant mothers who sell sex in Johannesburg' in *Families, Relationships and Societies* (Special issue). Vol. 6 (2). July 2017: 291-306 (16).
- Walker. R. & A. Huncke (2016). 'Sex work, human trafficking and complex realities in South Africa' in *Trafficking, Smuggling and Human Labour in Southern Africa* (Special Issue) Edited by Walker, R, Camden, B and T, Galvin. Vol. 2 (2): 127-140.
- Walker. R., Camden, B & T. Galvin (2016). 'Editorial' in *Trafficking, Smuggling and Human Labour in Southern Africa* (Special Issue) Edited by Walker, R, Camden, B and T, Galvin. Vol. 2 (2): 127-140.
- Walker. R., 2016. Selling Sex, Mothering and 'Keeping Well' in the City Reflecting on the Everyday Experiences of Cross border Migrant Women Who Sell Sex in Johannesburg. *Urban Forum*. March 2017. Vol. 28: 1. pp 59–73
- Walker. R. & Oliveira, E., (2015). 'Contested spaces: Exploring the intersections of migration, sex work and trafficking in South Africa' *Graduate journal of Social Sciences: Blurred Lines: The Contested Nature of Sex Work in a Changing Social landscape*. Vol. 11: 2: pp-129-153.
- Walker, R., (2015) "Absent bodies and present memories: marking out the everyday and the future in Eastern Sri Lanka" *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, Vol 22: 1.pp 109-123.
- Walker, R., (2013). "Taking a back seat - the uses and misuses of space in a context of war and natural disaster" *Journal of Human Rights*. Vol. 12, Issue 1, 2013. Special Issue: Humanitarianism and Responsibility
- Walker, R., (2010). "Violence, the Everyday and the Question of the Ordinary". *Journal of Contemporary South Asia* Vol. 26. March 2010.

Monograph

- Walker, R., (2013). *Enduring Violence: Everyday Life and Conflict in Eastern Sri Lanka*. Manchester: Manchester University Press (2013).

Book Chapters

- Walker, R. (2018) "Migration, wellbeing and access to healthcare: exploring the relationship of migration and healthcare in South Africa through the experiences of refugee women" in Sigfrid Grønseth, A & J. Skinner (eds.), *Mobilities of Wellbeing: Migration, the State, and Medical Knowledge*. Carolina Academic Press. Forthcoming.

- Walker, R. (2015) “Negotiating Risk: Exploring the experiences of mothers during the conflict in Eastern Sri Lanka” in *Mothers Under Fire: Mothering in Conflict Zones*. Takseva, T. and Sgoutas, A., (ed). Toronto: Demeter Press.
- Walker, R. and G. Clacherty. (2015) “Shaping New Spaces: An alternative approach to healing in current shelter interventions for vulnerable women in Johannesburg” in Palmary, I. Nunez, L. and Hamber, B. *Healing and change in the city of gold: Case studies of coping and support in Johannesburg*. New York: Springer.
- Walker, R., (2013). ‘Unfinished Pasts and Small Beginnings: Exploring Strategies of Endurance and Networks of Support amongst Women in Eastern Sri Lanka’ in *South Asian Feminists: Politics and Possibilities*. Srila Roy (ed). London: Zed Press, 2013.

Other

- Ebook: Walker, R. and E. Oliveira. (2019). Mwangaza Mamas. A participatory arts-based project with refugee women in South Africa. E-book: https://issuu.com/move.methods.visual.explore/docs/mwangaza_mama_ebook
- Walker, R. 2018. Migrant Mothers and The Burden of Care: Reflections from Johannesburg. Families, Relationships and Society.
- Walker, R., (2015) Beyond Rights and Rescue: Stories from the “grey zone”. Buwa! A Journal on African Women. Women and Economic Injustice. March 30th 2015: <http://www.osisa.org/openspace/economic-justice/regional/beyond-rights-and-rescue-stories-%E2%80%98grey-zone%E2%80%99>
- Walker, R., (2003). “Impressions of Jaffna”. *Polity* (previously published as Pravada) Vol. 1. No 1. February 2003.
- **Blog posts** - <https://wordpress.com/posts/motheringinthecityblog.wordpress.com>:

Consultancies (a selection)

- 2018 (October – December) **SAVE THE CHILDREN (SWEDEN)**. Girls on the Move – research across three countries (South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia) looking at the experiences of girls who cross borders and evaluating programmes working with girls. Findings written up into a report on girls on the move and recommendations for programmatic changes.
- 2018 - 2019 **CENTRE FOR CHILD LAW, UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**. A research study exploring the nature and scope of child trafficking in South Africa – looking in particular at the nexus of child trafficking, child migrants and child rights.
- 2018 (August-December). **STRATEGIC ANALYTICS AND MANAGEMENT**. Senior Researcher – included a literature review, leading a team of researchers for and evaluation of the “Keeping Girls in school” programme, writing up a case study and input to overall evaluation.
- 2018 (June) **SEX WORKER EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY TASKFORCE (SWEAT)**

Report providing a literature review of research relating to human trafficking, sex work and child trafficking in South Africa as a basis for litigation in South Africa against the criminalisation of sex work.

- 2018 (February) **UNFPA.** Analysis of research findings on young migrants and vulnerabilities in four cities.
- 2017 (Oct) **SONKE GENDER JUSTICE.** Analysing data and writing a comprehensive report on police violence against sex workers in South Africa
- 2015 (Nov) **LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGINE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE (with ACMS).** The impact of migration and mobility on the public healthcare system in South Africa.

Teaching and Supervision Experience

- 2016 – 2017 *The Psychological and Health Consequences of Forced Migration.* Grad4042/5087/7052. Teaching of various sessions including ‘Illness, disease and sickness: a theoretical approach’; ‘sex work, trafficking and (public) health’ and ‘The provision of healthcare to migrant groups’
- 2016 - ongoing *The Logics and Methods of Migration Research.* Grad SOSS7026 ACMS, University of Witwatersrand. Course co-ordinator and lecturer for postgraduate students.
- 2016 - ongoing Supervision of 1 honors student, 1 Masters student, 1 PhD student.
- 2012 -2014 *Gender and Development (2001).* Department of Anthropology, University of Witwatersrand. Course written and taught to 100+ undergraduate students.
- 2012 (July-Nov) *Violence, Memory and Meaning (2003).* Department of Anthropology, University of Witwatersrand. Course written and taught to 100+ undergraduate students.
- 2011 (May-Nov) Supervision of Anthropology Honors student. Department of Anthropology, University of Witwatersrand
- 2010 (March) “*Violence and Gender in Sri Lanka*” as part of the Politics of Identity in South Asia course. The University of Edinburgh.
- 2003-2004 First Year Tutor. Department of Anthropology, University of Edinburgh

Professional Development and Experience

- 2016-2018 **Life in the city Postdoctoral award.** Wits School of Governance, University of Witwatersrand: Funded project to explore the intersection of migration, motherhood and livelihood strategies including selling sex.
- 2016-2018 **Wellcome Trust Funded Postdoctoral Fellowship.** ACMS, University of Witwatersrand: Funded project to explore 1) migration, gender and health through the experiences of asylum seeker and refugee women in Johannesburg and, 2) innovative forms of research methodologies with marginalised groups.

- 2017-2018: **SeaM (Security at the Margins). Funding for ‘Care at the Margins: Migrant families, mapping their care support networks, and surviving the city’.** A collaborate project with the University of Edinburgh and based in Johannesburg. The SeaM Project is a three-year partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the University of Witwatersrand and funded by the ESRC and NRF.
- 2013-2015 **WOTRO funded Postdoctoral Fellowship at ACMS,** University of Witwatersrand: Funded project based on a transnational study of the ‘double vulnerabilities’ faced by migrant sex workers and the discourses of trafficking, migration and gendered-ideas of security and belonging in South Africa and Amsterdam.
- 2015 Six months maternity leave taken
- 2012 -2013 **SPARC funded Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA),** University of Witwatersrand. Funding supported the writing of my monograph, based on my doctoral research work exploring conflict, gender activism and notions of endurance and loss in Sri Lanka.
- 2013 Four months maternity leave taken
- 2010-2012 **Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa (CISA),** The University of Witwatersrand. Project developed my doctoral work to explore ideas around activism and human rights, absence and loss and gendered experiences of everyday violence.

Additional Experience.

2018 (ongoing) Teaching English at The Scalabrini Centre for Migrants, Cape Town.

- Voluntary teaching in a “Conversation Club” for migrant women.

2010-2012: Arts-based project for women at Usindiso shelter for abused and homeless Women (December 2011-May 2012).

- Running a weekly art project for 10-12 women
- Interviewing and collecting the stories and experiences of women at the shelter

2011 (Oct): Course on Participatory Research with Children, Johannesburg with Glynis Clacherty and Dr. Rachel Bray.

- Involved: Training course on theory and method for working with children
- Practical research with primary school children.

2004-2005: NGO Support Worker SEED (Social Economic and Environmental Development) Non Governmental Organization, Vavuniya, Sri Lanka.

- Working with local staff on community development projects for sustainable rehabilitation of people affected by conflict through resettlement villages and support projects.
- Living and working with local communities in North and East Sri Lanka, participating in local routines and customs.
- Working in violent and politically sensitive areas of Northern Sri Lanka.

- Liaising with Government and military officials and military leaders of paramilitary groups.

Scholarly Awards

- 2009 **British Association of South Asian Studies (Basas)** Annual Prize for most outstanding paper given by a student at its annual conference. March 2009
- 2005 **Sir William Darling Prize 2005**, University of Edinburgh. September 2005. “Awarded to a student at the University of Edinburgh who by example, scholarship or pre-eminence in sport has done most to advance or enhance the reputation of the University”. Awarded for relief work carried out in Sri Lanka following the December 2004 South-Asian Tsunami including the implementation and support of a project to rehabilitate the livelihoods of fishermen on the East coast of Sri Lanka.
- 2003-2010 **Economic and Social Research Council of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (ESRC)** National competition. Fully Funded Doctoral Studentship for Masters and Doctoral Studies.
- 2002 **Small Projects Grant**, University of Edinburgh. March 2002. Awarded for voluntary work with a local NGO in Sri Lanka over three months from June – August 2002. Voluntary work involved fact-finding trips to the conflict- affected northern areas of Sri Lanka and research into the of peace process.

Conferences and Presentations (a selection)

(Additional detail on request)

- 2017 (Aug) ‘Trauma, wellbeing and ‘being seen’ in the city’ – exploring the experiences of refugee women in Johannesburg. Conference on ‘Urban Anxieties’ at The University of the Witwatersrand.
- 2016 (Nov). ‘Migration and Sex work – an overview’ – Sex work research symposium/policy dialogue at the Workers Museum in Johannesburg (organized by ACMS).
- 2016 (June). ‘Contested spaces: Exploring the intersections of migration, sex work and trafficking in South Africa’. ‘Government Morality’ at ACMS, The University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.
- 2015 (October) ‘Mothers, Migrants and Women who sell sex in Johannesburg’ International Workshop on Migration, Trafficking and Sex Work at The University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (funded by Wotro).
- 2015 (March) ‘Risks and challenges of migrant mothers who are sex workers in Johannesburg’ international workshop on Violence against Women and Children in Diverse Contexts at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 3rd-6th March 2015.
- 2015 (February) ‘Challenges of accessing healthcare for migrants in Gauteng’. Lawyers for Human Rights seminar. University of Witwatersrand.
- 2014 (October) ‘Rights to healthcare for non-nationals in Gauteng’. Workshop organised by CORMSA.
- 2014 (June) “It’s not a nice job but if God provides then I am not wrong”. Exploring notions of belonging, exclusion and of being “immoral” amongst migrant sex workers in inner city Johannesburg.

Decennial conference for the Association of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh
June 2014.

- 2013 (October) Book launch: “Enduring Violence. Everyday life and conflict in eastern Sri Lanka” with respondents: Prof Dilip Menon (CISA), Adele Kirsten (Guns Free South Africa) and Richard Smith (Action Support Centre).
- 2013 (Sep) “Absent bodies, Present Memories: Marking out the everyday and future in eastern Sri Lanka”. Annual South Asian Anthropological Group (SAAG) conference.
- 2013 (May) Understanding conflict in Sri Lanka. The Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand.
- 2011 (Nov) ‘An anthropology of ‘minor utopias’: the possibilities and limits of ethnography in the Sri Lankan civil war’. With Prof. Jonathan Spencer. Utopias and Dystopias Conference, Centre for Indian Studies, University of Witwatersrand.
- 2011 (July) ‘Rethinking Feminist Activism. The Futures of Feminism’, Brunel University.
- 2011 (May) ‘Absent Bodies, Present Memories: Rethinking life amongst Tamils in Eastern Sri Lanka’. Tamil Studies Conference, Toronto University
- 2011 (Nov) ‘Violence In Everyday Life In Sri Lanka And South Africa’, University of Witwatersrand, Political Studies.
- 2010 (Nov) Conference on “Rethinking Activism”: Exploring The Meanings Of Activism Across India, Sri Lanka And South Africa. Organised by Rebecca Walker.
- 2010 (March) ‘Unfinished Pasts and Small Beginnings: Exploring Strategies of Endurance and Networks of Support in Eastern Sri Lanka’, The British Association For South Asian Studies (Basas) Conference. University of Warwick.
- 2009 (May) ‘Everyday Life and Violence in Sri Lanka’, Violence And Current Affairs In Sri Lanka Panel. University of Sussex.
- 2009 (March) ‘Every-other-day Violence: Questioning the integrity of the Ordinary and Everyday Life on the East Coast of Sri Lanka’, British Association for South Asian Studies (Basas) Conference. University of Edinburgh. Panel on Violence and the Everyday in Sri Lanka (Panel convener: Rebecca Walker).

References

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