

Annette Gerritsen

I am a consultant inspired by a love for epidemiology and interest in diseases.

I have been professionally trained in epidemiology in the Netherlands (MSc, PhD) after which moved to South Africa. Since 2008 I am working as an epidemiology consultant, assisting a range of organisations with literature and data reviews, publication writing and editing, and curriculum development and teaching.

Much of my work focusses on HIV, but I also have experience in many other (non-) communicable diseases. My main focus is conducting methodologically sound research leading to valid results and better decisions.

My key competences are: Professional enthusiasm; Knowledgeable; Pragmatic; Thorough; Responsive; Deliver within short timeframes; High quality work; Going the extra mile.

Personal details

Date of birth	January 31, 1975
Country of birth	The Netherlands
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Work experience

October 2008 – ...

I started Epi Result, a firm offering research consultancy and epidemiology training.
www.epiresult.com

Projects:

Consultant for the Global HIV Prevention Coalition – working on e.g. reviewing guidance documents for Key Populations (unique identifier codes; programmatic mapping and population size estimates; programmatic monitoring); guidance for comprehensive service packages for adolescent girls and young women; condom situation analyses; prevention scorecards for Coalition countries. (UNAIDS Geneva)

Consultant for the Evaluation of the contribution of the UN Joint programme to the goals and targets in the 2016-2021 UNAIDS Strategy. Responsible for the

Right Results chapter, including the quantitative analysis of UBRAF outputs and HIV epidemic and response indicators. Furthermore, conducted the South Africa case study and several key informant interviews. (Itad)

Impact Evaluation of Differentiated Models of Care for Adolescents Living with HIV in Botswana. Developed the study protocol, prepared the implementation of the baseline study, wrote the baseline results report. (UNICEF Botswana)

Developing and piloting a risk assessment tool for HIV negatives and a process of linking HIV negatives to prevention interventions. (WHO South Africa)

Assessment of the operationalization of the TB/HIV single concept note: Progress, challenges and way forward. This included desk-review of key documents, key informant interviews and a workshop with programme managers, and documentation of the results. (The Global Fund)

Developing Operational guidance for creating HIV prevention cascades, a tool for monitoring programs. (Gates Foundation)

Consultant for two nutrition related systematic reviews: 1) Community-level interventions for improving access to food in low- and middle-income countries; 2) Effects of policies or interventions that influence the school food environment. This includes Title and abstract screening, full text screening, data-extraction and quality assessment of studies identified. (Cochrane South Africa) Consultant for a cross-sectional review of a sample of current guideline units globally. The process was a three phase approach to: 1) identify possible units; 2) verify the sample; and 3) to explore the structure and functions of the sample. This with the aim to see what we can learn in South Africa from the other units, especially regarding the objectives / tasks they perform, and the challenges they face. (Cochrane South Africa)

Evaluating the Unfinished Business program focussing on accelerating HIV testing, treatment and retention in care for children and adolescents in South Africa and Uganda. This involves analysing data along the cascade of care as well as supporting implementing partners to do so. Performing similar tasks for a program conducted in Swaziland, Zambia and Kenya (Itad)

Developing district level HIV estimates for HIV treatment cascades and district epidemiology profiles. Facilitating five workshops on HIV data use for high burden districts in South Africa as well as workshops for facility staff. (UNAIDS South Africa)

Writing the protocol for the DREAMS programme impact evaluation study as well as reporting on the results of the HIV Incidence Provincial Surveillance System study conducted in KwaZulu-Natal. (Epicentre)

February 2007 –
February 2010

Senior lecturer, Department of Public Health, University of Venda, Thohoyandou, South Africa. www.univen.ac.za

Developing educational materials (e.g. block books including Problem Based Learning (PBL) as a teaching/learning method) for modules on epidemiology and biostatistics, and research methodology for Master of Public Health (MPH)

students and teaching these modules (e.g. Introduction to epidemiology and biostatistics, Research methodology (quantitative), Advanced epidemiology, Advanced biostatistics)

First supervisor of research projects of 4 MPH students (and co-supervisor of 1) that graduated in 2010.

Coordinating the MPH programme (responsible for the selection of students, contacts with students and staff, planning and practical organisation).

Revising the framework of the MPH programme (e.g. revising the structure, the blocks, and including PBL).

Conducting research projects e.g. in collaboration with the Malaria Control Programme in Tzaneen.

March 2006 –
January 2007

Researcher, Centre for Infectious Disease Control, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands. www.rivm.nl

Conducting research with respect to the national immunisation programme: Evaluating a pilot project on the surveillance of rash illness (i.e. evaluating non-invasive diagnostic tests for measles, rubella and parvovirus B19).

June 2005 –
September 2005

Researcher, Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Utrecht, the Netherlands. www.nivel.nl

Analysing data from the Second Dutch National Survey of General Practice to assess gender differences in health and health care use in the general population of the Netherlands and in the four largest migrant groups in the Netherlands.

February 2005 –
May 2005

Researcher, Community Health Services for Asylum Seekers (GGD Nederland), Utrecht, The Netherlands. www.ggd.nl

Conducting additional analyses on the data of the group of asylum seekers (post-doc project) and contributing to a report.

July 2002 –
March 2006

Post-doctoral researcher, Department of Medical Psychology, VU University Medical Centre (VUmc), Amsterdam, the Netherlands. <http://www.vumc.com/patientcare/>

Project manager of a survey on the prevalence of health problems and the utilisation of health care among more than 400 refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Iran and Somalia living in 3 major municipalities and 14 reception centres in the Netherlands.

Main responsibilities:

1. organising the study (including design, project planning, finance)
2. development of measurement instrument
3. recruitment of participants and coordination of the data collection
4. supervising the research team (consisting of 33 interviewers from Afghanistan, Iran and Somalia) and 1 research assistant)
5. developing and conducting interview training sessions
6. maintaining contacts with relevant partners in the field
7. data-analysis (SPSS) and reporting of the results in academic publications and a report
8. presentation of the results at (inter)national meetings
9. organising a conference meeting about the project

April 1998 –
June 2002

Junior-researcher, Institute for Research in Extramural
Medicine (EMGO Institute), VUmc.

<http://www.emgo.nl/home/>

Project manager of a randomised controlled trial on the treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome with splinting or surgery. The trial included almost 200 patients and was conducted in 13 hospitals. The research team consisted of 3 physiotherapists and 2 research assistants.

Main responsibilities: see 1 t/m 4, 7-8 above

September 1997 –
March 1998

Junior-teacher, Department of Epidemiology, Catholic
University of Nijmegen (KUN), Nijmegen, the
Netherlands. <http://www.ru.nl/english/>

Teaching epidemiology and developing new teaching materials.

Other activities [past 10 years]:

June 2008 –
September 2014

Member of the executive committee of the Public Health Association of South
Africa. www.phasa.org.za

October 2007 – ...

External examiner for the School of Health Systems and Public Health
(University of Pretoria), National School of Public Health (University of
Limpopo – Medunsa Campus), School of Public Health Wits University,
UNIVEN for exams and dissertations of the Master of Public Health
programme

Education

April 2002

Defended dissertation and received PhD title (Vrije Universiteit (VU),
Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

September 1993 – June 1997	Biomedical health sciences, major in epidemiology (KUN) (Cum Laude)
	<i>Courses: [past 10 years]</i>
April 2020	Fighting COVID-19 with Epidemiology: A Johns Hopkins Teach-Out.
February 2016	One-day training course on GRADE guideline development. (Cochrane South Africa)
February 2014	Two-day consultants briefing for country profile data analysis (systems, epidemic, response, impact) for HIV. (WHO)
February 2013 – April 2013	Certificate course on Monitoring and Evaluation of Health Programs (Public Health Foundation of India / MEASURE evaluation).
September – October 2011	A 5-week online course on Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) via Village Earth (Colorado State University).
August – September 2011	A 2.5-week online course on Health Impact Assessment via the International Health Impact Assessment Consortium (IMPACT), University of Liverpool.
February – March 2011	A 6-week online course on Health Outcomes and the Poor via the World Bank Institute.

International scientific publications [10 most recent]

1. Abdul R, Gerritsen AAM, Mwangome M, Geubbels E. Prevalence of self-reported symptoms of sexually transmitted infections, knowledge and sexual behaviour among youth in semi-rural Tanzania in the period of adolescent friendly health services strategy implementation. BMC Infect Dis. 2018 May 19;18(1):229.
2. Mtowa A, Gerritsen AAM, Mtenga S, Mwangome M, Geubbels E. Socio-demographic inequalities in HIV testing behaviour and HIV prevalence among older adults in rural Tanzania, 2013. AIDS Care. 2017 Sep;29(9):1162-1168.
3. Lamkaddem M, Essink-Bot ML, Devillé W, Gerritsen A, Stronks K. Health changes of refugees from Afghanistan, Iran and Somalia: the role of residence status and experienced living difficulties in the resettlement process. Eur J Public Health. 2015;25(6):917-22.
4. Bocquier P, Collinson MA, Clark SJ, Gerritsen AA, Kahn K, Tollman SM. Ubiquitous burden: the contribution of migration to AIDS and Tuberculosis mortality in rural South Africa. Etude Popul Afr. 2014;28(1):691-701.
5. van Melle MA, Lamkaddem M, Stuiver MM, Gerritsen AA, Devillé WL, Essink-Bot ML. Quality of primary care for resettled refugees in the

Netherlands with chronic mental and physical health problems: a cross-sectional analysis of medical records and interview data. BMC Fam Pract. 2014;15:160.

6. Lamkaddem M, Stronks K, Devillé WD, Olf M, Gerritsen AA, Essink-Bot ML. Course of post-traumatic stress disorder and health care utilisation among resettled refugees in the Netherlands. BMC Psychiatry. 2014;14:90.
7. Gerritsen A, Bocquier P, White M, et al. Health and demographic surveillance systems: contributing to an understanding of the dynamics in migration and health. Glob Health Action. 2013;6:21496.
8. Lamkaddem M, Stronks K, Gerritsen AAM, Deville WLJM, Essink-Bot ML. Gezondheid en zorggebruik van vluchtelingen - Vervolgonderzoek onder mensen met een verblijfsvergunning in Nederland. Ned Tijdschr Geneesk. 2013;157:A5604.
9. Gerritsen AA, Mitchell JS, Johnson SM, Delva W. Challenges with using estimates when calculating ART need among adults in South Africa. S Afr Med J. 2012;102(10):798-9
10. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchell JS, White B. Provision and need of HIV/AIDS services in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, 2010. SAMJ. 2012;102(1):44-46.

International presentations [10 most recent]

1. Gerritsen AAM. The South African HIV cascades road trip. WHO HIV Cascade Workshop. Harare, Zimbabwe, 31 October to 2 November 2017.
2. Gerritsen AAM. Introduction to comparative effectiveness research, meta-analysis and network analysis. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) South Africa. Pretoria, South Africa. 9 September 2014.
3. Karen J Hofman, Annette AM Gerritsen, Mandy Maredza, Sulaimon A Afolabi, Chodziwadziwa W Kabudula, F. Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Stephen M Tollman, Kathleen K Kahn. Trends in neonatal, infant and under five mortality in a rural north east sub-district of South Africa, 2000-2011: Monitoring Millennium Development Goal 4. 1th Public Health Association of South Africa Conference 2014. Polokwane, South Africa, 3-6 September 2014.
4. Gerritsen AAM, Johnson S, Mitchel J, White B. Estimating gaps in HIV service provision. Scaling-up best practice in Health Systems Strengthening. ANOVA Health Institute. Johannesburg, South Africa, 5-6 November 2013.

5. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchel J, White B. Provision of HIV/AIDS and TB services within the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality 2010-2011. Book of abstracts. Inaugural conference Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa conference (SASA). Polokwane, South Africa, 26 April 2013.
6. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchel J, White B. Estimating the need for orphaned and vulnerable children HIV/AIDS services in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality 2011. Book of abstracts. 2nd conference on OVC in Africa, 30 October-2 November 2012, Midrand, South Africa.
7. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchel J, White B. Provision of HIV/AIDS and TB services within the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality 2011. Book of abstracts. 3rd South African TB conference. Durban, South Africa, 12-15 June 2012.
8. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchel J, White B. Provision and need of HIV/AIDS services in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, 2011. Book of abstracts. 7th Public Health Association of South Africa Conference 2011. Sandton, South Africa, 28-30 November 2011.
9. Gerritsen AAM, Mitchel J, White B. Provision and need of HIV/AIDS services in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, 2011. Book of abstracts. 6th SAHARA Conference 2011. Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 28 November-2 December 2011.
10. Kredo T, Gerritsen A, Conway S, Siegfried N. Agreement and alignment: current status of clinical practice guidelines within the Southern African Development community. Book of abstracts. 19th Cochrane Colloquium. Madrid, Spain, 19-22 October 2011.

References

Gina Dallabetta, Senior Program Officer, Gates Foundation -
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Tamara Kredo, Senior Specialist Scientist, Cochrane South Africa -
Tamara.Kredo@mrc.ac.za

Ali Fezzadeh, Senior Strategic Information Advisor, UNAIDS South Africa - fezzadeha@unaids.org

Daniel Low-Ber, Coordinator Strategic Information, WHO HIV/AIDS Department - lowbeerd@who.int

Victoria Chuwa, HIV/AIDS Specialist, UNICEF Botswana -
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