

Annette Gerritsen

I am an epidemiologist, professionally trained in epidemiology in The Netherlands (MSc Biomedical Health Sciences, major in epidemiology, Radboud University of Nijmegen). I obtained my PhD from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, reporting on a randomized controlled clinical trial on the treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome. Since then I have been registered as senior epidemiologist with the National Committee for Medical-Biological Training in the Netherlands.

After my PhD I have been involved in research studies focusing on the health and health care use of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants in the Netherlands.

In 2007 I moved to South Africa to work as a senior lecturer in epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Venda, Thohoyandou where I was involved in a project on the malaria incidence in Limpopo province. I have a series of publications in highly regarded international peer-reviewed journals. And I am a member of the executive committee of the Public Health Association of South Africa.

In 2008 I founded Epi Result, a company specialised in assisting clients with designing epidemiological studies, analysing data from these studies as well as the reporting on these studies.

Personal details

Date of birth	January 31, 1975
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Work experience

October 2008 – ...

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

www.epiresult.com

Recent projects:

Developing a guide which provides the user with an overview of the steps required to conduct a Focus Group Discussion (FDG), including the resources required, and instructions about what you do with the information when you have completed the FDGs. (University of Limpopo)

Developing a news website and electronic newsletter for the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA). Doing the content management of this website as well as the editorial work for the newsletter.

Scientific editing of a journal article on tuberculosis screening among female health sciences students in Jeddah in order to make it suitable for submission to a scientific journal.(King Abdulaziz University)

Conducting a health baseline study (as part of a health impact assessment) for a region in Angola which in the future might be exposed to certain impacts as a result of an off-shore oil field development. (Angola Resources Consultants)

Developing a Diabetes Screening Tool based on available evidence in the scientific literature, but also taking into account that it is easy to complete and gives a simple estimate of the diabetes risk. (Healthism)

Developing a demographic and burden of disease profile – using i.e. data from the District Health Information System - for selected areas in the Eastern Cape as part of a project on improving primary health care in the province. (Foundation for Professional Development)

Analysing the data of the 2010 and 2011 survey on HIV/AIDS service provision in Tshwane and calculating the need for services. Writing the 2010 and 2011 report and a journal article. (Foundation for Professional Development)

Giving a workshop on Basic epidemiology at the 3rd International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) South Africa conference (15-16 September 2010).

Teaching epidemiological study designs to MSc and MPH students at the School of Health Systems and Public Health at the University of Pretoria. Examining MSc, MPH, MMed and PhD dissertations.

Assessing the methodological quality of the development of guidelines on the management of HIV, malaria, diarrhoea in children, hypertension and malaria (WHO and SADC countries). (South African Cochrane Centre)

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).

Contributed to: de Melker HE. [The National Immunisation Programme now and in the future: developments in 2005]. Bilthoven: RIVM, 2006. And edited the report on 2006.

Worked on a needs assessment for the introduction of universal human papillomavirus vaccination.

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 5 years]:

June 2008 – ...

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 for exams and dissertations of the Master of Public Health programme

January 2002 – ...

Reviewer for several journals e.g. BMC Malaria; BMC Health Services Research; South African Medical Journal; Water SA; African Journal for Physical, Health Education, Recreation & Dance; European Psychiatry; Journal of clinical epidemiology; Lancet; Journal of Neurology; Muscle & Nerve

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)

Courses: [past 5 years]

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.

September –
October 2010

A 5-week online course on Basics of Health Economics via the World Bank Institute.

July 2010

4-week online course on GEE (Generalized Estimating Equations) via www.statistics.com.

April 2010

4-week online course on GLM (Generalized Linear Models) via

www.statistics.com.

- June 2007 Attended a 5-day workshop on Mastering the art of facilitation organised by SeP Serfontein Consulting and NUFFIC in South Africa.
- May 2007 Attended a 2-day workshop on Supervision organised by SANPAD in South Africa.
- February –
March 2007 Attended a 5-day NUFFIC workshop on Problem Based Learning (block construction and case development) in South Africa.

International scientific publications [10 most recent]

1. 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.
2. Kredo T, Gerritsen A, van Heerden J, Conway S, Siegfried N. Clinical Practice Guidelines within the Southern African Development Community: a Descriptive Study of the Quality of Guideline Development and Concordance with Best Evidence for Five Priority Diseases. Health Res Policy Syst. 2012 Jan 5;10(1):1.
3. Lutje V, Gerritsen A, Siegfried N. Randomized controlled trials of malaria intervention trials in Africa, 1948 to 2007: a descriptive analysis. Malar J. 2011;10:61.
4. Gwetu TP, Gerritsen AAM, Akinsola HA. Forced migration and health - diarrhoea among adult Zimbabwean immigrants in Limpopo. SAMJ. 2011;10(4):246-247.
5. Gerritsen AA, Deville W. Gender differences in health and health care use in migrants in the Netherlands. BMC Public Health 2009,9:109.
6. Gerritsen AA, Kruger P, Schim van der Loeff MF, Grobusch MP. Malaria incidence in Limpopo Province, South Africa, 1998-2007. Malaria Journal 2008, 7:162.
7. Boot HJ, Wallenburg I, de Melker HE, Mangen MJ, Gerritsen AA, van der Maas NA, Berkhof J, Meijer CJ, Kimman TG. Assessing the introduction of universal human papillomavirus vaccination for preadolescent girls in the Netherlands. Vaccine. 2007;25:6245-56.

8. Korthals-de Bos IB, Gerritsen AA, van Tulder MW, Rutten-van Molken MP, Ader HJ, de Vet HC, Bouter LM. Surgery is more cost-effective than splinting for carpal tunnel syndrome in the Netherlands: results of an economic evaluation alongside a randomized controlled trial. *BMC Musculoskelet Disord*. 2006;7:86.
9. Gerritsen AA, Bramsen I, Deville W, van Willigen LH, Hovens JE, van der Ploeg HM. Use of health care services by Afghan, Iranian, and Somali refugees and asylum seekers living in The Netherlands. *Eur J Public Health*. 2006;16:394-9.
10. Gerritsen AA, Bramsen I, Deville W, van Willigen LH, Hovens JE, van der Ploeg HM. Physical and mental health of Afghan, Iranian and Somali asylum seekers and refugees living in the Netherlands. *Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol*. 2006;41:18-26.

International presentations [10 most recent]

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Gerritsen A, Kahn K, Tollman S, Garenne M. Validation of verbal autopsies in rural South Africa: The influence of AIDS mortality. Book of abstracts. 6th Public Health Association of South Africa Conference 2010. East London, South Africa, 29 November – 1 December 2010.
5. Speaker at the opening plenary of the OVC in Africa conference, 31 October-3 November 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa. Estimating the need for orphaned and vulnerable children HIV/AIDS services in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality 2010.
6. Lamkaddem M, Stronks K, Deville W, Gerritsen A, Essink-Bot ML. “Gevlucht-Gezond?-II”Changes in health and health care utilization of

refugees in the Netherlands: a longitudinal study (2004-2010). Book of abstracts. 3rd Conference of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Europe. Pécs, Hungary, 27-29 May 2010.

7. Gerritsen A, Lutje V, Siegfried N, Garner P. Characteristics of randomized controlled trials of malaria prevention and treatment in Africa. Book of abstracts. 5th Public Health Association of South Africa Conference 2009. Durban, South Africa, 30 November – 2 December 2009.
8. Mitchell J, Gerritsen A, Naidoo E. An alternative approach to estimating need for ART provision in Tshwane, South Africa. Book of abstracts. 5th SAHARA conference conference. Johannesburg, South Africa, 30 November – 3 December 2009.
9. Lutje V, Gerritsen A, Siegfried N, Garner P. Registering and analyzing malaria clinical trials in Africa: the PACT registry initiative [MIM15069103]. Book of abstracts. 5th MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference. Nairobi, Kenya, 2 – 6 November 2009.
10. Gerritsen AAM. INDEPTH Network Perspectives on The Dynamics of Migration, Health and Livelihoods. Migration and Society seminar Forced migration studies programme, University of the Witwatersrand. Johannesburg, South Africa, 28 July 2009.

References

Janine Mitchel | Department head, Compass project, Foundation for Professional Development
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