

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.

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:

I developed a technical report on the epidemiological analysis of HIV in Nepal (HIV epidemic, HIV response, Recommendations for the strategic framework) that serves as input for the writing of a concept note for retrieving funding from the Global Fund. I have conducted similar work for WHO Mozambique, which besides an analysis of the HIV epidemic, also included a mid-term evaluation of the HIV and PMTCT strategy. And I also wrote the Epidemiological and impact analysis section (desk review) of the joint HIV and TB programme review 2013 for South Africa. (WHO)

I wrote a report on the current status and future projections of the prevalence of osteoarthritis (knee, hip and hand) in the US, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK (7MM) using prevalence data from the literature and population numbers. And similar reports for the 7MM and/or China and/or Brazil on: Alzheimer's disease, acute coronary syndrome, age-related macular degeneration, ankylosing spondylitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, dyslipidemia, pulmonary hypertension. (Datamonitor Healthcare)

I provide supervision of two staff members from IHI to mentor them in the writing of scientific articles and presenting at scientific conferences. I also provided supportive supervision and peer feedback to staff from IHI (teaching skills as well as materials teaching a module on epidemiological research designs). Furthermore, assisted with the development of a module on advanced epidemiology. (Ifakara Health Institute)

I wrote sections on HIV prevalence, male medical circumcision, TB notifications and mortality for the annual progress report on the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs. I also assisted with the writing of the national report on the National Health Care Facilities Audit that was conducted in 2011/12. The process included retrieving relevant data from the database and other sources, developing graphs and tables, and writing the accompanying narratives. (Health Systems Trust)

I made an online learning package on how to read case control studies and cohort studies. Each package included a summary of key readings on the respective study design, podcasts focusing on the most difficult topics, and a worked example of the assessment of an article using the specific design. (Centre for Evidence-based Health Care, Stellenbosch University)

For a national project on the dynamics and incidence of child abuse, neglect and exploitation (in collaboration with the Department of Social Development) I reviewed and finalized the methodology including the data collection instrument. (Linkd Environmental Services)

Developed an online calculator that gives estimates for the need of HIV/AIDS, TB and NCD services for all provinces, districts and municipalities in South Africa. (Foundation for Professional Development)

Wrote the Annual Health Statistics Report 2011 and 2012 for the Ministry of Health of Swaziland, including analysing data from the routine data collection systems Swaziland and from surveys. (Institute for Health Management)

Provided support to a systematic review on trends in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of malaria treatment and prevention in Africa (e.g. identification of RCTs and the data extraction from the studies found, and writing up). (South African Cochrane Centre)

Doing the content management of the website of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA), including the community, as well as the editorial work for the newsletter. I do similar work for the South African Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (SACEMA).

Conducted 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)

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.

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 –
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

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 –

Biomedical health sciences, major in epidemiology (KUN) (Cum Laude)

June 1997

Courses: [past 5 years]

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.

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. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Gwetu TP, Gerritsen AAM, Akinsola HA. Forced migration and health - diarrhoea among adult Zimbabwean immigrants in Limpopo. SAMJ. 2011;10(4):246-247.

International presentations [10 most recent]

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
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. 6th SAHARA Conference 2011. Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 28 November-2 December 2011.
9. 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.
10. 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.

References

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