

CURRICULUM VITAE

BETH VALE



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Dr Beth Vale is an applied anthropologist, public health specialist, and social development consultant – who believes that for any public policy to succeed, it must land, and live, in complex socio-political worlds, among ordinary people whose voices are rarely heard in policymaking. Her expertise span HIV/AIDS, chronic illness, the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable epidemics, as well as gender and the care economy. Over the years, Dr Vale’s work has also expanded beyond public health, exploring social protection, early childhood development, education and youth employment. Through her consulting practice, she conducts and translates research for a range of development NPOs, driving evidence-based advocacy, policy and programming that is attuned to social and political complexities, and oriented to social justice.

Education

University of Oxford (Oct 2012– Feb 2016), Linacre College

PHD in Evidence-based Social Intervention: supervised by Professor Lucie Cluver and Professor Jonny Steinberg. Supported by the **Rhodes Trust**.

Thesis Title: [*Blood and Belonging: the practice of antiretroviral treatment among HIV-positive youth in South Africa’s Eastern Cape*](#)

An ethnographic study exploring treatment decision-making and retention in care for 23 HIV-positive adolescents in the Eastern Cape, South Africa. The thesis produced four first-author publications, which grappled with the everyday politics of care in homes, clinics and neighbourhoods. The research formed part of a [larger multi-disciplinary research project](#) on the

livelihoods of HIV-positive adolescents, which is supported by UNICEF, Paediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa and the South African Departments of Health, Basic Education and Social Development.

University of Cape Town (2011 – July 2012)

MA in Sociology, by dissertation: supervised by Dr Rebecca Hodes and Professor Deborah Posel. Degree awarded with Distinction. Supported by the **Ford Foundation**.

Thesis Title: [*From Manual to Makeshift: The Practice of Community Health Work in Two Cape Town Informal Settlements*](#)

An ethnographic study exploring interpretations and practices of care work among a cohort community health-workers in Wallacedene and Bloekombos, Western Cape. The thesis produces three working papers, published through the Centre for Social Science Research at the University of Cape Town.

Rhodes University, Grahamstown (2006 -2010)

BA Honours (2010) in Philosophy and Political & International Studies: coursework and dissertation. Degree awarded with Distinction. Supported by the **Mandela-Rhodes Foundation**.

Bachelor of Arts (2007 -2009) Majoring in Philosophy and Political & International Studies Degree awarded with Distinction (All courses passed in the First Class).

Academic & Leadership Awards

See list of academic and press publications at the end of CV

- 2019 Academic & Non Fiction Association Authors Association of South Africa Grantee
- 2016 Women: The Real Architects of Society Award Nominee
- 2015 Oppenheimer Memorial Trust Postgraduate Funding Award
- 2013 Mail and Guardian –Top 200 Young South Africans
- 2012 **The Rhodes Scholarship**
- 2011 AIDS in Society Research Unit, Masters Scholarship/Internship, University of Cape Town
- 2010 **Mandela-Rhodes Scholarship**
 - Academic Colours
 - Dean’s List
- 2009 Kendall Scholarship (Top 10 Rhodes University Undergraduates)
 - Terence Beard Prize (Best final year student in Political Studies, Rhodes University)
 - Daantjie Oosthuizen Prize (Best final year student in the Philosophy Department, Rhodes University)
 - Academic Half Colours
 - Dean’s List
 - Dean of Students Leadership Award
 - Rhodes Top 100 Students –Activism/Leadership Category
 - Rhodes Amnesty International Award for Social Change – Youth Leadership Category

2008 Academic Half Colours
Dean's List
Nominee for Rhodes Amnesty International Awards for Social Change

Work Experience

Academic

****[See publications list](#)****

Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand (August 2020 – January 2022)

Designed and taught two courses: a third-year course on the Anthropology of Medicine & The Body, and a Masters course on Art, Archives & Anthropology. I also convened the departmental webinar series, *Culture, Art & Archives*, drawing ethnographers and African film practitioners into dialogue; supervised postgraduate students; and sat on the university's Transformation Committee.

***Chronic Countryside: Life in the Face of Colliding Epidemics*, Independent Writer Researcher (December 2018 – July 2021)**

This project, investigating non-communicable diseases in South Africa's Karoo Heartland, was supported by a *Wellcome Trust* grant on epidemiological transitions in Africa and the *Academic and Non-Fiction Association of South Africa* (held at University College London), with in-kind contributions from the *Jakes Gerwel* Foundation. It explores experiences and interpretations of infectious and non-infectious chronic illness, surfacing their intersection with regional socio-economic and environmental shifts, as well as their implications for our shared social and epidemiological future. A book manuscript is currently under consideration for publication.

Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study (JIAS), *State of Dis-ease* Director (January – June 2019)

Conceptualised and convened a three-day transdisciplinary workshop, titled [State of Dis-ease](#). The workshop drew together practitioners, artists, activists, journalists and academics, from across the country, to reflect on pressing issues for South African health.

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of The Witwatersrand (May 2016 – May 2017)

Investigated Johannesburg nightclubs as sites of quotidian political labour, through which the young people contest social space and their place in it. This produced multiple press articles for *The Mail and Guardian*, [Bubblegumclub](#), *Platform* and *The Conversation*, as well as a book chapter towards the *Vitra Design Museum Catalogue*, *Night Fever*.

Co-organiser of Oxford University's Annual Researching Africa Day, Oxford (2015) One-day conference, bringing together graduate students and early career researchers in the field of African Studies.

Committee Member for the Economic, Social Sciences and Human Rights Track, 7th South African AIDS Conference, Durban (2015) Tasked with reviewing abstracts and co-constituting panels.

Designed and facilitated Academic Writing and Critical Thinking, CBL International Short Course, Oxford (May 2014) A one-week course for Chinese Undergraduates, as part of the CBL International English Literature Summer School held at Oxford University.

Co-Investigator and Project Manager, Mzantsi Wakho (September 2012 - November 2014)

My doctoral research formed part of a larger, grant-funded collaboration on HIV-positive adolescents in South Africa's Eastern Cape, led by Prof Lucie Cluver and Dr Rebecca Hodes. My doctoral work began in the early phases of the project and included collaborating with the quantitative team to: develop an ethics protocol, design and test research instruments, engage local partners, train fieldwork teams, report to funders, conduct concurrent analysis and validation, and facilitate radically-participatory consultations with adolescents. At this stage, the qualitative research arm, which I managed, worked a cohort of about thirty adolescents, as well as their families and health workers. It also included research partnerships with adolescent support groups and local youth organisations.

Project Manager and Facilitator of the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) Weekend Workshops (March 2013, November 2014) TAG is an initiative of the adolescent health research team, [Mzantsi Wakho](#), and, during my tenure, was comprised of 40 AIDS-affected and HIV-positive teenagers from the Western and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa. TAG's weekend-long programmes aimed to elicit feedback on study design and methods, discover the most pertinent concerns of AIDS-affected youth, ensure that questions and research tools are relevant and accessible for young people, and learn about youth discourses and terminology in the field of HIV/AIDS and sexuality. There is also a strong policy consultation component in which youth engage in advocacy about what they need from health and social services.

Public Health & Social Development Consulting

Freelance Consulting

Drawing on both primary and desktop research, as well as a history of advocacy and advisory work; I offer freelance consulting services to a range of NPOs and private consultancies. These organisations work at the intersections of health, education and social development, informing public policy and emerging best practice. Some of my past clients, collaborators, and employers are listed below. Samples of my consulting work are available [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL/ CROSS-COUNTRY

- [Paediatric AIDS Treatment for Africa](#) (PATA) (2013) is a non-government organisation providing support tools, networking opportunities, and sharing platforms for 250 paediatric antiretroviral treatment (ART) clinics in Sub-Saharan and Eastern Africa. I worked to design and launch PATA's advocacy agenda, starting with extensive strategic planning to identify PATA's advocacy agenda and primary targets. Consultation also involved facilitating and planning discussions among teams of East African healthworkers at PATA's regional conference in Dar es Salaam. Three policy briefs were produced during this period: one on the role of community healthworkers in crafting a global health

agenda; another on transitioning adolescents into adult HIV-care; and a final brief on the post-2015 health agenda. As a PATA Mentor for Newlands Clinic in Zimbabwe (2013) and Partners in Health (2014), I held brief consultations with each clinic, sharing knowledge about building research capacity and assessing adolescent health needs.

- [Anthrologica](#) (November 2015 – November 2016) is a research-based organisation in the UK that specialises in applied anthropology in global health. As an intern, I assisted the Director and other team members by reviewing literature, preparing briefings and presentations, writing proposals, and serving as research assistants. I assisted on projects concerning birth registration uptake in Angola; community responses to Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and child pneumonia in Zimbabwe.
- [UNAIDS](#) (2011) Reviewed policy and protocol for the management of community health workers in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA/ LOCAL

- [Youth Capital](#) (2019 – ongoing) is a youth-led advocacy campaign invested in a future in which every young person has the skills, support and opportunity to get their first job. Each year, I combine mixed-methods academic research, policy analysis, and qualitative interviewing of Youth Capital's implementing partners, to co-produce Youth Capital's annual publication: *Shift*. Here, I combine Outside of the annual publication, I've also worked with Youth Capital on special policy briefs – for example, on [Second Chance Matriculation](#).
- [Ilifa Labantwana](#) (2020 - ongoing) works to secure an equal start for all children, through universal access to quality early childhood development (ECD). My work with Ilifa has included: advising on their M&E strategy; managing production of their working paper series and Early Childhood Review; compiling case studies to inform ECD payment systems; and driving research on community health work for ECD. I have also worked to co-conceptualise an Investment Prospectus for Systems Change in Early Childhood Development.
- [Zero Dropout](#) (2018 – ongoing) drives evidence-based approaches to school dropout prevention. Each year, I combine mixed-methods academic research, policy analysis, and qualitative interviewing with Zero Dropout Campaign's implementing partners, to co-produce Zero Dropout's annual publication and leverage it as a tool for advocacy. Most recently, we produced a publication on the relationships between [gender and school disengagement](#).
- [Grow Great](#) (2018 – ongoing) is mobilising South Africans around a national commitment to 'zero (childhood) stunting by 2030.' In the early conceptualisation of Grow Great, I produced and presented a [scoping review of community health worker \(CHW\) policy](#) and programming in South Africa, with recommendations for to support the deployment of CHWs for the Grow Great initiative.
- [Percept](#) (August 2019 – ongoing) is a South African multi-disciplinary consultancy, working towards a healthier, more financially-resilient world. Together with colleagues at Percept, I have produced two series of briefs: one series (for HASA) explored the National Health Insurance's purchaser/provider split; while the second series (for RGA) explored the nature and trajectory of the non-communicable disease epidemic in South Africa. Both series combine anthropological and actuarial insights to produce policy-relevant recommendations for a public audience. We have also produced individual briefs for the Hospital Association of South Africa, exploring telemedicine

regulation, universal health coverage, and quality measures for bottom-up accountability in healthcare.

- [Bumb'Ingomso](#) (2018) is a youth empowerment organization in the Eastern Cape. I created communication and advocacy material to support Bumb'Ingomso's efforts to empower young women and prevent HIV/AIDS.
- [Treatment Action Campaign](#) (TAC) (2011). As part of my work with TAC, I:
 - Served as contributor to TAC's Equal Treatment Magazine, I published seven articles in six issues of [Equal Treatment](#) (issue 37–42), exploring the National Health Insurance, community healthworker policy, ARV pricing and a range of other public health advocacy issues.
 - Researched and reported unsupported medical claims made in advertisements, while holding journalists, pharmacies and online publishers to account for the claims they published. These were uploaded and tracked on TAC's 'Quackdown' Website.
 - Collected and analysed South African antiretroviral drug price history to show the effects of generic competition on ARV drug pricing in the public and private sectors.
- [Kheth'Impilo](#) (2011) supports the Department of Health in the rollout of quality care and treatment for HIV/AIDS and TB. My role included drawing up aspects of their community healthworkers' curricula to meet accreditation requirements ; capturing and collating years of training data; and partnering with an ASRU colleague to design and facilitate a series of bodymapping workshops with Kheth'Impilo community health workers.

Full-time Consulting

Researcher, Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) (April 2017 – December 2018)

- Served as research lead for [Inkulamithi National Scenarios 2030](#): a cross sectoral collaboration aimed at facilitating strategy and long-term planning for South Africa. It drew on over 150 interviews and numerous workshops with business, labour, government, NGOs, academics and youth. I also served as primary spokesperson for the project, presenting to party political officials, the Minerals Councils, major government and civil society conferences; as well as radio and news broadcasters.
- Co-edited and managed a book volume on 'Traditional Leadership in a Democracy', and serving as project manager for a second book project on the 'Arts and National Development'. I also contributed two chapters to a publication on Epidemics in Africa.

Advocacy & Organising

- **Co-founder of Redress Rhodes, University of Oxford (2015)** This was an advocacy initiative, focused on institutional redress within the Rhodes Trust, including its internal culture, distribution of funds, and selection procedures.
- **Regions Coordinator, Central Coordinating Committee of the Community of Mandela-Rhodes Scholars (2012)**
- **Leader of the Organising Committee for the Alumni Summit of the Community of Mandela-Rhodes Scholars (2012)**
- **Western Cape Regional Representative, Community of Mandela-Rhodes Scholars (2011)**

- **Co-founder and coordinator of the ‘My Body, My Choice’ Campaign: (2009, 2010)** a provocative photographic exhibition against sexual violence, featuring more than 200 women over 2 years.
- **HIV/AIDS Advocacy Officer, Dean of Students’ Office, Rhodes University (2010)**
- **Central Organising Committee of ‘Sexual Violence = Silence’: Annual Mass Action Against Sexual Violence, Rhodes University (2009, 2010)**
- **Co-founder of the Youth Education and Training Camp, Grahamstown (2009)** Rhodes University’s The Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign (SHARC), received a grant from the National Youth Service, to increase schools-based HIV/AIDS workshops. SHARC set out to train a peer-on-peer youth-based movement that could spearhead HIV education and activism in schools.
- **President of the Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign, Rhodes University (2008, 2009)** The Student HIV/AIDS Resistance Campaign (SHARC) seeks to tackle HIV/AIDS whilst advocating for social justice, human rights and gender equality. Over this period, SHARC’s activities included: community outreach, fundraising, peer education and training, supporting university health service delivery, as well as organising testing drives, awareness drives and human rights advocacy.
- **Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) Liaison, SHARC Committee, Rhodes University (2007)**
- **SHARC Peer Educator and Trainer, Rhodes University (2007-2010)** SHARC peer educators facilitate workshops on HIV transmission and prevention, sexual health and gender-based violence. My participation included facilitating workshops, designing programmes, writing scripts, compiling manuals and training new educators.
- **Societies’ Council Chair, Rhodes University (2009)** The Societies’ Council is an elected body of 10 society chairpersons who serve as liaisons between student societies and the Student Representative Council, and allocate grants to society projects.

Facilitation

- **Curator, Chair and Convenor, *Pathology & Pleasure in the Digital Age: reflections on mental health, sex and life through screens* (February 2020)** Two panels, convened at the TMRW Gallery in Rosebank, drew artists, academics and practitioners into conversation about mental health, sexuality and young people’s digital lives. The panels were convened in conversation with Phumlani Pikoli’s exhibition, [Occupying The Fatuous State of Severity](#), for which I also gave opening remarks.
- **Creator, Storyteller and Convenor, *If Pussy Could Talk* (August 2018)** The event brought a group of womyn singers, poets and writers to share their experiences of life with a vagina.
- **Co-facilitator of St John’s Consent Workshops:** delivered to high school boys.
- **Facilitator, Schwarzman ‘Leading Lives’ programme, Beijing (November 2017 - ongoing)** Along with fellow Rhodes and Schwarzman Scholar alumni, I co-create and facilitate an annual 3-day workshop with Schwarzman Scholars at Tsinghua University, examining questions of value, ethics and leadership.
- **Facilitator at the Keiskamma Trust Camp for Adolescents on HIV-treatment, Hamburg, Eastern Cape (2013)**

Publications

Academic

- B.Vale. 2022. **Karoo Sanatorium: a speculative fiction based on many true stories**. *Anthropology and Humanism* (accepted).
- B.Vale forthcoming. **We were already sick: telling dis-ease from South Africa's Heartland**. Book manuscript under consideration by Jonathan Ball Publishers.
- B. Vale. 2020. **Care and caring: (by) force or (by) fiction**. *Transformation* 104. pp.11-23.
- L. Cluver., J. Doubt and the Teen Advisory Groups, I. Wessels, C. Asnong, S. Malunga, K. Mauchline, B. Vale et. al. 2020. **Power to participants: methodological and ethical reflections from a decade of adolescent advisory groups in South Africa**. *AIDS Care*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540121.2020.1845289>
- R. Hodes, B.Vale and E. Toska. 2020. **The misclosure of an adolescent's HIV status**, in Manderson, L. and Mkhwanazi, N. (eds) *Connected Lives: Households, Families, Health and Care in Contemporary South Africa*. HSRC Press: Cape Town.
- L.Cluver., J. Doubt., Teen Advisory Groups South Africa, I. Wessels, C. Asnong, S. Malunga, K.Mauchline, B.Vale et al. 2020. **Power to participants: methodological and ethical reflections from a decade of adolescent advisory groups in South Africa**. *AIDS Care* 33(7), 858-866.
- B.Vale. 2019. **'Care, context and chronic illness: lessons from HIV-positive adolescents and their families in South Africa's Eastern Cape'**, in Mazibuko, Z. (ed.) *Epidemics and Health Systems in Africa*. Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. Jacana: Johannesburg.
- M. Di Paola and B. Vale. 2019. **'Knowledge, power and retaining frontline health workers in South Africa's public health system'**, in Mazibuko, Z. (ed.) *Epidemics and Health Systems in Africa*. Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. Jacana: Johannesburg.
- M. Buthelezi, D. Skosana and B. Vale (eds). 2018. *Traditional Leaders in a Democracy*. Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. Jacana : Johannesburg.
- M. Buthelezi & B. Vale. 2018. **'Collisions, collusions and coalescences: new takes on traditional leadership in democratic South Africa – an introduction'**, in *Traditional Leaders in a Democracy*. Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection. Jacana : Johannesburg.
- R. Hodes, B. Vale, E. Toska, L. Cluver, R. Dowse and M. Ashorn. 2018. **'Yummy or crummy?' The multisensory components of medicines-taking among HIV-positive adolescents and young adults in South Africa'**, *Global Public Health* 14(2), 284-299.
- B. Vale. 2018. **'The politics of darkness: how nightclubs make Johannesburg'**, in *Night Fever: Designing Club Culture 1960 – Today*, Vitra Design Museum: Veil am Rhein.
- R. Hodes, L. Cluver, E. Toska, B. Vale. 2018. **'Pesky metrics: the challenges of measuring ART adherence among adolescents'**, *Critical Public Health*, 30(2), 179-190.
- R. Hodes, J. Doubt, E. Toska, B. Vale, Cluver, L. 2018. **'The stuff that dreams are made of: using participatory research to explore interlinkages in HIV-positive adolescents' aspirations for development'**, *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 21 (S1), doi: 10.1002/jia2.25057.

- B. Vale, R. Hodes, L. Cluver and M. Thabeng. 2017. '**Blood and Belonging: what state documents tell us about the relationship between HIV-positive youth and the state**', *Development and Change*, 48(6), 1287-1309.
- B. Vale, L. Cluver, R. Hodes. 2017. '**Negotiations of Blame and Care Among HIV-positive Mothers and Daughters in South Africa**', *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*, 31(4), 519-536.
- B. Vale and M. Thabeng. 2016. '**Redeeming Lost Mothers: adolescent antiretroviral treatment and the making of home in South Africa**', *Medical Anthropology*, 35(6), 489-502.
- B. Vale and M. Thabeng. 2015. '**Mobilising AID(S)? Contesting HIV as a social and economic resource among youth in South Africa**', *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 41(1), 797-813.
- E. Vale.¹ 2012. "'You Must Make a Plan or Tell Some Story": the practice of community health work in Cape Town.' *Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper 312*.
<http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/cssr/pub/wp/312>
- E. Vale. 2012. "'Looking for Greener Pastures": locating care work in the life histories of community health workers in Cape Town.' *Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper 313*.
<http://www.cssr.uct.ac.za/cssr/pub/wp/313>
- E. Vale. 2012. "'I Know This Person. Why Must I Go to Him?": techniques of authority among community health workers in Cape Town.' *Centre for Social Science Research Working Paper 314*.
<https://open.uct.ac.za/handle/11427/19394>

Online Publications and Presentations

- 5 February 2021 and 1 April 2021. **Unhinging non-communicable diseases: an anthropological critique**. Presentation for *SPICES* (Scaling-up Packages of Interventions for Cardiovascular disease prevention in sites in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa); *Critical Public Health Discussion Group*, Brighton and Sussex Medical School.
- November 2018 and November 2020. **Chronic countryside: life in the face of colliding epidemics**. *Africa and the Epidemiological Imagination*, Wellcome Trust International Workshop. London, United Kingdom; Karoo Writers Festival (Online). Watch [here](#).
- June 2020. [No time to wait](#). Percept online blog.
- May 2020. [We were already sick: Covid19, non-communicable diseases and the health response we really need](#). Percept online blog.
- July 2020. [The virus in the queues](#). *Thesis 11: Living and Thinking Crisis*.
- January 2020. [Dis-ease and the Young](#). Opening Remarks at the Exhibition Launch, Occupying a Fatuous State of Severity. TMRW Gallery. Rosebank, Johannesburg.
- November 2019. [Scenes from Wasteland: Researching health and illness in the Eastern Cape Karoo](#). Wellcome Trust, *Chronic Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- November 2019. [Digging the hollows of transdisciplinary research: Reflections from the 2019 State of Dis-ease Workshop](#). *DSBS Fieldnotes*.
- October 2019. **Social and Structural Conditions Driving NCDs**. *Actuarial Society of South Africa Convention*. Sandton, Johannesburg.

¹ These working papers were published under my full name (Elizabeth). I have since decided to publish under my preferred name (Beth).

- March 2019. **New dimensions of shame and blame for adolescents on ART.** *Harvard Africa-Asia Conference on Public Health.* Parktown, Johannesburg.
- September 2015. **Antiretrovirals and accusation: negotiations of blame, care and HIV-treatment among young women in South Africa,** *Family Troubles Symposium.* Reading, United Kingdom.
- June 2015. Plenary co-chair for '**New vision, new language, new action**', *South African AIDS Conference.* Durban, South Africa.
- June 2015. **Bureaucracies of blood and belonging: What documents tell us about how HIV-positive youth's relationship with the state,** *South African AIDS Conference.* Durban, South Africa.
- June 2015. **Deception, distraction and disinterest: the challenges of participatory research with HIV-positive teenagers and their families,** *South African AIDS Conference.* Durban, South Africa