

ROD AMNER

CURRICULUM VITAE

BACKGROUND

<i>Born:</i>	Cape Town, 28 January 1966
<i>Marital status:</i>	Married to Louise Vincent, 6 December 1993
<i>Dependents:</i>	Sebastian John, born 17 March 1999 Eleanor Louise, born 7 August 2002
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EDUCATION

2015-16 Registered for **PhD**, Rhodes University

2010 Awarded **Master of Arts (MA), with distinction**, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, by full thesis. Thesis title: "Deliberating the Dialogues: a critical examination of the nature and purpose of a *Daily Dispatch* public journalism project."

2010 Registered for **Post-graduate Diploma in Higher Education (PGDHE)** at Rhodes University.

2001 Attended post-graduate research course, "**Research Design Decisions**" offered by the Department of Education, Rhodes University.

1989 Awarded **Bachelor of Journalism and Media Studies (BJourn)**, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

1982 Cape Senior Certificate; two distinctions, B aggregate; Rondebosch Boys High School, Cape Town

EMPLOYMENT

January 2001 – present: **Lecturer, Writing & Editing**, School of Journalism and Media Studies, Rhodes University

Design and **teaching** of the following courses:

- a semester-long praxis course for JMS1, Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Journalism;
- a year-long praxis course for JMS3, Journalism, Democracy, Development, 2007-2013;
- year-long JMS3 Writing and Editing courses;
- semester-long JMS4 Writing and Editing courses based at *Grocott's Mail*;
- year-long Writing & Editing courses for the Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism and Media Studies;
- advanced learning materials in public/development/citizen/advocacy/participatory journalism practices, techniques and routines;
- a new production-based MA programme in Journalism Studies;
- annual guest lecturer on the Masters in Journalism and Media Studies Textual Studies course.

Rotating co-new editor of the School of Journalism owned teaching newspaper, *Grocott's Mail*.

Co-developer and convenor of a new production-based MA programme in Journalism Studies.

Management of **community engagement** relationships with a number of local NPOs and CBOs, including the Friends of the Library, the Lebone Centre, GADRA Education, Upstart, Hill Street Library, Duna Library, Fingo Library, the Community Library in Currie Street, the Mobile Library, Awarenet/Village Scribe, Hospice, Grahamstown Literacy Project, Project Read, and several others.

Liaison with Community Engagement Division of Rhodes University.

Co-ordination of the Department's Grab media training programme in disadvantaged schools.

Research into innovative forms of journalistic practice in the South African context, including public journalism, development journalism, citizen/participatory journalism, participatory video, advocacy journalism and social marketing;

Participation in administrative duties in department:

- member of the **Executive Committee** of the School of JMS, 2012-2014;
- co-ordination of the **Journalism and Media Studies 1 course**, 2002-2008;
- co-ordination of the **Journalism 3 course** 2011;
- co-ordination of the **Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism and Media Studies**, 2009-2010, including management of bursaries.

Participation in the design and execution of departmental **publishing projects**, including Rhodes Journalism Review, Cue, Cue News Agency and the JMS textbook project.

April 1995 – Dec 2000: **Director, Development Media Agency and Editor, Development News Agency**

Responsibilities included:

- co-ordinating, marketing and editing a development news service for clients in the commercial and community media in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Free State provinces;
- writing and marketing development-related news reports and feature articles for *Mail & Guardian*, *City Press*, *The Daily Dispatch*, *The Cape Argus*, *The Cape Times*, *Leading Edge* magazine, *Democracy in Action* magazine, and various other commercial media outlets;
- providing training in development journalism and project management to community media initiatives;
- responsible for all fundraising and financial management;
- development of new projects;
- day-to-day management and editorial co-ordination of ten DMA staff members.

August 1994 – March 1995: **Sub-editor/senior journalist**

Marketing Mix magazine, Johannesburg

Responsibilities included:

- editing and proof-reading all editorial content in the magazine;
- writing news stories and feature articles; layout and design.

November 1992 – June 1994: **Editorial and production co-ordinator**

Distance Learning Department, College of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Oxford, England

Responsibilities included:

- editing textual and audio materials authored by industry experts;
- writing study guides;
- designing and typesetting all text-based material;
- recruitment and briefing of additional text and audio editors.

October 1991 – October 1992: **Community media development fieldworker and journalist**

East Cape News Agencies, Grahamstown

Responsibilities included:

- helping to set up and train a variety of community-based media initiatives;
- designing and executing Ecna's year-long Trainee Journalist Programme;
- writing and editing development news;
- organising a "Media and Democracy Festival", involving over 200 delegates.
- Editing *Ilizwi laseRhini*.

1990 – 1991 **Sociology Tutor**

Department of Sociology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2013 Received **Rhodes University Merit Award** for community engagement work.
- 2013 Nominated for the RU **Vice-Chancellor's Community Engagement Award**.
- 2010 Nominated for RU **Vice-Chancellor's Senior Teaching Award** (second nomination).
- 2008 Nominated for RU **Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Award**.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Awarded a six-month **Katherine W. Fanning Fellowship** in journalism and democracy at the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, USA: July-December.

RECENT ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming "Send in the mongrel newshounds of the rainbow nation: Exploring a hybridised normative model of press conduct through a South African editorial experiment." *African Journalism Studies*.
- Forthcoming "Finding Common Ground: student learning and identity formation on a praxis-based 'alternative journalism' course." *South African Journal of Higher Education*.
- 2015 "The Oxford Dictionary of Journalism: Review." *African Journalism Studies* Vol. 36, No. 2, pp. 98–101.
- 2011 "Paper bridges: a critical examination of the *Daily Dispatch's* Community Dialogues." *Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies*. Vol. 32, No. 1.
- 2010 "A tale of two investigations." *Rhodes Journalism Review*. Number 30.
- 2010 "Deliberating the *Dialogues*: a critical examination of the nature and purpose of a *Daily Dispatch* public journalism project." A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts of Rhodes University
- 2010 "Fit for purpose – educating journalism students for democracy and development." *Rhodes Journalism Review*. Number 30.
- 2009 "Hollywood on Safari". *Journal of African Media Studies*. Vol 1. Number 3.
- 2009 "A civic engagement." *Rhodes Journalism Review*. Number 29.

CONFERENCES AND COLLOQUIA

- 2016 Presented paper “Communicative ecologies for community engagement and engaged communities” with Nkosinothando Mpofu at the **Rhodes University Community Engagement Symposium**, April 2016.
- 2015 Presented paper as part of panel “Map ME: Facilitating local participatory media ecologies” at the **Southern African Communication Association (Sacomm)** in September at the AFDA Film School in Cape Town.
- 2015 Presented a seminar titled “Displacement and Emplacement: place-based journalism teaching and learning” for a Rhodes University **Curriculum Conversation** on Monday 12 October at Eden Grove.
- 2015 Presented paper ‘A critical pedagogy of place approach in Journalism education’ with Nkosinothando Mpofu at **Thinking Africa Conference**. Rhodes University, 7-12 September 2015.
- 2015 Presented a workshop session on ‘Participatory media ecologies’ to the **Highway Africa conference**. Rhodes University, September.
- 2015 Attended research exchange on “Journalists working differently in democracy” at the **Kettering Foundation’s** Dayton, Ohio campus, 23-25 March.
- 2014 Attended research exchange on “Journalists in public life” at the **Kettering Foundation’s** Dayton, Ohio campus, 2-4 April.
- 2013 Presented a workshop session on “Development journalism in the African context” to the **Highway Africa Conference** in Grahamstown, September.
- 2013 Co-chaired a day-long conference on “Where are the citizens in media?” on **East Cape Communication Forum’s** roundtable discussion in September.
- 2013 Attended a research exchange on “citizens and government, civic education for young people, professional journalists in public life, and the development of public spaces” at the **Kettering Foundation’s** Dayton, Ohio campus, April 1-3.
- 2012 “Ethics as ‘public’ and ‘relational’: teaching ‘democratic listening’ to South African journalism students.” Paper co-presented with Prof Herman Wasserman to **“Journalism ethics: individual, institutional or cultural” hosted by the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University**, September 27-28.
- 2012 “Teaching public journalism in South Africa.” Presentation to ‘Doing Democracy Worldwide 1’ workshop organised by the **Kettering Foundation**, Dayton, Ohio, USA, August.

- 2012 "Epistemological schizophrenia and ontological crisis." Paper presented to the **Rhodes University New Lecturers' Orientation Course** in January 2011, Grahamstown.
- 2012 "'I'm having an ontological crisis': The impact of alternative approaches to journalistic production on students' notions of 'professionalism' and other aspects of journalistic identity in a praxis-based service learning course." Joint paper presented by Danika Marquis to the First **International Conference on Journalism Studies: "Identity, Changes and Challenges of the Profession in the 21st Century,"** Santiago, Chile, 27-29 June.
- 2011 "Send in the mongrel newshounds of the rainbow nation: Exploring a hybridised normative model of press conduct through a South African editorial experiment." Paper presented with Carolyn Lunga to the annual conference of the **Southern African Communication Association (Sacomm) in September 2011 at the University of South Africa, Pretoria.**
- 2011 "Reading from a different script: the impact of a literacy-themed service learning project on the 'professional' and personal-political identities of journalism students at Rhodes University." Paper prepared with Cathy Gush for conference '**Community engagement: the changing role of South African universities in development**', 8-10 November 2011, ICC, East London, South Africa.
- 2010 "Notes on a collaborative curriculum." Presentation to the **Rhodes University Centre for Higher Education Research Teaching and Learning (CHERTL) Curriculum Colloquium** on November 18 2010, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
- 2010 "Mzansi's rainbow (mongrel?) news hounds: Mutuality and/or mutual exclusion between the 'watchdog', 'guide-dog', 'attack-dog' and 'lapdog' roles in two South African journalism projects." Paper presented to the **Colloquium on "Media, democracy and transformation since 1994: an assessment"**, 16-17 October 2010, Rhodes University.
- 2010 "Surveying the theory and practice of public journalism for an alternative media accountability system in South Africa." Paper presented to the **Colloquium on "Media, democracy and transformation since 1994: an assessment"**, 16-17 October 2010, Rhodes University.
- 2010 "Broken links: 'Democratic deficit' and the practice of investigative journalism & public journalism in SA." Paper presented to the annual conference of the **Southern African Communication Association (Sacomm)** on 28 September 2010 at the University of Johannesburg.
- 2010 "Paper bridges: a critical examination of the Daily Dispatch's Community Dialogues." Paper presented to the annual conference of the **Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication** on 5 August in Denver, Colorado.

- 2010 "Finding common ground: student learning and identity formation on a praxis-based 'alternative journalism' course." Paper presented to the **World Journalism Educators' Conference**, Rhodes University, 4 July 2010.
- 2010 "Audiokids: Developing South African audiobooks to help bridge oral/media culture and print culture." Paper presented to the **Reading Association of South Africa Conference**, NMMU, Sept 2010.
- 2009 "Fit for purpose – educating journalism students for democracy and development." Paper presented to the **Conference of African Journalism Educators**, Wits University, Sept 2009.
- 2008 "Teaching and learning 'experientially' at *Grocott's Mail*: Tension, discomfort and unease (and maybe even some pain & suffering)." Presentation to the **Meeting on Experiential Learning in Journalism Education**, Rhodes University, 7 August.
- 2008 "Comparing two Critical Media Production courses: Implications for the JMS curriculum." Staff seminar paper, **School of Journalism and Media Studies**.
- 2005 "Educating journalists for democracy and development: Foregrounding 'reformist', 'alternative' and 'oppositional' journalisms in the Journalism and Media Studies curriculum". Paper presented at **Rhodes University Colloquium on Journalism Education, June 2005**.
- 2004 "Learning from Grocott's Mail." Paper presented at the **South African Communication Association Conference at NMMU** on 29 September 2004

OTHER RECENT ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- 2014-15 **Member of the Executive Committee** of the School of Journalism and Media Studies (Exco), the management body of the school.
- 2015 **Year co-ordinator**, Journalism and Media Studies 1.
- 2015 **Principal collaborator**, with Prof Louise Vincent, on three-year NRF-funded “Pedagogy of Place” programme.
- 2015 **Co-supervision** with Prof Larry Strelitz of Steven Lang’s **Masters mini-thesis**.
- 2015 **External examiner** for MA thesis, Wits University.
- 2015 **Supervision** of Yandisa Sobahle, a new student in the **production-based Masters** in Journalism and Media Studies.
- 2015 **Graduation** of my MA student Romi Reinecke (with distinction)
- 2014-15 **Supervision** of Hancu Louw and Cathy Gush, two students in the new **production-based Masters** in Journalism and Media Studies.
- 2014 Secured, with Prof Louise Vincent, a R1.1-million NRF grant for three-year “Pedagogy of Place” research project.
- 2014 **Graduation** of my two MA students: Prince Mtelera (thesis with distinction) and Emeka Umejei.
- 2008-13 **Year co-ordinator**, Journalism and Media Studies 1.
- 2013 Research and curriculum development for a new **production-based Masters in Journalism and Media Studies**.
- 2013 **External examiner** for MA thesis, Wits University.
- 2013 **Reviewer** for *Communicatio* (Media and Communication Studies journal).
- 2012-13 **Reviewer** for *Ecquid Novi: African Media Studies*.
- 2011 **Graduation** of my MA student, Carolyne Lunga.
- 2005-7 **External examiner** for University of Johannesburg.
- 2005 **External examiner** for Midrand University.
- 2005 Lodged successful application with IDASA for a **\$300 000 grant from USAID** to develop an **Investigative Journalism Programme** aimed at both mid-career journalists and Rhodes journalism students.

2004 Undertook a 10-day research trip to two prestigious journalism schools in the USA, **the University of Missouri-Columbia and Columbia University in New York City**. The aim of the research was to produce in-depth case study research that would help the School of Journalism and Media Studies to best utilise its newly acquired newspaper, *Grocott's Mail*, as both an educational resource and a local newspaper. I produced a research report for the Dutch funder Niza, and presented some of my findings to the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND EXPERIENCES

- 2015 Establishment and management of NRF-funded **Pedagogy of Place Participatory Media Ecologies Project**.
- 2012-15 Secretary of the Board of the **Eastern Cape Communication Forum (ECCF)** which provides in-house training and support for several independent community newspapers and radio stations in the province.
- 2013-15 Literacy volunteer at **St Mary's Primary School** (2014-15) and **George Dickerson Primary School** (2013) for the Lebone Centre.
- 2014 Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the School of Journalism and Media Studies and the **MobiSAM project**, run by Prof Hannah Thinyane of the Rhodes Department of Computer Science.
- 2014 Consultation with the **Awarenet programme** around the development of its Life Player audiobook project.
- 2011-14 Active member of the **Grahamstown Literacy Project (GLP)**, a network for literacy organisations and activists in Makana.
- 2013 Visited several members of the **Eastern Cape Communication Forum (ECCF)** in Port Elizabeth, East London and Cofimvaba, to discuss collaborative projects with the School of Journalism and Media Studies.
- 2012 Part of initiative started with representatives of the **Keiskammashoek** community to discuss a partnership around the development of community media in the area.
- 2010-12 Co-editor, **Ukufunda** weekly literacy/education page in *Grocott's Mail*.
- 2007-2014 Children's libraries portfolio holder: **Grahamstown Friends of the Library**.
- 2009 Participated in a series of training workshops and support to local youth newspaper, **Upstart**, with my Postgraduate Diploma students.
- 2009 A series of training workshops and support to citizen journalists at the **Citizen Journalism Newsroom at Grocott's Mail**.
- 2005 Co-ordinated **Grab media skills outreach programme**. Over 100 JMS3 students provided media training and support to learners from eight local schools as part of their Journalism, Democracy and Development course.
- 2005 Conducted media strategy workshop for Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in East London.
- 2005 Member, **Arts and Media Access Centre (AMAC) Community Journalism Reference Group**.

1999-2004 Responsible for the **Department of Journalism's outreach media training project (Grab)**. Rhodes writing students provided support and training to numerous learners in six local high schools resulting in the production of valuable media outputs in the disadvantaged areas of Grahamstown.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- 2011-16 Ombudsman for **Activate** (official student newspaper, Rhodes University)
- 2015 **Researched and wrote a report** on Eastern Cape press for the Kettering Foundation, based on a series of interviews with the editors and senior editorial staff of five regional newspapers: Heather Robertson, EP Herald; Bongani Siqoko, Daily Dispatch;
- 2014 Co-editor, **Grocott's Mail**, January-May.
- 2011 Executive editor, media coverage of the **African Media Leaders Forum** in Tunis, Tunisia, 7-14 November
- 2011-14 Board member for **Rhodes Music Radio (RMR)**, Rhodes University community radio station
- 2012 Workshop leader: "Introduction to the theory and practice of alternative journalism." Presentations to Zimbabwean students on a short course presented by the **Sol Plaatjie Institute of Media Leadership**.
- 2007-2010 "Thinking like a journalist" and "Alternative journalism": Presentations to **SABC** journalists on week-long training course in Grahamstown.
- 2009 Stand-in editor for **Grocott's Mail**, December 2009.
- 2008 "Public Journalism and coverage of the 2009 elections." Two presentations to the staff of the **Daily Dispatch** newspaper, 3 December.
- 2005 Editor, **The Junction**, a *Grocott's Mail* supplement on local education development issues.
- 2003 Founder and editor, **Cuewire**, a student-run news agency covering the National Arts Festival.
- 2003 Fundraiser and leader for a two-week **Investigative Journalism course** for five SADC journalists, who worked alongside 11 fourth year journalism students.
- 2000-2002 Trustee of the **Development Media Agency (DMA)**, which provided support to the community media sector in the Eastern Cape.
- 2001-2004 Editorial board member, **Rhodes Journalism Review (RJ)**.
- 2001-2002 Member of the **Standards Generating Body (SGB) for Journalism**, South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).
- 2001 Editor, **Highway Daily**, official newspaper of the Highway Africa conference.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AND EXPERIENCES

2011-12 Workshop leader: "Think! Breathe! Be an arts journalist in 90 minutes". A series of workshops for the **Eastern Cape Schools Festival**.

2009-2012 Founder and co-ordinator: **Audiokids** audiobook project, involving the recording and distribution of dozens of isiXhosa, Afrikaans and South African English stories for children to Eastern Cape libraries, radio stations and on the internet.

2000-2005 Provided training in reporting and writing to the winners of **Steve Biko Media Week**.

Worked as a sub-editor and writing coach on three occasions for **Cue**, the official newspaper of the National Arts Festival.

In 2000, 2007, 2008 and 2009 served as writing coach, sub-editor and writer on **SciCue** (daily newspaper of the National Science Festival) and sub-editor for **BioCue** (daily newspaper of the National Biotechnology Conference, Grahamstown).

Initiated and co-ordinated a successful **journalism film club** in 2000 and 2001, which screened films on course-related themes on weekday evenings throughout the year.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Reporting, writing and sub-editing: Experienced editor, news editor and sub-editor. Strong research, reporting and writing skills. Published in a wide variety of newspapers, magazines and online platforms.

Teaching and training: I have taught in a variety of contexts, ranging from adult education to undergraduate and postgraduate courses at university, to experiential learning in newsrooms:

- Curriculum design (including university courses, adult education, distance learning);
- Lecturing and tutoring in a wide range of theoretical issues in journalism and media studies;
- Coaching and mentoring of advanced journalistic skills in writing, editing, layout and design, radio;
- Design and co-ordination of extended media training programmes;
- Design and editing of distance learning materials.

Leadership and management: Extensive experience of project management and business development in a variety of contexts. I have strong interpersonal skills, have run political and public relations campaigns, and served in elected office.

Community journalism: Strong commitment to and appreciation of community journalism and related concepts of public journalism, advocacy journalism, communication for development and investigative journalism. I have experience of publishing, editing and writing for community newspapers, as well as the scripting and presentation of programmes for community radio stations.

Other skills: Skilled designer of newspapers and journals.