

David Jeffery-Schwikkard

South African citizen | UK resident

Employment

Consultant – Early Childhood Development and Public-Private Partnerships in Education

Freelance, October 2021 - Present

Freelance consultant specialising in early childhood development (ECD) and public-private partnerships in education. I currently work with Oxford Policy Management supporting the following projects:

- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) – developing the stakeholder engagement strategy on THRIVE: Early Childhood Development Research for scale
- Porticus – Evaluation of Global ECD Programme (Senior Advisor)
- Templeton World Charity Foundation – systematic review of character development interventions in low- and middle-income countries (Research Lead)

Completed projects: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation – Macroeconomic Analysis Brief of Kenya 2021 (Technical Advisor).

Senior Consultant and Non-State Actors in Education Hub Lead

Oxford Policy Management, February 2019 – September 2021

International research and policy organisation which aims to help low- and middle-income countries achieve growth and reduce poverty and disadvantage through public policy reform. I managed and/or led the following projects:

- Feasibility study on the use of public-private partnerships to expand access to preschool in Serbia (UNICEF, prepared for the Ministry of Education);
- Diagnostic of strengths and bottlenecks within the preschool system in Liberia, with a subsequent pilot and evaluation of two interventions. A research component was added in 2020 to analyse the Ministry of Education's response to COVID-19 (World Bank, in partnership with the Ministry of Education);
- Functional review and proposed reorganisation of the Ministry of Education in Cambodia, with an assessment of staff capacity and the identification of capacity development opportunities (UNICEF, prepared for the Minister of Education);
- Assessment of progress towards 'system-change' in child protection systems in Zambia and Cambodia (GHR Foundation);
- Evaluation of philanthropic investments to promote working with government on early childhood development initiatives (Porticus Foundation).

My role entailed analysing current policy, working with senior government officials, identifying priority areas of intervention, and developing actionable policy recommendations appropriate to departmental capacity.

Chief Executive Officer

Mikhulu Child Development Trust, June 2016 – March 2019

Public Benefit Organisation which supports research on evidence-based parenting programmes, and partners with government and community-based organisations to integrate these programmes into service delivery. Actively supported research in South Africa (Khayelitsha and Drakenstein), Brazil, and India. Developed partnership with Western Cape Department of Health to deliver support to parents through training community health workers.

Social Innovator

Early Reach, 2017 – 2018

Project which reached over 10 000 families in Cape Town by equipping health workers to deliver education material to, and conducted surveys with, parents waiting in clinics. Developed partnership with Western Cape Department of Health, Health Foundation, Red Cross Children's Hospital, and the University of Reading. Designed, analysed, and reported on surveys using ODK and R software.

Social Entrepreneur

Libromat, 2015 – 2017

Social enterprise which combined affordable laundry services and classes in early childhood development for parents in Khayelitsha and Nyanga. Recognised by the Harvard Family Research Unit as "one of the most innovative stories of family engagement". Included as a case study of innovation in an MPhil. at Stellenbosch University.

Education

PhD Theology and Religious Studies (current)

King's College London, October 2021 - Present

My dissertation investigates why South Africa has a very religious population, and yet a politics that has (so far) remained secular. I focus on the African National Congress (ANC), the long-dominant political party, and the role of religion in their members' electioneering and debates about public policy at a branch-level. Funded by LISS-DTP (ESRC).

MSc. Comparative and International Education (Distinction)

Chevening Scholar

St. Anne's College, University of Oxford, 2014 – 2015

Dissertation on the design and uptake of student support services in TVET colleges in South Africa. Five weeks resident in a student hostel in the Eastern Cape, conducting interviews and participant observation with students and staff members. Review of policy documents and interviews with two senior officials in Department of Higher Education and Training.

Dissertation published as Jeffery, D., & Johnson, D. (2019). 'Whose fault is failure? Contested perspectives of academic support in tertiary educational institutions in South Africa'. *Research in Comparative and International Education*, Sept Issue 1: 1 – 18.

PGDP. Adult and Vocational Education (Distinction)

University of Cape Town, 2013 – 2014

Social inclusion and the youth; adult learning and experience; adult learning in informal contexts; Advanced research design and methods.

BSocSci. Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Distinction)

University of Cape Town, 2010 – 2012

Class medals (i.e. top mark in class) in Applied Ethics, Logic and Language, Metaphysics and Epistemology, and South African Political Thought and Tradition.

Humanities Faculty Scholarship 2011, 2012

Dean's Merit List (for students with overall average of above 70%) 2010, 2011, 2012

Voluntary

Board Member

Mikhulu Child Development Trust (South Africa), 2019 – Present

Finance and Human Resource Committees

Chairperson of Advisory Board

Thokozani Together, 2014 - 2019

Community-based organisation offers various social services Khayelitsha. Successfully addressed challenges registered the land with the City of Cape Town, and ensured eligibility of financial support from the Department of Social Development.

Founder and Organising Member

Education 'Fishtank' Seminar Series, 2011 - 2019

Arranged 60+ public seminars. Speakers included teachers and former vice-chancellors.