

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jaap de Visser



PERSONAL

Name	Jacobus Wilhelm (Jaap) de Visser
Date and place of birth	17 Augustus 1974, Uasin Gishu (Kenya)

ACADEMIC

1992 – 1997	LLB (<i>met genoegen</i>) Utrecht University
1998 – 2000	LLM (<i>cum laude</i>) University of the Western Cape
2000 – 2005	LLD Utrecht University (Thesis: <i>Developmental local government – a case study of South Africa</i>)

PROFESSIONAL

January 2023 -	National Research Chair in Multilevel Government, Law and Development Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape
January 2013 – 2022	Director , Community Law Centre / Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape
January 2011 – now	Professor , Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape (Senior Professor since 1 January 2019)
January 2008 – December 2010	Associate Professor , Community Law Centre (UWC)
March 2006 – December 2007	Senior Researcher & Head : Multilevel Government Initiative, Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape
September 2002 – February 2006	Lecturer / Researcher , Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Utrecht University Obtained <i>Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs (BKO)</i>
January 1999 – August 2002:	Research assistant , Community Law Centre, University of the Western Cape
May 1998 – September 1998	Intern , Parliament of South Africa

PRIZES, ACCREDITATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- **B2 – rating** by South Africa’s National Research Foundation (NRF) (“enjoys **considerable international recognition** for the high quality and impact of his recent research outputs”)
- Co-Chair, Local Public Service Alliance Expert Group on Sub-Saharan Africa (2023 – now)
- Treasurer/Secretary *International Association of Centers for Federal Studies* (2016-2022)
- Vice-President *International Association of Centers for Federal Studies* (since 2022)
- Member, Editorial Board *Commonwealth Journal on Local Governance*
- Member, Editorial Board *Hague Journal on Rule of Law* (Springer)
- Member, Editorial Board *Decision* (Springer)
- Member, International Advisory Board, *Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences*, New Delhi
- Editor, *Local Government Bulletin* (2006-2012, 2019-now)
- Visiting professorships at various universities, including Institute for Comparative Federalism (EURAC Research, Bolzano/Bozen), UGlobe (Utrecht University), Federal University of ABC (Sao Paulo).

PROJECTS AND ADVISORY WORK

Global projects

Forum of Federations (international organisation, supporting federalism and decentralisation)

1. Expert advice on multilevel government response to COVID-19 for the government of **Nepal** (2020)
2. Expert advice on Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations between **Philippines** and **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region** (2020)
3. Design and deliver a professional training course for Norwegian People’s Aid in **Myanmar** in federalism, decentralisation and local government (2021).
4. Expert advice on local government and youth development for a project on **Youth Democracy in Pakistan** (2023)
5. International expert for engagement with Constitutional Review Commission of **Philippines** (2018)
6. **Design and deliver study tour** for officials of the **Kyber-Phatunkwa Province (Pakistan)** on intergovernmental relations (2017)
7. Expert advice on comparative multilevel government systems (Ethiopia, Kenya & South Africa) to support **constitutional review in Philippines** (with N Steytler, C Bosire & Z Ayele).

Worldbank

Part of team of experts to assist Worldbank **Nepal** in a Knowledge Exchange Programme, providing expert comparative input and assist with drafting a strategy on **intergovernmental fiscal relations** (2021-2022, with Forum of Federations)

UNHABITAT

Study on **law making in cities** - conducted a case study, using mixed methodologies (legal, empirical) of the City of Cape Town's legislation on spatial planning and land use management

United Nations Population Fund

Expert advice on a proposed manual on municipal partnerships with NGOs/CBOs in the **health sector** (2002)

InTransformation

Expert advice for delegation of government officials and civil society representatives of **Myanmar** on devolution, multilevel governance arrangements and transition (2024)

Projects in Africa

Forum of Federations

1. Expert advice for South Sudan Constitutional Review Commission engagement with civil society on the Review of the Interim Constitution of **South Sudan** (2013)
2. International expert for civil society engagement in **Southern Kordofan** Popular Consultations on the Assessment of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for **Sudan** (Kadugli, Sudan, 2011)
3. International expert for **Kenya's** Taskforce on Devolved Government (Nairobi, Kenya, 2011) (with N Steytler)
4. International expert at engagement with representatives of the **Ethiopian** federal government and the Ethiopian Nations on intergovernmental relations (Addis Ababa, 2007)
5. Commissioned as expert to draft research paper on **Climate Change and Federal Governance** in South Africa (2019-2021)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Review **Lesotho's** Local Government Act (2015)

- a. design a framework for review, based on Lesotho's Decentralisation Policy
- b. draft amendments to the Local Government Act

Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMPD)

Expert advice to Political Delegation from **Ethiopia** on national and subnational electoral systems (2023)

Worldbank

International expert for Worldbank's Independent Evaluation Group Conference on **reviewing ten years of policy sector reform in Africa** (Addis Ababa, 2008)

UNICEF

1. Assessing the inclusion of children's right in the draft **Constitution of Zimbabwe** (2012)

2. Assessment of the legal framework for the assignment of functions to local government in terms of the Children's Act (2012)

Inspection Général de Finances (IGF), Democratic Republic of the Congo (via Institute of Federalism Studies, Fribourg University)

Two-day training for staff of the IGR on federalism, decentralisation, supervision and natural resources (January 2025)

USAID / Training Resources Group

Comprehensive assessment of the legal framework, political economy and practice of decentralisation, and institutional and governance arrangements in **Zimbabwe** (with T Chigwata) (2019-2020)

Commission of Inquiry into Land Administration (Presidential Commission investigating land governance matters in Uganda)

1. Convene a **study tour for Uganda's Commission of Inquiry into Land** to examine South African land administration institutions (with S Johnstone)
2. Expert Advice to the Commission on **Comparative Systems of Spatial Planning and Land Use Regulation** (2017)

GIZ -Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

1. Commissioned to **brief Delegation from Mozambique** on multilevel institutional and governance arrangements in South Africa and (2019)
2. Expert advice on local government's role in safety and security (2020)
3. Commissioned as an expert to advise **Mozambican Ministry of State Administration and Public Function, and the Ministry of Economic and Finance** on decentralisation reform (2021-2022).
4. Convened a five-day **Study tour** for representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Association of Local Governments in Mozambique to South Africa
5. Wrote a commentary on Draft Local Government legislation for **Mozambique** (2023)
6. Commissioned as an expert on **Intergovernmental Fiscal Architecture** and for drafting a Terms of Reference for an **Intergovernmental Fiscal Forum** in **Zambia** (2024)

National Department of Provincial and Local Government / Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (SA)

1. Drafted a framework for an organic law on decentralisation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (2006) (with N Steytler)
2. Wrote a commentary on the draft organic law on decentralisation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (2007) (with N Steytler)

Projects in South Africa

UNDP

Appointed as a resource person/facilitator at two-day Conference on **Coalitions Governments** in South Africa (28-29 February 2024)

Western Cape Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs

Appointed as lead consultant in the **drafting of a Western Cape Land Use Planning Bill** - worked for three years with stakeholders in and outside the Western Cape government to design a statute regulating land use planning - (2009-2013)

GIZ -Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

1. Expert advice on **local government's role in safety and security** (2020)
2. Lead a legal-empirical study on institutional and governance arrangements for the political-administrative interface in local government (2009)

European Union (via GOPA Consulting)

Expert advice on application of National Professionalisation Framework to the **local public service** (2024)

Presidency of South Africa, Office of the Deputy-President

Development of a **Framework for Coalition Governments** in South Africa (together with Prof Susan Booysen) (2023)

Provincial Government of Gauteng (Department of the Premier)

Designing a **legal framework to institutionalise the Gauteng City Region** (with Stephen Berrisford)

Finance and Fiscal Commission

20-year review of the **Finance and Fiscal Commission**, South Africa's constitutional body to advise government on intergovernmental fiscal relations (2014)

International Budget Partnership

Expert advice to Social Justice Coalition on City of Cape Town's budget priorities (2018)

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Review and update manual on **local government elections** in South Africa (2016) (with N Steytler)

National Department of Rural Development and Law Reform

1. Review planning legislation in Northern Cape, Free State and Eastern Cape (2012) (with Stephen Berrisford)

2. Expert advice on identifying ‘national interest’ in land use applications in terms of SPLUMA (2015) (with Stephen Berrisford)

National School of Government

Develop and deliver a comprehensive, **online course on intergovernmental relations** for officials and politicians of the government of South Africa (2020-2021).

National Department of Provincial and Local Government / Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

1. Commissioned to draft research paper, reviewing the South African **Local Government White Paper** (2007)
2. Commissioned to consolidate a series of sector papers, reviewing the South African **Local Government White Paper** (2007)
3. Research paper on amendments to the **Municipal Property Rates Act** and prepared amendments (with N Steytler) (2009)
4. Appointed to review **district local government system** in South Africa (with N Steytler, D Powell & P Ntliziywana) (2013)

Western Cape Department of the Premier

Designed a framework for the **transfer of powers and functions to municipalities** (with N Steytler, D Powell & K Harrison) (2009)

National Parliament of South Africa

Legal opinion on the role of the **National Council of Provinces** in the application of section 139 of the Constitution (intervention into municipalities) (2003)

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government (Office of the Premier)

1. Report on structuring **intergovernmental relations** in the province of KwaZulu-Natal (2002) (with N Steytler & N Olivier)
2. Manual on the application of section 139 of the Constitution (**intervention** into municipalities) (2006) (with N Steytler)

Demarcation Board

Expert legal advice on local and provincial powers and establishment of municipalities (2000) (with N Steytler and J Mettler)

Western Cape Local Government Association

Expert legal advice on local government’s constitutional obligations regarding housing in light of the Constitutional Court *Grootboom* judgment (2000)

Western Cape Provincial Department of Local Government

1. Study the law and practice of combating **corruption** in the Western Cape (2021-2022) (with J Beukes, T Chonco, N Steytler & T Chigwata)
2. Develop protocol for resolving **disputes** between provincial government and local governments over integrated development planning (2013) (with S Berrisford and N Mammon)
3. Expert advice on framework for the **supervision of municipalities** (2010)
4. Assessment Framework for **section 139 interventions** (2018, with Nico Steytler and Tinashe Chigwata)

Hanns Seidel Foundation / Western Cape Department of Local Government

1. Appointed to conduct research on the feasibility of **inclusive executive leadership and coalition governance** in the Western Cape (2018, with Xavia Poswa)
2. Appointed to oversee the drafting of a **Curriculum Framework** for Councillor Training (with Nexo Consulting) (2019)

City of Cape Town

1. Opinion on the city's role in regulating **liquor** trade (2010)
2. Opinion on the regulation of **solar water heaters** (2007)
3. Opinion on the environmental management of **baboons** (2009)
4. Advisory services on the City's authority with respect to **public transport** (2022-2023, via Zutari)

South African Local Government Association

1. Appointed (with T Chigwata) to help convene the SALGA/DOI **Research Colloquium** in 2018, and in 2019
2. Expert advice to South African Local Government Association on a **framework for municipal land use schemes** (2017-2018) (with M Schoonraad & M Oranje)
3. Discussion Document on **intergovernmental relations** for IGR Summit (with N Steytler) (2019).
4. Expert legal advice on the draft **National Land Transport Bill** (2019) (with T Chonco)
5. Framework for **coalitions in local government** (2021) (with J Beukes)

Centre for Municipal Research and Advice

1. Development of a **framework for training** Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) (with Nexo Consulting) (2019)
2. Expert advice on **restructuring governance of health services in South Africa** (2009) (with A May)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. **Constitution-Building in Africa** (J de Visser, N Steytler, D Powell & E Durojaye) Baden-Baden: Nomos Verlag (2015) pp. 331.

2. **Perspectives on development, governance and service delivery** (T Chigwata, J de Visser & L Kaywood) Juta: Cape Town (2021) 180 pp
3. **Local Government Reform in Zambia** (T Chigwata, N Steytler, J de Visser & F Kunda) Juta: Cape Town (2020) pp. 222
4. **The Journey to Transform Local Government** (T Chigwata, J de Visser & L Kaywood) Cape Town (2019).
5. **Developmental Local Government: a Case Study of South Africa** Antwerp: Intersentia (2005) pp. 310 (LLD)
6. **Local Government Law of South Africa** (with N Steytler) Durban: LexisNexis
 - South Africa's leading textbook on local government law, first published in 2007, updated annually (15 annual updates since 2007)
7. **Local Governance Reform in Zimbabwe: a Policy Dialogue** (J de Visser, N Steytler & N Machingauta) Community Law Centre: Cape Town (2010) pp. 151
8. **Water Delivery: Public or Private?** (J de Visser & C Mbazira) Utrecht: Institute of Constitutional and Administrative Law (2006) pp. 170

Journal articles

1. 'Financing Local Governments in South Africa' in 17 *Anuario de Derecho Municipal* 2023 Sección Estudios, pp. 169-185.
2. Zemelak Ayele, Jaap de Visser & David Ruach Tang 'Federalism in the 2015 and 2018 **Peace Agreements in South Sudan** – But What Kind of Federalism?' in *Perspectives on Federalism* Volume 13 - issues 2-3 – 2022 pp 41-71
3. De Visser J and Poswa X "Municipal Law Making under SPLUMA: A Survey of Fifteen 'First Generation' Municipal **Planning By-Laws**" *PER / PELJ* 2019(22)
4. 'Local Government in the 2013 Constitution of **Zimbabwe**: Defining the Boundaries of Local Autonomy' (with T Chigwata) (2018) *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* 10 165-185
5. 'Ministerial Directives to Local Government in **Zimbabwe**: Top-Down Governance in a Decentralized Constitution' (with T Chigwata & V Muchapondwa) (2017) 61 *Journal of African Law* 1 41–56
6. 'Overseeing the Overseers - Assessing Compliance with **Municipal Intervention** Rules in South Africa' (with J November) (2017) 9 *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law* 109–133
7. '**Devolution by Court Injunction**: The Case of Land Use Planning and Management in South Africa' (2016) 10 *Ugandan Journal of Management and Public Policy Studies* 1 84-100
8. 'Confronting the State of Local Government: The 2013 **Constitutional Court Decisions** (with Nico Steytler) 2016 *Constitutional Court Review*
9. 'The (Mis)Management of **Ethno-linguistic Diversity in Ethiopian Cities**' (with Zemelak Ayele) 2016 *Ethnopolitics*
10. 'The Unresolved **Ethnic Question in Uganda's** District Councils' (with D Singiza) (2015) 19 *Law Democracy and Development* 107-126
11. 'Special Interest Councillors in **Zimbabwe** – A Review of Law and Practice in terms of the 2013 Constitution' in (2013) *Law Democracy and Development* (Volume 17) (with J Mapuva)
12. 'Chewing more than one can swallow: the creation of new **districts in Uganda**' in (2011) 15 *Law, Democracy and Development* (with D Singiza)
13. '**Institutional Subsidiarity** in the South African Constitution' (2010) 21 *Stellenbosch Law Review* 90 – 115
14. '**Political-Administrative interface** in South African Municipalities' (2010) 1 *Commonwealth Journal for Local Governance* 86-101

15. 'Developmental local government in South Africa: institutional fault lines' (2009) 1 *Commonwealth Journal for Local Governance* 7-25
16. 'A perspective on local government's role in realising the **right to housing** and the answer of the *Grootboom* judgment' (2004) 8 *Law Democracy & Development* 201-215
17. 'Demarcating powers governing regarding **liquor retail**' (2004) 19 *SA Public Law* 335-377
18. 'Realising the **right of access to water**: pipe-dream of watershed?' (2003) 7 *Law, Democracy and Development* 27-53 (with J Mettler & E Cottle)
19. 'Powers of local government' (2002) 17 *SA Public Law* 223-243
20. 'Over straf valt te onderhandelen, over de waarheid niet. Deel I: Van dictatuur naar democratie' (2002) 51 *Ars Aequi* 806-812
21. 'Over straf valt te onderhandelen, over de waarheid niet. Deel II: De Zuidafrikaanse Waarheidscommissie als voorbeeld?' (2003) 51 *Ars Aequi* 874-881

Chapters in books

1. Jaap de Visser (2024) "Republic of South Africa" in Steytler N *Forum of Federations Handbook on Local Government in Federal Systems* (Palgrave)
2. Jaap de Visser and Anél du Plessis "**Climate Governance** and Federalism in South Africa" in Fenna, A., Jodoin, S., & Setzer, J. (Eds) (2023) *Climate Governance and Federalism: A Forum of Federations Comparative Policy Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press) 241-262.
3. "Local Government in **Intergovernmental relations**" in PS Reddy and P Kariuki (eds) *Subnational Governance and Development in South Africa Post 1994: Governance Challenges and Prospects* (2021).
4. Nico Steytler, Jaap de Visser and Tinashe Chigwata, 'South Africa: Surfing towards Centralisation', in Nico Steytler (ed) *Comparative Federalism and Covid-19: Combatting the Pandemic* (Routledge, 2021) 336-354.
5. "Real or imagined autonomy – Experiences from Local Government in **Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe**" in Tracy Fenwick & Andre Banfield (eds) *Beyond Autonomy - Practical and Theoretical Challenges to 21st Century Federalism* (2021) Leiden: Brill
6. "**Food Security**, Urban Governance and Multilevel Government in Africa" in R Home (ed) *Land Issues for Urban Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2021) Cham: Springer 269-280.
7. Steytler, N., De Visser, J. (2020) "From the Community Law Centre to the Dullah Omar Institute: the Path of Engaged Research" in Bharuthram, R., Pokpas, L. (eds) *From Hope to Action through Knowledge - The Renaissance of the University of the Western Cape 2001 – 2014* 335-354.
8. 'Constitutionalisation of Local and Regional Government in **Uganda, Lesotho and South Africa**' in (2019) Fombad, C & Steytler, N *Decentralisation and Constitutionalism in Africa* Oxford, Oxford: University Press.
9. '**City Regions** in pursuit of SDG 11: institutionalising multilevel cooperation in Gauteng, South Africa' in (2019) H Aust & A Du Plessis (eds) *The Globalisation of Urban Governance – Legal Perspectives on Sustainable Development Goal 11* New York: Routledge.
10. '!Ke E: /Xarra //Ke': old **diversities** and new responses in the quest for unity in South Africa in (2018) Burgess, M and Gagnon, A (eds) *Revisiting Unity and Diversity in Federal Countries: Changing Concepts, Reforms Proposals and New Institutional Realities* (with N Steytler) Leiden: Brill 1-27

11. 'Concurrency in South Africa' in (2017) N Steytler (ed) *Concurrent Powers in Federal Systems* 2017 Brill <http://bit.ly/2kuiDeK>
12. 'Enforcement of **Socio-Economic Rights** against Local Governments in South Africa' in (2015) Bosire, Ghai & Gikonyo (eds) *Animating Devolution in Kenya* <http://bit.ly/1KqDmpo>
13. '**Fragile federations** and the dynamics of devolution' (with N Steytler) in F Palermo & E Aalber (eds) *Dynamics of Devolution* Palermo (2015) Brill.
14. 'Addressing **climate change** through provincial planning in South Africa - A case study of the Western Cape' in (2015) *Strengthening Green Federalism – Sharing Best Practices* TERI/Forum of Federations New Delhi: TERI/Forum of Federations
15. 'Size and character of **devolved units**' (with Y Fessha) in Y Ghai & N Steytler (eds) (2014) *Devolution in Kenya and South Africa* Juta
16. 'Functions and **powers of devolved units**' (with A May) in Y Ghai & N Steytler (eds) (2014) *Devolution in Kenya and South Africa* Juta
17. 'Constitutional Law of Local Government in South Africa' (with N Steytler) in (2014) *International Encyclopedia of Laws* Kluwer (2014)
18. 'The role of **ethnicity** in the demarcation of internal boundaries in South Africa and Ethiopia' in S Mangiameli (ed) *Federalism, Regionalism and Territory* Rome: Institute for the Study of Regionalism, Federalism and Self-Government (2013) (with N Steytler & Y Fessha)
19. '**Property rates** as an instrument for development - an analysis of South African policy, law and practice' in (2013) G Samson & P McKinlay (eds) *New Century Local Government* London: Commonwealth Secretariat 108-128.
20. 'The Right to (be) the City: The Place of **Cities** in the Institutional and Constitutional Context of Federal/Decentralised Systems in Africa' in (2012) S Shastri (ed) *Equality and Unity in Diversity for Development* Addis Ababa: Shama Books 22-29.
21. '**Unfunded Mandates**: directing subnational governments' in G Färber (ed) (2012) *Governing from the center: the influence of the federal/central government on subnational governments* Deutsche Forschungsinstitut für Öffentlichen Verwaltung 135-156
22. 'Cities and **Climate Change**: *ex abundanti cautela* – 'from an excess of caution'?' in A Cartwright, S Parnell, G Oelofse & S Ward (eds) (2012) *Climate Change at the City Scale* Routledge: London pp. 25
23. '**Career Patterns** of National, Provincial and Local Parliamentarians in South Africa' in R Hrbek (ed) (2010) *Legislatures in Federal Systems and Multi-level Governance* Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft: Baden-Baden 151-158
24. 'Republic of South Africa Local Development in an Uncertain Partnership' in J Kincaid & N Steytler (eds) (2009) *Local Government and Metropolitan Regions* McGill-Queen's University Press: Montreal and Kingston pp. 20
25. 'Local Government' in (2008) Stu Woolman *et al Constitutional Law of South Africa* Cape Town: Juta (with N Steytler) pp. 102
26. 'Developmental Local Government in South Africa' in (2007) Chiroro B. & Matlosa (eds) *Challenges of Conflict, Democracy and Development In Africa* Pretoria: Electoral Institute of Southern Africa 176-202

Other publications (research papers)

1. [Local Government and Intergovernmental Relations: Experiences from South Africa and Observations for the Philippines – A Policy Brief](#) (with Shireen de Visser) (2022) Forum of Federations

2. [*Energy and Multi-level Government in South Africa: Key Lessons for the Philippines – A Policy Brief*](#) (with Shireen de Visser) (2022) Forum of Federations
3. [*Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations in The Philippines: A Policy Brief*](#) (with Shireen de Visser) (2022) Forum of Federations
4. *Combating **Corruption in Local Government** in the Western Cape* Research Report for Western Cape Department of Local Government (with Jennica Beukes, Thabile Chonco, Tinashe Chigwata) (2020).
5. *The Legal Framework for Combating Corruption in Local Government in the Western Cape* (with Steyler, Chigwata & Beukes) Research Report for the Western Cape Department of Local Government & the Hanns Seidel Foundation March 2020
6. *Transparency in **Procurement*** Dullah Omar Institute/IBP (with Tinashe Chigwata *et al*) (2020)
 - oversee a team of eight researchers, using internet surveys to measure how transparent South African organs of state are when **procuring** goods and services
7. *Intergovernmental fiscal relations in South Africa and the Philippines* Research Paper for Forum of Federations (2020)
 - a comparison of the institutional frameworks for **intergovernmental fiscal relations in South African and the Philippines**
8. ***Boards of State-Owned Entities and democracy*** (with Samantha Waterhouse) Cape Town: Dullah Omar Institute (2020)
 - a paper critiquing the lack of transparency surrounding the appointment of boards of state-owned entities
9. *The Regulation of **Public Enterprises in Ethiopia: Lessons for South Africa*** (with Henok Ashagrey) Cape Town: Dullah Omar Institute (2019)
10. *Metro Open Budget Survey* (with Tinashe Chigwata and Carlene vd Westhuizen) (2019)
 - oversee a team of six researchers, using mixed methodologies (internet surveys, questionnaire, interviews) to measure how transparent South Africa's biggest cities are in their annual budgeting
11. *Local government in intergovernmental relations* Discussion Document for SALGA IGR Summit (2018) (with Nico Steytler)
12. *Multilevel Government in **South Africa, Ethiopia and Kenya** Observations from the practice of designing and implementing multilevel government systems* (2018) Forum of Federations Occasional Paper Series No 20 (with Nico Steytler).
13. ***Land regulation in South Africa*** paper commissioned by the Commission on Inquiry in the Effectiveness of Law, Policies and Processes or Land Acquisition, Land Administration, Land Management and Land Registration in Uganda (2018)
14. *Implementing the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act: A Review of Four 'Post-SPLUMA' Provincial Planning Bills* (2017) www.dullahomarinate.org.za (with X Poswa)
15. *Implementing the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act: A Review of Municipal Planning By-Laws* (2017) www.dullahomarinate.org.za (with X Poswa)
16. ***Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations** in South Africa and the Role of the Financial and Fiscal Commission – a 20 Year Review* (with Z Ayele) (2014)
17. *Local Law Making in Cape Town: a Case Study of the Municipal Planning By-Law Process* UNHABITAT Urban Legal Case Studies Volume 3 (in print, 2015)
18. ***Civil Protest Barometer*** (with D Powell & M O'Donovan) www.mlgi.org.za (2015)
19. ***Service Delivery Protest Barometer*** (with D Powell) www.mlgi.org.za (2012)
20. *Important Legal Issues for Provincial Legislation dealing with Spatial Planning and Land Use* (with S Berrisford) Discussion Document for South African Cities Network (2011) pp.29

21. *The quality of local democracies: a study into the functionality of municipal governance arrangements* Report for South African Local Government Association and German Agency for Development Cooperation (with N Steytler & A May) (2009) pp. 66
 - a study, using legal-empirical research to assess relations between politicians and officials in South Africa
22. *The Role of Ward Committees in South Africa: evidence of six case studies* Cape Town: Community Law Centre (2009) (with T Smith)
 - a study, using mixed methodologies (including interviews) to measure the effectiveness of public participation structures
23. 'The institutional framework for developmental local government: making good on the promise of development?' (2000) *Seminar Report No. 14 Constitution and Law colloquium on local government law* Johannesburg: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung 35-50

Manuals, Guidelines, Scripts and Infographics

1. Writing **script for educational video** on *Rule of Law* (HSF, 2020)
2. Writing **script for educational video** on *Bill of Rights* (HSF, 2020)
3. Writing **script for educational video** on *How elections work* (HSF, 2021)
4. Writing **script for educational video** on *Coalitions* (HSF, 2023)
5. *Electing Councillors: A **guide to municipal elections*** Cape Town: Dullah Omar Institute Law Centre (2000) (with N Steytler) pp. 52,
 - Updated in 2016 and 2021.
6. *What are we voting for?* Online infographic on local elections (2016, updated 2021)
7. **Fact Sheets on [Decentralisation in Africa](#)** (with Nico Steytler and Tinashe Chigwata) (2020) decentralisation explained from **legal, political, financial and customary** perspective
 - Translated in French, Portuguese and Arabic
8. *Intervening in Provinces and Municipalities: **Guidelines for the Application of Sections 100 & 139 of the Constitution*** prepared for the Department of Provincial and Local Government (2007) (with N Steytler) pp. 54
 - adopted as official government guidelines
9. ***Practitioners' Guide to Intergovernmental Relations Manual*** prepared for the Department of Provincial and Local Government (2007) pp. 97
 - adopted as official government guidelines
10. *A guideline document on provincial-local intergovernmental relations* Pretoria: Department of Provincial and Local Government (2002) (with N Steytler and J Mettler) pp. 20
11. *Provincial supervision: manual for the application of section 139 of the Constitution* Pretoria: Department of Provincial and Local Government (2000) (with N Steytler & J Mettler) pp. 40
12. *The **intergovernmental relations audit** – towards a culture of co-operative government* Pretoria: Department of Provincial and Local Government (1999) (with N Steytler, N Levy, C Tapscott, J Mettler *et al*) pp. 200
 - a study into intergovernmental relations, using legal-empirical research
13. *Making law: a guide to municipal councils* Cape Town: Community Law Centre (2000) (with N Steytler & J Mettler) (translated into Afrikaans, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Setswana and Sesotho) pp. 50

TEACHING AND STUDENT SUPERVISION

Teaching

Full programmes/degrees

1. Developed 1-year **Postgraduate Diploma** in Public Law for University of the Western Cape (with T Chigwata) (launched in 2021)
2. Developed and delivered online **Practitioner's Course on Intergovernmental Relations** for practitioners (South Africa's School of Government (2020-2021)
3. Co-convenor (with Nico Steytler and Tinashe Chigwata) LLM/Mphil in **Law, State and Governance** (2010-now)
4. Teaching Coordinator (**Onderwijscoördinator**) Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Utrecht University (2003-2006)
5. Co-convenor (with Stephen Berrisford) of 2-day Certificate Course *Preparing for Implementation of Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act*
6. Co-convenor of **African School on Decentralisation**, a two-week certificate course of University of the Western Cape & Addis Ababa University

Single courses

7. *Constitutional Law Practice* (LLM, University of the Western Cape 2009-now)
8. *Rule of Law and Good Governance* (LLM, University of the Western Cape 2012-2013)
9. *Local Government* (LLM, University of the Western Cape, 2009-now)
10. *Law of Intergovernmental Relations* (LLM, University of the Western Cape, co-lecturer in 2006-2010)
11. *Civil, Social and Political Rights* (LLM, Utrecht University, 2004-2006)
12. *Constitutional and Administrative Law* (LLB, Utrecht University, 2002-2006)
13. *Fundamentals of Public Law* (LLB, Utrecht University, 2002-2006)
14. *Constitutional Law* (PGDip, 2021-now)
15. *Local Government* (PGDip, 2021-now)

Guest lecturing

1. Stellenbosch University: Constitutional Law (LLB) *Local Government* (2011)
2. University of Pretoria: *Local Government Certificate Course* (2012, 2013, 2014)
3. Addis Ababa University: *Local Government in Federal Systems* - PhD Programme (2012, 2013)

Various guest lectures, including:

- LLB University of Cape Town (2006)
- Ethiopian Civil Service College (2013)
- European Academy (EURAC) Bozen/Bolzano (2015)
- University of ABC, Sao Paolo (2016)
- University of Innsbrück / European Academy (EURAC) *Winter School on Federalism and Governance* (2018 and 2020)
- *Aluwal* Future Leaders Programme (2022, 2023, 2024)
- UGlobe (Centre for Global Challenges, Utrecht University) (2024)

Supervision - Doctoral studies

1. Zemelak Ayele *Local government for democracy, peace and development in Ethiopia* (graduated 2012, UWC)
2. Douglas Singiza *Local government in Uganda* (graduated 2015, UWC)
3. Tinashe Chigwata *Local government in Zimbabwe* (graduated 2015, UWC)
4. Ayenew Birhanu *The politics of local government creation and boundary demarcation within Ethiopian Federation: Challenges and Implications* (graduated 2016, AAU, co-supervision with Assefa Fiseha)
5. Fiseha Haftetsion Gebresilassie *The state of Vertical Division of Political Power in the Ethiopian Federation* (graduated 2017, AAU, co-supervision with Assefa Fiseha)
6. Shehaam Johnstone *Food security and local government in South Africa: the role of municipalities in a food systems approach* (graduated 2020)
7. Adeniyi Oluwafunmilola Foluke *Hungry for knowledge, hungry for bread: realising the right to food of students in South African tertiary institutions* (with Ebenezer Durojaye, graduated 2021)
8. Xavia Poswa *An examination of the intersection of the role of traditional leaders and municipalities in spatial planning and land use management* (2024)
9. Jennica Beukes *Law and the Practice of Coalition Governments in South Africa* (ongoing)
10. Thabile Chonco *One size does not fit all: An examination of the legal and policy framework for differentiated powers, functions and funding and supervision of municipalities in South Africa* (ongoing)

Supervision – Masters

1. Geraldine Mettler *Provincial intergovernmental relations* (2001) (co-supervision with Nico Steytler)
2. Mrs Brink Hacken *als opsporingsmethode* (2005)
3. Martijn van Bemmelen *De gekozen burgemeester* (2005)
4. Mesenbet Assefa Tadeg *The human rights obligations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the right to development* (2009)
5. Mzee Mzee - *Local government in Tanzania* (2007)
6. Zemelak Ayele - *Local Government in Ethiopia* (2008)
7. Naison Machingauta - *Supervision of local government in Zimbabwe* (2009)
8. Tinashe Chigwata - *Local government in Zimbabwe* (2010)
9. Thabo Khaile - *Budget oversight in local government* (2011)
10. Elizabeth Williams - *Internal oversight - a case study of Drakenstein Municipality*
11. Yasin Maoni - *Internal oversight - a case study of three metropolitan municipalities*
12. Jephias Mapuva - *Appointed councillors in Zimbabwe* (2012)
13. Ashwin Reyneke *Provincial supervision of Municipalities* (2012)
14. Nora Christabelle Ho Tu Nam *The autonomous status of Rodrigues and its impact on development: A comparative analysis* (2013)
15. Violet Muchapondwa *Examining the parameters of the powers of the Minister of Local Government to issue policy directives to urban local authorities in Zimbabwe in terms of section 313 of the Urban Councils Act* (2014)
16. Thabile Chonco *An analysis of municipal regulation and management of markets as an instrument to facilitate access to food and enhance food security* (2015)

17. Thobela Mdledle's *Evaluating the role of the NCOP in reviewing national government interventions in provincial governments: a case study of the 2011 interventions in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo Provinces* (2015)
18. Xavia Poswa *A study of municipal planning by-law and the extent to which they give effect to the spatial planning and land use management act 16 of 2013* (2016)
19. Jerome November *Interventions into Local Government: an Assessment of the Practice Between 2009 and 2014* (2017)
20. Kwazinkosi Dladla *The Impact of the Legal Framework for Local Government on Building and Sustaining Coalitions in Municipal Councils* (2018, under examination)
21. Chilumbwa Maambo *The administrative autonomy of local authorities in Zambia under the 2016 Constitution* (2018)
22. Nchimunya Mweene *An assessment of the impact of the 2016 Constitution on intergovernmental relations in Zambia* (2018)
23. Henok Ashagrey *The Right to Freedom of Movement in the Ethiopian Ethnic Federation: Examining the Adequacy of the Existing Constitutional Protection for "Exogenous" Peoples* (2018)
24. Lucille Damon *Municipal regulation of food and waste pickers on landfill sites in South Africa: what should municipalities (dis)allow?* (2019, with Prof Schenck)
25. Victor Thabo *An assessment of the constitutionality of the directions and regulations issued to local government during the Covid-19 state of disaster* (2021, with X Poswa)
26. Awonke Baba *Analysis of the law regulating the declaration and publication of financial interests by senior managers in municipalities* (ongoing, with T Chonco-Spambo)
27. Chelile Ndlovu-Nachamba *Public Procurement Act 28 of 2024: Does the Act enhance transparency in public procurement at municipal level in South Africa?* (ongoing, with C Stevens)

Opinion pieces, blogs and newsletters

1. De Visser 'Coalition Conundrums: Navigating new norms in national governance' *News24* 14 June 2024
2. De Visser (lead author of Civil Society Petition) 'Stop the democratic decline in municipalities' *News24* 10 August 2024
3. De Visser, 'Debating coalitions behind a 'veil of ignorance' *Daily Maverick* 8 August 2023
4. De Visser, 'Coalition government – six ideas for law reform' *News24* 3 April 2023
5. De Visser, J. & Hall, R. 'The lockdown may be unconstitutional – unless school feeding and social grants are fixed' *Daily Maverick* 21 April 2020
6. 'The lockdown regulations are not a ban on all informal food traders' 30 March 2020, *Daily Maverick* (also published in *Local Government Bulletin* 15(1))
7. 'Municipalities are not off the hook for food security' *Food Security South Africa* 22 May 22, 2019 (also published in *Local Government Bulletin* 14(1))
8. 'Why the law was an ass in Nelson Mandela Bay' *Daily Maverick* 5 October 2018.
9. 'The way forward for councillors and inept municipalities' *Daily Maverick* 30 August 2018.
10. 'Untangling the web of rules governing Patricia De Lille' *Daily Maverick* 16 January 2018.
11. 'South Africa's politicians will have to adjust to many more coalitions' *The Conversation* May 16.
12. 'Zuma's plan to swap 'wrong' councillors may create chaos' *Business Day* 16 May 2011 (with P Ntliziywana)

13. 'Cape Town case tests public role on boundaries' *Cape Times* September 2006 (with Annette Christmas)
14. 'Metropolitan mayors wield political muscle' *Business Day* October 2006

More than 80 short articles in [Local Government Bulletin](#) (Cape Town: Dullah Omar Institute).