

Curriculum Vitae
MICHELLE PENTECOST

EDUCATION

2013-2017 DPhil in Anthropology, **University of Oxford, Green Templeton College**
2012-2013 MSc Medical Anthropology, **University of Oxford, Green Templeton College**
2003-2008 Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, **University of Cape Town**

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2022-present Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Global Health, **King's College London**
2018-2022 Lecturer in Global Health and Social Medicine, **King's College London**
2009-2017 Medical intern, community service officer, medical officer, **Western Cape Department of Health**, Cape Town, South Africa

Current affiliations and positions:

2020-present **University of the Witwatersrand**
Honorary Researcher, SAMRC-Wits Developmental Pathways for Health Research Unit, School of Clinical Medicine
2020-present **Graduate Institute, Geneva**
Honorary Research Affiliate, Global Health Centre
2020-present **University College London**
Member, UK Preconception Partnership
2019-present **University of Cape Town**
Honorary Research Affiliate, Department of Anthropology
2019-present **University College London**
Network member, Wellcome Trust Biosocial Birth Cohort Network
2018-present **King's College London**
Steering Committee member for the Global Social Medicine Wellcome Trust network
2017-present **University of Oxford**
UK Fellow, Unit for Biocultural Variation and Obesity, Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

FUNDING AWARDED

2022 King's College London/Stellenbosch University Erasmus Staff Mobility Training Grant:
2021 South African National Research Foundation (PI).
2020 UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship (PI)
2020 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship, *declined for UKRI*
2019 UKRI 'Closing the gap' network fund (co-I)
2019 British Academy Seed funds (PI and co-I)
2017/18 Wellcome Trust Seed Award, (co-I)

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED BOOKS

Pentecost M, Keaney J, Moll T and Penkler M (eds). 2023. *The Cambridge Handbook of DOHaD and Society: past, present and future directions of biosocial collaboration*. Under contract with Cambridge University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2022 Cousins T, Pentecost M, van Helden L. Containment and conversion: urban livelihoods and the circulation of value amid South Africa's avian influenza outbreak. *American Ethnologist* 49(3): 413-426.

- 2022 **Pentecost M.** The politics of trauma: gender, futurity and violence prevention in South Africa. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/maq.12678>.
- 2021 Ross F and **Pentecost M.** Still unknown and overlooked? Anthropologies of childhood and infancy in southern Africa, 1995–2020, *Ethnos*, DOI:10.1080/00141844.2021.1994622.
- 2021 **Pentecost M**, Adams V, Baru R, Caduff C, Greene J, Hansen H, Jones D, Kitanaka J, Ortega F. 2021. Revitalising global social medicine. *The Lancet*, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01003-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01003-5).
- 2021 Lachman A, Berg A, Ross F, **Pentecost M.** 2021. Infant mental health in southern Africa - nurturing a field. *The Lancet*, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)00998-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00998-3)
- 2021 Cousins T, **Pentecost M**, Alvergne A, Chandler C, Chigudu S, Herrick C, Kelly A, Leonelli S, Lezaun J, Lorimer J, Reubi D, Sekalala S. 2021. The changing climates of global health. *BMJ Global Health*, 6:e005442.
- 2020 **Pentecost M**, Meloni M. “It’s never too early”: preconception care and postgenomic models of life. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 5: doi: 10.3389/fsoc.2020.00021.
- 2019 **Pentecost M**, Cousins TD. “The good doctor”: the making and unmaking of the physician self in contemporary South Africa. *Journal of Medical Humanities*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10912-019-09572-y>.
- 2019 **Pentecost M**, Ross F. The first thousand days: Motherhood, scientific knowledge, and local histories, *Medical Anthropology*, 38:8, 747-761.
- 2018 **Pentecost M**, Gerber B, Wainwright M, Cousins TD. Critical orientations for humanising health sciences education in South Africa. *BMJ Medical Humanities*, 44:221-229.
- 2018 **Pentecost M.** Field notes in the clinic: on medicine, anthropology and pedagogy in South Africa. *BMJ Medical Humanities*, 44:e1.
- 2018 **Pentecost M**, Meloni M. The epigenetic imperative: responsibility for early intervention at the time of biological plasticity. *The American Journal of Bioethics*, 18:11, 60-62.
- 2018 **Pentecost M**, Cousins TD. The temporary as the future: ready to use therapeutic food and nutraceuticals in South Africa. *Anthropology Today*, 34(4): 9-13.
- 2018 **Pentecost M**, Ross F, Macnab A. Beyond the dyad: making DOHaD interventions more inclusive. *Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*, Themed Issue: DOHaD Africa 9(1): 10-14.
- 2017 **Pentecost M**, Cousins TD. Strata of the political: epigenetic and microbial imaginaries in post-apartheid Cape Town. *Antipode*, 49(5): 1368-1384.
- 2017 Ulijaszek S, **Pentecost M**, Karpe F, Wardle J, Frubeck G, Nowicka P. Inequality and childhood overweight and obesity: a commentary. *Pediatric Obesity*, 12(3): 195-202.
- 2016 Oni T, Smit W, Matzopoulos R, Hunter Adams J, **Pentecost M**, Rother H, Albertyn Z, Behroozi F, Alaba O, Kaba M, van der Westhuizen C, Shung King M, Levitt NS, Parnell S, Lambert EV, RICHE members. Urban Health Research in Africa: Themes and Priority Research Questions. *Journal of Urban Health*, 93(4): 722-730.
- 2013 Rajabally MN, **Pentecost M**, Pretorius O et al. The *Clostridium difficile* problem: a South African tertiary institution’s prospective perspective. *South African Medical Journal*, Vol. 103(3), pp.168-72.
- 2006 Kirsch R, **Pentecost M**, Hall Pde M, Epstein DP, Watermeyer G, Friederich, PW. Role of colonoscopic biopsy in distinguishing between Crohn’s disease and intestinal tuberculosis. *Journal of Clinical Pathology*, 2006 Aug; 59(8):840-4.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming** Penkler M, Pentecost M, Moll T, Keaney J. Introduction. In: Pentecost M, Keaney J, Moll T, Penkler M (eds). *The Cambridge Handbook of DOHaD and Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Forthcoming** **Pentecost M**, Draper CD, Mabetha K, Soepnel L, Norris S. Building biosocial collaboration in a preconception trial. In: Pentecost M, Keaney J, Moll T, Penkler M (eds). *The Cambridge Handbook of DOHaD and Society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Forthcoming** Ross F, **Pentecost M**, Moll T. Epigenetics and the anthropology of reproduction. In: van Hollen C and Appleton NS (eds). *The Wiley Blackwell companion to the anthropology of reproductive science and technology*. London: Wiley Blackwell.
- 2021** **Pentecost M**. Transitioning societies: non-communicable disease and ‘the first 1000 days’ in South Africa. In: Vaughan M, Mika M, Adjaye-Gbewonyo K (eds). *Epidemiological change and chronic disease in Africa: historical and anthropological perspectives*. London: UCL Press.
- 2018** **Pentecost M**. The first thousand days: epigenetics in the age of global health. In: *The Palgrave handbook of biology and society*. Meloni M, Cromby J, Fitzgerald D, Lloyd S (eds). London: Palgrave Macmillan.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2020** **Pentecost M**. War and medicine in Iraq: physicians and the aftermath of empire. In: Book Forum – Omar Dewachi’s Ungovernable Life. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly*. <http://medanthroquarterly.org/2020/06/02/war-and-medicine-in-iraq-physicians-and-the-aftermath-of-empire/>.
- 2019** **Pentecost M**. Medicine in the Meantime, by R McKay (Duke UP). *Journal the Royal Anthropological Institute* 25(4): 836-7.
- 2018** **Pentecost M**. Digital food activism, by T Schneider, K Eli, C Dolan and S Ulijaszek. *Somatosphere*, May 29 2018. <http://somatosphere.net/2018/digital-food-activism-a-book-review.html>
- 2015** **Pentecost M**. Para-States and Medical Science – Making African Global Health, by PW Geissler (Duke UP). *New Genetics and Society*, 36(4): 408-410.

WEB PUBLICATIONS

- 2021** **Pentecost M**. The new trial communities: challenges and opportunities in preconception cohorts. *Somatosphere*, July 22, 2021. <http://somatosphere.net/2021/birth-cohort-studies-new-communitites-pentecost.html>.
- 2020** Cousins T, Leonelli S, **Pentecost M**, Sunder-Rajan K. 2020. Situating the Biology of COVID-19: A Conversation on Disease and Democracy. *The India Forum*. <https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/situating-biology-covid-19>.
- 2019** Gibbon, S, **Pentecost M**. Introduction: Excavating and (Re)Creating the Biosocial; Birth Cohorts as Ethnographic Object of Inquiry and Site of Intervention. *Somatosphere* November 15, 2019. <http://somatosphere.net/2019/introduction-excavating-and-recreating-the-biosocial-birth-cohorts-as-ethnographic-object-of-inquiry-and-site-of-intervention.html>.
- 2017** Everett-Murphy K, **Pentecost M**, Muhwava L, Majikela-Dlangamandla B. 2017. The experience of conducting focus group discussions on the topic of gestational diabetes in Cape Town, South Africa. *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. doi:10.4135/9781526409522.
- 2016** **Pentecost M**. 2016. Introduction: The First Thousand Days of Life. *Somatosphere series: The First Thousand Days of Life*. <http://somatosphere.net/2016/04/introduction-the-first-thousand-days-of-life.html>.
- 2015** **Pentecost M**. 2015. The First Thousand Days of Life: Obesity and Global Health Policy in South Africa. *Unit for Biocultural Variation and Obesity Opinion Paper Series*, #09. Available at: <http://oxfordobesity.org>.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, WORKSHOPS and INVITED LECTURES

August 2022

Vancouver, Canada

Invited symposium speaker, DOHaD World Congress, Vancouver Convention Centre, August 27-31 2022.

June 2022

London, United Kingdom

Participant: Wellcome Trust Biosocial Birth Cohort Network Meeting, University College London, 7-8 June 2022.

April 2022

Cape Town, South Africa

‘African naissance: Early life and deep time in intergenerational health’, presented at the African Studies Association of Africa conference, University of Cape Town, 11-16 April 2022.

December 2021

Lausanne, Switzerland

‘The Future of Social Medicine’: Invited keynote speaker at the conference ‘Novel Stakes of Social Medicine’, University of Lausanne.

October 2021

Toronto, Canada (remote participation)

‘Biosocial beginnings: building interdisciplinary collaboration in a preconception trial,’ presented at the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) annual conference, Toronto, Canada (remote presentation).

March 2021

Copenhagen, Denmark (remote participation)

‘Ethics, value and the politics of early life interventions: notes from South Africa,’ presented at the ‘Chronic Living’ conference, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (remote participation).

February 2021

Oxford, United Kingdom (remote participation)

‘Preconception interventions: the future of obesity prevention strategies?’ Invited presentation for the Unit for Biocultural Variation and Obesity, University of Oxford (remote participation).

February 2021

Delhi, India (remote participation)

‘Beyond global health: diasporic perspectives on health and social justice’ (with Thomas Cousins, Kaushik Sunder Rajan and Sabina Leonelli), presented at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi (remote participation)

November 2019

Vancouver, Canada

“Before the Beginning”: The politics of preconception care and pervasive toxicity’ (with Dr Maurizio Meloni), presented at the 2019 American Anthropological Association Annual conference, Vancouver, Canada.

November 2019

Vancouver, Canada

Invited discussant for the round table ‘The politics of ‘developmental origins’: biological mattering and social justice’ at the 2019 American Anthropological Association Annual conference, Vancouver, Canada.

August 2019

Bloemfontein, South Africa

‘The Global clinic: global health, clinical trials and the everyday in South Africa’, presented at the conference ‘Health, healthcare and urban spaces: perspectives from the law and medical humanities’ at the Free State Centre for Human Rights, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

August 2019

Bloemfontein, South Africa

‘Anthropological approaches to studying childhood: some lessons from Southern Africa’ (with Professor Fiona Ross) presented at the conference ‘Urban Childhoods’, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

November 2018

Oxford, United Kingdom

‘Trials of the everyday: spaces of global health in South Africa’. Invited presentation for the Departmental Seminar, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford.

October 2018

London, United Kingdom

‘Ordinary Spaces: global health, clinical trials and the everyday in South Africa’. Invited presentation in the Department of Anthropology, University College London, as part of an introductory series on Biosocial Anthropology.

September 2018

Sydney, Australia

‘Infection, compensation, containment and justice: biosecurity and value in the 2017 avian influenza outbreak in Cape Town, South Africa’ (with Dr Thomas Cousins and Dr Lesley van Helden). Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference in closed panel ‘Not Global Health (?): Theorizing Biomedical Governance from the South’.

September 2018

Sydney, Australia

‘Epigenetics, gender and population futures: reading ‘the first thousand days’ from South Africa’ (with Professor Fiona Ross, Cape Town). Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference in open

panel 'Political transformations of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) and epigenetics in the Global South'.

September 2018

London, United Kingdom

Invitation to attend closed workshop on 'Africa and the Epidemiological Imagination', Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London as part of a Wellcome Trust project on 'Chronic Disease in Africa: A Critical History of Epidemiological Transition' hosted by Professor Megan Vaughan.

August 2018

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Invited paper: The health humanities in Africa: an emerging field. With Dr Thomas Cousins for Stellenbosch University's Health Humanities Interest Group Series.

June 2018

London, United Kingdom

Invited participant (with Dr Thomas Cousins) for the closed door workshop 'Laboratories of Health: human and non-human subjects' hosted by the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, King's College London.

April 2018

Cambridge, United Kingdom

Invited discussant for closed workshop on 'Post-colonial perspectives on urban epidemiology' hosted by the 'Rethinking Urban Nature' project, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge.

May 2017

Oxford, United Kingdom

'Life between protocols: the pragmatics of a nutrition intervention in Khayelitsha, South Africa.' Presented in the 2017 Trinity Term UBVO Seminar Series, University of Oxford.

March 2017

Johannesburg, South Africa

Workshop participant in 'Families, Households, Health and Care', hosted by School of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand.

March 2017

Stellenbosch, South Africa/Baltimore, USA

Tele-workshop participant in 'Biomedical Objects in Africa' run jointly between the Critical Global Health Seminar Series at Johns Hopkins University and the Transdisciplinary Health and Development Studies Programme at Stellenbosch University.

November 2016

Johannesburg, South Africa

'The best interest and needs of the child: The First 1000 Days project'. Invited lecture for NACSA 2016: Adoption and Beyond, a collaboration between the National Department of Social Development & The National Adoption Coalition of South Africa.

September 2016

Stellenbosch, South Africa

The mother and the child: old images and contemporary imaginaries of African global health. Conference paper for 'Imaginaries of Affliction, Healing and Medicine. Sickness and the Representation of Africa', Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies.

September 2016

Barcelona, Spain

'Digestion, immunity and vitality: nutraceuticals, ready-to-use therapeutic food, and the temporary as the future.' With Thomas Cousins at '4S/EASST 2016: Science and technology by other means': joint meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology.

July 2016

Durham, United Kingdom

'The First Thousand Days: Global health and local futures in Khayelitsha, South Africa.' Conference paper presented at 'ASA16: Footprints and futures: the time of anthropology'; annual meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth, Durham University.

June 2016

Oxford, United Kingdom

'Global health and the (re)turn to the maternal: governance of the everyday in Khayelitsha, South Africa'. Conference paper presented at 'Revisiting the Margins: Towards a Praxis for Critical Global Health', Green Templeton College, University of Oxford.

May 2016

Geneva, Switzerland

'The making and unmaking of the physician self in contemporary South Africa.' With Thomas Cousins at 'Humanising the Health Sciences', Fondation Brocher.

February 2016

Oxford, United Kingdom

‘Obesity: thinking outside the [responsibility] box.’ Invited lecture for the Osler Health Equity Lecture series, Green Templeton College, University of Oxford.

November 2015 **Cape Town, South Africa**

‘The Political ecology of perinatal nutrition in Khayelitsha, South Africa’. Poster presented at DOHaD 2015: 9th World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease. 8-11 November 2015.

November 2015 **Oxford, United Kingdom**

‘Ecologies of Abandonment: epigenetic and microbial imaginaries in post-apartheid Cape Town.’ With Thomas Cousins at the Unit for Biocultural Variation and Obesity, University of Oxford.

October 2015 **Grasmere, United Kingdom**

‘Perinatal nutrition and obesity: A South African perspective.’ Conference paper presented at the Rank Prize Funds: Mini symposium on nutrition and obesity.

September 2015 **Potchefstroom, South Africa**

The first thousand days, in a world otherwise: politics and potentiality in Khayelitsha, South Africa.’ Paper presented at Anthropology Southern Africa conference, University of Potchefstroom.

July 2015 **Johannesburg, South Africa**

Workshop participant at the Johannesburg Workshop for Theory and Criticism, Wits University, 28 June-11 July.

March 2015 **Cape Town, South Africa**

Workshop participant at ‘Building the critical health social sciences in southern Africa’, hosted by the British Council Researcher Links program and the South African Social Science and HIV program, 8-13 March.

September 2013 **Johannesburg, South Africa**

‘Programmed for vulnerability: structural violence and developmental programming in the production of obesity in South Africa’: Conference paper presented at ‘Body Knowledge: Medicine and the Humanities in Conversation’, Wits Institute for Social And Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand.

TEACHING and SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

2021 **King’s College London**

Convenor and lecturer for ‘Personalised Medicine, Genomics and Policy’ (3rd year undergraduate).

2020

Admitted to the Higher Education Academy in the category ‘Fellow’

2019-2020

King’s College London

Convenor and lecturer for ‘Key Concepts in Global Health’ (2nd year undergraduate) and ‘Personalised Medicine, Genomics and Policy’ (3rd year undergraduate).

2018

King’s College London

Convenor and lecturer for ‘Introduction to Social Medicine II (1st year undergraduate) and ‘Social Aspects of Personalised Medicine and Genomics’ (3rd year undergraduate).

2017, 2015

Stellenbosch University

External lecturer for ‘Culture, Medicine, Disease’ module (3rd year medical students).

2015

Stellenbosch University

External lecturer for ‘Health in Context’ module (1st year health sciences students)

2007

University of Cape Town

Facilitator, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town

Current PhD Supervisees: working titles

1. **‘Therapeutic misconception in clinical trials’**, 2022-present, co-supervised by Dr Geraldine Lee
2. **‘The bioethics of preconception interventions’**, 2022-present, co-supervised by Dr Silvia Camporesi
3. **‘Accounting for Absence: Situating the Paternal Body in Epigenetics’**, 2019-present, co-supervised by Drs Courtney Davis and Amy Hinterberger