CURRICULUM VITAE
Marjoke Oosterom

Institute of Development Studies
Library Road
Brighton
BN1 9RE
UK

E: m.oosterom@ids.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)1273 606261
W: www.ids.ac.uk

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:	Research fellow & Cluster Leader of the Power & Popular Politics research cluster
LANGUAGES:	English, Dutch
THEMATIC EXPERTISE:	authoritarianism, political agency, everyday politics, conflict & violence, youth
GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE:	East and Southern Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria

OVERVIEW

Marjoke Oosterom is a research fellow and lecturer at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex. Her research concentrates on how authoritarianism politics, conflict and violence affect social and political action, with a specific focus on youth. Her research covers broader themes of political socialization, civic space, empowerment and participation, and connects to the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda. She uses qualitative research methodologies, including participatory (visual) research methods and she has facilitated youth-led research. Marjoke has led advisory work for policy makers, UN agencies and international NGOs working on democratic governance, peace and security, youth, voice and accountability, and citizen participation.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2019	**Fellow of the British Higher Education Academy** (PGCert teaching qualification)
2014	**PhD,** Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK
2007	**MA: Advanced Masters Programme in International Development (AMID)** Centre for International Development Issues (CIDIN) Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
2006	**MSc: Political Science, Comparative politics** Faculty of Management, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
2006	**MA: Development Studies** Centre for International Development Issues (CIDIN) Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands
2001	**Propaedeuse Cultural Anthropology and Development Studies** Faculty of Social Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2022-PRESENT **Cluster leader of the Power & Popular Research Cluster, Institute of Development Studies.**
2016 – PRESENT **Research fellow, Institute of Development Studies**

Research Projects and Awarded Grants:

- Horizon Europe: 'DeAppeal: Understanding, Deconstructing and Resisting the Autocratic Appeal. (Institutional PI for IDS and lead of the Work Package on Youth' 2026-2029, 3.5 million Euro).
- UKRI/Trans-Atlantic Partnership Grant: 'Youth, affective polarization and trust – A transnational perspective'. (Principal Investigator, 2024-2027, £600,000).
- British Academy (2025). Networking grant for UK institutions to join Horizon Europe consortia.
- British Academy 'Youth Futures' grant: 'The gendered price of precarity. Workplace sexual harassment and young women's agency in formal firms and informal economy in Uganda and Bangladesh. (Principal Investigator, 2020-2021, £300,000)
- ESRC Grant: 'Learning on the Streets. Urban youth and the informal economy in Zimbabwe. (Principal Investigator, 2019-2021, £300,000).
- NorGlobal: The Politics of Youth Interventions in Africa's Authoritarian Regimes, in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda**.** A collaboration with CMI, University of Bergen. (2019-2022, £760,000.-; Lead for the Zimbabwe case-study.)
- DFID: Action for Empowerment and Accountability. Project lead for the project on civil society action for Commission of Inquiry, Plateau State, Nigeria; Co-investigator in the project on 'Demanding Power: fuel and energy protests in Mozambique, Nigeria and Pakistan' (£ 5 million, 2018-2021).
- GCRF Network grant: African Digital Rights Network. Online dynamics of repression, surveillance and activism for digital citizenship, in 10 countries (Co-investigator, 2020-2021).
- IFAD: Challenges and Opportunities for Rural Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Mixed-Methods Study to Inform Policy and Programs (US$1.5 million, Co-Investigator, lead for Ethiopia and Uganda case studies, 2017-2020).
- IDRC: Active engagement and resilience to political violence among young people in Zimbabwe (2017-2019). A mixed-methods study on young people's socio-economic initiatives build resilience against political violence. ($300,000 Co- investigator).
- Mastercard Foundation: Matasa fellows' network: co-convenor of the network of African early career scholars of youth employment (2018).
- Swiss Development Agency: Youth, local governance and peacebuilding. (PI, £13,000, 2017)
- IDS-SDC Collaboration on Poverty, Politics and Participation. The Collaboration was a framework for policy research in collaboration with the Swiss Development Cooperation. (Principal Investigator, GBP £ 500,000, 2014-2017)
- DFID Accountable Grant, Youth Employment theme: a study on the linkages between economic agency and political agency among youth in contexts of violence. (GBP 50,000, 2015-2016)

Teaching:

- Co-convenor of the MA module 'Power, and Social Perspectives on Development' (2014- 2021): module design, lecturing, seminars; supervision of essays, term papers, and fieldwork practice; and assessments; dissertation supervision and marking.
- Co-Convenor of the MA course Power, Participation and Social Change (2017-2019).
- PhD supervision: I currently supervise 3 PhD candidates, and have supervised 2 PhDs to completion.
- PhD examination: external examiner of 1 candidate in the UK, 1 in the Netherlands and 1 in Australia; and internal examiner for 2 candidates at IDS and the University of Sussex.
- Guest lecturer, participatory local governance and conflict: UNU-Merit, the Netherlands (2020-2021); The Hague Academy for Local Governance; INCLUDE Knowledge Platform.

Advisory work:

- *Fondation Botnar*. Global Learning Partner for the Fondation Botnar' Healthy Cities for Adolescence programme, (Co-investigator, £120,000, 2023-2027).
- *Education out Loud / Global Coalition for Education*: Policy advocacy in politically challenging contexts (2024-2025).
- *Irish Aid*: Conflict-sensitive approaches to social protection, case study Mozambique (Principal Investigator, 2024).
- *World Food Programme*. Addressing young peoples' engagement in violent activities (Co-investigator and country lead for Mozambique case study, 2021-2023, USD 120,000).
- *Save the Children*. Gender and Power Analysis on adolescents and youth in five MENA countries (2022-2023).
- *INCLUDE* Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policy. Promoting meaningful youth engagement for decent employment. (Principal Investigator, 2022, EUR 60,000)
- DFID Learning Journey on Youth Employment and Citizenship, a series of workshops and learning outputs for DFID policy advisors (2018), also involving representatives of Danida, Dutch Aid, Irish Aid and USAID. Lead advisor.

- Wilton Park Youth Dialogue conference series (2017-2019). Lead intellectual partner for high-level conference series for UK government and development partners on youth, peace, security, and youth employment.
- *Act Alliance: Shrinking Civic space.* Researcher in the multi-country study on the effects of shrinking civic space for development in, lead for the Zimbabwe case study (2018, Co-Investigator).
- *Plan UK: Youth, participation and governance in fragile settings* (2016-2017). A multi-country study on how young people engage in formal and informal processes that address fragility, with case studies in Myanmar, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and a desk review of programmatic approaches to youth participation in fragile settings. (Principal Investigator, £100,000).

2013 – 2015 Postdoctoral research fellow, Institute of Development Studies, UK

- *Power, Violence, Citizenship and Agency programme* (2013-2015). Lead researcher of the case studies South Sudan and Zimbabwe within the programme. Research coordinator of the overall programme: coordination of its consortium of partners and donors; managing the research uptake strategy and communications; financial management and reporting. (EURO 300,000)
- *Accountable Grant, Addressing and Mitigating Violence theme* (2013-2015): Researcher on two case studies in Kenya, focusing on political violence in Marsabit, and domestic insecurity linked to Al Shabaab. (GBP £ 100,000)

2009-2013 PhD Researcher, Institute of Development Studies, UK

The PhD project comprised the research and thesis, and a series of research uptake activities, including the facilitation of workshops on governance, citizenship and conflict for Dutch development organisations (Hivos, ICCO, PSO) and their partners, the production of a documentary film, blogs and working papers. IDS advisory work on governance, participation and accountability for e.g. Trócaire; Oxfam GB (Strategies for CSOs in authoritarian countries), and the Swiss Development Cooperation.

2008 Senior Programme Officer, Hivos, the Netherlands

Coordination of the Knowledge Programme on Promoting Pluralism. Design of the research programme in collaboration with academics and civil society practitioners, and the design and implementation of knowledge brokering activities and a research uptake strategy.

2007-2008 Policy advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands

Directorate General International Cooperation (DGIS), *Department for Cultural Cooperation, Education and Research*.

Programme design and coordination of policy research programmes for Dutch embassies in developing countries. Implementation of knowledge management activities.

AFFILIATIONS

2021 Visiting fellow, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague
2010 Research Associate, Refugee Law Project, Faculty of Law, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

PEER REVIEW JOURNAL ARTICLES

Oosterom, M., & Gukurume, S. (under contract with Oxford University Press, to be published in the spring of 2027). Political socialization of Zimbabwean youth. Agency in performative compliance.

Oosterom, M., Gukurume, S. and T. Chishiri (forthcoming 2026) Political socialization in authoritarian regimes. Sites and experiences for youth in Zimbabwe. *World Politics* 78:4 (accepted for publication)

Oosterom, M., & Gukurume, S. (2026) Everyday authoritarianism in Zimbabwe. Discursive practices of control and resistance. *Contemporary Politics* https://doi.org/10.1080/13569775.2026.2631975

Mate, R.; Oosterom, M. & Mpofu, D. (2025) Young female traders' quest for viability in Zimbabwe's politicised urban spaces. *Journal of Youth Studies* 28(1):98-117 https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2023.2248897 open access

Oosterom, M., & Gukurume, S. (2024). Shades of party activism: understanding ZANU-PF youth activists. *Critical African Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1080/21681392.2024.2415586

Roberts, T. & M. Oosterom (2024). Digital authoritarianism. A systematic literature review. *Information Technology for Development* https://doi.org/10.1080/02681102.2024.2425352

Oosterom, M. & Nazneen, S. (2023). Introduction to special section: Workplace sexual harassment and women's empowerment. *Development Policy Review* 41(4). https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12690

Oosterom, M., Namuggala, V. & Nankindu, P. (2023). Workplace sexual harassment as a feature of precarious work in Uganda's agro-processing factories: "Mince your words and watch yourself". *Development Policy Review* 41(4) e12695 https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12695

Namuggala, V. F., & Oosterom, M. (2023). Social and gender norms informing voicing and reporting against sexual harassment among domestic workers in Kampala's informal economy. *Development Policy Review*, e12710.

Oosterom, M.A. and S. Gukurume (2022) ''Ruling party patronage, brokerage and contestation at urban markets in Harare', *African Affairs*, 121(484), pp. 371–394. Open access

Oosterom, M.A.; Namuggala, V., and Szyp, C. (2021) 'Family dynamics and implications for young people's 'struggles' in rural areas of post-conflict northern Uganda', *Journal of Disasters*. 46(2), pp567-586. Open access. https://doi.org/10.1111/disa.12484

Oosterom, M.A.; Pam Sha, D., and Dowd, C. (2021) 'Civil society and Commissions of Inquiry in Plateau State, Nigeria', *Journal of Modern Africa Studies*, 49(4), pp.439-462. Open access

Hossain, N. and Oosterom, M.A. (2021). 'The implications of closing civic space for poverty and hunger in the global south', *Global Policy* 12(S5), pp.59-69 Open access

Sumberg, J.; Flynn, J.; Fox, L.; Mader, P. and Oosterom, M. (2021) 'Africa's "youth employment" crisis is actually a "missing jobs" crisis', *Development Policy Review*,39, 621–643. DOI: 10.1111/dpr.12528

Oosterom, M.A., Pan Maran, J. and Wilson, S. (2019) 'Building Kachin. Youth action for peace in Kachin state in Myanmar.' *Development & Change*. 50(6), 1717-1741, https://doi.org/10.1111/dech.12506

Oosterom, M.A. (2019) Youth and social navigation in Zimbabwe's informal economy. "Don't end up on the wrong side". *African Affairs*, 118(472),485-508. https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/ady048

Sumberg, J.; Flynn, J.; Mader, P.; Mwaura, G.; Oosterom, M.A.' Sam-Kpakra, R., Shittu, A.I. (2019) 'Formal-sector employment and Africa's youth employment crisis: irrelevance or policy priority?', *Development Policy Review* 38:4 doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12436 (open access).

Oosterom, M.A. (2017) 'Gendered (in)security in South Sudan. Masculinities and Hybrid Governance in Imatong state', *Peacebuilding* 5(2), 186-202 (open access). https://doi.org/10.1080/21647259.2016.1277015

Lind, J.; Mutahi, P. and Oosterom, M.A. (2017) 'Killing a mosquito with a hammer': Al-Shabaab violence and state security responses in Kenya. *Journal of Peacebuilding* 5(2) 118-135

Oosterom, M.A. and Scott-Villiers, P. (eds.) (2016) Introduction: Special Issue on Poverty, Power and Inequality. *IDS Bulletin* 47(5), November 2016, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies

Oosterom, M.A. (2016) 'Internal displacement, the camp, and constructions of citizenship'. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 29(3): 363-387.

Oosterom, M.A. (2016) 'The effects of conflict and displacement on citizen engagement in northern Uganda.' *Conflict, Security and Development* 16(1): 75-101. https://doi.org/10.1080/14678802.2016.1136140

Oosterom, M.A. (2011) 'Gender and fragile citizenship in Uganda: the case of Acholi women.' *Gender & Development*, 19 (3), pp. 395-408.

Peer reviewed research reports

Oosterom, M.; Huq, L.; Namuggala, V.; Nazneen, S.; Nankindu, P.; Sultan, M.; Sultana, A. and Azim, F. (2022) The Gendered Price of Precarity: Voicing and Challenging Workplace Sexual Harassment, IDS Research Report 88, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2022.030 Open access

Oosterom, M.A. & Gukurume, S. (2019) 'Managing the 'born-free'. Regime strategies for dealing with Zimbabwe's young generation.' Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute

Oosterom, M.A. (2018) *Youth Engagement in the Realm of Local Governance: Opportunities for Peace?* IDS Working Paper No. 501, Brighton: IDS

Hossain, N.; Nazneen, S.; Oosterom, M.A.; Roberts, T.; Shankland, A.; and Schroeder, P. (2018) *What does closing civic space mean for development? A literature review and proposed conceptual framework*. IDS Working paper, Brighton: IDS.

Hossain, N. et all. (2018) Energy Protests in Fragile Settings IDS Working Paper, Brighton: IDS.

Flynn, J.; Mader, P. & Oosterom, M.A. (2017) *Failing Young People? Addressing the Supply-side Bias and Individualisation in Youth Employment Programming*. IDS Evidence report No 216, January 2017. Brighton: IDS.

Oosterom, M.A. (2016) *Navigating the violent politics of informal work. A conceptual framework*. IDS Evidence Report No. 198, Brighton: IDS.

Lind, J., Oosterom, M.A. & Mutahi, P. (2015) *Tangled Ties. Al Shabaab and changing politics of violence in Kenya.* IDS Evidence Report No. 130, Brighton: IDS.

Oosterom, M.A. & Pswarayi, L. (2014) '*Being a born-free'. Violence and youth agency in Zimbabwe*. IDS Research Report No. 79, Brighton: IDS.

Oosterom, M.A. (2014) *'It moves as quickly as bushfire'. Gendered violence and insecurity in South Sudan.* IDS Research report No. 78. Brighton: IDS.

Scott-Villiers, P., Ondicho, T., Lubaale, G., Ndugu, D., Kabala, N., and Oosterom, M.A. (2014) *Roots and Routes of Political Violence in Kenya's Civil and Political Society: A Case Study of Marsabit County*. IDS Evidence Report, Brighton: IDS.

Book chapters

Oosterom, M.A. (2021) 'Are rural young people stuck in waithood?' In*:* Sumberg, J. (ed.) (2021) *Youth and the rural economy in Africa. Hard work and hazard.* Boston, MA: CAB International. Open access book, pp.141-152.

Oosterom, M., Chamberlin, J., & Sumberg, J. (2021). Empirical windows on African rural youth. In Sumberg, J. (ed.) *Youth and the rural economy in Africa: hard work and hazard*. Boston, MA: CAB International, pp. 23-42.

Oosterom, M.A. (2021) & S. Gukurume (2021) Youth Politics. Youth Politics. In R. Pilossof (ed.) *Fending for Ourselves: Youth in Zimbabwe, 1980-2020*. Harare: Weaver Press. 135.

Sumberg, J.; Flynn, J. and Oosterom, M.A. (2021) 'African rural youth*:* Sumberg, J. (ed.) (2021) *Youth and the rural economy in Africa. Hard work and hazard.* Boston, MA: CAB International. Open access book.

Oosterom, M.A. (2022) 'Youth and 'everyday peace' in the city of Jos, Nigeria.' In: Ebiede, T.M. & Iwilade, A. (Eds.) Youth and non-violence in Africa. London: Palgrave MacMillen.

Oosterom, M.A. (2019) 'Power and agency in violent settings.' In: McGee, R. & Pettit, J. (Eds.) (2019) *Power, empowerment and social change*. London: Routledge.

Consultancy reports

Oosterom, M. and Alcorta, L. (2024) *Social Protection and Conflict-Sensitivity Directions for Mozambique*, Working Paper, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2024.030
Lind, J. & Oosterom, M. (forthcoming) Addressing young peoples' engagement in violent activities. Lessons and recommendations to strengthen WFP operations. Rome: World Food Programme.

Sambo, M., Oosterom, M. & Pereira, C. (forthcoming) Addressing young peoples' engagement in violent activities in Mozambique. Lessons and and recommendations to strengthen WFP operations. Rome: World Food Programme.

Save the Children. (2024) Cross Roads. The power journeys of MENA adolescents and youth. Report. Amman, Jordan: Save the Children Regional Office.

Oosterom, M. & Yeboah, T. (2022) Promoting meaningful youth engagement for decent employment. Addressing the disconnects. INCLUDE Research Report.

Mpofu et al. (2022) Youth active citizenship for decent jobs. A Handbook for policy and practice. Brighton/Harare: Institute of Development Studies & Research and Advocacy Unity

Oosterom, M.A. (2018). *Youth employment & citizenship: problematising theories of change.* K4D Emerging Issues Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

Oosterom, M.A. (2018) *Shrinking civic space and its effect on selected SDGs in Zimbabwe*. Report for the Act Alliance.

Oosterom, M.A.; Wignall, R. & Wilson, S. (2018) *Youth action in fragile settings*. London/Brighton: Plan International UK and IDS.

Chari, A.; Flynn, J.; Mader, P.; Mwaura, G.; Oosterom, M.; Roelen, K.; Sam-Kpakra, R.; Ibrahim Shittu , A.; and Sumberg, J. (2017) 'Barriers to Job Creation and Labour Market Access for Youth in Sub-Saharan Africa'. Report for DFID's Business Environment Reform Facility. London: DFID (BERF).

Policy briefings

Oosterom, M. & Gukurume, S. (2023) The risk of authoritarian renewal in Zimbabwe: Understanding ZANU-PF youth. Policy brief published by Chr. Michelsen Institute.

Oosterom, M. *et al*. (2022) 'Tackling Workplace Sexual Harassment', *IDS Policy Briefing* 195, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2022.026

Oosterom, M.A. & McGee, R. (2014) The Underside of Political Settlements. Violence in Kenya and Egypt. IDS Policy Briefing, Issue 62, May 2014. Brighton: IDS

Oosterhoff, P.; Mills, E.A.; & Oosterom, M.A. (2014) Addressing Sexual Violence in and Beyond the War Zone. IDS Rapid Response Briefing, Issue 7, June 2014. Brighton: IDS

Other (news pieces, blogs)

Oosterom, M. (2022) *Jobs Will Not Empower Women If We Don't Address Sexual Harassment*, IPS Opinion Piece: 28 June

Conference papers

Authoritarian regime strategies and market politics in Zimbabwe, DSA, June 2021.

Youth regime dynamics in Africa's liberation regimes, panel with Dr Lovise Aalen (CMI), EADI, July 2021.

Youth and resilience to political violence in Zimbabwe: the role of family, peers, and social institutions. European Associations for African Studies, Edinburg, (June 2019)

Ambiguous agency and the spectrum of violence to non-violence, European Associations for African Studies, Basel, (June 2017).

Youth navigating the violent politics in the informal economy in Zimbabwe, Development Studies Association Conference, (12-14 September 2016, Oxford, UK)

Citizen engagement in post-conflict situations. Sheffield Institute for International Development's Annual Conference (16-17 March 2012).

Citizen engagement in post-conflict situations. PhD Conference on International Development at the University of East Anglia (19-20 September 2013).

A matter of catching up? Citizen engagement in northern Uganda. The World Conference on Humanitarian Studies (Istanbul, 24-27 October 2013).

Gender and insecurity in South Sudan. African Studies Association UK Conference, University of Sussex (September 2014).

Youth agency and violence in Zimbabwe. African Studies Association UK Conference, University of Sussex (September 2014).