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UK <https://www.ids.ac.uk/people/patta-scott-villiers/>

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

DATE OF BIRTH: 21 January 1962

NATIONALITY: British

LANGUAGES: English (native speaker); French & Kiswahili (conversational)

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Action research and research ethics; marginalised people's research and action on security, youth, food, land and education; popular politics and protest.

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Global, with particular focus on Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia

OVERVIEW

Senior Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK, Patta is an action researcher and political anthropologist, collaborating with people on the margins to research issues of their choosing. She studies, teaches, and facilitates participatory research methods. Her speaking, publishing, teaching, and training give primacy to marginalised people's own framing of questions, analyses and findings, and to promoting communication through their networks. She convenes the IDS taught master's degree in Power, Participation and Social Change, including convening and teaching modules on action research methodology and activist politics and supervises PhD students using participatory approaches to study peoples' power on the margins.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2005-2009 **PhD (Action Research)** A Question of Understanding in Development, University of Bath.

1981-1983 **BA (Geography of Africa and Asia)**, School of Oriental and African Studies, UK.

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2010 - PRESENT **Senior Fellow, Power & Popular Politics Research Cluster, IDS, UK.**

2004-2009 **Pastoralist Communication Initiative, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somaliland, Uganda.**

1997-2003 **Research Officer, Participation Team, Institute of Development Studies, UK**

1992-1996 **Director, Emergency Pastoralist Assistance Group, Somalia, and Kenya**

1989-1991 **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Operation Lifeline Sudan, UNICEF.**

1988-1989 **Canadian International Development Agency, Sudan & Kenya, Small Projects Fund.**

1985-1987 **Care International, Sudan, Community Agroforestry Project.**

SELECTED PROJECTS

- 2022-ONGOING** **Principal Investigator**, leading the XCEPT Promoting Peaceful Pastoralism action research study, Uganda & Kenya, FCDO.
- 2020-ONGOING** **Learning Facilitator**, supporting the Together with Young People youth worker collective, York UK, Lankelly Chase.
- 2020-2022** **Research Mentor**, supporting the Accountability for Water Professional Research Fellowship, Waterwitness International/ Partnership for African Governance Research.
- 2021- 2022** **Principal Investigator**, leading the study Making Space for Just Transitions in Africa's Oil and Gas Producing Regions, IDS, British Academy.
- 2020 – ONGOING** **Convenor/Lecturer**, MA in Power, Participation and Social Change, IDS, Convenor Designing Critical Enquiry and Unruly Politics Modules.
- 2020-2021** **Participatory Research Advisor**, Sacha Taki, Songs of the Forest, Kawsak Tacha, Ecuador, University of Sussex.
- 2015-2019** **Research Advisor**, community-led research on land rights and oil development, Turkana, Kenya, Tullow Oil.
- 2015-2018** **Convenor**, IDS Power and Popular Politics Research Cluster (2015-2018).
- 2014-2019** **Chair** Research Ethics Committee, IDS. (member of committee 2019 ongoing)
- 2015-2017** **Principal Investigator**, Life in a Time of Food Price Volatility Study, ESRC.
- 2015-2017** **Uganda Team Leader**, Evaluation of Sweden's Civil Society Support Strategy, SIDA.
- 2015-2106** **Principal Investigator**, Education and Resilience in Kenya's Arid Lands, UNICEF.
- 2012-2015** **Co-Investigator**, Food Riots and Food Rights, ESRC.
- 2013** **Co-Investigator**, Study of Political Violence in Marsabit Kenya, DFID.
- 2012-2013** **Research Advisor**, Youth-led action research, Karamoja, Uganda, Irish Aid.
- 2010-2011** **Research Facilitator**, Participation inquiry, Swedish International Development Agency.
- 2001-2009** **Research Facilitator**, Pastoralist Communication Initiative, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda, DFID.
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Karamoja Turkana Community Research Team, Scott-Villiers P, et al. (2023 forthcoming): *Peace is not the absence of crime, but how crime is dealt with*, IDS Working Paper, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies.

Karamoja Community Research (2023) One Step Forward Two Steps Back, Pastoralist Researchers on the Uganda/Kenya Border, XCEPT Report, Brighton: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: 10.19088/IDS.2023.046

British Academy (2022), [Making Space for Dialogue on Just Transitions in Africa's Oil and Gas Producing Regions](https://www.britishecademy.org.uk/projects/making-space-for-dialogue-on-just-transitions-in-africa-s-oil-and-gas-producing-regions), The British Academy, London, DOI:10.5871/just-transitions-s-i/A-S

Scott-Villiers, P. (2021) 'Reflexivity and Reflection in Action Research 'to locate, again, a through line to the future'', in Burns, D.; Howard, J. and Ospina, S.M. (2021) *The Sage Handbook of Participatory Research and Inquiry*, Sage

Scott-Villiers P (2020), 'Finding Community: the power of unruliness', in Rosemary McGee and Jethro Pettit (eds.), *Power, Empowerment and Social Change*, Routledge.

Hossain N. and Scott-Villiers, P. (2019) '[Purchasing and Protesting: Power from Below in the Global Food Crisis](#)', *IDS Bulletin* 50.2: 73-90, DOI:10.19088/1968-2019.119

Hossain N. and Scott-Villiers, P. (2018) 'Ethical and Methodological Issues in Large Qualitative Participatory Studies', *American Behavioral Scientist* 63.5:584-603, DOI:10.1177/0002764218775782

Hossain N. and Scott-Villiers, P. (eds.) (2017) *Food Riots, Food Rights and the Politics of Provisions*, Earthscan/Routledge.

Scott-Villiers, P. (2017) 'Small Wars in Marsabit County: Devolution and Political Violence in Northern Kenya', *Conflict Security and Development* 17.3: 247-264, DOI:10.1080/14678802.2017.1319696

The Karamoja Action Research Team (2013) *Ekoi and Etem in Karamoja: A study of decision-making in a post-conflict society*, Brighton: Pastoralist Consultants International

Scott-Villiers P (2012) 'This Research Does Not Influence Policy', *IDS Bulletin* 43.5: 25-30