

# KERSTI RUTH WISSENBACH

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S T R A T E G Y

P O L I C Y

T R A I N I N G

R E S E A R C H

## Curriculum Vitae

28 | 04 | 1980

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## EDUCATION

Ongoing

**PhD candidate [external]: University of Amsterdam - NL [Dr. Stefania Milan, Prof. Cees Hamelink, Prof. Donatella della Porta]**

**Data Activism: The Politics of Big Data According to Civil Society [DATACTIVE]**, Topic: Civic Tech as Activism – whose tech, whose data, whose voice? An examination of power dynamics within transnational governance directed data activism communities

09/2006 - 12/2007

**MSc International Development Studies: ISHSS University of Amsterdam, NL**

Focus: Development Communication, Inclusive Development, Human Rights, Democratisation, Capacity Building  
Research: The role of community radio for the development of its community in the Ghanaian Upper West Region

10/2003 - 08/2006

**BA Political Sciences, Communication & Media Sciences, Sociology: Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, GER**

Focus: International Relations, Human Rights, Development Communication, Political Communication  
Thesis: Media Development between economic liberalism and democracy assistance

7/1999-7/2002

**Vocational training Graphic Design Digital & Print: Hellmann Advertising/Vocational School Siegen, GER**

Focus: Concept Design, Corporate Identity, Brand Development, Copywriting, DTP

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## CONSULTANCY

Since 2013 I am running **Kersti Wissenbach Consulting** [kerstiwissenbach.com]

**I am available for Strategy and Policy Advice, Programme and Campaign Development, Training, Research.**

I work on the intersection of technologies, communication and political change.

**Thematic focus:** Inclusive Governance, Communication for social and political change, Civic Tech, FOI, ICT4D, Data Activism, Responsible Data and Technology

**Methodological focus:** participatory methods, co-creation processes, context-driven strategy design

You can also hire me for lectures or targeted workshop/training programs.

[Extract of assignments]

- **LEDGER - Decentralized Data Governance for the Next Generation Internet Program, European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme:** Expert Evaluator with particular focus on ethics
- **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights:** Expert Assessor with focus on digital rights defender programs
- **GIZ [German Agency for International Cooperation]:** Various advisory activities supporting digital innovation programs
- **RNW Media:** Responsible Data Lead, Data for Advocacy Strategy Advice, Responsible digital strategy co-creation Syria / Egypt Citizen's Voice local activist teams
- **Open Knowledge / CIVICUS** Research & Policy Advice: Citizen Generated Data for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals; Designing regional support schemes of **School of Data** fellows for human rights defenders; Co-creating civic-driven monitoring strategy with human rights groups in Zimbabwe
- **Open Knowledge** Advice on strengthening global community and community research instruments
- **Oxfam America** Advice & Curation Governance and Human Rights Track ICT4D Conference Nairobi, Kenya 2016
- **Oxfam America / The Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists** Co-creation strategy design to increase public participation based on freedom of information legislation
- **GIZ [German Agency for International Cooperation]** Research and Policy Paper ICTs for Inclusive Education; Webinar on Inclusive Education and Information and Communication Technologies - Bridging the gap: Raising digital accessibility for all
- **GIZ [German Agency for International Cooperation]** Strategic and conceptual consultancy on ministry's ICT4D and digital rights strategy
- **Oxfam Novib / GB - Technology for Transparency and Accountability Lead** Writing & implementing confederation-wide Technology for Transparency & Accountability approach, project strategy advice & development for local affiliates in various countries (MENA, Sub Sahara Africa, SEA), training & awareness raising, contributing to confederation-wide ICT in program strategy development, knowledge sharing platform research and advice

- **Oxfam Mozambique** Training and guiding 10+ human rights CSOs in context-driven digital rights strategy design, Identifying local digital rights and data activists and connecting with Oxfam's local partner organisations
- **Oxfam Rwanda - Justice Monitoring** Leading user centered design process for constituency based feedback mechanisms and advocacy, assessment of existing capacities & resources, facilitation of mapping political, cultural & infrastructural scope for context-relevant project design, Responsible Data handling sensitization & cross-media strategy design [propositional], Scoping & recruitment of local civic tech expert
- **World Wide Web Foundation:** 2014 & 2013 Web Index field researcher
- **Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation:** Curation ICT4D symposium (campaigning, open data, mapping), workshop on ICT4D and cross-media strategies
- **Radio Zamaneh Iran** - Outreach & Engagement strategy for remote communities, transmedia strategy advice
- **Youth Empowerment Alliance** - Access, Services and Knowledge (ASK) program - Rutgers WPF, AMREF Flying Doctors, CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, dance4life, IPPF, Simavi, STOP AIDS NOW: Research, advice and strategy co-creation - knowledge sharing and shared practises in E- & M-health for SRHR in 7 partner countries
- **Partos:** Core team IATI (International Aid Transparency Standard) implementation, The Netherlands

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## CONTRACT WORK [extract]

07/2013 - 02/2014

**The Broker Online - NL**

**Outreach & Engagement Strategist**

- Organisational rebranding - Development and implementation new outreach and engagement strategy [incl. baseline study and co-creation process]
- Leading re-design and implementation of new news and advocacy online platform
- Advice / guideline development on community platform and network creation
- Advice and policy guideline design on campaign planning and implementation
- Proposal / concept new Social Change Program

05/2011 - 01/2012

**Access Info Europe - Madrid, Spain / Europe**

**Campaigner, Project Coordinator**

- Project Coordination of design & launch - FOI citizen liberties platform asktheeu.org
- Advocacy strategy design data retention campaign
- Research, campaigning & co-authoring report on role of FOI laws for Aid Transparency

04/2009 - 03/2011

**Butterfly Works Foundation - Amsterdam, NL**

**Project Strategist Governance**

Focus: Digital Citizen Advocacy & Human Rights, ICT4D, Capacity Building, R&D

Countries: The Netherlands, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Cambodia

- Development/implementation of cross-media peace building campaigns & projects
- Strategy & policy advice, cross-media trainings & co-creation workshops for human rights advocacy [multiple stakeholder organisations national, international]
- Development & writing of strategy reports & capacity building toolkits
- Project coordination & management incl. budget responsibility, fundraising, supervision & guidance of multi-disciplinary & multi-cultural teams
- M&E framework development, baseline research

03/2008 - 06/2008

**International CERES/EADI Summer School**

**Conference Coordinator & PR**

- Public Relations, design of marketing material, organization & coordination of registration & panels
- Recruitment & supervision of conference staff

04/2007 - 12/2007

**University of Amsterdam / Ghana - Radio Progress Researcher**

[Supervised by Prof. Cees Hamelink, Kees v.d. Geest]

- Proposal writing, research methodology design
- Fieldwork, recruiting & training interpreters, network creation and maintenance of contacts with station, government informants, listeners and civil society networks, qualitative research
- Data analysis (qualitative, quantitative)

09/2004 - 09/2006

**Institute of Social Sciences, University of Düsseldorf Assistant Internship office, Coordinator International Internship Office**

- Network creation & contract negotiations with international business partners
- Development & implementation of annual study/ internship program, Ecuador
- Public Relations (national, international) for BA & MA program of institute
- Coordination & planning communication / skill trainings, guest lectures

02/2005 - 04/2005

**DED - German Development Service Tegucigalpa, HN Assistant, Capacity Building and Public Relations, Central America section**

- Capacity building training design: strategic communication & design skills (Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua)
- Planning DED Central America conference, PR initiatives for various DED CA projects
- Research & Design of exhibition on women's rights

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES [selection]

Since 2005 **Member Forum for Media Development (FoME)**

Since 2015 **Core Team DATACTIVE Research Collective** [The Politics of Data According to Civil Society, data-activism.net]

Since 2015 **Peer Reviewer Glocality** Undergraduate Academic Journal

2014 **Facilitator OKFest Community Summit** – Identity, Inclusion, Community growth

2013-2016 **Ambassador Open Knowledge Foundation** The Netherlands

2013-2015 **Managing Team Open For Change Initiative, Co-organisor, Curator, Fundraiser Open Development Camp NL**

2013 **Moderator Re:publica** Berlin, **Researcher World Free Media Forum / World Social Forum**, Tunis, **Participant/Researcher Global Voices Citizen Media Summit** Nairobi

2005 / 2006 **Co-Founder and member Student advocacy group 'Peace and Conflict Studies'**, HHU Düsseldorf

2004 - 2006 **Elected member Student Advisory Panel**, Institute of Social Sciences, HHU Düsseldorf, Germany

2005 **Member Commission 'Evaluation of Teaching Quality'**, HHU Düsseldorf, Germany

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## TEACHING

Since 09/2016, ongoing

**Malmö University, Sweden**

**Lecturer Communication for Development Master Program**

- Lecturing and grading: Advances in Communication for Development; Media, Globalization and Development; Development and Culture, New Media, ICT and Development
- Degree Project: Master thesis supervision

05/2011 - 05/2013

**Windesheim University of Applied Sciences - NL**

**Lecturer International Communication & Media**

Courses: International Communication and Media Development; Online Media - theory, tools and skills; Communication for Social Change; Entertainment Education

- Lecturing, course curricula design & assessment design
- Coaching client assignments & in-company trainings, HIVOS collaboration on ICT4D and digital rights strategies
- Development of research internship regulations, Internship coordination and mentoring
- Thesis research project supervision final year students

Ongoing

**Various academic and non-academic institutions, all educational levels**

**Guest lectures and workshops**

- **African Center Bonn, Germany** Political Participation and Data Activism: New actors, old practices?
- **DIE German Institute for Development** 49. Postgraduate program - Social Media and civic mobilization
- **Weitblick e.V., Gustav-Stresemann-Institut** Seminar for Master and PhD students - Menschenrechts Advocacy im Digitalen Zeitalter - über Hypes und innovatives Potenzial (Hypes and hopes - Human Rights in the digital age)
- **IBB Ruhr-University Bochum** Menschenrechte & Entwicklungszusammenarbeit - normative versus wirtschaftliche Interessen? [Human Rights and Development Cooperation - normative versus economic interests?]
- **Malmö University, Sweden** 2-day training workshop 'Designing Context Sensitive Advocacy Strategies' (annual workshop, running since 2016)
- **Malmö University, Sweden** Introduction to Social Movement Studies and the role of media and communication in contemporary Social Movement Research
- **Malmö University, Sweden** Digital Activism in a Datafied World: An introduction and global perspective
- **Malmö University, Sweden** Cultural return or the reinforcement of cultural silence? Why communication matters!'

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## TECHNOLOGIES

- **Professional user** Adobe CS6 [Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator], MS Office, Open / Libre Office
- **Experienced user** several CMS systems, wide range of secure communication and data handling tools, Cassandra, Lasuli
- **Basic** SPSS, data analysis tools various (Digital Methods Initiative), data visualisation tools various,

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## LANGUAGES

- **Native** German
- **Fluent** English
- **Fluent** Dutch
- **Good** Italian
- **Good** Spanish
- **Basic** French

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## PUBLIC SPEAKING & ACADEMIC CONFERENCES [excerpt]

### 2019

- **Big Data Sud**, Facilitator Methods, ontologies and epistemologies working group

### 2018

- **DATACTIVE Colloquium University of Amsterdam**, CIVIC TECH AS ACTIVISM WHOSE TECH, WHOSE DATA, WHOSE VOICE? An examination of inclusive and exclusive power dynamics within transnational governance directed data activism communities

### 2017

- **ECPR Oslo**, Governance from the grassroots: Digital activism for government accountability;
- **ECPR Oslo** Accounting for power in the big data era: The meaning of collectivity in datafied societies
- **Protest Media Ecologies - Communicative Affordances for Social Change in the Digital Era, Scuola Normale Superiore**, Civic Tech as Activism - The role of transnational communities for data-driven governance

### 2016

- **TICTeC mySociety**, Barcelona, "Data revolution or data divide? Can social movements bring the human back into civic tech?"
- **Dutch Design Week, Age of Wonderland**, "Provocative seminar: Big Data, Big DADA?"
- **Re:publica**, Berlin, Panel Moderation "Stopping the Brain Drain in Developing Countries through Entrepreneurship"
- **DMI Summer School 2016, UvA Amsterdam** HOW CIVIC IS CIVIC TECH THROUGH A GLOBAL LENS? Mapping inclusion and diversity of Civic Tech Activism networks using digital methods
- **Summer School, Scuola Normale Superior 2016**: Media in Political Participation and Mobilization, ACCOUNTING FOR POWER IN MEDIA PRACTICE THEORY: A communication-based analytical framework

**2015 Re:publica**, Berlin "Civic Tech and NGOs: How collaboration can drive Transparency and Accountability around the world"

**2014 Open Knowledge Festival Berlin** 'Power, politics, inclusion and voice'

**2013 German Development Institute (DIE)** - International Workshop on New ICTs in Democracy Promotion,

**2010 African Study Centre Leiden**, Keynote 'Mobile phones: the new talking drums of Africa?'

### ACCEPTED CONFERENCE PAPERS, not attended

- **IAMCR 2017**, Cartagena, Transforming Governance in the digital age through communication: A Freirean take on civic tech activism
- **ECPR 2016**, Prague, Counteracting the data divide: Exploring collective identities of civic tech communities and tracing the appropriation of their tools

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## PUBLICATIONS

- Wissenbach, K. R. (2019). Accounting for power in transnational civic tech activism: A communication-based analytical framework for media practice. *International Communication Gazette*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1748048519832779>
- Kazansky, B., Torres, G., van der Velden, L., Wissenbach, K. R., & Milan, S. (2019). Data for the social good: Toward a data-activist research agenda. In A. Daly & M. Mann (Eds.), *Good Data*. Amsterdam: Institute of Network Cultures <https://data-activism.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/data-activist-research.pdf>
- SAFEResearch Handbook, Chapter 5: Communication and Digital Security [Contributor] <http://gld.gu.se/en/conferences/saferesearch-handbook/>
- Wissenbach K, Briones Á, Santos M, et al. (2016) Exploring the Fabrics of Civic Tech on Digital Media. Amsterdam: University of Amsterdam, Digital Methods Initiative. Available at: <https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/SummerSchool2016MappingCivicTechLandscape> (accessed 23 August 2016).
- Wissenbach, K. (2017) Tech, data and social change: A plea for cross-disciplinary engagement, historical memory, and ... *Critical Community Studies*. DATACTIVE blog. Available at: <https://data-activism.net/2018/03/tech-data-and-social-change-a-plea-for-cross-disciplinary-engagement-historical-memory-and-critical-community-studies/>
- Wissenbach, K. (2018) Communication and Activism – a research visit to the Center of Social Movement Studies. DATACTIVE blog. Available at: <https://data-activism.net/2017/04/blog-communication-and-activism-a-research-visit-to-the-center-of-social-movement-studies/>