

Rebecca C. Schendel, PhD

Center for International Higher Education (Campion 207)
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- March 2019 to present **Managing Director, Center for International Higher Education**
Assistant Professor of the Practice
Boston College (USA)
- January 2014 to March 2019 **Lecturer in Education & International Development¹**
UCL Institute of Education (UK)

EDUCATION

- 2013 **PhD in Education and International Development:** Institute of Education, University of London
- 2005 **MEd in Higher Education:** Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 2002 **BA in Comparative Colonial History:** Brown University

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 McCowan, T., Omingo, M., Schendel, R., Adu-Yeboah, C. and Tabulawa, R. 'Enablers of pedagogical change within universities: Evidence from Kenya, Ghana and Botswana'. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 90. 10.1016/j.ijedudev.2022.102558
- 2020 Schendel, R., McCowan, T., Rolleston, C., Adu-Yeboah, C., Omingo, M. & Tabulawa, R. 'Pedagogies for critical thinking at universities in Kenya, Ghana and Botswana: the importance of a collective "teaching culture"'. *Teaching in Higher Education*, DOI: 10.1080/13562517.2020.1852204
- 2019 Rolleston, C., Schendel, R. and Grijalva Espinosa, A.M. 'Assessing "approaches to learning" in Botswana, Ghana and Kenya.' *Research in Comparative and International Education*, 14 (1): 118–140. 10.1177/1745499919829216.
- 2018 Carr-Hill, R., Rolleston, C., Schendel, R. and Waddington, H. 'The effectiveness of school-based decision making in improving educational outcomes: a systematic review.' *Journal of Development Effectiveness*. 10.1080/19439342.2018.1440250.
- 2017 Schendel, R. and Tolmie, A. 'Beyond Translation: Adapting a performance-task-based assessment of critical thinking ability for use in Rwanda.' *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, 42 (5): 673–689. 10.1080/02602938.2016.1177484.
- 2016 Schendel, R. 'Constructing departmental culture to support pedagogical change: Evidence from a case study in Rwanda.' *Higher Education*, 72 (4): 487–504. 10.1007/s10734-016-0036-6.

Schendel, R. 'Adapting, not adopting: Barriers affecting teaching for critical thinking at two Rwandan universities.' *Comparative Education Review*, 60 (3): 549-570. 10.1086/687035.

- 2015 Schendel, R. 'Critical thinking at Rwanda's public universities: Emerging evidence of a crucial development priority.' *International Journal of Educational Development* 42: 96-105. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijedudev.2015.04.003.

Book Chapters

- 2018 Schendel, R. 'Understanding the relationship between institutional cultures and pedagogical change.' In Ashwin, P. and Case, J. (eds), *Higher Education Pathways: South African Undergraduate Education and the Public Good*. Cape Town: African Minds.
- 2017 Schendel, R. and Gantner, G. 'Placing the curriculum at the heart of the process: Fostering student-centered pedagogy in Rwanda.' In Smith, C. and Hudson, K.E. (eds), *Faculty Development in Developing Countries: Improving Teaching Quality in Higher Education*. New York: Routledge.
- Schendel, R., McCowan, T. and Oketch, M. 'The Economic and Non-economic Benefits of Tertiary Education in Low-income Contexts', in Mihut, G., Altbach, P.G. and de Wit, H (eds.), *Understanding Global Higher Education: Insights from Key Global Publications*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.
- 2016 McCowan, T. and Schendel, R. 'The impact of higher education on development.' In Gu, Q. and McGrath, S. (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook on International Education and Development*. London: Routledge. [Also published in Portuguese in *Educação Superior: Internacionalização, mercantilização e repercussões em um campo de disputas*].
- 2015 Schendel, R. and McCowan, T. 'Higher Education and Development: Critical Issues and Debates.' In McCowan, T. and Unterhalter, E. (eds.), *Education and International Development: An Introduction*. London: Bloomsbury Press.

Editorials & Commentary

- 2018 Schendel, R. 'Student Pathways in South Africa.' *International Higher Education*, (96): 24-26. 10.6017/ihe.2019.96.10781
- Schendel, R. 'Our mission to speak truth to power is under threat.' *University World News*. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20180117095021573>.
- 2016 Schendel, R. and McCowan, T. 'Expanding higher education systems in low- and middle-income countries: the challenges of equity and quality.' *Higher Education*, 72 (4): 407-411. 10.1007/s10734-016-0028-6.
- 2013 Schendel, R., Mazimhaka, J. and Ezeanya, C. 'Higher Education for Development in Rwanda.' *International Higher Education*, (70): 19-21. 0.6017/ihe.2013.70.8711

FUNDED RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

- 2015-2019: "Pedagogies for critical thinking: Innovation and Outcomes in African Higher Education." McCowan, Schendel, Rolleston & Tolmie; Funding: ESRC-DFID: £492,362. Co-Principal Investigator.
- 2016-2018: "Pathways to personal and public good: understanding access to, student experiences of, and outcomes from South African undergraduate higher education." Ashwin, Case et al.; Funding: ESRC-NRF (South Africa). Co-theme leader, 'Student Experiences' strand.
- 2014-2015: "The effects of school-based decision making on educational outcomes in low and middle income countries: a systematic review." Carr-Hill, Rolleston, Pherali & Schendel; Funding: DFID: £97,791. Co-investigator and Research Manager.

2013: "The impact of tertiary education on development: a rigorous literature review." Oketch, McCowan & Schendel; Funding: DFID. Research Officer.

CONFERENCES & OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Conferences (peer reviewed)

- 2023 'Exposing the dangers of a "single story": Nuancing the discussion of overseas development assistance in the higher education sector.' Comparative and International Education Society Conference. Washington, DC (USA). February 21.
- 2019 'Pedagogical reform within universities: The crucial question of faculty identities and motivations.' Comparative and International Education Society Conference. San Francisco, CA (USA). April 16.
- 2018 'The crucial role of faculty teaching orientations in pedagogical reform: Evidence from Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.' Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of South Africa Conference. Nelson Mandela University (South Africa). November 21.
- 'Transforming higher education pedagogy for critical thinking: perspectives from Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.' British Association for International and Comparative Education Conference. University of York (UK). September 12.
- 2017 'Fostering student-centered pedagogy in Rwanda: Evidence from the Global South.' The Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education Annual Conference. Montreal (Canada). October 27.
- 2016 'Positioning student experiences along the pathway to the public good: Reflections on theory and method in the South African context.' British Association for International and Comparative Education Conference. University of Nottingham (UK). September 13.
- 'Decentralisation, disadvantage and incentives' and 'Difficulties with Systematic Reviews of Educational Outcomes in International Development' (joint presentations with Roy Carr-Hill and Caine Rolleston). RISE (Research into Improving Systems of Education) Conference. University of Oxford (UK). June 16-17.
- 2015 'Adapting critical thinking assessments for use in diverse cultural contexts.' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development. University of Oxford (UK). September 16.
- 'Systematic Reviews for Education Policy: Tensions and Challenges'. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. Washington, DC. March 10.
- 2014 "'Some kind of disorder": The negative effects of modularisation on student learning in a Rwandan university context'. Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference. Newport, South Wales (UK). December 11.
- 'A Critical Question of Academic Quality: Investigating the Development of Critical Thinking Skills at Rwanda's Public Universities'. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. Toronto (Canada). March 11.
- 2013 'Assessing and Investigating Critical Thinking at Rwanda's Public Universities' (individual presentation) and 'The impact of tertiary education in low- and lower-middle income countries: a rigorous review' (joint presentation with Tristan McCowan). Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference. Newport, South Wales (UK). December 12.

Invited Talks

- 2023 'Information overload and the echo chamber effect in higher education research.' (Conference keynote). Centre for Global Higher Education Annual Conference. Online. May 24.

- 2019 'Critical thinking in African higher education: findings from a three-country research study.' With Tristan McCowan, Caine Rolleston, Christine Adu-Yeboah and Richard Tabulawa. Centre for Education & International Development *Research in Focus* series. University College London (UK). January 9.
- 'Pedagogies for Critical Thinking: Implications for Botswana.' With Richard Tabulawa. University of Botswana. February 12.
- 2018 'Key Issues in Student Experiences of Undergraduate Education in South Africa.' With Paul Ashwin and Sioux McKenna. *Exploring pathways to the public good of South African undergraduate education* conference. Cape Town, South Africa. November 19.
- 'Theorising higher education: global perspectives and local realities.' *Exploring pathways to the public good of South African undergraduate education* conference. Cape Town, South Africa. November 20.
- 2017 'Exploring the Implications of Transnational Models of Higher Education in Africa'. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA. November 20.
- 'Shifting From 'Models' to Processes: Rethinking International Involvement in African Higher Education'. Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. November 13.
- 2015 'Investigating critical thinking in African university contexts.' Searle Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. October 5.
- 'Exploring the Impact of Tertiary Education on Development in sub-Saharan Africa.' University of Maryland College Park, College Park, MD. October 2.
- 'The Tensions and Challenges of University Partnerships for Development.' American University, Washington, DC. October 1.
- 'The Impact of Post-Secondary Education on Development.' Boston University, Boston, MA. September 29.
- 'Shooting in the dark? The tensions and challenges of university partnerships for development.' London Metropolitan University (UK). June 15.
- 'The normative and empirical challenge of investigating critical thinking in diverse cultural contexts.' Keynote; *Reasoning, Argumentation & Critical Thinking* conference. Lund University (Sweden). February 26.

Campus Events

- 2018 Convener. *Conference on Higher Education & International Development*. June 19.
- 2015 'Investigating the links between pedagogy and critical thinking in African university contexts.' *Teaching and Learning in African Higher Education* conference. December 8.
- 2014 Convener and presenter, 'Improving Student Learning in Higher Education.' *Conference on Higher Education & International Development*. October 24.
- Convener and presenter, 'The use of systematic review methodology to inform research into higher education' and 'The impact of tertiary education on development: a rigorous literature review.' Professional workshop, *Researching Higher Education in Low and Middle Income Countries*. April 22.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston College

Graduate Courses

- Global & Comparative Systems of Higher Education (Instructor of record: Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023; Guest lecturer: Fall 2017)
- Global Perspectives on Academic Affairs in Higher Education (Instructor of Record: Spring 2024; Guest lecturer: Fall 2018)
- Research Seminar for MA in International Higher Education Students (Instructor of record: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

Masters Supervision

- 11 Masters theses in International Higher Education

PhD Supervision (*defended dissertation)

- Tessa DeLaquil (reader)*
- Jean Baptiste Diatta (reader)*

UCL Institute of Education

Graduate Courses

- Planning for Education and Development (Instructor of Record: Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Spring 2018; Fall 2018)
- Education & International Development: Concepts, Theories and Issues (Instructor of Record: Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2016)
- Higher Education: Comparative and International Perspectives (Contributor: Spring 2018)

Undergraduate Courses

- Global Issues in Education (Instructor of Record: Spring 2014; Spring 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2018; Spring 2019)

Masters Supervision

- 32 Masters theses in Education & International Development (mostly focused on higher education topics)

PhD Supervision (*defended dissertation)

- Elisa Brewis (primary supervisor)*
- Jorge Diego Angeles Colin (primary supervisor, 2016-2019)
- Gloria Uwingabiye (primary supervisor, 2015-2019)
- Kamille Beye (primary supervisor, 2018-2019)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

February to November 2013

Research Officer

UCL Institute of Education (UK)

December 2010 to January 2012

Curriculum Consultant/Lead Instructor, *Connecting Across Cultures*

University of Maryland Study-in-London Program (UK)

June 2011 to March 2013

Research Consultant

Women Like Us & Groundswell UK, London (UK)

July 2008 to August 2010

Director of Programs

Orphans of Rwanda, Kigali (Rwanda)

July 2005 to June 2008

Coordinator of Semester Programs & Advising

University of Maryland Study Abroad Office, College Park, MD

September 2004 to May 2005 **Graduate Intern & Study Abroad Advisor**
Harvard University Office of International Programs, Cambridge, MA

May 2003 to August 2004 **Senior Program Associate, National Security Education Program**
Institute of International Education, Washington, DC

July 2002 to April 2003 **Public Policy Assistant**
The Population Institute, Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Since 2020 **Advisor** to the *Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate* project

Since 2018 **Consultant** to the *Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa* project,
administered by INASP (UK)

Autumn 2017 **Visiting Scholar**, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College

Since 2016 **Advisor** to the *Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform* initiative
(SPHEIR), funded by UK Department for International Development and coordinated by the British
Council

Member, POD (Professional and Organizational Development) Network in Higher Education

Since 2013 **Member**, CIES (Comparative and International Education Society)

Member, SRHE (Society for Research into Higher Education)

Member, BAICE (British Association for International and Comparative Education)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Since 2019 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, University of Otago (New Zealand)

Since 2018 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, Rhodes University (South Africa)

Reviewer, *Journal of Studies in International Education*

2015 **Conference Sub-theme Co-convenor**: UKFIET International Conference on Education and
Development (Oxford, UK)

Since 2015 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, University of Bath (UK)

Since 2014 **Reviewer**, *Higher Education*

Reviewer, *International Journal of Educational Development*

Reviewer, *Compare*

Reviewer, *Educational Assessment, Evaluation & Accountability*

Reviewer, *Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2016-2019 **Teaching & Assessment Lead**, BA Education Studies program, UCL Institute of Education
Member, Departmental Plagiarism Panel, UCL Institute of Education
- 2016-2018 **Elected member**, UCL Academic Board, UCL Institute of Education

AWARDS

- 2019 Nominated for 'Excellence in Personal Tutoring' category. UCL *Student Choice Awards*
- 2015 *CIES Higher Education Special Interest Group Best Dissertation Competition*. Second Place.
- 2010 *Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme Scholarship* (merit scholarship). Institute of Education, University of London

LANGUAGES: English (native); French (fluent); Spanish (basic)