

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**MARILYN R. A. OSSOME**

**PRESENT ADDRESS**

Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR)  
P.O. Box 16022,  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256780257832 (Uganda) or +254721267419 (Kenya)  
Email: [lyn.ossome@gmail.com](mailto:lyn.ossome@gmail.com)

**PERSONAL**

**Date of Birth:** 15 May 1977.  
**Nationality:** Kenyan  
**Objective:** To pursue the broad aims of social justice through research and advocacy

**EDUCATION**

PhD in Political Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg – 2015  
MSc in Gender and Development, Ahfad University for Women, Khartoum – 2008  
Bachelor of Business Administration (Finance), Maseno University, Kenya – 2003  
Diploma in Banking & Finance, Kenya School of Monetary Studies – 1999

**PRESENT POSITION**

Senior Research Fellow – Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR)  
Assistant to the Director, Research & Student Affairs – MISR

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Researcher in feminist political economy specializing in feminist political theory, land and agrarian studies, labour sociology, queer histories and African politics.

**SERVICE AFFILIATIONS**

**Board Member** – Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA Network – Kenya Chapter)

**Board Member** – Iranti.Org (Johannesburg)

**Member Editorial Committee** – *Pax Academica* – Papers on Academic Freedom in Africa,  
CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social  
Science Research in Africa)

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**EXPERIENCE RECORD**

**Present** – Senior Research Fellow, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University

Courses taught: SSP 7201: Human Rights and Politics  
SSE 8103: Feminist Political Economy

**June 2014 - 2015** – Postdoctoral Fellow, Unit for the Humanities at Rhodes University (UHURU)

**June 2015: Director – CODESRIA Gender Institute 2015**

(Theme: Gender, Land and Food Security in Africa)

**August 2014 - 2015: Lead Research Advisor for East Africa**

**International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) project titled: “Gender, land rights and accountability in the context of agricultural and other natural resource investments”**

**June 2014: Co-Facilitator/Lecturer – CODESRIA Gender Institute 2014**

(Theme: Gender and Land Tenure in Africa)

**Jan - Dec 2013: Sessional Lecturer – University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg**

Political Studies Department

**Mar - Aug 2013: The National Heritage Monument project**

Research consultant

**2011-2012: Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA network)**

Human/women’s rights researcher

**2011: Saferworld (South Sudan)/ African Public Policy Research Institute (South Africa)**

Lead researcher on Small Arms and Light Weapons in South Sudan

**2009 - 2010: University of the Witwatersrand, IDRC, and Kenya Human Rights Institute**

*Women’s Rights & Citizenship Research Institute* – Kenya research-team leader

**2009: World Vision Africa**

Child Rights and Governance research project – lead researcher

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**2008 - 2009: Kenya Human Rights Commission**

Research Associate

**2007 - 2008: Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation**

Programme Officer

**2007 - 2008: 'Peace Building in Sudan: Micro-Macro Issues'** Universities of Bergen, Ahfad University for Women & the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) cooperative research project: (<http://www.cmi.no/sudan/?id>) – *Research Scholar*.

**2005 - 2008:** Universities of Bremen, Khartoum, Nairobi, Juba, Ahfad and Addis Ababa cooperative research project: **'Governance and Social Action in Sudan after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of January 2005: Local, National and Regional Dimensions'** <http://www.iwim.uni-bremen.de/africa/Sudan.Drittmittel/topics.htm> – *Research Scholar*.

**2005: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA)**

Research Officer

**MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Member of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)

Member of the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

Member of the Agrarian South Network (ASN)

**NON-ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Committee Member** – University of the Witwatersrand, Advisory Committee for the SRC elections 2013/14

**Consultant Referee** – Caribbean Philosophical Association (2016 Nicolás Guillén Awards & Frantz Fanon Awards)

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

English (excellent), Kiswahili (excellent), Dholuo (native), Arabic (conversational only)

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**SCHOLARSHIPS & RESEARCH GRANTS**

- PhD Completion Grant 2013, University of the Witwatersrand
- Post-Graduate Merit Award 2011-2013, University of the Witwatersrand
- University of the Witwatersrand/IDRC Research Grant for Women's Rights and Citizenship, 2009
- Peace building in Sudan: Micro-Macro Issues, CHR. Michelsen Institute, Masters Coursework Research Scholarship, 2007
- Volkswagen Foundation Masters Research Grant, 2005

**PUBLICATIONS**

1. Naidu, Sirisha and Ossome, Lyn (forthcoming), "Social Reproduction and the Agrarian Question of Women's Labour in India", *Agrarian South: Journal of Political Economy*, Special Issue on Gender and Agrarian Transformation.
2. Naidu, Sirisha and Ossome, Lyn (forthcoming), "Work, Gender and Immiseration", *Review of Radical Political Economics*.
3. Ossome, Lyn (forthcoming), *Locating Kenyan Media in Anti-Rape Discourses: A Feminist Critique*. African Media Review Gender and Media Special Issue. Dakar: CODESRIA.
4. Ossome, Lyn (2015c), "Limits to Democracy and Emancipatory Politics in South Africa Post-1994", in *Inequality, Democracy and Development Under Neoliberalism and Beyond*, New Delhi: IDEAS.
5. Ossome, Lyn (2015b), "In search of the state? Neoliberalism and the labour question for Pan-African feminism", *Feminist Africa*, in Amina Mama and Hakima Abbas, Issue 20 on Pan Africanism.
6. Ossome, Lyn (2015a), "Feminist Organising, Electoral Representation and Transformation in Africa", in Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Cheryl R. Rodriguez, Dzodzi Tsikata (eds), *Transatlantic Feminisms: Women and Gender Studies in Africa and the African Diaspora*. New York: Lexington Books.
7. Ossome, Lyn (2014d), "Integrating Sexual and Economic Justice: Challenges for queer feminist activism against sexual violence in South Africa", in Nikita Dhawan, Antke Engel, Christoph Holzhey, Volker Woltersdorff (eds), *Desiring Just Economies/Just Economies of Desire*. London: Routledge.

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8. Ossome, Lyn (2014c), "Academic Freedom and Human Rights in Africa", *Pax Academica, Cahier des Libertés Académiques en Afrique*, CODESRIA, pp. 55-64.
9. Ossome Lyn (2014b), "Democracy's subjections: Human rights in contexts of scarcity", in Nikita Dhawan (ed.), *Decolonizing Enlightenment: Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Democracy in a Postcolonial World*, Frankfurt: Barbara Budrich Publishers (pp. 279 - 294)
10. Ossome, Lyn (2014a), "Can the Law Secure Women's Rights to Land in Africa? Revisiting Tensions between Culture and Land Commercialization," in Stephanie Seguino, Gale Summerfield, and Dzodzi Tsikata (eds), *Feminist Economics: A Special Issue: Land, Gender and Food Security* (pp. 155 - 177).
11. Ossome, Lyn (2013), "Post-colonial Discourses on Queer Activism and Class In Africa", in Hakima Abbas & Sokari Ekine (eds), *Queer African Reader*, Oxford: Pambazuka Press (pp. 32-47)
12. Ossome, Lyn (2011b) *Feminism in the African Media: Possibilities for Diversification of Gender Representation*. Dakar: CODESRIA (pp. 22-26).
13. Ossome, Lyn (2011a), "Feminism and Elections in Kenya: Obstacles and Strategies" *Perspectives*, Cape Town: Heinrich Böll Stiftung (pp. 22-27).
14. Ossome, Lyn (2010b), "Framing Women's Rights and Citizenship within the SADC Land Reform Discourse", in Chigara, Ben (ed.), *SADC Land Issues: A New, Sustainable Land Relations Policy*, London: Routledge (pp. 51-72).
15. Ossome, Marilyn (2010a), "Cultural Fundamentalism: Abduction, Confinement and Sexual Violence against South Sudanese Women and Girls in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya", in Grawert, E. (ed.), *After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan of 2005: Signs of Change?* London: James Currey (pp. 158-175).
16. Ossome, Lyn (2009), "Internal Displacement, Humanitarianism and the State: The Politics of Resettlement in Kenya Post-2007", in Hakima Abbas and Yves Niyiragira (eds.) *Aid to Africa: Redeemer or Colonizer?* Oxford: Pambazuka Press (pp. 167-180).
17. Ossome, Lyn (2008), "Locating Arab Refugee Women: Identity and Allegiance in Global Feminist Conflicts", in *Al Raida Journal*, Issue No. 120-121, Winter/Spring 2008: *Arab Refugee Women*, IWSAW, Lebanese American University (pp. 25-32).

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SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS/UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

1. Ossome, Lyn, *States of Violence: Structural dynamics of gender, ethnicity and violence in Kenya's transitions to democracy*, paper presented at The Symposium on the Politics of Gender and Sexuality in Africa, Yale University, 26-27 February 2016.
2. Ossome, Lyn, *Limits to democracy and emancipatory politics in South Africa Post-1994*. Paper presented at the VII South-South Institute on Democracy, Inequality and Development under Neoliberalism, Bangkok, Thailand, 3-8 November 2014.
3. Ossome, Lyn, *Immiseration in the Early 21<sup>st</sup> Century through the lenses of forests and land*. Paper presented at the IAFFE Annual Conference, Accra, Ghana, 25-27 June 2014
4. Ossome, Lyn, *Informal Sector Work, the Neoliberal Co-optation and Women's Social and Solidarity Economies in Kenya*. Paper presented at the IAFFE Annual Conference, Palo Alto, California, 12-14 July 2013.
5. Ossome, Lyn, *State, civil society and expanding social and solidarity economy among informal sector women in Ethiopia*. Paper presented at the UNRISD conference on 'Potential and Limits of Social and Solidarity Economy, ILO Geneva, 5-8 May 2013.
6. Ossome, Lyn, *Gendered citizenship and concepts of the 'foreigner' in postcolonial South Sudan*. Paper presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> International South Sudan and Sudan Studies Conference, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, 23-25 July 2012
7. Ossome, Lyn, *Feminism in the African Media: Possibilities for Diversification of gender representation*. Paper presented at the CODESRIA Gender Symposium 2011, 1-3 November, Cairo, Egypt.
8. Ossome, Lyn, *Queer Activism and Class Struggles in Africa*. Paper presented at the International Graduate Conference on "Colonial Legacies, Postcolonial Contestations: DECOLONIZING THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES", 16-18 June, 2011, Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany.
9. Ossome, Lyn, *Welfare v. Warfare: Institutionalizing Women's Sexual Oppression and Economics of Violent Conflict*. Paper presented at the international conference "The War Question for Feminism", 21-23 September 2008, Centre for Feminist Social Studies, Örebro University, Sweden.

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10. Ossome, Lyn, *Immiseration by gender and rural food insecurity in Uganda*, Paper for the Agrarian Summer School 2013 on 'Food Sovereignty in the Global South: Prospects and Context, 14-18 January 2013.

**PROFESSIONAL (CO-AUTHORED) PUBLICATIONS**

1. Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa – SIHA Network (2014), *Reinforcing Community Activism and Intergenerational Bridges for Women's Rights and Equality*, Kampala: SIHA Network. Available online at: <<http://www.sihanet.org/content/reinforcing-community-activism-and-intergenerational-bridges-women%E2%80%99s-rights-and-equality>>
2. Saferworld (2012), *Small Arms and Light Weapons Control: A Training Manual*. Available online at: <<http://www.saferworld.org.uk/downloads/pubdocs/Small-arms-and-light-weapons-full.pdf>>
3. Kenya Human Rights Commission (2009), *Out in the Cold: The Fate of Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya (2008-2009)*, Nairobi: KHRC. Available online at: <[http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/\(httpDocuments\)/492C1B3D0060C9F9C12576F700421C7E/\\$file/Out+in+the+Cold+-+The+fate+of+IDPs+in+Kenya.pdf?](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/(httpDocuments)/492C1B3D0060C9F9C12576F700421C7E/$file/Out+in+the+Cold+-+The+fate+of+IDPs+in+Kenya.pdf?)>

**OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**Public Lectures and Forum Participation**

2015

- Panelist at the Africa Climate Talks (ACT!), East, Southern and Indian Ocean SIDS, 4 August 2015, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- Panelist at the CODESRIA 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, 'The Africa We Want' roundtable, 11 June 2015, Dakar, Senegal.
- Guest speaker at the Pan African Human Rights and Democracy Dialogue leading to the 8<sup>th</sup> PAC, 14 January, Nairobi, Kenya.

2013

- Guest Speaker at the Wits School of Arts, 'We Too Have Something To Say: Thoughts that Lead to Art' – A Series of Open Lectures 2013, *Feminist Predicaments: Righting the Gendered Subaltern* – 26 September, Johannesburg, South Africa.

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- Guest on Power FM talk radio, on the topic of 'Feminism and NGOs' - 9 September, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Guest speaker at IDAHO (International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia) public event organized by Iranti.Org - 17 May, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Guest speaker at talk organized by the Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University - 29 April, New York, USA.
- Panelist at the public lecture on "Theorizing Rape", Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) event, University of the Witwatersrand - 11 April, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**2012**

- Guest Speaker at the seminar on "Women and Violence" Wits Feminist Forum, Women's Month Series, University of the Witwatersrand - 15 August, Johannesburg, South Africa.

**REFEREES**

Prof. Mahmood Mamdani,  
Herbert Lehman Professor of Government, Anthropology & Political Science,  
School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University &  
Professor and Executive Director,  
Makerere Insitute of Social Research  
P.O. Box 16022,  
Kampala, Uganda.  
Email: [mm1124@columbia.edu](mailto:mm1124@columbia.edu)

Prof. Dzodzi Tsikata,  
Associate Professor,  
Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER)  
Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA)  
University of Ghana  
Legon, Ghana  
Email: [dzodzit@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dzodzit@yahoo.co.uk)

Prof. Shireen Hassim,  
Political Studies Department &  
Wits Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER)  
University of the Witwatersrand,  
Private Bag 3, Wits 2050,  
Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.  
Tel (office): +27117174363  
Email: [shireen.hassim@wits.ac.za](mailto:shireen.hassim@wits.ac.za)