

**CURRICULUM VITAE
CHRISTA L. KULJIAN**

Surname: Kuljian
First Names: Christa Lynne
Postal Address: Postnet Box 116, P.O. Box 92418
Norwood, Johannesburg, 2117
South Africa
Nationality: South African Permanent Resident
US Citizen
E-mail: christak@alignafrica.com

SUMMARY

My career has spanned over thirty years with a focus on social and political developments in South Africa. In the 1980s, I worked on Senator Edward Kennedy’s foreign policy staff. For 14 years, I worked at the C. S. Mott Foundation, opening their South Africa office and directing a programme that focused on human rights and strengthening the non-profit sector. Over the past decade, I have worked as a writer – writing articles and case studies as well as publishing two books of narrative non-fiction: *Sanctuary* (Jacana 2013) about migration and xenophobia in downtown Johannesburg, and *Darwin’s Hunch* (Jacana 2016) about the history of the search for human origins in South Africa within a changing social and political context.

EDUCATION

- 2007 **Masters of Arts in Writing**, University of the Witwatersrand. Emphasis on narrative nonfiction. Research report: “What Happened to Kliptown?” about Kliptown and the Johannesburg Development Agency.
- 1989 **Masters in Public Affairs**, Woodrow Wilson School - Princeton University, USA. Studied Development and Public Policy with emphasis on southern Africa. Included two-month Internship at Southern Africa Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) in Harare, Zimbabwe, 1988.
- 1984 **Bachelor of Arts Degree**, Magna Cum Laude, Harvard University, USA. Majored in History of Science, Thesis about the medical profession’s view of women’s biology, 1870-1920.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017 Freelance writer, writing and teaching narrative non-fiction.
- 2017-2018 Research Associate, **WiSER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the Witwatersrand).**
- 2014-2016 **Writing Fellow, WiSER.** WiSER was my institutional base while working on *Darwin's Hunch*.
- 2010 **Ruth First Fellow, based at Wits Journalism.** Wrote and delivered the Ruth First Memorial Lecture on 17 August 2010 regarding Central Methodist Church in downtown Johannesburg. Preparing for this lecture led to writing my first book *Sanctuary: How an Inner City Church Spilled onto a Sidewalk* (Jacana 2013).
- 2007- 2013 **Independent Consultant and Writer.** I taught writing at Wits Journalism as part of the Development Communications course.
- Other contracts included research, writing case studies, editing and meeting facilitation. Clients include the Business Trust, the Global Fund for Community Foundations, Atlantic Philanthropies, the Synergos Institute and the Gauteng City Research Observatory.
- I have published articles in journals including *Botsotso, Wordsetc, New Contrast, Digest of South African Architecture, The Times, The Weekender*, etc. See list of publications below. In 2009, I was affiliated as a **Writing Fellow** with the **Centre for Sociological Research at the University of Johannesburg.**
- 2004 – 2006 **Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Studies, Johannesburg.** Conducted research and analysis of civil society, donors and development funding. Worked with clients including Planact, Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Umhlaba Development Services, the Department of Social Development, the Ford Foundation, and the WHEAT Trust (a women's fund).

1992 – 2003 **Director, South Africa office, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation,**
Johannesburg. Head office in Michigan, USA. Core areas of responsibility
included:

Leadership and Management: Opened Foundation's office in Johannesburg in 1992.
Managed start up and programme development, staff of five, growth of annual programme
budget to R50 million, and portfolio of 100 organisations. Responsible for networking with
South African civil society and government as well as international NGOs and donors.

Programme Management: Managed and developed funding programmes focused on the
development of civil society with the purpose of contributing to poverty eradication, public
participation with local government, building democracy, strengthening paralegal and advice
offices, promoting women in governance, and addressing racism and reconciliation. Led
strategic planning as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Financial Management: Responsible for management of office budget, audit, salaries, as
well as annual programme budget. Responsible for oversight of grant recipient budgets and
financial reports.

Selected Programme Achievements include:

- Established joint fund of USD10 million in 2004 celebrating South Africa's Ten
years of Democracy with Ford, Kellogg, Carnegie and Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
- Supported ongoing research regarding the role of civil society in South Africa
including the poverty hearings in 1998, the seminal *Size and Scope of the Nonprofit
Sector* (2002), and the establishment of the Centre for Civil Society at the University
of KZN.
- Provided over a decade of support for rural paralegal advice offices as nodes of
access to justice and public participation, leading to support from the Legal Aid
Board.
- Contributed to the post-Truth and Reconciliation Commission period in South Africa
by supporting Khulumani (an association of those who submitted to the TRC) as well

as the Human Rights Commission and other NGOs to address issues of racism and reconciliation in post-apartheid South Africa.

- 1989 – 1992 **Programme Officer, Community Development, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation – Michigan, USA.** Worked with youth and community development programmes in low-income communities throughout the US.
- 1985 – 1987 **Foreign Policy Aid, Senator Edward Kennedy, U.S. Senate, Washington D.C.** Worked on legislation, speeches and programmes related to U.S. foreign policy with an emphasis on southern Africa.
- 1984 – 1985 Spent one year in South Africa as:
Volunteer, South African Council of Churches, Johannesburg.
Volunteer during Senator Edward Kennedy’s visit to SA.
Paralegal Secretary, Lawley Shein and Weeber, Johannesburg
Volunteer Teaching Assistant, Woodmead School: English, History and Drama.
-

PUBLICATIONS

Darwin’s Hunch: Science, Race and the Search for Human Origins (Jacana 2016) See website at www.christa.kuljian.com and <http://www.facebook.com/darwinshunch/>

Sanctuary: How an Inner City Church Spilled onto a Sidewalk (Jacana 2013) See <http://www.facebook.com/SanctuaryChristaKuljian>

“Armenian Genocide Relived,” *Mail and Guardian*, 30 April 2015.
<http://mg.co.za/article/2015--04-29-armenian-genocide-relived>

“A Sanctuary Torn Asunder,” *City Press*, 1 March 2015.

Chapter entitled “Central Methodist Church” in *Changing Space, Changing City: Johannesburg After Apartheid* Edited by Philip Harrison, Alison Todes, Chris Wray and Graeme Gotz, Wits University Press, 2014.

Chapter entitled “Philanthropy and Equity: the Case of South Africa” in *Giving to Help, Helping to Give: The Context and Politics of African Philanthropy*. Edited by Tade Akin Aina and Bhekinkosi Moyo, Amalion Publishing, 2013.

“I walked the streets of Watertown as a child,” *Mail and Guardian*, 26 April 2013.

“Sjambok Rule at Home Affairs,” *City Press*, 18 September 2011.

“2010 Annual Ruth First Memorial Lecture, University of the Witwatersrand, Making the Invisible Visible: A Story of the Central Methodist Church, *African Studies*, Volume 70, Number 1, April 2011, pp 166-174.

“Making the Invisible Visible, a Story of Central Methodist Church,” Ruth First Memorial Lecture, *Johannesburg Salon, Volume Three*, www.jwtc.org.za/resources/docs/salon-voliume-3/christakuljian_making.pdf December 2010.

“A Southern African Social Activist,” (a profile of Graca Machel) *ChangeMudanca*, December 2010.

“What to do about migrants,” *Delivery: the magazine for Local Government*, String Communications, December 2010. Also available online at <http://emag.sadelivery.co.za>

“Making the Invisible Visible,” *City Press*, 5 September 2010.

“Stubbornly for Civil Society: a profile of Abie Dithlake,” *ChangeMudanca*, String Communications, March 2010.

“Through the Glass Ceiling: a profile of Colleen Lowe Morna,” *ChangeMudanca*, String Communications, March 2010.

“The Congress of the People and the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication: From Public Deliberation to Bureaucratic Imposition in Kliptown,” *Social Dynamics*, Vol. 35, No. 2, September 2009, 450-464.

“Remembering a man who stood for change,” *The Weekender*, 29 August 2009, (a personal reflection on Senator Kennedy in South Africa)
www.theweekender.co.za/articles/content.aspx?id=80014

“Riding the Waves: Planact and the Funding Environment,” Chapter in *Making Towns and Cities Work for People: Planact in South Africa: 1985-2005*, Published by Planact, Johannesburg, 2009, 123-133.

“Tending a Garden over the Long Term,” *Alliance*, Volume 14, Number 2, June 2009 (reflections on work at the Mott Foundation to strengthen civil society in South Africa).
www.alliancemagazine.org/en/content/tending-a-garden-over-long-term

“An Obama Land,” *Wordsetc*, Fourth Quarter 2008.

Two Book Reviews, *Wordsetc*, Third Quarter 2008.

“East Africa Backs Obama – Local Boy Made Good,” *The Times*, November 5, 2008.

“Put Kliptown Back on the Map,” *The Times*, March 23, 2008.

sTEP by sTEP: SMMEs, Job Creation and Transformation in the Tourism Industry: a Case Study of the Tourism Enterprise Programme (TEP), written for the Business Trust, March 2008.

“Reflections on the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication, Kliptown, Johannesburg,” *Digest of South African Architecture*, January 2008.

“What Happened to Kliptown?” unpublished MA research report, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 2007.

“Looking for Gabebe Baderoon,” *New Contrast*, Volume 35, No 1, March 2007.

“Walking along the Seams in Johannesburg with Dingz: Comments on Niq Mhlongo’s ‘Dog Eat Dog,’ *Botsotso 14*, 2007. Also online at www.botsotso.org.za

“A Queer Liberation,” (profile of Gerald Kraak, winner of the European Union award for first novel), *The Weekender*, June 17-18, 2006.

“Why did Interfund Close?” *Alliance*, December 2005,
<http://www.allavida.org/alliance/axdec05f.html>

Philanthropy and Equity: The Case of South Africa, Global Equity Initiative, Harvard University, October 2005, http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~acgei/philanthropy_pubs.htm

“Social Justice not High on the Agenda: Corporate Social Investment in South Africa,” *Alliance*, Volume 10, No 2, June 2005. Reprinted on Trialogue website,
<http://www.trialogue.co.za/news.asp?NID=34>

“Are CBOs, NGOs and Social Movements Ready and Able to Act Together?” *Isandla Development Communiqué*, Volume 1, No 3, June 2004,
<http://www.isandla.org.za/newsletter/news3htm>

“Encouraging Giving,” *Sowetan*, Co-authored with Gerry Salole and Malusi Mpumlwana, March 14, 2001.

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSTS

- 2017 **Member, Ruth First Fellowship Committee**, University of the Witwatersrand.
- 2007 – 2015 **Advisory Committee Member, Eugene Saldanha Memorial Fellowship**, based at the Charities Aid Foundation. Provided oversight to the Eugene Saldanha Memorial Fellowship for social justice reporting at the *Mail and Guardian*. Kwanele Sosibo in 2011, Heidi Swart in 2012, Manqoba Nxumalo in 2013, and Rapula Moatshe in 2014.
- 2004 – present **Synergos Institute Senior Fellow**, Network of fellows from foundations and development funding agencies worldwide. Prepared papers for annual conferences held in Manila, Philippines, Cape Town, South Africa and Delhi, India. Served on advisory committee, 2007-2008.
- 2000 – 2003 **Africa Grantmakers Affinity Group, Steering Committee member** – New York, USA. Group of sixty US foundations working in Africa.
- 1995 – 2002 **South African Grantmakers Association (SAGA), Boardmember** – Johannesburg, SA. Membership organization to encourage developmental grantmaking by corporate, private and public donors in Southern Africa.
- 1999 – 2002 **US – SA Fulbright Commission Boardmember** – Pretoria, SA. The Commission set policy for the Fulbright Scholarship Programme.
- 1997 – 2003 **Donor Network on Women (DNW), Founding member** – Johannesburg, SA. Group of thirty donor organizations with programmes focused on women’s rights and women’s development.
- 1992 – 1999 **South African Grantmakers Affinity Group, Steering Committee member** – Washington D.C., USA. Group of US foundations focused on

South Africa. Became Africa Grantmakers Affinity group in 2000 (see above).

1989 **Class Representative** (one of four elected), Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University – Master’s student, Class of 1989.

1984 **Class Marshall** (one of eight elected student representatives), Harvard Class of 1984.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Presentations and lectures about my book *Darwin’s Hunch: Science, Race and the Search for Human Origins*. These have taken place at the Southern African Archaeological Society, University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand, WiSER, University of Cape Town, Kingsmead Book Fair, the Franschoek Literary Festival, etc.

Numerous presentations about my book *Sanctuary: How an Inner-City Church Spilled onto a Sidewalk*. These have taken place at the University of Johannesburg Department of Religion, the University of the Witwatersrand Faces of the City seminar, schools, churches, book stores, the African Centre for Migration and Society, the *Mail and Guardian Book Festival*, etc. I have also discussed *Sanctuary* and the issues it raises on numerous radio shows including Jenny Crwys Williams, Radio Today, Chai FM, Khaya FM, East Coast radio, etc.

“Making the Invisible Visible, a Story of Central Methodist Church, Ruth First Memorial Lecture, 17 August 2010.

“Philanthropy and Social Justice in South Africa,” Conference convened by the Global Fund for Community Foundations, Naivasha, Kenya, May 2008.

“From the Congress of the People to the Walter Sisulu Square of Dedication: Variations in Public Deliberation in Kliptown,” Paradoxes of the Postcolonial Public Sphere Conference at the University of the Witwatersrand, January 2008.

“Philanthropy and Equity: the Case of South Africa,” National Development Agency Conference on Development Funding, Johannesburg, March 2006.

“Sustainable Grantmaking,” Southern African Grantmakers Association workshop, Johannesburg, April 2005.

“The Role of US Foundations in South Africa,” Conference at Goucher College, Maryland, USA on “Ten Years of Democracy in South Africa,” April 2004.

“Global Models, Local Realities: the Community Foundation Model in South Africa,” Kellogg Foundation Conference on Community Mobilisation, Pretoria, May 2003.

“Tax Incentives and Individual Giving,” Conference on tax and the nonprofit sector, Non-Profit Partnership, Johannesburg, March 2001.

Oral Submission to the Parliamentary Finance Committee on Tax on the relationship between government and nonprofit sector, the need for tax incentives for giving. Representing the Northern Donors Forum of South Africa, Cape Town, October 26, 1999.