

# Dr Neil Overy

## *Curriculum Vitae*

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### Contact Information

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### Education

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- 2017 - 2018** MPhil in Environmental Humanities South (with distinction), University of Cape Town, South Africa.  
Thesis title: 'Zones of Dissonance: Koeberg, Cape Town and *Nuclearity*'  
Courses taken: Earth, Ecology and Humanities; Researching the Anthropocene; Film and the Environment; Narrative Non-fiction and the Essay.
- 1999 – 2001** PhD in Modern South African History, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK.  
Thesis title: "*These Difficult Days*": Mission Church Reactions to Bantu Education in South Africa 1949-56.
- 1997 - 1999** PhD registration suspended - recovering from serious road accident.  
**1995 - 1997** Registered for PhD in South African History, SOAS, University of London, UK.
- Awards: Full research grant from the Economic and Social Research Council.
- 1994 – 1995** Awarded Master of Arts in Area Studies Africa (with distinction), SOAS, University of London, UK.
- Awards: Scholarship from the School of Oriental and African Studies.
- 1991 – 1994** BA (Hons.) in Economic and Social History (1<sup>st</sup> class), University of Exeter, UK.
- Awards: Special Merit award for academic achievement.
- 1988 – 1990** 'A' Levels in History, Business Studies and English Literature, Felpham Community College, West Sussex, UK.
- 1983 – 1988** 9 GCSE passes; Felpham Community College, West Sussex, UK.

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## Employment

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**Current:** Freelance Researcher, Writer, and Photographer

Present research work includes:

- Oxfam South Africa – A comprehensive research assessment of the Social and Labour Plan for the Tormin Mine in the Western Cape. ([http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/74024\\_oxfam\\_mining\\_-\\_complete\\_fa.pdf](http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/74024_oxfam_mining_-_complete_fa.pdf)).
- Project 90 by 2030 – A research report on the role of ownership in a Just Energy Transition (<https://90by2030.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Just-Energy-Transition-low-res.pdf>).
- Heinrich Boll Foundation – A Review of the State of Geoengineering in South Africa (<https://za.boell.org/2018/06/05/state-play-geoengineering-south-africa>).
- Heinrich Boll Foundation – Finalising arrangements for an exhibition of my photography called: ‘*Koeberg, Cape Town and Nuclearity*’.

**Researching and Writing:** I have significant experience of undertaking high-quality, academic-level research on social justice issues. My writing ranges from academic texts, to research reports, media articles, and creative non-fiction, and my key strengths are being able to appropriately adapt work for a variety of audiences, and distil information into clearly identified key points or concepts. A list of some of my writing appears below and on my website [www.neiloverly.com](http://www.neiloverly.com).

**Details:** Undertaking qualitative and quantitative research for various civil society and research organisations.  
Critically appraising and making use of a variety of written and oral sources including academic and non-academic journals and publications, interviews, government documents, annual reports, media articles, visual media, and archives.  
Undertaking oral interviews, face to face and virtually, with appropriate sources from diverse backgrounds and with diverse experiences.  
Undertaking archival research, internet-based research, and academic research.  
Synthesising information from a variety of sources into appropriate formats.  
Writing proposals and securing funding for research projects.  
Planning, budgeting for, and timeously implementing research projects.  
Writing and editing research projects, reports, and monographs.  
Writing and editing reports on organisational achievements in multiple formats for various readership groups.  
Undertaking research independently or as part of a team.  
Recruiting, mentoring and supervising assistant researchers where necessary.  
Presenting research findings to diverse audiences through various media, including radio and television.

- Work undertaken for:
- Oxfam South Africa.
  - Project 90 by 2030.
  - Heinrich Boll Foundation.
  - Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC), Cape Town.
  - Department of Historical Studies, University of Cape Town, Cape Town.
  - The International Budget Partnership (IBP), Washington and Cape Town.
  - Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TAP), Washington.
  - Results for Development Institute (R4D), Washington.
  - Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
  - Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Evaluation (CADRE), Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Photography: I specialise in environmental, social justice, and fine art photography. I am particularly interested in the intersection between environmental and social justice issues. I use photography as a means by which to illustrate this nexus, both as it relates to social and environmental harm, and to record how people oppose injustice and inequality. Examples of my work can be seen at [www.neiloverly.com/photography](http://www.neiloverly.com/photography).

Details:

Photographing a wide variety of subject matter using appropriate techniques and formats on location and in studio.

Liaising sensitively and respectfully with people being photographed, organisations, gallery owners, and picture editors.

Processing and preparing digital images for submission to organisations and galleries.

Planning, budgeting, and timeously completing commissions.

Providing appropriate keywords, captions and information for images.

Storing, managing, backing-up and cataloguing my image collections.

Transferring image files using FTP.

Ensuring appropriate model and property releases are obtained.

- Work undertaken for:
- Project 90 by 2030.
  - Oxfam South Africa.
  - World Wildlife Fund South Africa.
  - Alternative Information and Development Centre, Cape Town.
  - Social Justice Coalition, Cape Town.
  - Results for Development Institute (R4D) & Transparency and Accountability Initiative (TAP), Washington.
  - Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM), Rhodes University, Grahamstown.
  - Getty Images, Seattle.
  - Science Photography Library, London.
  - Gallo Images, Johannesburg.

**2004 – 2008** **Senior Research Editor:** Public Service Accountability Monitor, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Details: Writing in-depth research reports relating to issues of accountability and democratisation in the Eastern Cape and South Africa more generally.

Editing all research output from PSAM researchers, including research reports and website research content.

Liaison with external parties (other civil society organisations, the media, and senior public officials and politicians) in regard to PSAM advocacy. Giving presentations to the media and at international conferences as and when required.

**2003 – 2004**     **Project Head:** Case Monitoring Programme, PSAM, Rhodes University, Grahamstown.

Details: Managed the Case Monitoring Research Programme within the PSAM. Responsible for managing the Programme's database of cases, identifying and undertaking research projects as well as managing researchers within the programme.

**2003**            **Lead History and Heritage Educator:** Egazini Outreach Project, Grahamstown.

Details: Teaching young adults how to undertake interviews, critically analyse historical data, and manage local history projects.

**2001 – 2003**     **Self-Employed,** London.

Details: Established a successful internet business and initiated my move into photography.

**Volunteer** (Part-time): The Canon Collins Trust, London.

Details: Various administrative and fundraising roles.

**1990 – 1991**     **Beta-Tester:** Lloyd's Bank Registrars Department, Worthing.

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## Publications

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### Selected Research Reports

“David vs Goliath” – The Case of the Social and Labour Plan Outcomes of Mineral Sands Resources Limited (MSR Ltd), Tormin Mine and the Community of Lutzville, Oxfam South Africa, 2018. ([http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/74024\\_oxfam\\_mining\\_-\\_complete\\_fa.pdf](http://us-cdn.creamermedia.co.za/assets/articles/attachments/74024_oxfam_mining_-_complete_fa.pdf)).

‘The Role of Ownership in a Just Energy Transition’, Project 90 by 2030, 2018. (<https://90by2030.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Just-Energy-Transition-low-res.pdf>).

‘Glencore, Coal and the Environment in South Africa’, Alternative Information and Development Centre, Cape Town, 2016.

'Left in the Dark: Seeking Information on Public Financial Transfers to Eskom and Other State-Owned Enterprises', International Budget Partnership, 2015. (<http://www.internationalbudget.org/search/overly/>).

'Social Justice Coalition Pushes for Access to Sanitation in Informal Settlements in South Africa'. International Budget Partnership, 2013. (<http://www.internationalbudget.org/search/overly/>).

'In the Face of Crisis: The Treatment Action Campaign Fights Government Inertia with Budget Advocacy and Litigation', research report completed for the International Budget Partnership, 2011. (<http://www.internationalbudget.org/search/overly/>).

'CSO Transparency and Accountability Initiatives: Variables of Impact', International Budget Partnership, 2011. (<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/Impact-Pathway-Variables.pdf>).

'An Evaluation of the School Nutrition Programme in the Eastern Cape, South Africa,' research report completed for the Transparency and Accountability Project, Results for Development Institute (Washington) and the Centre for Social Accountability, Rhodes University, 2010/11. ([psam.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Research-Report-8-2-2010-11.pdf](http://psam.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Research-Report-8-2-2010-11.pdf)).

'Impact Case Study of Civil Society Interventions Around the Child Support Grant in South Africa', research report completed for the International Budget Partnership, 2009. (<http://www.internationalbudget.org/search/overly/>).

'Staff Shortages, Incapacity and the Excessive Use of Consultants by the Eastern Cape Provincial Government', Centre for Social Accountability, Rhodes University, 2005. ([www.psam.org.za/research/1227164494.pdf](http://www.psam.org.za/research/1227164494.pdf)).

'The Housing Crisis in the Eastern Cape 2000 - 2005' Centre for Social Accountability, Rhodes University, 2005. ([www.psam.org.za/research/1227166122.pdf](http://www.psam.org.za/research/1227166122.pdf)).

## **Selected Opinion Pieces**

'Pursuit of coal-fired stations raises the same questions as nuclear deal', *Business Day*, 3 July 2018. (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2018-07-03-pursuit-of-coal-fired-stations-raises-the-same-questions-as-nuclear-deal/>).

'Mining Charter unclear on benefits for mining-affected communities', *Business Day*, 10 June 2018. (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2018-06-19-mining-charter-unclear-on-benefits-for-mining-affected-communities/>).

'Why the SUV-isation of our roads is a large mistake', *Business Day*, 11 December, 2017. (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-12-11-why-the-suv-isation-of-our-roads-is-a-large-mistake/>).

'South Africa's National Health Initiative: Lessons from the UK National Health Service', *Amandla! Magazine*, December, 2017.

'The lowest carbon emitter? No, it's not, Mr Energy Minister', *Business Day*, 1 November, 2017. (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-11-01-the-lowest-carbon-emitter-no-its-not-mr-energy-minister/>)

'Important questions of safety the pro-nuclear lobby dare not ignore', *Business Day*, 17 October, 2017. (<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-10-17-important-questions-of-safety-the-pro-nuclear-lobby-dare-not-ignore/>)

'Going green a drop in the ocean of change needed to fix climate crisis', *Business Day*, 10 August, 2017. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/life/2017-08-10-going-green-a-drop-in-the-ocean-of-change-needed-to-fix-climate-crisis](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/life/2017-08-10-going-green-a-drop-in-the-ocean-of-change-needed-to-fix-climate-crisis)).

'How SA's nuclear plant build could fuel corruption', *Business Day*, 23 May, 2017. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-23-how-sas-nuclear-plant-build-could-fuel-corruption](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-23-how-sas-nuclear-plant-build-could-fuel-corruption)).

'Tegeta scandal report gives whiff of global rot in nuclear industry', *Business Day*, 18 May, 2017. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-18-tegeta-scandal-report-gives-whiff-of-global-rot-in-nuclear-industry](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-18-tegeta-scandal-report-gives-whiff-of-global-rot-in-nuclear-industry)).

'Pro-nuclear lobby still fired up on deal despite court's refusal', *Business Day*, 3 May, 2017. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-03-pro-nuclear-lobby-still-fired-up-on-deal-despite-courts-refusal](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2017-05-03-pro-nuclear-lobby-still-fired-up-on-deal-despite-courts-refusal)).

'On meat, love and revolution', *Mail and Guardian*, 15 December, 2016 – with Carla Tsampiras. ([www.mg.co.za/article/2016-12-15-00-on-meat-love-and-revolution](http://www.mg.co.za/article/2016-12-15-00-on-meat-love-and-revolution)).

'Nuclear power and the empty promise of jobs', *Amandla! Magazine*, December, 2016.

'Job growth promises are in green economy', *Business Day*, 8 December, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-12-08-job-growth-promises-are-in-green-economy](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-12-08-job-growth-promises-are-in-green-economy)).

'Eskom seems compromised in nuclear deal', *Business Day*, 1 November, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-11-01-eskom-seems-compromised-in-nuclear-deal](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-11-01-eskom-seems-compromised-in-nuclear-deal)).

'Eskom lacks nuclear wherewithal', *Business Day*, 26 October, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-10-26-eskom-lacks-nuclear-wherewithal](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-10-26-eskom-lacks-nuclear-wherewithal)).

'Where will SA put lethal nuclear waste?', *Business Day*, 20 September, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-09-20-where-will-sa-put-lethal-nuclear-waste](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-09-20-where-will-sa-put-lethal-nuclear-waste)).

'Energy: Nuclear industry prefers to keep the public in the dark', *Business Day*, 30 June, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-06-30-energy-nuclear-industry-prefers-to-keep-the-public-in-the-dark](http://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/opinion/2016-06-30-energy-nuclear-industry-prefers-to-keep-the-public-in-the-dark)).

'The nuclear slippery slope', *Financial Mail*, 24 June, 2016. ([www.businesslive.co.za/fm/opinion/on-my-mind/2016-06-24-the-nuclear-slippery-slope](http://www.businesslive.co.za/fm/opinion/on-my-mind/2016-06-24-the-nuclear-slippery-slope)).

## **Books**

Co-authored the following books and chapters in books:

'APRM's economic governance and management standards: What civil society should look for', chapter in *Grappling with Governance: Perspectives on the African Peer Review Mechanism*, (South African Institute of International Affairs, Cape Town, Fanele, 2011).

*The Crisis of Public Health Care in the Eastern Cape: The post-apartheid challenges of oversight and accountability*, (Cape Town, Compress, 2004).

*The Outsourcing of Social Grants in the Eastern Cape: Service delivery challenges and the problem of accountability*, (Cape Town, Compress, 2004).

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## **Presentations**

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### **Selected Presentations**

'Just Energy Transition: Community Ownership and the Future of Renewable Energy Systems Roundtable Discussion, Cape Town, 25 April 2018.

“David vs Goliath” – The Case of the Social and Labour Plan Outcomes of Mineral Sands Resources Limited (MSR Ltd), Tormin Mine and the Community of Lutzville', Pretoria, 23 April 2018.

'Glencore and Coal in South Africa', AIDC & People's Tribunal of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, Johannesburg, 4 April 2016.

'An Evaluation of the School Nutrition Programme in the Grahamstown District of the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa', World Bank, Washington, 24 March 2010.

'Civil Society – The Missing Link in Health Systems?', Centre for Consumer Action Research and Training, Washington, 29 March, 2010.

'South Africa's Open Budget: An Uncertain Future', Institute for Security Studies, Cape Town, 4 November 2010.

'Supreme Audit Institutions in South Africa', Dialogue on Civil Society Engagement in Public Accountability, United Nations Division for Public Administration and Development Management, Manila, 8 November, 2006.

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## **Additional Qualifications, Skills and Training**

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## Qualifications

South African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA) accredited course in project management, 2004.

## Computer skills

I have significant experience using Word, Outlook, and PowerPoint, and have used both Access and Excel. I am skilled at using FTPs, CMSs, various internet search engines and electronic journal databases. I am highly proficient in the use of Adobe Photoshop and Canon Photo Professional.

## Training

In 2015 I was awarded a bursary to attend Finance Uncovered's unique training for researchers and investigative journalists (see [www.financeuncovered.org](http://www.financeuncovered.org)).

## Radio and Television

I have appeared on South African national and local radio and television news and current affairs programmes in my capacity as a researcher.

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## Referees

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1. Mr Thembinkosi Dlamini  
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