

Curriculum Vitae: Emma Gisondi

Nationality	Italian
Education	<p>MPhil Philosophy, Politics and Economics (2023 – ongoing) Specialising in economic development University of Cape Town, South Africa</p> <p>BSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics (2017 – 2020) Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands</p> <p>Exchange Program, Political Science and Economics (2019) Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan</p>
Languages	English (fluent), Italian (fluent), French (fair)
Membership of professional bodies	Member of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

Employment record

Sep 2024 – current	<p>Research Assistant One World Sustainable Investments, Cape Town, South Africa</p>
March – Sep 2024	<p>Research Intern One World Sustainable Investments, Cape Town, South Africa</p>
July – Dec 2023	<p>Academic Tutor (Business Ethics) University of Cape Town, Department of Philosophy, South Africa</p>
Sep 2020 – Dec 2022	<p>Production Coordinator Mike Teevee (Amsterdam, the Netherlands); New Amsterdam Film Company (the Netherlands); Moonlighting Commercials (Cape Town, South Africa)</p>
Jul 2020 – Aug 2020	<p>Fieldwork Research Assistant (contract) Tilburg University, Department of Criminal Law (Tilburg, the Netherlands; & Palermo, Italy)</p>

Relevant professional experience

January 2025 – current	<p>Climate Landscape Analysis for Children (CLAC) in Botswana United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</p> <p>Project Assistant; Researcher</p> <p>The objective of the CLAC is to assess, reflect and update the situation of climate, energy, environment and disaster risk-related (CEED) issues affecting children in Botswana, since the publication of the 2020 CLAC, as well as developing a dedicated strategic framework on climate action for children for UNICEF in Botswana to cover the remainder of the country programme (2024 – 2026).</p> <p>Specific responsibilities for this project included research on state of climate and CEED issues affecting child development in Botswana, national policy analysis, CEED analysis of UNICEF Country Programme, and writing the report.</p>
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September 2024 – current – Development of the full Green Climate Fund Simplified Approval Process (SAP) Funding Proposal and Annexes for the project ‘Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Water Security in South Africa (EbA-Water)’

South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) / Green Climate Fund (GCF)

Project Assistant; Researcher

Collaborative development of the full SAP Funding Proposal and Annexes for the GCF, which intends to build the resilience of a selection of South Africa’s priority Strategic Water Source Areas (SWSAs) using a participatory, action-learning ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach.

Responsible for researching, developing and writing the baseline assessment of 11 priority SWSAs. This process required analysis of socioeconomic, climate and ecological data and assessment of indicators, development of proxy indicators where data was unavailable, support in design and implementation of a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis tool. Additionally supported with stakeholder mapping.

August 2024 – May 2025 – Development of Required Tools and Roll Out of the Sustainable Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem Security (WEFE) Nexus Initiative in Africa

African Development Bank (AfDB)

Project Assistant; Researcher

The project focuses on developing an investment programme for the AfDB, based on a framework that considers synergies and trade-offs within the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus in Africa. To achieve this, the project conducts baseline assessments in four case study countries – Egypt, Kenya, Senegal, and Zambia – and models future scenarios considering economic development, climate change impacts, and technological advancements. The project will develop a novel nexus framework for investment decision-making and a project pipeline for nexus investments for the AfDB, sequenced within a programme over a ten-year horizon.

Responsibilities included researching and writing baseline assessments for Senegal and Zambia, using quantitative and qualitative data and web research; supporting in developing nexus framework and scenario modelling.

May 2023 – Conducting sectoral climate change vulnerability assessments for Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Project Assistant

The objective of the project was to conduct climate risk vulnerability assessments within nine selected sectors in Tanzania Mainland and in Zanzibar (agriculture, coastal and marine, fisheries, forestry and wildlife, health, infrastructure and human settlements, livestock, tourism, water) and develop a methodological tool to enable the development of future CVAs.

Specific tasks included conducting research and writing parts of the final sectorial report, developing the 1st to 4th order analytical tools for the 9x2 sectors, built through analysis of the GIS maps, the RVA methodological tool developed with stakeholders, and desktop research.

Jun 2024 – present – Master’s Dissertation Research: Unpacking the Dynamics of SSEG Uptake in Cape Town.

University of Cape Town

Author

This thesis analyses the dynamics driving the uptake in small-scale embedded generation (SSEG) among residential and business users in Cape Town. Through key informant interviews and literature analysis, this research seeks to understand i) the key drivers, enablers and barriers of SSEG uptake in Cape Town, ii) how these drivers differ or compare between residential and business users, iii) how the weight of each of these drivers is changing over time, and iv) what are the distributional impacts of the uptake.



Sep 2020 – Dec 2022	<p>Film Production</p> <p>New Amsterdam Film Company (Netherlands), Mike Teevee (Netherlands), Moonlighting Commercials (Cape Town), others.</p> <p>Production Coordinator</p> <p>This work entailed the production of film, photography, advertisement campaigns, digital and print design, music videos, radio spots, and events.</p> <p>Tasks included: coordinating communication internally and with subcontractors; supervising subcontractors; preparing client presentations; sourcing and hiring crew; scouting locations; organizing international travel; coordinating movement orders; renting crew vehicles and gear; preparing production documents; updating budgets.</p>
Jul – Aug 2020	<p>PhD research on the persistence in risk-taking among West Africans migrating to the EU</p> <p>University of Tilburg</p> <p>Fieldwork Research Assistant</p> <p>This project involved assisting a PhD candidate in her ethnographic research on the persistence of risky migration patterns among West Africans (specifically Nigerians) migrating to the EU.</p> <p>The role included assisting a PhD researcher to build a network with the Nigerian community in Palermo, Sicily, cooperating with a local NGO to organize events with our respondents and apply for relevant funds, engaging with Nigerian immigrants in their daily life, writing field notes and analysing the data, researching and writing funding applications for local NGO.</p>

Publications and Conference Papers

- Gisondi E. (forthcoming, 2026). Decentralising Power: Unpacking the Dynamics of SSEG Uptake in Cape Town. Master's dissertation. University of Cape Town.
- Petrie, B., Gisondi, E., Borain, L. (2024). The Global Just Energy Transition: A Successful Transition is A Humanised Transition. Policy Brief, April 2024. OneWorld Sustainable Investments: Cape Town, South Africa. Available at: <https://oneworldgroup.co.za/publications/policy-brief-the-global-just-energy-transition/>