

Jako Olivier

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Experienced educator, researcher and project manager with a PhD in Education and extensive experience and an established research profile in adult education. In terms of teaching, I have 7 years' experience as teacher at secondary school level in South Africa and the United Kingdom, more than 14 years' experience as professor in higher education in South Africa and Slovenia and more recently over 2 years' experience in working at an educational intergovernmental organization in Canada. I have an extensive publication record as a researcher and have published 37 peer-reviewed journal articles, 36 book chapters and have edited 9 books. I am used to high-volume workloads in dynamic contexts as well as leading and working with diverse teams in person and online. As a former information technology teacher and researcher in blended learning, I have a keen interest in using technology in the classroom. I also have excellent verbal and writing skills in different contexts from research, technical to more popular content within education and also have experience in text editing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2022 – current *Adviser: Higher Education – Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver (Canada)*

- Working in a team to support universities and ministries from various Commonwealth countries in terms of open and distance learning, employability skills, authentic assessment, open educational resources, and micro-credentials.
- Project management of 18 national and institutional policy development, capacity building and course creation projects in Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia.
- Leading an international micro-credentials project entitled 'Developing a Commonwealth Credit Transfer Framework: Micro-credentials in a digital age'.
- Managing research projects on open and distance learning, micro-credentials as well as being part of the team supporting the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring: Technology in Education for the Pacific region.
- Doing the administration around the Commonwealth of Learning Chairs program, Open and Distance Learning Practitioner Research Training and Mentorship initiative and the Commonwealth Executive MBA & MPA programs.

2021 – current *Adjunct Professor of Open Education – University of Nova Gorica, Vipava (Slovenia)*

- Online teaching two master's level courses on Open Education Design as well as Effective Didactical Practices in Open Education.
- This includes learning design, lesson planning, teaching and assessment.
- Master's student thesis supervision.

2010 – 2022 *Professor & UNESCO Chair – North-West University, Mahikeng (South Africa)*

- Within 12 years I progressed from lecturer, senior lecturer, associate professor to full professor.

- Establishing and completing a term as UNESCO Chair on Multimodal Learning and Open Educational Resources.
- My main tasks at this university involved teaching at undergraduate level, postgraduate student supervision for master's and doctoral students, research and community engagement.
- My teaching and research focus was on blended learning, self-directed learning and language teacher training as well as some work on open educational resources, multimodal learning, micro-learning, computer-assisted language learning and multilingualism in education.
- During this time, I also acted as mentor for junior staff members.
- I was also a member of a number of institutional management and scientific committees.
- As chairperson of the Faculty's Research Ethics Committee, I had to handle internal and even external research integrity issues and hearings.
- In 2018, I received the Emerging Researcher Medal from the Education Association of South Africa.
- During this time, I was rated as an established researcher by the South African National Research Foundation.

2007-2010 *Teacher – Sasolburg High School, Sasolburg (South Africa)*

- Teacher of information technology, computer applications technology, English and Afrikaans – mainly grade 10 to 12.
- Subject head for information technology and computer applications technology.
- Provided technical support for the school's education management information system.
- Conducted extramural activities such as editing the school magazine and coaching drama.
- Provincial examiner for the 2008 and 2009 June practical grade 12 common examination paper.

2005-2007 *Teacher – Hays Education, London (United Kingdom)*

- Supply teaching at secondary schools of mainly Information and Communication Technology, but also other subjects.
- Long term supply teaching of Information and Communication Technology.

2003-2005 *Teacher – Sasolburg High School, Sasolburg (South Africa)*

- Set up and maintained reading laboratory.
- Facilitated reading classes for students from grade 8 to 11.
- Teacher of information technology, English and Afrikaans.

RELEVANT SKILLS

- **Computer skills:** Microsoft Office 365 (advanced skills in Access, Excel and SharePoint); Experience in various learning management systems (such as Moodle and Sakai) and educational management

information systems; Programming experience using Delphi Embarcadero RAD Studio; Experience in using research software for quantitative and qualitative analyses using SPSS and Atlas.ti.

- **Professional:** Project planning, budgeting, management, monitoring and evaluation; Using and training on open licensing including Creative Commons; Teaching at university and professional development, and secondary school (information technology, English and technology) levels; Experience in setting up and supporting e-learning and blended learning platforms and training; Research using quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods in especially educational contexts (Publications: <https://scholar.google.co.za/citations?user=6PGRrQQAAAAJ>).
- **Social:** Excellent in working in teams and even leading teams of different sizes and across different platforms and contexts; Extensive experience in project management and budgeting for research and developmental projects; Background in mentorship of students and colleagues.
- **Languages:** Native Languages: English (IELTS level 9) and Afrikaans; Additional languages: Dutch (excellent reading and some speaking and writing) and Sesotho (basic: reading and writing); Experience language editing, translating and subtitling in English and Afrikaans.

EDUCATION

- 2011 PhD** **North-West University (Vanderbijlpark, South Africa)**
Doctor of Philosophy degree in Education (Learning and Teaching)
Thesis title: *Accommodating and promoting multilingualism through blended learning*
- 2004 MA** **North-West University (Vanderbijlpark, South Africa)**
Master of Arts degree – passed with distinction
Dissertation title: *The possibilities provided by subtitling to the SABC-TV in the recognition and protection of language rights (Original Afrikaans title: 'Die moontlikhede wat onderskrifte die SABC-TV bied in die erkenning en beskerming van taalregte')*
- 2004 PGCE** **North-West University (Vanderbijlpark, South Africa)**
Postgraduate Certificate in Education
Subject didactics specialisation: English, Technology and Afrikaans
- 2002 BA Hons.** **Potchefstroom University for CHE (Vanderbijlpark, South Africa)**
Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree – passed with distinction
Modules: Film and Narrative, Language Practice, Language Variation and Language Politics, Text linguistics and Translation Studies
- 2001 BA** **Potchefstroom University for CHE (Vanderbijlpark, South Africa)**
Bachelor of Arts Degree
Modules: Afrikaans and Dutch III, English III, Translation Studies III, Philosophy II, Computer Science I, Public Management and Administration I, Psychology I and Sociology I
- 1997 Gr. 12 – National Senior Certificate** Afrikaans High School (Sasolburg, South Africa)