

CURRICULUM VITAE
Dr WP VISSER

1. **Name:** Wessel Pretorius Visser
2. **Dated of Birth:** 16 July 1957
3. **Marriage Status:** Married
4. **Academic Qualifications**

1980-B.A.
1981-B.A. Hons.(cum laude)
1984-Higher Education Diploma
1987-M.A.(cum laude)
2001-PhD (History)
5. **Other qualifications:** None
6. **Title of MA Thesis**

Suid-Afrikaanse Koerantberiggewing en –Kommentaar op Arbeiderspartye. Sosialistiese Partye en ander Radikale Groepe en Bewegings, 1908-1915 (Unpublished M.A.-thesis, U.S., 1987).
7. **Title of PhD Thesis**

Die rol van die pers in die politieke en ekonomiese mobilisasie van georganiseerde blanke arbeiderbewegings in Suid-Afrika , 1908-1924. (Unpublished PhD Thesis, U.S., 2001)
8. **Work history**

(a) Educational practitioner

History teacher, Point High School, Mossel Bay, 1985-1987.

(b) Academic experience

Lecturer in History, US , 1988-2002
Senior Lecturer in History, US, 2003-
9. **Membership of institutes/professional societies**

Member of the South-African Academy for Science and Arts

Member of the South African Historical Society

Member of the South-African Historical Association

Member of the South African Society of History Teaching
10. **Professional registration:** None
11. **Academic focus and research expertise**

(a) Teaching

Lecturer in South African History (the history of South Africa to 1870, South African historiography, South African labour history, minority identities), The Historical Land Issue in South Africa in terms of Forced Removals and Resettlement Areas.

(b) Research

The history of the South African labour-, socialist and communist press, South African trade unions and political labour, socialist and communist parties, the history of the South African Mine Workers' Union

12 Service to institutes/professional societies

Member of the History Olympiad Committee of the South African Academy for Science and Arts, 1991-1998. 2002-2004

Member of the History Commission of the South African Academy for Science and Arts, 2002-

U.S. representative on the editorial board of *Historia*, 2002-2003

Referee for:

Acta Academica

Historia

International Review of Social History

Journal for Contemporary History

Journal for Sport, Physical Education and Recreation Research

New Contree

Scientia Militaria

South African Journal for Cultural History

The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa

External Moderator for History, University of the Free State, 2004-

External Moderator for History, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, 2008-

13. Service to university committees

U.S. facilitator on the Western Cape inter-university pilot committee for the implementation of a proposed post-graduate qualification in land and agrarian studies, 1999-2000.

U.S. representative on the governing body of the multi disciplinary UWC diploma in land and agrarian studies and course lecturer, 2000-2003

Academic mentor for Simonsberg residence, 2001-2005

14. Service to departmental committees

President of the U.S. History Society 1990-1993, 1995-1997, 2006-

Editorial secretary of the journal *Yesterday and Today*, 1995-1998.

Organising secretary of the Bi-annual Conference of the South African Historical Association, 19-21 January 1994, Stellenbosch

Departmental Secretary, 1989-1990, 1992-1993, 1998-2004.

15. Total number of research publications: articles-19; books-1; chapters in books-5

16. List of personal research publications

1) "Geskiedenisonderrig en die ontwikkeling van perspektiewe, ewewigtige en kritiese denke by die blanke skoolgaande jeug" (*Die Unie*, Jaargang 86, Nr. 5, November 1989, pp.142-144).

2) "People's History en Geskiedenisonderrig op skool: 'n alternatiewe geskiedenis vir die Nuwe Suid-Afrika?" (*Gister en Vandag*, Nr. 25, Mei 1993, pp.32-39).

- 3) “Deurlopende Sillabusontwikkeling vir groter inhoudsrelevansie. Enkele didaktiese riglyne vir die toepassing van kontemporêre geskiedenis materiaal op skoolvlak” (*Gister en Vandag*, Nr.28, Oktober 1994, pp.21-28).
- 4) “Die politieke, ekonomiese en sosiale gevolge van die ontdekking van minerale met betrekking tot arbeid in Suid-Afrika” (*Gister en Vandag*, Nr.32, Oktober 1996, pp.24-32).
- 5) “White Labour Aristocracy and Black Proletariat : The Origins and Deployment of South Africa’s racially divided Working Class” (*ITH Tagungsberichte 34: Die Arbeiterbewegung – Ein gescheitertes Projekt der Moderne?*, Akademische Verlaganstalt, Vienna, 2000, pp.220-245).
- 6) “Hvidt Arbejderaristokrati og sort proletareat” (*Arbejder Historie, Tidsskrift for Historie og Politik*, (2) 2001, pp.52-69).
- 7) “The Star in the East. South African Socialist Expectations and Responses to the Outbreak of the Russian Revolution” (*South African Historical Journal* (44), May 2001, pp.40-71).
- 8) “The Uneasy Electoral Relationship between Socialists and the South African Labour Party, 1910-1924” (*Historia*, Vol. 47 (1), May 2002, pp.83-104).
- 9) “The South African labour movement’s response to the outbreak of the First World War and to declarations of Martial Law, 1913-1922” (*Scientia Militaria*, Vol. 31 (2), 2003, pp. 142-157).
- 10) “The Production of Literature on the ‘Red Peril’ and ‘Total Onslaught’ in Twentieth-Century South Africa” (*Historia*, Vol. 49 (2), November 2004, pp.105-128).
- 11) “To Fight the Battles of the Workers”: The Emergence of Pro-strike Publications in early Twentieth-Century South Africa (*International Review of Social History*, Vol. 49 (3), December 2004, pp.401-434).
- 12) “Exporting Trade Unionism and Labour Politics: The British Influence on the early South African Labour Movement” (*New Contree*, No.49, April 2005, pp.145-162).
- 13) “Shifting RDP into GEAR”: The ANC Government’s Dilemma in Providing an Equitable System of Social Security for the “New” South Africa (*ITH-Tagungsberichte 39, “Mercy or Right”: Development of Social Security*, Akademische Verlaganstalt, Leipzig, 2005, pp.105-124).
- 14) “The Production of Literature on the ‘Red Peril’ and the ‘Total Onslaught’ in twentieth-century South Africa”, in A Balezin (ed), *Archives –Key to African history of the 20th century. Proceedings of the International Conference in celebration of the 75th anniversary of prof. Apollon Davidson*. Institute of Asian and African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow State University, Moscow, 2005, pp.150-180.
- 15) In cooperation with met S van der Velden: “Strikes in the Netherlands and South Africa, 1900-1998: A Comparison” (*South African Journal of Labour Relations*, Vol. 30, No.1, 2006, pp.51-75).
- 16) “Dr. Albert Hertzog se bemoeienis met die Mynwerkersunie” (*The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa*, Vol.2, No.1, July 2006, pp.145-164).
- 17) “From MWU to Solidarity – A trade union reinventing itself” (*South African Journal of Labour Relations*, Vol.30, No.2, 2006, pp.19-41).
- 18) “Labour and Right-wing Extremism in the South African in the South African Context: A Historical Overview” (*ITH-Tagungsberichte 41, Labour and Right-Wing Extremism*, Akademische Verlaganstalt, Leipzig, 2007, pp.125-148).
- 19) “Afrikaner responses to post-apartheid South Africa: Diaspora and the regeneration of a cultural identity” (*New Contree*, No.54, November 2007, pp.1-30).

17. Books

Van MWU tot Solidariteit. Geskiedenis van die Mynwerkersunie, 1902-2002. Solidariteit, Pretoria, Sept 2008 (384 pp.)

18. Chapters in books

1) "Ou Beskawings in Prekoloniale Afrika", in P Lubbe (red.), *Wêreldspektrum Boek van die Jaar 1996*, Pat Lubbe Publikasies, g.p., 1996, pp.44-49.

2) "Early African Kingdoms", in J Kruger *et al* (eds.), *An Introduction to Africa*. Pat Lubbe Publishers, Stilbaai, 1998, pp.24-35.

3) "Urbanization and Afrikaner Class Formation: The Mine Workers' Union and the Search for a Cultural Identity", in SJ Salm and T Falola (eds.), *African Urban Spaces in Historical Perspective*, University of Rochester Press, Rochester and Woodbridge, 2005, pp.131-163.

4) "Afrikaner anti-communist history production in South African historiography", in HE Stolten (ed), *History Making and Present Day Politics. The Meaning of Collective Memory in South Africa*, Nordiska Afrikainstitutet, Uppsala, 2007, pp.306-333.

5) "A racially divided class. Strikes in South Africa, 1973-2004", S van der Velden, *et al* (eds), *Strikes around the World, 1968-2005. Case-studies of 15 countries*, Aksant Academic Publishers, Amsterdam, 2007.

19. Book reviews

1) L Lange, *White, Poor and Angry: White Working Class Families in Johannesburg*, in H-SAFRICA@H-NET.MSU.EDU , 20.2.2004, pp.1-4.

2) ET Maloka, *Basotho and the Mines. A Social History of Labour Migrancy in Lesotho and South Africa, c.1890-1940*, in *International Review of Social History*, 50, 1 (April 2005), pp.109-112.

3) J Hyslop, *The Notorious Syndicalist. J.T. Bain. A Scottish Rebel in Colonial South Africa*, in *International Review of Social History*, 51, 1 (April 2006), pp.125-127.

4) A Drew, *Between Empire and Revolution: A Life of Sydney Bunting*, in *South African Historical Journal*, 60, 1 (March 2008), pp.148-151.

20. Popular publications

1) "Voorbereidingswenke vir die Geskiedenisolimpiade", *Gister en Vandag*, Nr. 24, Oktober 1992, pp.36-37.

2) "Geskiedenis wys veranderinge in status quo hou groot implikasis in", *Die Burger*, 31.10.1997, p.21.

3) "Geskiedenis se Toekoms as Akademiese Vak is in Gedrang", *Die Burger*, 4.8.1999, p.13.

4) "Afrikaner se identiteit – quo vadis?", *Die Burger*, 20.3.2002, p.13.

5) "SAKP en wit werkers kom vër pad saam", *Die Burger*, 17.8.2002, p.15.

6) "Afrikaners en die Diaspora-verskynsel", <http://www.solidariteit.co.za/home/content.asp?Parentid=23&ID=822> 7.3.2003.

7) "Die dilemma van 'n gedeelde Afrikaanse identiteit: Kan wit en bruin mekaar vind?", <http://vryeafrikaan.co.za/lees.php?id=115> 17.2.2005.

21. Research training to post-graduate students

Courses to History Honours and MA students in South African historiography
The history of the South African labour and trade union movement
Minority identities

22. Papers presented at symposia and conferences

- (1) "People's History en Geskiedenis op skool: 'n Alternatiewe Geskiedenis vir die Nuwe Suid-Afrika? (Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Geskiedenisonderig 28-29 September 1992, Vista Universiteit, Pretoria).
- (2) Deurlopende Sillabusontwikkeling vir groter inhoudsrelevansie : Enkele didaktiese riglyne vir die toepassing van kontemporêre Geskiedenis materiaal op Skoolvlak (Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Historiese Genootskap, 19-21 Januarie 1994, Universiteit Stellenbosch).
- (3) Britse Invloed op die oorsprong en vestiging van die vakbondwese, sosialisme en kommunisme in Suid-Afrika (Kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Kultuurgeskiedenis, 29-30 Junie 1995, Pioniersmuseum, Silverton, Pretoria).
- (4) White Labour Aristocracy and Black Proletariat : The Origins and Deployment of South Africa's racially divided Working Class (35th Linz Conference of the ITH -Conference of Labour and Social History, 14-17 September 1999, Linz, Austria).
- (5) The Star in the East-South African Socialist Expectations and Responses to the dawning of the Russian Revolution (Australian Historical Association Conference, 5-9 July 2000, Adelaide, Australia).
- (6) The History of the South African Labour Movement (ASCWA Seminar Program, University of Western Australia, 11 Julie 2000, Perth, Australia).
- (7) Workers' Strife. Socialists and the South African Labour Party, 1910-1924 (Seventh Biennial National Labour History Conference, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 19-21 April 2001).
- (8) The South African Labour Movement's Responses to Declarations of Martial Law, 1913-1922. (War and Society in Africa Conference, Military Academy, Saldanha, 12-14 September 2001).
- (9) Exporting Trade Unionism and Labour Politics. The British Influence on the Early South African Labour Movement. (International History Conference on the British Empire and the creation of British identities in the 19th and 20th centuries, University of Cape Town, 9-11 January 2002).
- (10) Championing the Cause. Newspapers propagating strikes as a mobilizing force in the early labour movement of South Africa (Fourth European Social Science History Conference, Den Haag, Nederland, 27 February – 2 March 2002).
- (11) The Labour Movement and Social Security in Modern South Africa (University of South Denmark, Odense, 4 March 2002).
- (12) Afrikaner Working Class Organizations and the Search for a Cultural Identity: The Case of the Mine Workers' Union (African Urban Spaces Conference, University of Texas, Austin, 28-30 March, 2003).
- (13) Afrikaner Anti-Communist History Production in South African Historiography (US Department of History Centennial Conference and Biennial Conference of the Historical Association of South Africa – The South African Past in the 21st Century, Stellenbosch, 5-7 April 2004).

- (14) The Production of the Literature on the “Red Peril” and “Total Onslaught” in Twentieth-Century South Africa (International Conference Archives – A Key to African History in the 20th Century, Moscow State University, 15-16 September, 2004).
- (15) Shifting RDP into GEAR. The ANC Government’s Dilemma in Providing an Equitable System of Social Security for the “New” South Africa (40th Linz Conference of the ITH – Conference of Labour and Social History, Linz, Austria, 17-19 September, 2004).
- (16) Trends in South African Historiography and the Present State of Historical Research (Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, 23 September 2004).
- (17) The Development of a South African Historiographical Tradition and Future Tendencies (University van South Denmark, Odense, 29 September 2004).
- (18) Coming to terms with the past and the present. Afrikaner Experience of and reaction to the “New” South Africa (Centre for African Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 30 September 2004).
- (19) Strikes in South Africa since the 1970s (Colloquium: Strikes in International Perspective, 1970-2000, International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam, Nederland, 22-24 September 2005).
- (20) From MWU to Solidarity: A Trade Union Reinventing Itself (86th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 12-15 April, 2006).
- (21) Dr Albert Hertzog se bemoeienis met die blanke werkersklas (Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die Suid-Afrikaanse Historiese Genootskap, Universiteit van Pretoria, 26-28 Junie 2006).
- (22) The metamorphosis of the South African Mine Workers’ Union, 1902-2002 (Rethinking Worlds of Labour: Southern African labour history in international context Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 28-31 July 2006).
- (23) Labour and right-wing extremism in the South African context – a historical overview (Labour and Right-Wing Extremism 42nd Linz Conference of the ITH – Conference of Labour and Social History, Linz, Austria, 14-17 September 2006).
- (24) Afrikaner Responses to Post-apartheid South Africa: Diaspora and the Re-negotiation of a Cultural Identity (International Conference on “Pax Africana: The Continent and the Diaspora in search of Identity”, Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow State University, Moscow, 12-14 September 2007).
- (25) Dr. Albert Hertzog en die Mynwerkersunie – ‘n Herbeskouing (Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Genl. J.B.M. Hertzogdenklesing Nr.36, Pretoria, 20 September 2007).
- (26) Rightwing Politics and Resistance: The Mine Workers’ Union and transformation in South Africa (International Conference on “Labour Crossings: World, Work and History”, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 5-8 September 2008).

23. Attendance of symposia and conferences

- (1) Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the South African Historical Society, Unisa, Pretoria, 23-25 January 1991.
- (2) Biennial Conference of the South African Society of History Teaching, 28-29 September 1992, Vista Universiteit, Pretoria.
- (3) Biennial Conference of the South African Historical Society, Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, 19-22 January 1993.

- (4) Biennial Conference of the South African Historical Association, 19-21 January 1994, University of Stellenbosch.
- (5) Kongres van die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Kultuurgeskiedenis, 29-30 Junie 1995 Pretoria.
- (6) 35th Linz Conference of the ITH – Conference of Labour and Social History, 14-17 September 1999, Linz, Austria.
- (7) Die Anglo-Boeroorlog 1899-1902: 'n Herwaarderingskonferensie, Oktober 1999, Universiteit van die Vrystaat, Bloemfontein.
- (8) South Africa-Denmark History for Democracy Symposium, 23 February-1 March 2000, University of Stellenbosch.
- (9) Australian Historical Association Conference, 5-9 Julie 2000, Adelaide, Australia.
- (10) ASCWA Seminar Program, 11 Julie 2000, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia.
- (11) Die Suid-Afrikaanse Verlede en die Skuldvraagstuk. Geskiedenisberaad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Universiteit van Pretoria, Januarie 2001.
- (12) Seventh Biennial National Labour History Conference, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 19-21 April 2001.
- (13) War and Society in Africa Conference, Military Academy, Saldanha, 12-14 September 2001.
- (14) International History Conference on the British Empire and the creation of British Identities in the 19th and 20th centuries, University of Cape Town, 9-11 January 2002.
- (15) Fourth European Social Science History Conference, The Hague, Netherlands, 27 February-2 March 2002.
- (16) Internasionale Konferensie oor die VOC, Universiteit Stellenbosch, 3-5 April 2002.
- (17) Die Afrikaner Diaspora. Geskiedenisberaad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Garsfontein Onderwysentrum, Pretoria, 30 Januarie 2003.
- (18) African Urban Spaces Conference, University of Texas, Austin, 28-30 March 2003.
- (19) Southern Africa: Yesterday and Today. Biennial Conference of the South African Historical Society, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, 29 June – 1 July 2003.
- (20) Die huidige grondkwestie in Suid-Afrika. Geskiedenisberaad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Garsfontein Onderwysentrum, Pretoria, 29 Januarie 2004.
- (21) US Departement Geskiedenis Eeufeskonferensie en Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die Historiese Genootskap van Suid-Afrika – Die Suid-Afrikaanse Verlede in die 21ste Eeu, Stellenbosch, 5-7 April 2004).
- (22) International Conference Archives – A Key to African History in the 20th Century, Moscow State University, 15-16 September, 2004.
- (23) 40th Linz Conference of the ITH – Conference of Labour and Social History, Linz, Austria, 17-19 September 2004.
- (24) Colloquium on Strikes in International Perspective, 1970-2000, International Institute for Social History, Amsterdam, Nederland, 22-24 September 2005.

- (25) Op die kantlyn? Die Afrikaner in die Geskiedenis en Afrikanergeskiedskrywing. Geskiedenisberaad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Garsfontein Onderwysentrum, Pretoria, 27 Januarie 2006.
- (26) 86th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, San Antonio, Texas, USA, 12-15 April 2006.
- (27) Tweejaarlikse Konferensie van die Historiese Genootskap van Suid-Afrika, Universiteit van Pretoria, 26-28 Junie 2006.
- (28) Rethinking Worlds of Labour: Southern African labour history in international context Conference, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, 28-31 July 2006.
- (29) Labour and Right-Wing Extremism 42nd Linz Conference of the ITH – Conference of Labour and Social History, Linz, Austria, 14-17 September 2006.
- (30) Die skryf van ‘n gebalanseerde geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika. Dertiende Geskiedenisberaad van die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, Garsfontein Onderwysentrum, Pretoria, 26 Januarie 2007.
- (31) Southern African Historical Society Conference, Transformations, renewals and reconfigurations in Southern African historical studies – only skin deep?, University of Johannesburg, 25-27 June 2007.
- (32) International Conference on “Pax Africana: The Continent and the Diaspora in search of Identity”, Russian Academy of Sciences and Moscow State University, Moscow, 12-14 September 2007).
- (33) International Conference on “Labour Crossings: World, Work and History”, University of the Witwatersrand, 5-8 September 2008).

24. Grants and awards

- (i) Receiver of the Rhodes Prize for History, 1988
- (ii) NRF Grant for a foreign research fellow, 2003.
- (iii) US Subcommittee A Research Project Funding, 2004-2005
- (iv) Receiver of the 36th Gen. JBM Hertzog Commemoration Lecture Medal, South African Academy for Science and Arts, 2007