

Rebecca C. Schendel, PhD

Center for International Higher Education (Campion 207)
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- March 2019 to present **Managing Director, Center for International Higher Education**
Assistant Professor of the Practice
Boston College (USA)
- January 2014 to March 2019 **Lecturer in Education & International Development¹**
UCL Institute of Education (UK)

EDUCATION

- 2013 **PhD in Education and International Development:** Institute of Education, University of London
- 2005 **MEd in Higher Education:** Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 2002 **BA in Comparative Colonial History:** Brown University

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2022 McCowan, T., Omingo, M., Schendel, R., Adu-Yeboah, C. and Tabulawa, R. 'Enablers of pedagogical change within universities: Evidence from Kenya, Ghana and Botswana'. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 90. 10.1016/j.ijedudev.2022.102558
- 2020 Schendel, R., McCowan, T., Rolleston, C., Adu-Yeboah, C., Omingo, M. & Tabulawa, R. 'Pedagogies for critical thinking at universities in Kenya, Ghana and Botswana: the importance of a collective "teaching culture"'. *Teaching in Higher Education*, DOI: 10.1080/13562517.2020.1852204
- 2019 Rolleston, C., Schendel, R. and Grijalva Espinosa, A.M. 'Assessing "approaches to learning" in Botswana, Ghana and Kenya.' *Research in Comparative and International Education*, 14 (1): 118–140. 10.1177/1745499919829216.
- 2018 Carr-Hill, R., Rolleston, C., Schendel, R. and Waddington, H. 'The effectiveness of school-based decision making in improving educational outcomes: a systematic review.' *Journal of Development Effectiveness*. 10.1080/19439342.2018.1440250.
- 2017 Schendel, R. and Tolmie, A. 'Beyond Translation: Adapting a performance-task-based assessment of critical thinking ability for use in Rwanda.' *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, 42 (5): 673–689. 10.1080/02602938.2016.1177484.
- 2016 Schendel, R. 'Constructing departmental culture to support pedagogical change: Evidence from a case study in Rwanda.' *Higher Education*, 72 (4): 487-504. 10.1007/s10734-016-0036-6.

Schendel, R. 'Adapting, not adopting: Barriers affecting teaching for critical thinking at two Rwandan universities.' *Comparative Education Review*, 60 (3): 549-570. 10.1086/687035.

- 2015 Schendel, R. 'Critical thinking at Rwanda's public universities: Emerging evidence of a crucial development priority.' *International Journal of Educational Development* 42: 96-105. DOI: 10.1016/j.ijedudev.2015.04.003.

Books

- In press Ashwin, P., Blackie, M., Boud, D., Calkins, S., Coate, K., Hallett, F., Kandiko Howson, C., Light, G., Luckett, K., MacLaren, I., McArthur, J., McCune, V., Schendel, R., Smith, K. and Tooher, M. *Reflective Teaching in Higher Education*. 3rd edition. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Book Chapters

- 2018 Schendel, R. 'Understanding the relationship between institutional cultures and pedagogical change.' In Ashwin, P. and Case, J. (eds), *Higher Education Pathways: South African Undergraduate Education and the Public Good*. Cape Town: African Minds.
- 2017 Schendel, R. and Gantner, G. 'Placing the curriculum at the heart of the process: Fostering student-centered pedagogy in Rwanda.' In Smith, C. and Hudson, K.E. (eds), *Faculty Development in Developing Countries: Improving Teaching Quality in Higher Education*. New York: Routledge.
- Schendel, R., McCowan, T. and Oketch, M. 'The Economic and Non-economic Benefits of Tertiary Education in Low-income Contexts', in Mihut, G., Altbach, P.G. and de Wit, H (eds.), *Understanding Global Higher Education: Insights from Key Global Publications*. Rotterdam: Sense Publishers.
- 2016 McCowan, T. and Schendel, R. 'The impact of higher education on development.' In Gu, Q. and McGrath, S. (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook on International Education and Development*. London: Routledge. [Also published in Portuguese in *Educação Superior: Internacionalização, mercantilização e repercussões em um campo de disputas*].
- 2015 Schendel, R. and McCowan, T. 'Higher Education and Development: Critical Issues and Debates.' In McCowan, T. and Unterhalter, E. (eds.), *Education and International Development: An Introduction*. London: Bloomsbury Press.

Editorials & Commentary

- 2024 Schendel, R. and Knobel, M. 'Connection and Collaboration in International Higher Education Research.' *International Higher Education*, (117): 30-32.
- 2020 Schendel, R., Woldegiyorgis, A and Khajarian, A. 'IHE at 100: 25 Years of Evolution in International Higher Education.' *International Higher Education*, (100): 39-42.
- 2018 Schendel, R. 'Student Pathways in South Africa.' *International Higher Education*, (96): 24-26. 10.6017/ihe.2019.96.10781
- Schendel, R. 'Our mission to speak truth to power is under threat.' *University World News*. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20180117095021573>.
- 2016 Schendel, R. and McCowan, T. 'Expanding higher education systems in low- and middle-income countries: the challenges of equity and quality.' *Higher Education*, 72 (4): 407-411. 10.1007/s10734-016-0028-6.
- 2013 Schendel, R., Mazimhaka, J. and Ezeanya, C. 'Higher Education for Development in Rwanda.' *International Higher Education*, (70): 19-21. 0.6017/ihe.2013.70.8711

FUNDED RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY

- 2015-2019: "Pedagogies for critical thinking: Innovation and Outcomes in African Higher Education." McCowan, Schendel, Rolleston & Tolmie; Funding: ESRC-DFID: £492,362. Co-Principal Investigator.
- 2016-2018: "Pathways to personal and public good: understanding access to, student experiences of, and outcomes from South African undergraduate higher education." Ashwin, Case et al.; Funding: ESRC-NRF (South Africa). Co-theme leader, 'Student Experiences' strand.
- 2014-2015: "The effects of school-based decision making on educational outcomes in low and middle income countries: a systematic review." Carr-Hill, Rolleston, Pherali & Schendel; Funding: DFID: £97,791. Co-investigator and Research Manager.
- 2013: "The impact of tertiary education on development: a rigorous literature review." Oketch, McCowan & Schendel; Funding: DFID. Research Officer.

CONFERENCES & OTHER PUBLIC EVENTS

Conferences (peer reviewed)

- 2023 'Exposing the dangers of a "single story": Nuancing the discussion of overseas development assistance in the higher education sector.' Comparative and International Education Society Conference. Washington, DC (USA). February 21.
- 2019 'Pedagogical reform within universities: The crucial question of faculty identities and motivations.' Comparative and International Education Society Conference. San Francisco, CA (USA). April 16.
- 2018 'The crucial role of faculty teaching orientations in pedagogical reform: Evidence from Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.' Higher Education Learning & Teaching Association of South Africa Conference. Nelson Mandela University (South Africa). November 21.
- 'Transforming higher education pedagogy for critical thinking: perspectives from Ghana, Kenya and Botswana.' British Association for International and Comparative Education Conference. University of York (UK). September 12.
- 2017 'Fostering student-centered pedagogy in Rwanda: Evidence from the Global South.' The Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education Annual Conference. Montreal (Canada). October 27.
- 2016 'Positioning student experiences along the pathway to the public good: Reflections on theory and method in the South African context.' British Association for International and Comparative Education Conference. University of Nottingham (UK). September 13.
- 'Decentralisation, disadvantage and incentives' and 'Difficulties with Systematic Reviews of Educational Outcomes in International Development' (joint presentations with Roy Carr-Hill and Caine Rolleston). RISE (Research into Improving Systems of Education) Conference. University of Oxford (UK). June 16-17.
- 2015 'Adapting critical thinking assessments for use in diverse cultural contexts.' UKFIET International Conference on Education and Development. University of Oxford (UK). September 16.
- 'Systematic Reviews for Education Policy: Tensions and Challenges'. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. Washington, DC. March 10.
- 2014 "'Some kind of disorder": The negative effects of modularisation on student learning in a Rwandan university context'. Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference. Newport, South Wales (UK). December 11.

‘A Critical Question of Academic Quality: Investigating the Development of Critical Thinking Skills at Rwanda’s Public Universities’. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. Toronto (Canada). March 11.

- 2013 ‘Assessing and Investigating Critical Thinking at Rwanda’s Public Universities’ (individual presentation) and ‘The impact of tertiary education in low- and lower-middle income countries: a rigorous review’ (joint presentation with Tristan McCowan). Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference. Newport, South Wales (UK). December 12.

Invited Talks

- 2023 ‘Information overload and the echo chamber effect in higher education research.’ (Conference keynote). Centre for Global Higher Education Annual Conference. Online. May 24.

- 2019 ‘Critical thinking in African higher education: findings from a three-country research study.’ With Tristan McCowan, Caine Rolleston, Christine Adu-Yeboah and Richard Tabulawa. Centre for Education & International Development *Research in Focus* series. University College London (UK). January 9.

‘Pedagogies for Critical Thinking: Implications for Botswana.’ With Richard Tabulawa. University of Botswana. February 12.

- 2018 ‘Key Issues in Student Experiences of Undergraduate Education in South Africa.’ With Paul Ashwin and Sioux McKenna. *Exploring pathways to the public good of South African undergraduate education* conference. Cape Town, South Africa. November 19.

‘Theorising higher education: global perspectives and local realities.’ *Exploring pathways to the public good of South African undergraduate education* conference. Cape Town, South Africa. November 20.

- 2017 ‘Exploring the Implications of Transnational Models of Higher Education in Africa’. Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA. November 20.

‘Shifting From ‘Models’ to Processes: Rethinking International Involvement in African Higher Education’. Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. November 13.

- 2015 ‘Investigating critical thinking in African university contexts.’ Searle Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. October 5.

‘Exploring the Impact of Tertiary Education on Development in sub-Saharan Africa.’ University of Maryland College Park, College Park, MD. October 2.

‘The Tensions and Challenges of University Partnerships for Development.’ American University, Washington, DC. October 1.

‘The Impact of Post-Secondary Education on Development.’ Boston University, Boston, MA. September 29.

‘Shooting in the dark? The tensions and challenges of university partnerships for development.’ London Metropolitan University (UK). June 15.

‘The normative and empirical challenge of investigating critical thinking in diverse cultural contexts.’ Keynote; *Reasoning, Argumentation & Critical Thinking* conference. Lund University (Sweden). February 26.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston College

Graduate Courses

- Global & Comparative Systems of Higher Education (Instructor of record: Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024; Guest lecturer: Fall 2017)
- Global Perspectives on Academic Affairs in Higher Education (Instructor of Record: Spring 2024; Guest lecturer: Fall 2018)
- Research Seminar for MA in International Higher Education Students (Instructor of record: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

Masters Supervision

- 12 Masters theses in International Higher Education

PhD Supervision (*defended dissertation)

- Tessa DeLaquil (reader)*
- Jean Baptiste Diatta (reader)*
- Maia Gelashvilli (reader)

UCL Institute of Education

Graduate Courses

- Planning for Education and Development (Instructor of Record: Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Spring 2018; Fall 2018)
- Education & International Development: Concepts, Theories and Issues (Instructor of Record: Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2016)
- Higher Education: Comparative and International Perspectives (Contributor: Spring 2018)

Undergraduate Courses

- Global Issues in Education (Instructor of Record: Spring 2014; Spring 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2018; Spring 2019)

Masters Supervision

- 32 Masters theses in Education & International Development (mostly focused on higher education topics)

PhD Supervision (*defended dissertation)

- Elisa Brewis (primary supervisor)*
- Jorge Diego Angeles Colin (primary supervisor, 2016-2019)
- Gloria Uwingabiye (primary supervisor, 2015-2019)
- Kamille Beye (primary supervisor, 2018-2019)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

February to November 2013

Research Officer
UCL Institute of Education (UK)

December 2010 to January 2012

Curriculum Consultant/Lead Instructor, *Connecting Across Cultures*
University of Maryland Study-in-London Program (UK)

June 2011 to March 2013

Research Consultant
Women Like Us & Groundswell UK, London (UK)

July 2008 to August 2010

Director of Programs
Orphans of Rwanda, Kigali (Rwanda)

July 2005 to June 2008

Coordinator of Semester Programs & Advising
University of Maryland Study Abroad Office, College Park, MD

September 2004 to May 2005 **Graduate Intern & Study Abroad Advisor**
Harvard University Office of International Programs, Cambridge, MA

May 2003 to August 2004 **Senior Program Associate, National Security Education Program**
Institute of International Education, Washington, DC

July 2002 to April 2003 **Public Policy Assistant**
The Population Institute, Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Since 2020 **Advisor** to the *Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate* project

Since 2018 **Consultant** to the *Transforming Employability for Social Change in East Africa* project,
administered by INASP (UK)

Autumn 2017 **Visiting Scholar**, Center for International Higher Education, Boston College

Since 2016 **Advisor** to the *Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform* initiative
(SPHEIR), funded by UK Department for International Development and coordinated by the British
Council

Member, POD (Professional and Organizational Development) Network in Higher Education

Since 2013 **Member**, CIES (Comparative and International Education Society)

Member, SRHE (Society for Research into Higher Education)

Member, BAICE (British Association for International and Comparative Education)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Since 2019 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, University of Otago (New Zealand)

Since 2018 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, Rhodes University (South Africa)

Reviewer, *Journal of Studies in International Education*

2015 **Conference Sub-theme Co-convenor**: UKFIET International Conference on Education and
Development (Oxford, UK)

Since 2015 **External examiner** of doctoral theses, University of Bath (UK)

Since 2014 **Reviewer**, *Higher Education*

Reviewer, *International Journal of Educational Development*

Reviewer, *Compare*

Reviewer, *Educational Assessment, Evaluation & Accountability*

Reviewer, *Society for Research into Higher Education Annual Conference*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2022 – present **Faculty Coordinator**, MA Higher Education program/International Perspectives concentration, Boston College
- 2019 – 2024 **Faculty Coordinator**, MA International Higher Education program, Boston College
- 2016-2019 **Teaching & Assessment Lead**, BA Education Studies program, UCL Institute of Education
Member, Departmental Plagiarism Panel, UCL Institute of Education
- 2016-2018 **Elected member**, UCL Academic Board, UCL Institute of Education

AWARDS

- 2019 Nominated for ‘Excellence in Personal Tutoring’ category. UCL *Student Choice* Awards
- 2015 *CIES Higher Education Special Interest Group Best Dissertation Competition*. Second Place.
- 2010 *Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme Scholarship* (merit scholarship). Institute of Education, University of London

LANGUAGES: English (native); French (fluent); Spanish (basic)