

WITSIE AT THE CUTTING EDGE: Researcher Profile

Professor Lenore Manderson

Professor in the School of Public Health



Who are you and what is your academic/scientific training and background?

I joined Wits in February 2014, recruited as a Professor as part of the Vice-Chancellor's A-rated Scientists Initiative. I am a medical anthropologist, with public health and social history of medicine backgrounds, and was trained in Asian Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia. In 2001, I was awarded an inaugural Australian Research Council Federation Fellowship, a prestigious scheme funding Australia's top scholars. In recognition of my contributions, I was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia in 1995 and the World Academy of Art and

Science in 2004. I was an Honorary Professor at Wits from 2004, and was Hillel Friedland Senior Research Fellow here in 2008.

Explain the nature of the research that you are currently undertaking.

I am working on access to contraception with immigrant women and refugees in Australia, and developing a programme to undertake research here on Technologies of Equity, Access and Health Outcomes. I also edit the international journal Medical Anthropology, and I am a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of WHO's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

What do you think is the most pertinent/relevant/significant contribution you have made to research/science/your field?

I have trained over 120 higher degree students, and provided short course training and mentored many more graduate students and early career academics, in Australia and worldwide. In recognising this, I was awarded the American Anthropological Association, Medical Anthropology Students' Association Mentor Award in 2007, and in 2013, was recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision at Monash University.

Tell us about what you do when you're not busy at work and carrying out cutting-edge research.

My work is pretty consuming. However, I am passionate about new theatre writing, contemporary dance and fine art, and about post-colonial literature; for these interests, being in Johannesburg is very exciting.

Read one of Lenore's papers:

I have published almost 550 books, articles and book chapters. My most recent book – published this month, April by Routledge – Disclosure in Health and Illness (ed. with Mark Davis, 2014).