



BRITTA RENNKAMP

SENIOR RESEARCHER,
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🏠 Permanent resident in Cape Town,
South Africa

Education

Doctoral Studies

Department of Science Technology
Policy Studies

University of Twente, Netherlands
2008-2011

Master of Philosophy

Translation and interpretation
University of Seville, Spain

2005-2006

Diplom Regional Studies

Combined Masters and Bachelors
Political Science, Economics, Spanish
and Portuguese Language and
Literature, Latin American History

University of Cologne, Germany
1999-2005

Skills

Policy Analysis
Climate policy and
innovation research

Transitions theory
and analysis
Network Analysis
Engaged scholarship
Mentoring and
supervision

Language

English
German
Spanish
Portuguese

About me

I am a researcher at the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI) at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. My research focuses on climate policy and technology in developing countries and the links between poverty, inequality, energy and climate change mitigation. My work contributes to science and technology policy studies, particularly in the area of climate policy and energy transitions in the Global South. My research investigates social responses to climate crisis with societal actors and their relationships at the core, finding ways to collaboratively implement the Paris Agreement to support sustainable development in unequal societies in Africa and Latin America.

Experience

Senior Researcher

2011 - current

University of Cape Town

Research in climate policy and energy transitions in unequal societies in the Global South, research management, supervision of Masters and PhD in climate change and sustainable development, energy and development studies, mentoring, at the Energy Research Centre (2011-2018) and African Climate and Development Initiative (2019- current), Cape Town, South Africa
Co-director of the ARUA Centre of Excellence for Climate and Development

Research Fellow

2007-2011

German Institute for Sustainable Development (IDOS)

Research on sustainability science and innovation policy in Brazil and South Africa in the Department for economic and social development at IDOS formerly known as German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn, Germany.

Trainee

German International Cooperation

2006-2007

Research, project assistance and knowledge management in GIZ's Regional Development in North East Brazil, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

Intern- and scholarships

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa, German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD, PhD scholarship 2010-2011

Escenarios y Estrategia Institute, University of Business and Social Sciences Master thesis fellowship, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2004

University of Cologne, San Diego State University fellowship - San Diego, United States, 2002

Goethe Institute, Internship Cultural Division, Mexico D.F., Mexico 2003

Prochile, Economics Department, Chilean Consulate, Internship, translation and trade fair representation, Hamburg and Cologne, Germany 2003-2006

Selected Publications

Indicators

h Index = 12

ih index = 14 (google scholar)

Book chapters

Burton, Jesse, Lott, Tawney and Britta Rennkamp (2018): Sustaining Carbon Lock in: Fossil Fuel Subsidies in South Africa in: Jakob Skovgaard and Harro van Asselt (eds) The Politics of Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Their Reform, **Cambridge University Press**.

Rennkamp, Britta and Bhuyan, Radhika (2017): The Social Shaping of Nuclear Technology in South Africa, Douglas Arent, Channing Arndt, Mackay Miller, Finn Tarp, and Owen Zinaman (eds.): The Political Economy of Clean Energy Transitions, **Oxford University Press**.

Rennkamp, Britta (2017): Out of sync: innovation policy and theory in unequal societies, in Stefan Kuhlmann and Gonzalo Ordoñez: International Research Handbook on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Developing Countries: Rationales and Relevance, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.

Rennkamp, Britta, Perrot, Radhika (2016): Drivers and Barriers to Wind Energy Technology Transitions in India, Brazil and South Africa, in Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, John Grin, Jürgen Scheffran (Eds.): Handbook on Sustainability Transition and Sustainable Peace (STSP), Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace 10, Springer, London.

Herausforderung für Global Governance in Globale Trends 2010 Frieden - Entwicklung - Umwelt. Hrsg: Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden, Fischer Verlag.

Invited authorships

Rennkamp, Britta (2025) Overcoming resistance and reorienting incumbency for sustainability transitions: the case of South Africa's electricity sector, in CSIRO, Nature Sustainability Technical Report (forthcoming)

Rennkamp, Britta (2024) Renewable Energy and Just Energy Transition in South Africa, in: Clean Energy Innovation and Institutions in Developing Countries, International Energy Agency, Paris

Contributing Author to Chapter 17: Decision Making Options for Managing Risk, Sixth Assessment Report. WG II, Climate Change 2022 Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, International Panel on Climate Change, IPCC.

Rennkamp, Britta (2022) Large Scale Renewable Energy Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa: Towards Net Zero Futures, Contributing Author: UNEP Climate Technology Progress Report.

Journal articles

Michael Boule, Britta Rennkamp, Emily Tyler, Mark New (2025) Knowledge for change or more of the same? The role of policy knowledge systems in the Nationally Determined Contributions of Ghana, Kenya and South Africa, Environmental Science & Policy, Volume 164.

Jimu, Tawanda and Rennkamp, Britta (2024), Science to practice – networked governance of sustainability transitions in an African university, International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education, Vol. 25 No. 9, pp. 19-39.

Rennkamp, Britta (2019): Power, coalitions and institutional change in South African climate policy, Climate Policy, pages 756-770.

Rennkamp, Britta and Andrew Marquard (2018): South Africa's multiple faces in current climate clubs, South African Journal of International Affairs, p. 1-19.

Rennkamp, Britta, Haunss, Sebastian, Wongs, Kridtiyaporn, Ortega, Araceli, Casamadrid, Erika (2017): Competing Coalitions: The Politics of Renewable Energy and Fossil Fuels in Mexico, South Africa and Thailand, Journal Energy Research and Social Science, Volume 34, pages 214-223.

Rennkamp, Britta and Michael Boule (2017): Novel shapes of South-South collaboration: Emerging knowledge networks on co-benefits of climate and development policies, Climate and Development, 2017 <https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2017.1318741>

Rennkamp, Britta, Boyd, Anya (2015): Technological capability and transfer for achieving - South Africa's low carbon development goals, Climate Policy, Special Issue 2015, Vol. 1, pages 12-29.

Boyd, Anya, Rennkamp, Britta, Anthony Dane and Harald Winkler (2013): Current approaches to mrv in South Africa: a scoping study, Climate Policy, Volume 14, Issue 3, May 2014, pages 397-416.

Rennkamp, Britta and Dhesigen Naidoo (2011): Shifting governance in STI: an analysis of the global governance institutions and their impact on South African innovation policy, South African Journal of International Affairs, Vol. 18, No. 1, 2011, pages 59-81

Rennkamp, Britta (2010): Conceptualizing Sustainable Development as a Global Problem: the role of strategic knowledge, Special Issue 'Innovation for Sustainability', African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation & Development, Volume 2 No 1, pages 183-196

Monographies

Rennkamp, Britta (2011): Innovation for all? Legitimizing Science, Technology and Innovation Policy in Unequal Societies, Doctoral Thesis, ISBN 978-94-6191-067-7

Selected Publications

(continuation)

Essays & Articles

Ralph Hamann, Britta Rennkamp, Wikus Kruger & Josephine K. Musango (2023) Corruption Undermines Justice in Clean Energy Transitions, Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, 65:4.

Rennkamp, Britta, David, Anda, Leibbrandt, Murray (2022) Navigating just transitions towards net zero emissions, Africa in Fact, 60.

Rennkamp, Britta and Lina Audehm (2020) Flattening the Curve of Global Emissions? Learnings for Collective Action on Climate Change from the COVID 19 pandemic. ACDI Blogs, republished on Africa Portal.

Rennkamp, Britta (2019): Negotiating climate change between unequal parties: COP25 from an African perspective, Africa Portal.

Rennkamp, Britta (2018): Alternative energy innovation for keeping Africa's climate below 1.5° C. Africa Portal.

Wlokas, Holle and Rennkamp, Britta (2015) Power to the people: renewable energy projects must be a collaborative effort, The Conversation Africa.

Teaching & mentoring

Lectures on transition theory and climate and energy policy in Masters programmes in climate change and sustainable development studies at ACDI University of Cape Town

Lectures on governance of energy markets and regulation in Masters in Energy and Development Studies at the Energy Research Center at UCT

Supervision of postgraduate studies (Masters, Doctoral student and postdoctoral fellows)

14 Mphil, 3 PhD graduated

1 PhD, 7 MPhil currently under supervision

Peer reviewed research reports & briefs

Rennkamp, Britta and Leibbrandt, Murray (2023) Multi-dimensional Inequality, Climate Governance and livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa, Research Paper, Agence Française Development, AFD.

Rennkamp, Britta (2022) Climate Finance in South Africa in: Climate Finance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Needs, challenges and opportunities to deliver the financial resources required to drive low carbon and climate-resilient development. Africa Policy Research Institute, APRI.

Davis, Marion, Rennkamp, Britta et al (2021) Seizing South Africa's Urban Opportunity, Tackling urban poverty and inequality through decarbonisation and resilience-building. Coalition of Urban Transitions, Washington DC.

Rennkamp, Britta (2020). Can Africa's Contested Energy Futures Create Opportunities for Enhancing African-European Relations? South African Institute of International Affairs, JSTOR.

Rennkamp, Britta, Fernanda Fortes Westin and Carolina Grottera (2020): Local content policies and financial incentives for Brazil's wind energy market, Big Push for Sustainability in Brazil, (CEPAL)/ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations, Brasília.

Rennkamp, Britta (2020) Implementation risk in South African and Brazilian climate policy, COP 21 RIPPLES, Deliverable 4.4. European Commission, H2020.

Rennkamp, Britta, Katrina Lehmann Grube, Rejoice Mabheha and Annela Anger-Kraavi (2020) Climate change mitigation, Rapid Transitions and Social Inequality in South Africa, COP 21 RIPPLES, Deliverable 3.6. European Commission, H2020.

Rennkamp, Britta, Maria Gabriela von Bochkor Podcameni, Katrina Lehmann Grube, Rejoice Mabheha and Annela Anger-Kraavi (2020) Climatic Change, Rapid Transitions and Social Inequality in Brazil, COP 21 RIPPLES, Deliverable 3.6. European Commission, H2020.

Rennkamp, Britta (2019) The role of NDCs in fulfilling energy related SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa, Policy Brief, CUTS International Geneva.

Rennkamp, Britta and Jesse Burton (2018): Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to fund sustainable development, Policy Brief, World Wildlife Fund WWF South Africa.

Rennkamp, Britta and Fernanda Fortes Westin (2018): Local content requirements and financial incentives in emerging wind energy markets in Brazil and South Africa, Report on assessing the technology innovation implications of NDCs, technology portfolio choices, and international competitiveness in clean technologies, Deliverable 3.3. COP 21, RIPPLES.

Rennkamp, Britta, Trollip, Hilton, Keen, Samantha, Moyo, Alfred (2018) South African's Technology Innovation Systems for Concentrated Solar Power, Deliverable 3.3. COP 21, RIPPLES.

Rennkamp, Britta and Radhika Bhuyan (2016): The Social Shaping of Nuclear Technology in South Africa, Working Paper, UNU WIDER, Helsinki.

Editorships

Guest editor of the Special Issue on Innovation for Sustainability of the African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (volume 2, number 1)

Honorary appointments

Just Energy Transitions Working Group of the Think 20

1st Chairperson of Thandolwethu Home – Unsere Liebe e.V.: Support of children safety homes in Cape Town's largest informal settlement, Khayelitsha.