

Joanne (Jo) Davis – D Litt et Phil

Future Intentions:

My long-term intention is to become a Professor of Literature and a recognised author of critical, literary and poetic works. I hope to contribute to debates around global identities. I plan to spend my life in academia and specifically to remain in the educational arena, lecturing.

Awards:

2019 Hiddingh-Currie Award for *Tiyo Soga: A Literary History* (Pretoria, Unisa Press). Winner.

Qualifications

- July 2020, 2021 **Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality Summer School**, African American Policy Forum and Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies, Columbia Law School.
- May 2006 – October 2012 **D LITT et PHIL**, Department of English, University of South Africa
I researched the English works of nineteenth century Eastern Cape intellectual Reverend Tiyo Soga, who was educated in Scotland between 1846 and 1856 and ordained in Glasgow in 1856, for my doctoral thesis.
- September 2009 – Feb 2010 **Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector**, City & Guilds
- July 1999 – June 2004 **MA Creative Writing**, University of Cape Town
I wrote a novel, titled, ‘There Must Have Been A Storm’ for this degree. [It is available as a download.](#)
- April 2004 **Assessor Accreditation**, Institute for Quality: Education, Training & Development
- July 1995 - June 1996 **Honours in English Language and Literature**, University of Cape Town
- February 1992 - November 1994 **Bachelor of Arts**, University of Cape Town
I majored in English and French, and I achieved Xhosa II (Standard) in the same year.

Secondary Education

- November 1991, **Paarl Girls’ High School**. I matriculated with exemption.

Academic Career:

- October 2022 – October 2023: **Researcher - ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grant program *Recovering the Histories of Land Treaties in East and Southern Africa***: For this pilot project I am retrieving texts about the treaty which proclaimed the British Protectorate of Bechuanaland from various archival holdings in London and Cape Town. We aim to create a digital exhibition of this material and material from Kenya.
- 6-10 June 2022 **History Access Workshop**, History Department, University of Cape Town. I was invited and flown to work on this week-long workshop on this fascinating History Access Project ‘Vernacular Archives’ with post-doctoral scholars, contributors and Research Fellows. My specialist philological knowledge of 19th century languages and theories around the transcription of African languages, especially Xhosa, and archival research methodologies, were most useful for this workshop.
- 24-26 March 2022 **Soga Studies Conference**, Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study. I co-convened this three-day conference with Sikhumbuzo Makandula. It was a really big success and we were thrilled with the outcome. I was responsible for inviting the speakers, scheduling the entire three days’ discussions and panels, and liaising with the events, travel and accommodation staff at JIAS. The conference was hybrid with presentations in Johannesburg and on zoom. We had hundreds of participants watching on youtube as well. We are in the process of publishing the proceedings. They are available for watching:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggn2ZJtp_yY – Thursday 24 March 2022
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbjW3S5U7Pw> – Friday 25 March 2022
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uXQ0ponBmE> – Saturday 26 March 2022
- June 2021 – present: **Researcher - UNL-SOAS-AHREP Project *Recovering BIPOC Voices from the Victorian Periodical Press***. For this pilot project I retrieved texts by Victorian era BIPOC creators in archival holdings at SOAS. We aimed to develop a model of antiracist humanities scholarship. I also contributed one critical essay based on this research component, one set of research guidelines, several blogs and one seminar. Our outcomes were achieved and we hope to apply for a bigger grant in due course. It launched on the 2nd May 2023.
- December 2020 – present: **Research Fellow, Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study**. I am writing a biography of the seven children of the Reverend Tiyo Soga and Janet Soga for this fellowship.
- July 2021 to May 2023– **Project Scholar - One More Voice: Lost Voices from the British Empire’s Archives**. I source and retrieve archival records marginalised by mainstream research for inclusion in this digital humanities resource, onemorevoice.org, particularly at SOAS archives. I have contributed a discursive paper.
- July 2018 – present **Co-Convenor – Christian Mission in Global History** This group meets for monthly seminars through the Institute of Historical Research at the School of Advanced Studies, London. I liaise with fellow co-convenors around seminars and speakers and I chair seminar sessions. I am in charge of our zoom account and zoom hosting each webinar.
- January 2017 – present **Research Associate, Centre of World Christianity**, Department of History, Religions and Philosophies, SOAS. I can conduct my research with the benefit of my colleagues in the Centre and Department and its facilities, and I have the use of the library.

Publication History

Forthcoming

- Review article: 'Pathfinders for Christianity in Northern Nigeria (1862-1940)' by Reverend Emmanuel A.S. Egbunu. *Studies in World Christianity*.
- *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* – Entry on Tiyo Soga; Entry on Tiyo Soga's children.
- Journal article: 'William Forglor Corner' *Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa*, December 2023.
- Review article: "Beyond the Political Spider: Critical Issues in African Humanities" by Kwesi Yankah for *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation Vol 2*.
- Review article: "Sol Plaatje's Mhudi: history, criticism, celebration", edited by Sabata-Mph Nokae and Brian Willan for *Africa Bibliography, Research and Documentation Vol 2*.
- Review article: 'Christian Interculture: Texts and Voices from Colonial and Postcolonial Worlds' by Arun Jones (Editor) for *Studies in World Christianity*.
- Editor and contributor: *Soga Studies* I am in the process of compiling this critical book with the aim that it will be published this year.
- Editor and contributor: *Soga Siblings* I am in the process of compiling this critical book with the aim that it will be published this year.

Published:

Monographs

- July 2018 *Tiyo Soga: A Literary History* Pretoria: UNISA Press. Monograph.

Webwork:

- 2 May 2023 [Ascribing Pen-Personship through Redolence of self](#) This paper examines the theoretical perspectives on reclaiming racialised and/or minoritised voices from colonial archival sources.
- 29 October 2021 [Locating voices for black, indigenous and people of colour in 19th century missionary periodicals](#) Blog on the UNL-AHREP project progression.
- 8 March 2021 [NoSuthu Soga Jotelo and the One More Voice Project](#) Blog on Decolonial Readings at SOAS Archives and Special Collections.
- 20 December 2020 [NoSuthu Sends Thanks: Reading Voice in a Letter](#) Discursive essay on NoSutu Soga Jotelo for onemorevoice.org

Journal Articles:

- June 2021. 'Perspectives on Jessie Margaret Soga's life and career' co-authored with Ian McCracken *Bulletin of National Library of South Africa* Vol. 75, No 1. 29-46.
- December 2019. 'Accessing UK Archival Holdings from South Africa' in *African Research and Documentation*, Issue 136. 10-21.
- December 2018. 'Stability and Vulnerability: Soga's 1866 Map' in *Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa* Vol 72, No 2. 201-204.
- December 2017. 'Onward bound: the possible peregrinations of the Reverend Tiyo Soga' in *Bulletin of the National Library of South Africa* Vol 71, No 2. 137-148.
- April 2015. 'Family Trees: Roots and Branches - The Legacy and Dynasty of the Reverend Tiyo Soga' in *Studies in World Christianity* Vol 21 No 1. 20-37.
- April 2006. I co-authored a paper 'Opaque Young Lives: Experiences of Lesbian Youth' with Danielle Kowen. *Agenda* 2,3 No 67. 80-92.

Book Chapters:

- 2018. 'Omission and Elision: Missing the target in the biographies of the Reverend Tiyo Soga' in *African Christian Biography: Stories, Lives and Challenges* Ed Dana L. Robert Pietermaritzburg: Cluster Publications. Chapter 17 pp 305-321.
- 2017. 'Emergent and Divergent Voices: African and African-American Women writers' in *Critical Insights: Postcolonial Literature* Jeremiah Garsha (Ed). Ipswich, Massachusetts; Greyhouse Publishing. 39-55.

Encyclopaedia entries:

- August 2017 *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* Berlin: De Gruyter. Entry on 'Labor'.

Review Articles:

- October 2021 'The Wanderers' by Mphuthumi Ntabeni in [Johannesburg Review of Books](#)
- October 2017. 'Mobilizing Transnational Gender Politics in Post-Genocide Rwanda' by Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel in *African Affairs*. 256-257.
- January 2017. 'Africa-Centred Knowledges: Crossing Fields and Worlds,' B. Cooper and A. Morrell (Eds) in *African Affairs* Volume 116:462.151-152.
- April 2016. *The people's right to the novel: War fiction in the postcolony* by Eleni Coundouriotis in *African Affairs* 380-381.
- March 2016. *Into Africa: A Transnational History of Catholic Medical Missions and Social Change* by Barbra Mann Wall, in *History of African Women Religious* historyofwomenreligious.org
- July 2015 *Sexual Diversity in Africa: Politics, theory, citizenship*, S.N. Nyeck and M. Epprecht (Eds) in *African Affairs*.
- April 2015. *The borders of race in colonial South Africa: The Kat River Settlement 1829-1856* by Robert Ross in *African Affairs*.

Poetry:

- November 2013. My poem, 'Trinket', was published in *Agenda* No 98. 109.
- August 2009. My poem 'Daylight Holdheat' was published in *Whispers on the Breeze*. United Press.
- October 2006. One of my poems, 'Nobody's Fool,' was published in *Agenda* 23 No 69. 100.

Conference and Seminar Papers

Forthcoming:

18-20 July 2023. 'South African Clergy Beyond "the Limits"'. I will present this paper at the Summer Conference of the Ecclesiastical Historical Society, University of Warwick; the conference theme is 'Margins and Peripheries'.

Presented:

- June 2022 'Conversion and Reconversion in the life of Reverend Tiyo Soga' American Society of Missiology Conference, themed *The Ongoing Conversion of the Missionary*. Lightning Talk.
- May 2022 'Positioning the Rev Tiyo Soga in the South African Literary Canon/Pantheon' Department of English, WITS University, Johannesburg, South Africa. Webinar, on zoom.
- March 2022 'Introduction' and 'Soga Work on my Desk' at the Soga Studies Conference, Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study, Johannesburg. I co-convened this conference.
- June 2021 'Remembering? Undisciplining? Decolonising? Incorporating? Realising missionary archival potential anew through the lens of NoSuthu, mother of Reverend Tiyo Soga' with introductory comments from Joanne Ichimura (SOAS) and Adrian Wisnicki (University of Nebraska-Lincoln). Christian Mission in Global History Seminar Series, Institute of Historical Studies, School of Advanced Studies, London.
- March 2021 'In Search of Bessie Emery: tracing Bessie Head's career as a journalist' at the Drum@70 Symposium, Johannesburg Institute of Advanced Study.
- March 2021 'Preaching Out: Itineration and Mission Work in the work of the Rev Tiyo Soga' Centre of World Christianity, SOAS, University of London. Via Zoom. It was recorded and is available on SOAS's youtube site at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYCZhR-1dS4>
- October 2020 'Britain's 1802 Man of the Year was Haiti's Toussaint Louverture: Mix of Folktales & Panel Discussion' – SOAS Virtual Festival of Ideas. I participated in this talk as moderator and as a panellist, with a presentation on Toussaint L'Ouverture in the South African and personal context. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6fu3_6ltRo&feature=youtu.be via Zoom. My presentation is at 1.03.00 and lasts for around 15 minutes.
- May 2020 'Preaching Out: Itineration and Mission Work in the work of the Rev Tiyo Soga' at Christian Mission in Global History Seminar Series, Institute of Historical Studies, School of Advanced Studies, London, via Zoom.
- February 2020: 'Early Black Theology - Biblical Hermeneutics in the Preaching of Rev Tiyo Soga, Xhosa Missionary 1857-1871' at the World Christianity Seminar, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh.
- June 2019: 'Accessing UK Archival Holdings from South Africa', presented at SCOLMA 2019 - *Decolonising African Studies: questions and dilemmas for libraries, archives and collections* Edinburgh University.
- April 2019: 'Rev Tiyo Soga and Black Consciousness: tracing the narrative' Presented at the Steve Biko Foundation Centre at Ginsberg, South Africa on the special launch of *Tiyo Soga: A Literary History*.
- November 2018: 'Making New Ideas: A Career in Writing - Creative or Critical'. I presented a seminar for A-Level learners at Parliament Hill School, London, for their Sixth Form enrichment programme 'Great Minds Think Again'.
- June 2018: "'Whom Not Having Seen, Ye Love: " Scripture in the sermons of the Reverend Tiyo Soga.' I presented this paper at the *Scripture, Prayer and Worship in the History of Missions and World Christianity* Yale Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and World Christianity at the School of Divinity, Edinburgh University.
- May 2017: 'Aspects of the history of the translation of the Bible into Xhosa (II): an aetiology of an argument.' I presented a paper at the *Translating God Conference*, held by the Translating Christianities Research Group, Literature and Languages, University of Stirling.
- September 2016 'The Old is the New: The importance of archival holdings in building heritage' I delivered a paper at *New Histories of Christianity in Southern Africa* held at Cambridge University, UK.
- June 2016. 'Aspects of the history of the translation of the Bible into Xhosa (I): authority, aesthetics, authenticity.' I delivered this paper at the *Liverpool International Conference: The Bible in African and Asian Christianity*, at Hope Campus, Liverpool University.
- October 2015 'Omission and Elision: Missing the target in the biographies of the Reverend Tiyo Soga' I presented this paper at the *African Christian Biography: Narratives, Beliefs, and Boundaries*, Boston University.
- April 2015 'Representing Soga: lessons in Romanticism' I presented this paper at the *Colonial Christian Missions and their Legacies Conference*, University of Copenhagen.
- February 2015 'Shifting Contours: Travel in the life and writings of the Reverend Tiyo Soga'. I presented this paper for the *African Intellectual Mobilities Colloquium* at the University of York.
- 18 August 2014 'Rev Tiyo Soga and the Ideas of Modernity'. Sociology Department Seminar Series, University of Cape Town, and I also presented a lecture to 2nd Year Sociology Students on this topic.

- 16 June 2014 'Family Trees: Roots and Branches - The dynasty and legacy of the Reverend Tiyo Soga' Conference paper at the *Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and World Christianity*.
- 27 May 2013 'The Audacity of Veracity: The Role of Tiyo Soga in the Translation of the Bible into Xhosa' Seminar Paper for Christian Missions in World History, Institute of Historical Research, SOAS University, London. This is available as a podcast. <https://player.fm/series/christian-missions-in-global-history/the-audacity-of-veracity-the-rev-tiyo-sogas-role-and-part-in-the-translation-of-the-bible-into-xhosa>
- July 2002 'Problems with Paradigms: Darcus Howe and the Colonial Gaze' Conference paper for The First International Film and History Conference, University of Cape Town.

Lecturing:

April 2009 – July 2010 **Southwark College**, London, United Kingdom

I was employed on contract and promoted to permanent member of staff in the School of English and the Humanities as an English lecturer to adult learners in the *Preparation for Learning* and *Access to Learning* programmes. I also lectured in the *Communication and Culture A2* programme. I prepared and delivered lectures, maintained registers, provided pastoral care, liaised with staff and attended meetings. I prepared portfolios for assessment by external verifiers. The learners spanned a range of ages with numerous first languages in addition to English, for which my fluency in French was an asset. I loved this role and only left after internal restructuring to complete my doctoral thesis.

February 2002 – May 2007 **Varsity College** Cape Town, South Africa

Course Development

May – June 2004 **English Skills at Varsity College**

I developed an English grammar course for intermediate to advanced level English usage for Varsity College. I wrote the learners' manual, the facilitators' manual and the foil to the manual exercises.

Module Leader

I developed the Course Pack and Facilitator's Manual based on UNISA material and Varsity College's timetable for undergraduate courses in English, and I set the internal exams for Varsity College. I liaised with facilitators across the country and provided information and support if necessary. I facilitated weekly seminars for candidates at all levels of UNISA's Bachelor of Arts Degree, and I marked the internal exams. The courses I led follow:

2007, 2006	Testing the limits of the literary sign	UNISA ENN315
2007, 2006	Exploring Shakespeare	UNISA ENN207
2007, 6, 5	English for Law Studies	UNISA ENN106
2007, 6, 5, 4, 3	Close Reading, Good Writing	UNISA ENN205-L
2006, 2005	English for Academic Purposes	UNISA ENN103
2005, 2004	The Persistent Phoenix: Medieval Worlds Revisited	UNISA ENN306-P
2003, 2002	African Journeys	UNISA ENN305-P

Facilitation

I lectured a variety of learners in classes ranging in size from eleven to thirty-five learners.

2007, 6, 5, 4, 3	Introduction to Communication	UNISA COM101-X
2007, 6, 5, 4, 3	Persuasive Communication	UNISA COM102-Y
2004	Communication Science 1	Varsity College Certificate in Journalism
2004	Communication Science 2	Varsity College Diploma in Journalism
2004, 3, 2	Business Communication	Certificate in Management Principles
2004, 3, 2	Principles of Business Communication	International Marketing and Management
2003	Communication Science 1	Varsity College Sport Science

February 2000 – December 2002 **University of Cape Town** Cape Town

- **Department of English Language and Literature**

I tutored for three first year English courses, *Introduction to English Literary Studies* and *Language, Law and Media* (2000, 2001) and *Film and Visual Media* (2002). I gave one lecture for *Language Law and Media* in 2000. I helped invigilate exams each semester, and I marked exam scripts for each course.

- **African Gender Institute**

I tutored for the second year course *Understanding Gender* in the first semester of 2001 and 2002. I gave one lecture to the full class both years, and I was chief invigilator of the exam in June 2001.

- **UCT Summer School**

I was employed as a lecturer in the November-December term of 2000 and 2001 in the Summer School first year English course *Introduction to Literary Studies*. I developed the course pack, sought permissions for material; prepared classes; lectured; kept a register; set and marked essays and exams, and consulted with individual students. I invigilated the exam in 2000, and I marked exam papers in 2000 and 2001.

Employment outside of academia:

Jan 2014 to present: **admatz.com** London, United Kingdom

I am involved in writing blogs, creating data visualisations and graphic communication strategy for my husband's web development company, admatz.com. I also help out with book-keeping.

Freelance

I write, edit and translate French and Xhosa into English for a range of publications and organisations.

- September 2020 ‘Special Report: Horrible History’ in *FirstNews*. Issue 742. 20-21.
- Jan – Feb 2017: I edited the content of a pre-publication monograph, privately commissioned by the author, Fiona Leach. It has since been published as *Reclaiming the Women of Britain’s First Mission to West Africa: Three Lives Lost and Found* (2019, Leiden: Koninklijke Brill).
- February 2017. ‘Diasporans and the economy’ in *Invest in Africa 2017* London: Newsdesk Media. 20-21.
- July 2016. ‘Our magnificent heritage’ in *Invest in Africa 2016: The Kigali Summit* London: Newsdesk Media. 96-97.
- July 2016. Translation from French to English: ‘We must act now’ by Macky Sall, President of Senegal in *Invest in Africa 2016: The Kigali Summit*. 113.
- November 1998 *SL* I had one article published in this South African national youth magazine.

Pearson Press, April – July 2014 Cape Town

I was commissioned and paid to write two chapters for a university level education textbook aimed at supporting teachers in the classroom. In the end, only one chapter was included. The reviewers commended my included chapter.

Zed Books, September – October 2011 London

I worked as an editorial intern at this leading academic publisher in the commissioning Editorial Department, and I learned the publishing process. I took on administrative work, communicating with authors, endorsers and reviewers, as well as preparing publishing proposals for full company meetings. I learned the company database. I took on research tasks and helped draw up contracts for differently authored texts. I read proposals and manuscripts to comment on their readiness for publication, and at times corrected spelling and grammatical faults. I prepared texts for production, creating prelims and manuscripts and completing handover documents. I attended launches and helped with setting up and packing up, and hosting receptions. I worked with authors in signing texts. My excellent communication skills were most useful in this role.

admataz.com, 2004 – 2007 Cape Town

I worked with my partner’s interactive design company, focusing particularly on copywriting for SEO, editing, research and proposal writing. We created an educational interactive multimedia exhibition for the Robben Island Museum in Cape Town.

December 1998 - November 1999

I worked as a multilingual secretary and personal assistant whilst I applied for and began my Masters Degree.

- **Seatro Marketing (Pty) LTD**, Bree Street, Cape Town
- **Cape Metropolitan Council**, Wale Street, Cape Town.

June 1996 - June 1998

I was in the United Kingdom on a working holiday visa. I worked as a receptionist and a secretary.

- **Ardley Phillips Horrell White Ltd**, Holborn, London
- **John Grooms Housing Association**, Old Street, London
- **W & G Foyles Ltd**, Charing Cross Road, London

Other Skills and Interests:

Computer Literacy:

My typing speed is 80 wpm. I am able to work on both PC and Mac computers, and in OpenOffice and MS Office. I am able to do a little bit of HTML coding. I can insert a hyperlink.

Travelling:

I am interested in travelling and experiencing other cultures. To date I have travelled in Spain, America, Denmark, England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Holland, the Czech Republic and Moçambique. I keep up to date with current affairs.

At University:

- **Journalism:** I was a reporter for Varsity, the official student newspaper at UCT.
- **The Women’s Movement:** I was the Political Officer on the Executive Committee during 1992 - 1994.

Copies of academic transcripts and references are available on request.

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