



Reon C.A. van der Merwe

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English (Fluent), Afrikaans (Fluent)

South African 

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Education

Masters in International Relations (2020 -2021)

University of Cape Town, Department of Political Studies

Bachelor of Social Science Honours in Development Studies (2018)

University of Cape Town, Department of Sociology

Award: De Villiers Smuts Scholarship

Bachelor of Social Science in Politics, Philosophy & Economics (2015-2017)

University of Cape Town

Awards: University of Cape Town Council Honours Scholarship

Dean's Merit List Award (2016, 2017)

Current Roles

International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS)

- **Position:** Chair of the Africa & MENA Student Research Committee

Type: Pro Bono, April 2020 – Present

Responsibilities: Lead the SRC in implementing Afro-centric political science research projects. Connect African youth to opportunities in the field of politics, international relations and development.

United Nations Association of South Africa (UNASA)

- **Position:** Board Member – International Partnerships & Youth Development Portfolio

Type: Pro bono, April 2021 – Present

Responsibilities: Aid in formulating and implementing the policies and programmes of UNASA. Serve as liaison between UNASA and organisations outside South Africa. Develop projects that empower and equip youth.

University of Cape Town, Political Studies Department

- **Position:** Academic Tutor

Type: Contract, July 2020-Present

Responsibilities: Prepare and present weekly tutorials to a cohort of undergraduate students, discussing and reviewing course content covered in lectures. Grading tests, assignments and essays.

Previous Roles -----

World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

- **Position:** Youth Advisory Council Representative for Africa
Type: Pro bono, August 2018 – August 2020
Responsibilities: Advising the WFUNA secretariat on policies and programmes relevant to youth in the Africa region. Strengthening WFUNA's network among UN Associations and civil society organisations in Africa.
- **Position:** Project Lead - 2020 WFUNA International University Model UN (WIMUN) Conference
Type: Contract, August 2019 - March 2020
Responsibilities: Leading the WIMUN team in preparing the logistics, content and marketing for the 2020 conference hosted in New York. Reporting regularly on key deliverables to the WFUNA MUN coordinator.

United Nations Association of South Africa (UNASA)

- **Position:** National Youth Associate
Type: Pro bono, June 2020 – March 2021
Responsibilities: Coordinating projects with university-based UNASA chapters across South Africa, including dialogues, webinars and social media campaigns. Reporting to the UNASA Board on youth projects.
- **Position:** Chairperson – University of Cape Town Chapter
Type: Pro bono, November 2017- November 2018
Responsibilities: Leading the chapter executive in implementing the vision and objectives of UNASA. Liaising with external partner organisations. Reporting to the UNASA national Secretary General on the chapter's work.
- **Position:** Secretary General – University of Cape Town Chapter
Type: Pro bono, October 2016 – October 2017
Responsibilities: Managing chapter membership, general administration and the chapter's communication platforms. Ensuring chapter compliance with UCT policies and UNASA constitution..
- **Position:** High Schools Model UN Coordinator – University of Cape Town Chapter
Type: Pro bono, October 2015 – October 2016
Responsibilities: Implementing the annual UNASA Model UN Education programme at schools in and around Cape Town. Recruiting, training and managing tutors to serve the programme at designated high schools.

Parliamentary Monitoring Group

- **Position:** Parliament Rapporteur, South African National Parliament
Type: Part-time, March 2018 – October 2018
Responsibilities: Writing reports on weekly parliament committee meetings for public dissemination. Primarily reported on the International Relations Committee and the Higher Education Committee.

University of Cape Town, Centre for Innovative Learning & Teaching

- **Position:** Global Citizenship Programme Facilitator

Type: Contract, July 2018 – September 2018

Responsibilities: Facilitating weekly workshops for the [UCT Global Citizenship Programme](#) on social justice, community dialogue and conflict resolution. Managing course admin and reporting to the GC project leader.

University of Cape Town, Department of Philosophy

- **Position:** Business Ethics Tutor,

Type: Contract, February 2018 – June 2018

Responsibilities: Preparing and presenting weekly tutorials to a cohort of undergraduate students discussing and reviewing course content covered in lectures. Grading tests, assignments and essays.

University of Cape Town Humanities Faculty

- **Position:** Vice-Chair of the UCT Humanities Faculty Student Council

Type: Elected, October 2015 – October 2016

Responsibilities: Representing the interests of students within the UCT Humanities faculty.

Publications

Gladun E., & van der Merwe R. 2020. People-Centered Approach and Youth Participation in BRICS: A Case of BRICS School. [BRICS Law Journal](#), 7(4):177-186.

Van der Merwe, R. & Domche, A.G. 2020. [The State of Civil Society in Africa: Consultative Dialogue Series Report](#), published by the United Nations Association of South Africa (UNASA)

Van der Merwe, R. 2020. [Pax Kigali: Reconciliation and Peace in Contemporary Rwanda](#). E-International Relations.

Van der Merwe, R., Kuse, S. & Ademunmi, O. 2020. [UN75 Consultative Dialogue Report on Youth, Peace & Development in Africa](#), published online as part of IAPSS Dialogue Project

Conferences, Seminars & Programmes

- 2021 Virtual Academic Conference, GLA University Centre for International Politics & Law – **Panel Chair**
- 2020 BRICS International School, Russian National Committee for BRICS Research – **South African Delegate**
- 2020 BRICS Summer School, Fudan University – **South African Delegate**
- 2019 Altiero Spinelli Institute International Conference on Global Federalism (Italy) – **South African Delegate**
- 2018 WFUNA International Model UN (Brazil) – **South African Head Delegate**
- 2018 South African National Model United Nations – **UCT Delegate, Awarded Best Speaker**
- 2017 WFUNA International Youth Summit on UNSC Resolution 2250 (Uganda) – **South African Delegate**
- 2016 Harvard World Model UN (Italy) – **South African Delegate**
- 2016 South African National Model United Nations – **UCT Delegate, Awarded 2nd Place Delegation**