



Mike  
Leslie

## PERSONAL DETAILS

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Date of Birth:	3 June 1983
Languages:	English (Excellent)
Prof. membership:	South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association No. 586132001987
Years' Experience:	10 years
Countries worked in:	South Africa

## CONTACT INFO

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## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

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- Postgraduate Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2011
- MPhil in Community and Development (Cum Laude), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2010
- BA Humanities (Cum Laude), Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 2006

## FIELD OF SPECIALISATION

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Mike is an evaluation specialist with extensive public sector experience in South Africa across local, provincial and national government. He has played an active part in the National Evaluation System as an evaluator and M&E system development specialist. His expertise includes evaluation approaches, designs and methodologies as well as customised M&E system design and consolidation in public sector environments. He has a background in community development, participatory developmental approaches and applied social research methods. He has developed and delivered accredited modules on public sector evaluation for Stellenbosch University and facilitated for the Development Evaluation Training Programme for Africa at the University of Witwatersrand. He is passionate about public policy, evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation for improved developmental outcomes.

From 2012-2015 Mike served on the Board of Directors of the South African Monitoring & Evaluation Association (SAMEA) and coordinated the programme for SAMEA's 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference as the culmination of the International Year of Evaluation. He has a sound understanding of the international evaluation community and context.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Sep 16 – present

PDG, Cape Town, South Africa  
Director and Monitoring & Evaluation Practice Area leader

### Dec 12 – Aug 16

PDG, Cape Town, South Africa  
Consultant (M&E)

### May 11 – Nov 12

Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) Advisory, East London, South Africa  
M&E Consultant

## KEY PROJECTS

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### **2019-present, Intergovernmental relations M&E technical support for the Cities Support Programme (CSP) to enable streamlined reporting by eight metropolitan municipalities, National Treasury**

Serving as a technical advisor on part-time appointment to National Treasury to provide M&E specialist support for government reforms initiated through Municipal Financial Management Act (MFMA) Circular No. 88 in metropolitan municipalities before extending throughout local government. Supporting change management and institutionalisation which will culminate in an update to the Planning and Performance Management Regulations of the Municipal Systems Act of 2001.

### **2020-present, Technical advisor to develop indicators for local government towards the reform of the Planning & Performance Management Regulations of 2001, Department of Cooperative Governance**

Serving as a technical advisor on part-time appointment to the Department of Cooperative governance to provide M&E specialist support for the development of indicators for local government. The project expanded upon and complemented the work of National Treasury to develop a differentiated indicator set applicable to all municipalities in South Africa for introduction in the 2021/22 financial year. The project entailed template development, training and capacity building support for the piloting of the indicators ahead of the update to the Planning and Performance Management Regulations of the Municipal Systems Act of 2001.

### **2012-2018, Assessment of Government Evaluations Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4- Department of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation**

Co-developed and revised an evaluation quality assessment system aligned to DPME's Standards for evaluation in government. Moderated quality assessments of evaluations conducted from 2006-present and contributed to the development of an online Evaluation Management Information System (EMIS) and guidelines. Took over project management responsibilities for quality assessments in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> rounds. Supported training and implementation of the online system inclusive of evaluation management, quality assessment, improvement planning monitoring and publishing of an online repository of completed government evaluations.

### **2016-2018, Revision and update of the Infrastructure Progression Model, National Treasury**

Served as the lead M&E consultant reviewing the design of the Infrastructure Progression Model (IPM) for the health and education sectors. Proposed revisions to the existing IPM based on national developments in the Infrastructure Delivery Management landscape since 2013. My responsibilities included adapting the overall design of the progression model in line with other maturity models employed within the public service and revising the infrastructure delivery performance component.

### **2020, Evaluation specialist and technical support to the Western Cape Provincial Data Office, Western Cape Department of the Premier**

Served as an evaluation specialist to undertake a series of evaluative projects for the Western Cape Provincial Data Office. This included developing a review report of the Provincial Evaluation System 2014-2019 as well as undertaking technical review of the Monitoring & Results Framework for the Provincial Strategic Plan 2019-2024. Evaluation specialist work focused on collaborative work on rapid assessments as part of the Provincial Data Office team,

including leading a rapid assessment of the Provincial Safety Plan with recommendations presented to the Western Cape Premier and Provincial Safety Cabinet to inform improvements to the provincial strategic initiative.

**2019, Mid-term evaluation of the Municipal Finance Improvement Programme- Phase 3, National Treasury**

Served as the project manager and evaluation specialist responsible for the evaluation design, literature review, data collection, evaluation report and presentation. This was a mixed-methods evaluation employing a theory-based approach to assess the implementation of the intervention across three spheres of government. Findings and recommendations from the evaluation were utilised to inform an extension of Phase 3 and improvements to the MFIP's design and implementation.

**2019, Supporting the Western Cape Department of Agriculture to develop Theories of Change, Western Cape Department of Agriculture**

Project manager and M&E specialist for the project. Supported the development of seven theories of change to feed into the Department's five-year strategic plan 2019-2024. Oversaw the PDG team from the conceptualisation and identification of strategic priorities, through development of comprehensive theories of change including problem trees, reflecting the role of multiple programmes / initiatives, and internal as well as external stakeholders in achievement of outcomes.

**2019, M&E Framework for the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)- Phase 4, Department of Public Works**

Served as the project manager and M&E specialist advising on the development of a national, cross-cutting EPWP M&E framework for the five-year period, based on the Phase 4 Business Plan, and building on the Phase 3 M&E framework.

More information on Mike's role in projects from 2011-2019 can be provided on request.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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FOSTER, K., HARTLEY, C., & LESLIE, M. 2017. *Evaluation and participation: Opportunities for learning and accountability in State of Local Governance 2017: Navigating collaboration and accountability in local governance*. Good Governance Learning Network. [http://www.ggln.org.za/images/solg\\_reports/SoLG\\_2017.PDF](http://www.ggln.org.za/images/solg_reports/SoLG_2017.PDF)

LESLIE, M., EVERETT, M., GOLDMAN, I., JACOB, C., MOODLEY, N. & PODEMS, D. BENEY, T., 2015. Developing evaluation standards and assessing evaluation quality. *African Evaluation Journal* 3(1), No. 112, 13 pages.

GOLDMAN, I., JACOB, C., KOLA, N., LESLIE, M., MAPHALLA, R. & MOODLEY, N. 2013. Quality assessment of government evaluations in South Africa – some initial findings. 4th Biennial South African Monitoring & Evaluation Association Conference, September 2013, Sandton, Johannesburg. Awarded Best Conference Paper.

## **COURSE FACILITATION AND LECTURING**

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***Evaluation in the public sector: Policy analysis, performance management and government reforms 2019 and 2020- Course facilitator as part of the MPhil in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods at Stellenbosch University***  
Developed additional content, facilitated and assessed papers as part of a Masters programme in Monitoring & Evaluation Methods (NQF Level 9) at Stellenbosch University in September of 2019 and 2020.

***An introduction to public sector evaluation in South Africa (2019)- Training workshop facilitator and content development***

Developed the content and delivered a two-day training workshop on public sector evaluation as part of the 7th Biennial Conference of the South African Monitoring and Evaluation Association, October 2019, Sandton, Johannesburg.

***Development Evaluation Training Programme for Africa (DETPA) Course facilitator- M&E Planning and management***  
Facilitated and delivered modules for the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results- Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) through the University of Witwatersrand in August of 2017 and 2018 as part of the M&E planning and management course.

***An introduction to public sector evaluation in South Africa (2017)- Accredited short course***  
Developed the content and delivered an accredited short course (NQF Level 7) on public sector evaluation in South Africa through Stellenbosch University in September of 2017.