

CURRICULUM VITAE SARAH CUMMINGS

PERSONAL

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Languages English (mother), Dutch (fluent spoken), French (reading)

PROFILE

- Information and knowledge management for development professional
- Personal commitment to the global knowledge commons which is the motivation for foundation of the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*
- Working style is collaborative, cooperative, flexible, open and supportive to others; a team player
- Initiator and facilitator of research processes, organisational change, publications, conferences and workshops

EXPERIENCE

- Over 20 years' experience in the field of information and knowledge management with a focus on the international development sector
- Consultant for diverse organisations (multilateral, bilateral, non-governmental organisations and educational) on knowledge management strategies, organisational learning, knowledge networks and evaluation of knowledge management
- Researcher with a interest in the development knowledge system, particularly focusing on multiple knowledges, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and cross-domain knowledge integration
- Writer, editor and lecturer on international development

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS *to date*

- Co-director of a research programme, IKM Emergent with €2.5 million funding during 2007-2011
- Founder Editor and currently Editor-in-Chief of the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, 2005 to present
- Coordinator of the Smart toolkit, a global, multi-agency, ongoing project of the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) to facilitate learning and build capacity of information managers, 2004-2007
- Lecturer on knowledge management, Master in International Development, Radboud University Nijmegen, 2007 to present
- Co-organiser and facilitator with Professor Kingo Mchombu of the University of Namibia and Dr Ibrahim Khadar of CTA of the Knowledge for Development Conference in Windhoek, Namibia, in November 2009. This conference had many positive aspects – including excellent cooperation between the partner organisations – and involved an hour long personal appearance on the Namibian public affairs TV programme 'Talk of the Nation'.

CAREER HISTORY

July 2007- January 2012	<i>Senior Consultant</i> Consultancies with a wide variety of organisations (OECD DAC, UN, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, NGOs)	Context, international cooperation, Utrecht
January 2000 - June 2007	<i>Researcher and Information Specialist</i>	Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), Amsterdam
July 1998 - December 1999	<i>Manager, Professional Liaison</i>	International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), The Hague
May 1991- June 1998	<i>Co-ordinator, Book series</i> <i>Marketing Manager</i>	Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)
April 1990 - April 1991	<i>Manager, Editorial Office</i>	Elsevier Science Publishers, Amsterdam
Sept. 1983 - April 1990	<i>Editor, Rural Development Abstracts</i> <i>Senior Scientific Information Officer</i>	CAB International, Wallingford and Oxford

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

IKM Emergent Research Programme 2007-2011

Second applicant (co-Director and Communications Manager) of an international research programme, approved for funding by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 2007 for Euro 2.5 million. The objective of the programme is to improve development practice by promoting change in the way the development sector approaches the selection, management and use of knowledge in the formation and implementation of its policies and programmes. www.ikmemergent.net

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

- a. Investigating the role of academic knowledge in the development knowledge ecology. My research is focusing on the role of development journals and whether they are focused on development or on the accumulation of cultural capital by development academics.
- b. Facilitating an interactive research process which investigates cross-domain knowledge integration across the boundaries of development practice, policy and research.

EDUCATION

1978 - 1981	School of African and Asian Studies, London	BA (Hons), African and Asian Geography
2011 - 2012	Radboud University, Nijmegen	Masters, Development Studies

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the Advisory Council of Hivos, 2004 to present

Member of the Editorial Board, *Development in Practice*, 2008 to present

External Advisory Committee of the Master programme Development and Rural Innovation (MDR) of Wageningen University, 2011 to present

Co-Convenor of European Working Group on Information Management: 1997-2000 and member from 1987 to present

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS organised and/or facilitated in the past 12 months

Dates	Title	Location	Co-organisers
3 April 2012	Business knowledge for development This afternoon meeting was designed to increase understanding of interactions between policy and the corporate sector. Participants from NGOs, Ministries and social businesses	Hivos, The Hague	Josine Stremmelaar (Hivos) and Wenny Ho (Independent)
20-21 February 2012	Practice-based change workshop The workshop considered the implications of IKM Emergent research for development practice with a focus on evaluation and participatory processes. Participants from IKM Emergent and other researchers	Wellcome Foundation, London	Mike Powell (IKM Emergent)
23-24 January 2012	The state of the art of cross-domain knowledge integration The seminar aimed to further deepen the discussion on knowledge integration. Selected participants from Ministries, development practice and academia. One element was public lecture by Robert Chambers.	Central Museum, Utrecht	Josine Stremmelaar (Hivos) and Wenny Ho (Independent)
27-29 September 2011	Development knowledge ecology: implications for global agricultural knowledge A parallel session on the development knowledge ecology to provide a holistic view to development knowledge, emphasising coordination, cooperation, sharing, and more systems thinking. Participants for international organisations and think tanks.	Second Global AgriKnowledge Share Fair, IFAD, Italy	Jaap Pels (IRC)
20 September 2011	Panel 1: Shared values: advocating new approaches to a global development knowledge Ecology Panel 2: New alliances: intermediaries and other institutional bridges	General Conference of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), University of York, UK	Alan Stanley (MK4D and the Institute of Development Studies, UK), Anya Rasmussen, Michel Wesseling and Laurel Dryden (Information Management Working Group, EADI)

PUBLICATIONS

- S. Cummings, M. Powell & J. Pels
2011 Development knowledge ecology: metaphors and meanings. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*. 7(1): 125-135 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/development-knowledge-ecology.pdf>
- L. Clark & S. Cummings
2010 Is it actually possible to measure knowledge sharing? *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 6(3): 238-247 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/is-it-actually-possible-to-measure-knowledge-sharing.pdf>
- Hellsten, I. and S. Cummings
2010 Using semantics to reveal knowledge divides in Dutch development cooperation: the case of the Millennium Development Goals. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 6(1): 70-84 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/using-semantics-to-reveal-knowledge-divides-in-dutch-development-cooperation.pdf>
- Powell, M. & S. Cummings
2010 Progress to date of the IKM Emergent Research Programme: synthesis, understandings and lessons learned. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 6(2): 132-150 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/progress-to-date-of-the-ikm-emergent-research-programme.pdf>
- S. Cummings
2010 Dialogue of the four musketeers. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 6(2): 168-176 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/dialogue-of-the-four-musketeers.pdf>
- Le Borgne, E. & S. Cummings
2009 Tip of the iceberg: tentative first steps in cross-organisational comparison of knowledge management in development organisations. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*, 5(1): 39-60 <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/development-through-dialogue.pdf>
- Cummings, S. & J.E Ferguson
2008 A revolution in international development. *Inside Knowledge Magazine*, 11(5), 22-26 <http://www.ikmagazine.com/xq/asp/txtSearch.CoP/exactphrase.1/sid.0/articleid.C5F24E58-6698-4AA9-8617-595E68332C15/qx/display.htm>
- Cummings, S.
2008 Development through dialogue: an action research project of Dgroups. KIT Working Paper No. 11, Amsterdam: KIT, 65pp. <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/development-through-dialogue.pdf>
- Ferguson, J. E., & S. Cummings
2008 Knowledge management in practice: the case of international development. *In: A. Koohang (Ed.), Knowledge management: research & application*. Santa Rosa, California: Informing Science Press, 75-112.
- Ferguson, J. E., K. Mchombu & S. Cummings
2008 Management of knowledge for development. Meta-review and scoping study. *IKM Emergent Working Paper* No. 1, Bonn: EADI/IKM Emergent, 46pp. <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/080421-ikm-working-paper-no1-meta-review-and-scoping-study-final.pdf>

- Cummings, S, J.E. Ferguson & P. Ballantyne
 2007 De kennisrevolutie in Nederland: succesformules in de ontwikkelingskeuken? *Vice Versa*, 41(3)
http://www.viceversaonline.nl/index.php?page=30_2_4&articleId=11603&floatingpageId=211
- Cummings, S.
 2006 *Knowledge management in large development organizations. With a focus on bilateral donor organizations.*
 Desk study: Commissioned by the Department of Research and Communication, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unpublished paper, 48pp.
- Cummings, S., R. Heeks, & M. Huysman
 2006 Knowledge and learning in online networks in development: a social capital perspective.
Development in Practice, 16 (6), 570-586.
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/knowledge-and-learning-in-online-networks-in-development.pdf>
- Cummings, S. (Editor), Jorritsma H., Berg, R. van den, et al.
 2005 *Why did the chicken cross the road? And other stories on development evaluation.* Amsterdam: KIT Publisher, Den Haag: IOB/BuZa, Maastricht: Euforic.
<http://www.kit.nl/smartsite.shtml?ch=FAB&id=8332&ItemID=1976&RecordTitle=Why%20did%20the%20chicken%20cross%20the%20road%3F>
- Cummings, S., H. van Dam & M. Valk (Editors)
 2005 *Gender and ICTs for development: a global source book.* Amsterdam: KIT, 144pp.
http://www.kit.nl/net/KIT_Publicaties_output/showfile.aspx?e=820
- Cummings, S., & A. van Zee
 2005 Communities of practice and networks: reviewing two perspectives on social learning. *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 1(1), 8-22.
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/communities-of-practice.pdf>
- Cummings, S., Dam, H. van, et al
 2005 Information management partnerships for development: some experiences and virtual perspectives. *LAALD Quarterly Bulletin*, 49 (3-4), 105-113.
- Cummings, S., H. van Dam & M. Valk (Editors)
 2004 *Gender, citizenship and governance: a global source book.* Amsterdam: KIT; Oxford, Oxfam, 176pp.
http://www.kit.nl/net/KIT_Publicaties_output/ShowFile2.aspx?e=445
- Cummings, S., & K. Mchombu (Guest Editors)
 2003 Developing evaluation practice in the information sector. *Information Development*, 19 (2).
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/developing-information-practice-in-the-development-sector.pdf>
- Batjes, K. & S. Cummings
 2003 Smart tools for the evaluation of information products and services: a collaborative initiative.
Information Development, 19 (2), 127-135.
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/smart-tools-for-the-evaluation-of-information-products-and-services.pdf>
- Cummings, S., H. van Dam & Minke Valk (Editors)
 2002 *Natural resources management and gender: a global source book.* Amsterdam: KIT; Oxford, Oxfam, 136pp.
http://www.kit.nl/smartsite.shtml?ch=FAB&id=PUBLISHERS_CATALOGUE&ItemID=1035

- Cummings, S.
2002 ICTs and international cooperation: a discussion paper. *Information Development*, 18 (2), 161-166.
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/icts-and-international-cooperation.pdf>
- Kalseth, K. & S. Cummings
2001 Knowledge management: business strategy or development strategy? *Information Development*, 17 (3), 164-171. <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/knowledge-management-development-strategy-or-business-strategy.pdf>
- Cummings, S.
2001 Keeping pace with development information. *Information Development*, 17 (2), 46-50.
<http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/keeping-pace-with-development-information.pdf>
- Cummings, S., M. Valk, A. Khadar & H. van Dam
2001 *Gender perspectives on property and inheritance: a global source book*. Amsterdam: KIT; Oxford, Oxfam, 142pp. http://www.kit.nl/net/KIT_Publicaties_output/ShowFile2.aspx?e=529
- Cummings, S., & S.E. Lindberg-Hansen (Guest Editors)
2000 Special Issue: Europe and the South in the 21st Century: Challenges for Co-operation. *Information Development*, 16 (4). <http://knowledgeecologists.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/the-eadi-information-management-working-group.pdf>
- Cummings, S., Valk, M., & Dam, H. van. (Editors)
1999 *Women's information services and networks: a global source book*. Amsterdam: KIT; Oxford: Oxfam; Amsterdam: International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement.
<http://www.kitpublishers.nl/smartsite.shtml?id=33693&ItemID=815>