List of Publications

Acknowledgements

About the Author
List of publications

International publications


Dutch publications

Acknowledgements

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About the author

Suzanne Merkus was born in Roma, Lesotho (Africa) where her parents gave her a Basotho middle name: Lerato. It means Love. In total she spent 11 years of her childhood in Sub-Saharan Africa, which next to Lesotho included Malawi and South Africa. After graduating from secondary school in the Netherlands she went on to study Human Movement Sciences at the VU University in Amsterdam. For her master’s research project she returned to Malawi for 6 months to study the physical functioning and quality of life of people using assistive technology. She successfully graduated in 2007.

After finishing her studies in Human Movement Sciences, Suzanne moved to Norway. Here she obtained the position as PhD-student at the International Research Institute of Stavanger (IRIS) in 2009 to study the effects of Norwegian offshore shift schedules. In 2010 she was officially accepted into the PhD program at the EMGO Institute at the VU University Medical Centre in Amsterdam (the Netherlands). Here she obtained a master’s degree in Epidemiology and presented her work at several international conferences. Next to her PhD-project, Suzanne was involved in several projects while working at IRIS on offshore work. While finishing her PhD, she worked part-time at Uni Research Health in Bergen (Norway) from 2014-2016. In 2015, Africa called again and she moved to Angola for 9 months.

Now Suzanne lives and works in Oslo (Norway), where she is a post-doc at the National Institute of Occupational Health studying the effects of physical work load on musculoskeletal disorders.