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| **Curriculum Vitae**  **Karen Loise van Niekerk** Nationality: South AfricanDate of birth: 22 June 1971 **E-mail**: [Karen.niekerk@uib.no](mailto:Karen.niekerk@uib.no)  **Address**: University of Bergen, Øysteinsgate 1, Bergen, 5007, Norway. Tel: +47 55583814  ORCID ID: <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-2261-6861>  ResearcherID: <http://www.researcherid.com/rid/J-3511-2015>  Scopus Author ID: [55618288400](https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=55618288400) *h*-index: Scopus 8, Google Scholar 9Present position 2011-2016: Post-doctoral Scholarship in the Institute of Archaeology, History, Culture and Religion, University of Bergen, Norway Languages: Fluent in English and AfrikaansAcademic qualifications 2011 PhD in Archaeology, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Title: *Marine fish exploitation during the Middle and Later Stone Age of South Africa*  2005 M. Phil in Archaeology (cum laude), University of Bergen, Norway. Title: *The Archaeology of Fishing: Establishing a Comparative Collection and Subsequent Analysis of Marine Fish Bone from Holocene levels at Blombos Cave, South Africa*  2002 BSc Honours (cum laude), University of Cape Town, South Africa. Title: *An analysis of the archaeological freshwater fish remains from Rose Cottage Cave*  1993 Diploma in Jewellery manufacture and design, Ruth Prowse School of Art, Cape Town, South Africa  **Awards:** Class medals from University of Cape Town:1999 - AGE202S Human Evolution & AGE203F Doing Archaeology; 2002 - AGE400W BSC (HONS) in Archaeology  **Research Interests**  My undergraduate and PhD dissertations related to the analyses and interpretation of fish remains from Middle and Later Stone Age sites in South Africa. It also included the development of new methodologies for identification of fish bones to species. Since the start of my archaeological career I have been involved in the identification and analysis of marine shellfish from Middle and Later Stone Age contexts in the southern Cape. The information to be gained from these marine resources includes dietary information, cultural adaptations, taphonomic processes, seasonality and environmental and climatic data. By combining these data with data from terrestrial fauna, flora, isotopes, and cultural artefacts, it is possible to recreate past environments, and interpret how humans responded to changes in the landscape during the Middle Stone Age.  In addition I have a keen interest in temporal and spatial changes and continuity in Middle Stone Age material culture, for example the type and use of personal ornaments and the distribution and patterns of engravings on ostrich eggshell, and how these relate to local environmental conditions, and the behavioural evolution of *Homo sapiens*.  I also have a particular interest in excavation and analytical methodology. My experience as an excavation leader and as the senior manager/analyst of excavated materials in the laboratory has led to a developed understanding of best practice methods of analysis. My strength in analysis and methodology, including laboratory analysis and curation lies in my attention to detail, both of the material and the context, and in a strong belief that this attention is a crucial basis to forming arguments pertaining to the bigger archaeological picture.  **Work Experience**  **2010 – 2011** Researcher at the AHKR Institute of the University of Bergen, Norway  **2011** Advanced Field Course (ARK 314) coordinator and teaching of data acquisition, data processing, spatial analysis and statistical analysis for Masters’ level students from the University of Bergen  **2010-2016** Co-principal investigator of the Klipdrift Cave and Klipdrift Shelter projects in De Hoop Nature Reserve – excavation, logistics of staff, transport, excavation and laboratory equipment, accommodation (field camp and base station) and catering. Post excavation analysis (shellfish, engraved ostrich eggshell, fauna), administration of site records  **2002 –2007, 2009** Field School (ARK 211 and Ark 311) coordinator, Cape Field School, African Heritage Research Institute – coordinate transport, meals, staff, accommodation, teaching of excavation technique, shellfish analysis, data entry, site surveying and literature advisor to Masters’ level students.  **2003 – 2016** Co-principal investigator of the Blombos Cave project – excavation, sorting, logistics of staff, transport, excavation and laboratory equipment, accommodation and catering. Post excavation analysis (shellfish, fish, personal ornaments, pigment containers), administration of site records  **1998 – 2002** Research Assistant, Blombos Cave project – excavation assistant, sorting of excavated material, analysis of shellfish, data entry, cataloguing of material.  **1995 – 1997** Goldsmith, Visconti & Company, Mill Street, Gardens – design and manufacture of jewellery in precious metals.  **1993 – 1994** Goldsmith, Sorelli Parenti, Waterfront, Cape Town – design and manufacture of jewellery in precious metals.  **Conference organisation**  TRACSYMBOLS workshop, De Hoop Nature Reserve, South Africa, 19-25 November 2012. Organised all aspects of the workshop: Conference sessions, transport, accommodation, meals, entertainment, field trips to Klipdrift Complex and Blombos Cave (23 delegates)  [*Homo Symbolicus*: The Dawn of Language, Imagination, and Spirituality](http://www.templeton.org/humble_approach_initiative/homo_symbolicus). John Templeton Foundation’s [Humble Approach Initiative](http://www.templeton.org/capabilities_2008/HumbleApproach.html). Cape Town, January 2009. Co-organiser (12 delegates)  **Computer skills**  Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access. Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign. Endnote  **Affiliations**  Honorary Research Fellow, University of Witwatersrand, Nov 2014 – Nov 2017  Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA)  Society for Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA)  International Council for Zooarchaeology (ICAZ)  **Citation record:** Total number of citations (Scopus): 895  **h- index:**  *Web of Science: 8*  *Scopus: 8*  *Harzing’s Publish or Perish:8*  **Commisions of trust**  Reviewer for Journal of Archaeological Science, Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, South African Archaeological Bulletin, Environmental Biology of Fishes.  **Publications:**  **Submitted and in press**  Ryano, K.P., Wurz, S., Henshilwood, C.S. & van Niekerk, K.L. (in press). The technology of the Oakhurst lithic Industry from Klipdrift Cave, southern Cape, South Africa. African Archaeological Review.  Badenhorst, S., van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. (in press). Large mammal remains from the c. 100 ka Middle Stone Age Layers of Blombos Cave, South Africa. South African Archaeological Bulletin 71  Delagnes, A., Schmidt, P., Douze, K., Wurz, S., Bellot-Gurlet, L., Conard, N., Miller, C., Nickel, K., van Niekerk, K.L., Henshilwood, C.S. (submitted after review). Early evidence for the extensive heat treatment of silcrete in the Howiesons Poort at Klipdrift Shelter (layer PBD, 65 ka), South Africa. PlosOne  Henshilwood, C.S. & van Niekerk, K.L. (submitted). Blombos Cave: The Middle Stone Age levels. In (eds. Anderson, J.M. & de Wit, M.) Homo sapiens Corridor. Port Elizabeth: AEON.  **Journal articles**  **2016**  Roberts, P., Henshilwood, C.S., van Niekerk, K.L., Keene, P., Gledhill, A., Reynard, J., Badenhorst, S. & Lee-Thorp, J. 2016. Climate, Environment and Early Human Innovation: Stable Isotope and Faunal Proxy Evidence from Archaeological Sites (98-59ka) in the Southern Cape, South Africa. *PlosOne* 11(7): e0157408. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0157408> (ISI Impact factor 3.234)  Reynard, J.P., Discamps, E., Wurz, S., van Niekerk, K.L., Badenhorst, S. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2016. Occupational intensity and environmental changes during the Howiesons Poort at Klipdrift Shelter, southern Cape, South Africa. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 449: 349-364. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2016.02.035> (ISI Impact factor 2.339)  Reynard, J.P., Discamps, E., Badenhorst, S., van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2016. Subsistence strategies in the southern Cape during the Howiesons Poort: Taphonomic and zooarchaeological analyses of Klipdrift Shelter, South Africa, *Quaternary International* 404:2-18. Available online 20 August 2015, ISSN 1040-6182, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2015.07.041>. (ISI Impact factor 2.062)  Moyo,S., Mphuti, D., Cukrowska, E., Henshilwood, C.S., van Niekerk, K.L. & Chimuka, L. 2016. Blombos Cave: Middle Stone Age ochre differentiation through FTIR, ICP OES, ED XRF and XRD. *Quaternary International* 404:20-29.Available online 18 November 2015,[doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2015.09.041](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2015.09.041). (ISI Impact factor 2.062 )  **2015**  Archer, W., Gunz, P., van Niekerk, K.L., Henshilwood, C.S., & McPherron, S.P. 2015. Diachronic Change within the Still Bay at Blombos Cave, South Africa. *PloS one*, *10*(7), e0132428. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0132428> (ISI Impact factor 3.234, 4 Citations)  d'Errico, F., Vanhaeren, M., van Niekerk, K.L., Henshilwood, C. S. & Erasmus, R. M. 2015. Assessing the Accidental Versus Deliberate Colour Modification of Shell Beads: a Case Study on Perforated *Nassarius kraussianus* from Blombos Cave Middle Stone Age levels. *Archaeometry*, 57: 51–76. (ISI Impact factor 1.519, 4 Citations)  Harvati, K., Bauer, C.C., Benazzi, S., Grine, F., van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2015. A human deciduous molar from the Middle Stone Age (Howiesons Poort) of Klipdrift Shelter, South Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution*, 82: 190–196. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2015.03.001> (ISI Impact factor 3.733, 2 Citations)  **2014**  Henshilwood, C.S., van Niekerk, K.L., Wurz, S., Delagnes, A., Armitage, S., Rifkin, R., Douze, K., Keene, P., Haaland, M., & Reynard, J. 2014. Klipdrift Shelter, southern Cape, South Africa: Preliminary report on the c. 65 - 60 ka Middle Stone Age levels. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 45:284-303. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2014.01.033> (ISI Impact factor 2.196, 27 Citations).  Badenhorst, S., van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2014. Rock Hyraxes (*Procavia capensis*) from Middle Stone Age Levels at Blombos Cave, South Africa. *African Archaeological Review* 31(1):25-43. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10437-014-9154-7> (5 Citations).  Henshilwood, C. & van Niekerk, K. L. 2014. Blombos Cave: The Middle Stone Age Levels. I: Encyclopaedia of Global Archaeology. Springer ISBN 978-1-4419-0426-3.  d'Errico, F., Henshilwood, C., Garcia-Moreno, R., van Niekerk, K. L., Coquinot, Y., Menu, M., Jacobs Z. & Lauritzen, S. 2014. Il y a 100 000 ans, un atelier pour la préparation et le stockage de mélanges pigmentés. *Paleo 2014: 117-124*  **2013**  Langejans, G.H.J., Dusseldorp, G.L., van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2013. A hazy shade of winter: Late Pleistocene environments and behavioural adaptations at Blombos Cave, South Africa. In: Runge, J. (ed.) New Studies on Former and Recent Landscape Changes in Africa: Palaeoecology of Africa 32:19-51. (4 Citations).  Vanhaeren, M., d’Errico, F., van Niekerk, K.L., Henshilwood, C.S. & Erasmus, R.M. 2013. Thinking strings: additional evidence for personal ornament use in the Middle Stone Age of Blombos Cave, South Africa. *Journal of Human Evolution* 64: 500-517. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2013.02.001> (ISI Impact factor 3.733, 43 Citations).  **2012**  Langejans, G.H.J., van Niekerk, K.L., Dusseldorp, G.L. & Thackeray, J.F. 2012. Middle Stone Age shellfish exploitation: Potential indications for mass collecting and resource intensification at Blombos Cave and Klasies River, South Africa. *Quaternary International* 270: 80-94. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2011.09.003> (ISI Impact factor 2.062, 28 Citations).  Henshilwood, C.S. & van Niekerk, K.L. 2012. Middle Stone Age Chemists – a 100 000 year-old pigment processing workshop at Blombos Cave. *The Digging Stick* 29(3): 1-5.  **2011**  Van Niekerk, K. L. 2011. Book Review. Trekking the Shore. Changing Coastlines and the Antiquity of Coastal Settlement. In Bicho, N.F., Haws, J.A. & Davis, L.G. (editors) 2011. New York: Springer. I–XXX 496 pp. ISBN 978-1- 4419-8218-6 (hardback). *South African Archaeological Bulletin* 67 (195): 150-151.  Henshilwood, C. S., d'Errico, F., van Niekerk, K. L., Coquinot, Y., Jacobs, Z., Lauritzen, S.-E., Menu, M. & Garcia-Moreno, R. 2011. A 100 000-Year-Old Ochre-Processing Workshop at Blombos Cave, South Africa. *Science* 334 (6053): 219-222. (ISI Impact factor 33.611, 131 Citations).  **2001-2005**  d'Errico, F., Henshilwood, C., Vanhaeren, M. & van Niekerk, K. 2005. *Nassarius kraussianus* shell beads from Blombos Cave: evidence for symbolic behaviour in the Middle Stone Age. *Journal of Human Evolution* 48: 3-24. (ISI Impact factor 3.733, 218 Citations).  Henshilwood, C. S., d'Errico, F., Vanhaeren, M., van Niekerk, K. & Jacobs, Z. 2004. Middle stone age shell beads from South Africa. *Science* 304 (5669): 404-404. (ISI Impact factor 33.611, 256 Citations).  Henshilwood, C. S., Sealy, J. C., Yates, R., Cruz-Uribe, K., Goldberg, P., Grine, F. E., Klein, R. G., Poggenpoel, C. A., van Niekerk, K. & Watts, I. 2001. Blombos Cave, Southern Cape, South Africa: Preliminary Report on the 1992-1999 Excavations of the Middle Stone Age Levels. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 28: 421-448. (ISI Impact factor 2.196, 204 Citations).  **Book chapters**  d’Errico, F., Vanhaeren, M., Henshilwood, C., Lawson, G., Maureille, B., Gambier, D., Tillier, A. Soressi, M & van Niekerk, K. 2009. From the origin of language to the diversification of languages: What can archaeology and palaeoanthropology say? In F. d'Errico & J.-M. Hombert (eds.), Becoming Eloquent: Advances in the emergence of language, human cognition, and modern cultures. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company: 13-68. (19 Citations).  **Conference contributions**  Henshilwood, C.S; van Niekerk, K. L.2015. Tracing the behavioural evolution of *Homo sapiens* in southern Africa. 5th biennial Summer Institute of the International Society for Human Ethology; Athens, 2015/05/13 – 2015/05/18.  Van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2015. The engraved ostrich eggshell from the Howiesons Poort layers at Klipdrift Shelter, southern Cape, South Africa. AFQUA, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 30/01/2015-4/02/2015.  Henshilwood , C.S. & van Niekerk, K.L. 2015.New archaeological excavations of Later and Middle Stone Age deposits at the Klipdrift Complex, southern Cape, South Africa: 2010-2013. AFQUA, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 30/01/2015-4/02/2015.  Van Niekerk, K.L. & Henshilwood, C.S. 2014. Engraved ostrich eggshells from the Howiesons Poort layers at Klipdrift Shelter, southern Cape, South Africa. 14th Congress of the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies and the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists; Johannesburg, 2014/07/14 – 2014/07/18.  Armitage, S., Henshilwood, C. & Van Niekerk, K.L. 2014.Single-grain OSL dating of the Howiesons Poort layers at Klipdrift Shelter, southern Cape, South Africa. 14th Congress of the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies and the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists; 2014/07/14 – 2014/07/18.  Badenhorst, S., Van Niekerk, K. L., Henshilwood, C.S. 2014.Middle Stone Age fauna from Blombos Cave. 14th Congress of the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies and the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists; 2014/07/14 – 2014/07/18.  Henshilwood, C., Van Niekerk, K.L. 2014. New archaeological excavations of Later and Middle Stone Age deposits at the Klipdrift Complex, southern Cape, South Africa: 2010-2013. 14th Congress of the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies and the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists; 2014/07/14 – 2014/07/18.  Roberts, P., Henshilwood, C., Van Niekerk, K. L., Keene, P. Gledhill, A. & Lee-thorp, J. 2014. Stable carbon and oxygen isotope analysis of ostrich eggshell provides evidence for climatic change during the emergence of the Still Bay and Howiesons Poort technocomplexes on the southern Cape coast of South Africa. 14th Congress of the Pan African Archaeological Association for Prehistory and Related Studies and the 22nd Biennial Meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists; 2014/07/14 – 2014/07/18.  Delagnes, A.; Douze, K.; Wurz, S.; Henshilwood, C. & Van Niekerk, K. L. 2014.Patterns of changes over the Howiesons Poort sequence at Klipdrift Shelter (South Africa). UISPP Burgos; 2014/09/01 – 2014/09/07.  Schmidt, P., Porraz, G., Delagnes, A., Douze, K., Henshilwood, C., Parkington, J., Texier, P-J.,Wurz, S., Bellot-Gurlet, L., Van Niekerk, K. L. & Conard, N. 2014. Heat treatment of silcrete in the southern African MSA: the heating procedure and its implications for the chaine operatoire. UISPP Burgos; 2014/09/01 – 2014/09/07.  Van Niekerk, K. L. 2013. Preliminary report on the shellfish remains from the Mesolithic layers at Olsteinhelleren (5.6 – 4.7ka BC) and Sævarhelleren (7-5.8ka BC) (presented in absentia). "The Sheltered Village" workshop on the Rockshelters in Herand; 2013/11/21 – 2013/11/21.  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2012. Preliminary report on the Klipdrift Shelter excavations. TRACSYMBOLS workshop, De Hoop Nature Reserve, South Africa, 19-25 November.  C. S. Henshilwood, K. van Niekerk & R. Rifkin. 2012. Analytical techniques: Deciphering a 100,000 Year Old Ochre Processing Workshop at Blombos Cave, South Africa. SMIA X Conference, Scientific Methods in Archaeology. Aalborg University, Esbjerg , Denmark, 27-29 September.  Henshilwood, C.S. van Niekerk, K. & d’Errico, F. 2011. ‘Punctuated’ Cultural Evolution & Climate Change: An update on the latest excavations at the southern African sites Blombos Cave and Klipdrift Shelter - 100 – 60 ka’ European Society for the study of Human Evolution, Inaugural Meeting: Leipzig, 23 - 24 September.  d'Errico, F., Henshilwood, C.S., Garcia Moreno, R., Rifkin, R.F., Van Niekerk, K., Rosso, D. 2011. The emergence of symbolic material cultures in Africa and Europe. Preliminary results of an ongoing ERC funded interdisciplinary research project. Centre National de Préhistoire, Périgueux Centre National de Préhistoire, Périgueux.  Dusseldorp, G., Langejans, G. & van Niekerk, K.L. 2011. A hazy shade of winter: The influence of climatic changes in Middle Stone Age foraging behaviour in South Africa. INQUA, Bern.  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2010. Marine fish remains from two Later Stone Age cave sites in the southern Cape: Blombos Cave and Hoffman’s/Robberg Cave, ICAZ, Paris.  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2008. Preliminary report on the fish remains from the Middle Stone Age (>75kya) with reference to the Later Stone Age (<2kya) fish from Blombos Cave, southern Cape, South Africa, SAfA, Frankfurt.  Henshilwood, C.S. & van Niekerk, K. L. 2008. The > 100 ka levels at Blombos Cave, southern Cape: an update on recent and older excavations at the site. Paper presented at the Association of South African Professional Archaeologists, University of Cape Town  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2006. The archaeology of fish and fishing: analysis of the Later Stone Age marine fish remains from Blombos cave, SAfA, Calgary, Canada  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2004. Fish and fishers during the MSA occupations at Blombos Cave, SAfA, Bergen, Norway  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2001. Early evidence for fishing c. 70 000 years at Blombos Cave, South Africa, Indo-Pacific Fish Conference, Durban, South Africa,. Poster  Van Niekerk, K.L. 2000. Shellfish remains from the Middle Stone Age layers of Blombos Cave, SA3, Johannesburg |

**Postgraduate student advisor:**

Kokeli Peter Ryano (PhD, WITS), Ingrid Vibe (MA; UiB), Cornelia Albrektson (MA, UiB), Jerome Reynard (MA, PhD, WITS), Jane Noah (PhD, WITS), Heidi Strandman (MA, UiO), May Sviland (MA, UiB), Magnus Haaland (MA, PhD, UiB), Turid Hillestad Nel (MA, PhD, UiB)