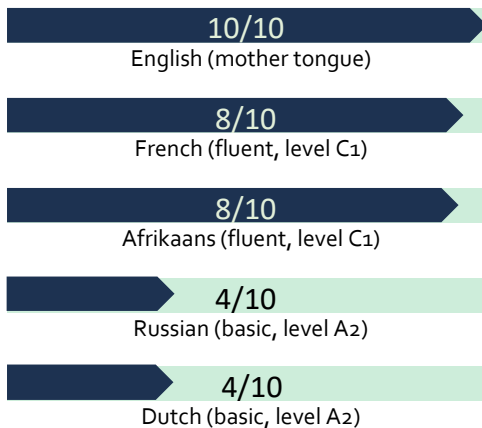


# Gail Womersley

Clinical psychologist. Academic. Humanitarian.

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- Neuchâtel, CH2000, Switzerland
- British and South African national  
Swiss B permit
- [Researchgate](#)
- [Migration and Mental Health Database](#)
- [University of Neuchâtel](#)
- [Google scholar](#)

## LANGUAGES



## EDUCATION

- PhD in Psychology  
(submitted to thesis committee)  
*University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland)*  
2015-2020
- Harvard Programme in Refugee Trauma  
*Harvard University (United States)*  
2014-2015
- Masters in Clinical Psychology  
(summa cum laude/with distinction)  
*University of Cape Town (South Africa)*  
2009-2010

## PROFILE

Gail Womersley is based at the University of Neuchâtel, where she lectures BA and MA students in sociocultural psychology. She has worked for over ten years as a clinical psychologist and researcher with displaced communities in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Greece, Iraq, Israel, the Philippines, South Africa, South Sudan, the Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. Her recent publications include the book: *"Trauma Without Borders: Working with Adversity and Resilience Among Displaced Populations"* (to be published by Springer in 2021).

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Lead Clinical Supervisor** February 2018-present

*Free Yezidi Foundation (Duhok, Iraq)*

- Developing a mental health programme for female Yezidi victims of violence and adapting tools to the specific cultural context
- Supervising onsite psychologists (including through regular field visits) and providing technical support
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project for the donor: UN Women
- Conducting mixed methods research and publishing scientific articles

**Board member and lead researcher** November 2017-present

*Global Initiative for Stress and Trauma Treatment (Geneva, Switzerland)*

- Developing and editing a curriculum on traumatic stress relief tailored for frontline paraprofessionals in emergency settings and adapted to multiple intercultural contexts
- Elaborating a strategic plan for the implementation and evaluation of this training
- Currently overseeing the research component of this project (mixed methods approach) in collaboration with a network of 10 affiliated International NGOs across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East

**Mental Health Expert Consultant** January-June 2018

*World Bank (Marawi, Philippines)*

- Conducting a needs assessment of the mental health of displaced Muslim communities using a mixed methods approach
- Developing a mental health programme for victims of armed conflict
- Drafting the project proposal for donors, including the World Health Organisation and the World Bank

Postgraduate Diploma in Trauma and Recovery **Mental Health Expert Consultant**

April 2017

*Tavistock Clinic, London (United Kingdom)*

2008-2009

*United Nations Victims of Torture Voluntary Fund (Geneva, Switzerland)*

- Consulted on torture victims in the context of migration (Identification, redress and rehabilitation: Geneva, Third Annual Expert Workshop)

**Doctoral Assistant**

November 2015-present

*University of Neuchâtel (Neuchâtel, Switzerland)*

- Lecturing 5 courses: Psychology and Migration (BA course developed with Prof. Laure Kloetzer on the basis of my doctoral research); Dossier Première Année (BA research course); Pluralities (MA Course); Studio (Research Seminar); Perspectives (MA Course)
- Supervising the MA students internship programme with NGO partners
- Assistant on the MA programme
- Founding member of the scientific committee: Mental Health and Migration Database
- Conducting doctoral research on trauma among refugee victims of torture in collaboration with *Médecins Sans Frontières*

**Clinical Psychologist**

March 2012-August 2015

*Médecins Sans Frontières (Brussels, Belgium)*

- Implementing mental health programmes in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, the Ukraine and Zimbabwe
- Developing and adapting materials, guidelines, and protocols to intercultural contexts
- Conducting individual and group psychotherapy sessions
- Training medical teams in mental health
- Conducting operational research
- Supervising counselling and psychosocial teams
- Monitoring and evaluation of mental programmes

**Clinical Psychologist**

January 2011-February 2012

*South African Military Health Services (Cape Town, South Africa)*

**Clinical Psychologist**

January 2010-December 2010

*Valkenburg Psychiatric Hospital (Cape Town, South Africa)*

**Volunteer counsellor**

January 2007-August 2007

*Livnot U'Lhehabinot (Tzfat, Israel)*

# PUBLICATIONS

## Books

Womersley, G. (In Press). *Trauma Without Borders: Working with Adversity and Resilience Among Displaced Populations*. Heidelberg: Springer.

## Journal Articles

Womersley, G. (In Press). (Un)imagination and (im)mobility: exploring the past and constructing possible futures among refugee victims of torture in Greece. *Culture & Psychology*.

Womersley, G., & Kloetzer, L. (2019). « En Afrique, aller voir le psychologue, je n'ai jamais entendu ça » : interprétations croisées du psycho-traumatisme entre médiateurs culturels, professionnels de santé et réfugiés victimes de torture à Athènes. *Revue européenne des migrations internationales*, 34(2), 29-54.

Womersley, G., & Arikut-Treece, Y. (2019). Collective trauma among displaced populations in Northern Iraq: A case study evaluating the therapeutic interventions of the Free Yezidi Foundation. *Intervention, Journal of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Areas*, 17(1), 3-12.

Womersley, G., & Kloetzer, L. (2018). "This is not paranoia, this is real life": psychosocial interventions for refugee victims of torture in Athens. *Intervention, Journal of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Conflict Affected Areas*, 16(2), 95-102.

Womersley, G., Kloetzer, L., Van den Bergh, R., Venables, E., Severy, N., Gkionakis, N., Popontopoulou, C., Kokkiniotis, M., & Zamatto, F. (2018). "My mind is not like before": Psychosocial rehabilitation of victims of torture in Athens. *Torture: Journal on Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and Prevention of Torture*, 28(2), 72-84.

Womersley, G., & Kloetzer, L. (2018). Using Cultural-Historical Theory to Explore Trauma among Refugee Populations in Europe. *Kul'turno-istoricheskaya psikhologiya [Cultural-Historical Psychology]*, 14(1), 87-97.

Womersley, G., & Kloetzer, L. (2018). Being through doing: the self-immolation of an asylum seeker in Switzerland. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 9(110), 1-10.

Womersley, G., & Kloetzer, L. (2018). « Voies de "resubjectivation" chez les demandeurs d'asile victimes de torture ». *Nouvelle Revue de Psychosociologie*, 25 (1), 131-146.

Womersley, G., Maw, A., & Swartz, S. (2011). The construction of shame in feminist reflexive practice and its manifestations in a research relationship. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 17, 876-886.

Womersley, G., & Maw, A. (2009). Contextualising the experience of South African women in the immediate aftermath of rape. *Psychology in Society*, 38, 40-60.

## Book chapters

Womersley, G. (2019). A Sociocultural Exploration of Shame and Trauma Among Refugee Victims of Torture. In Mayer, C.H., & Vanderheiden, E. (eds) *The Bright Side of Shame*. (pp. 103-116). Cham: Springer.

Womersley, G., Shroufi, A., Severy, N., & van Cutsem, G. (2018). Post-traumatic stress disorder among refugees following xenophobic attacks in Durban, South Africa. In *Psychology Applications & Developments III* (pp. 3-12). Lisbon: inScience Press.

Womersley, G. (2013). The Shame and Fame of Rape: Sexual Violence in South Africa. In Moshe, M., & Corbu, N. (eds). *The Walk of Shame* (pp. 93-112). New York: Nova Science.

Maw, A., Womersley, G., & O'Sullivan, M. (2008). The psychosocial impact of rape and its implications for expert evidence in rape trials. In Artz, L., & Smythe, D. (Eds.) *Should we consent? Rape Law Reform in South Africa* (pp. 121-143). Cape Town: Juta.