

# Curriculum Vitae

## Personal information

Surname(s) / First name(s) **TOOMER, Elizabeth**

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E-mail toomerke@yahoo.com

Nationality USA

Date of birth 22.07.1983

Gender Female

## Employment / Occupational field

### CONSULTANT AND RESEARCHER

## Work experience

Dates Aug – Nov 2008

Occupation or position held *Field Research. Iquitos, Peru.*

Main activities and responsibilities Research into the social vulnerability and access to public health services in the Peruvian Amazon: strategies to improve adherence to current radical treatment for *P.vivax* malaria.

Name and address of employer Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp & Ministry of Health Peru  
Contact: Annette Erhart. aerhart@itm.be

Type of business or sector Social Vulnerability in International Health

Dates March 2008

Occupation or position held *Theoretical Preparation of Anthropological Research. Rattanakiri, Cambodia*

Main activities and responsibilities Social science and epidemiological research into Border Malaria at the borders of Vietnam and Cambodia. Preparation of the field research.

Name and address of employer Institute of Tropical Medicine ITG Antwerp.  
Contact: Prof. Umberto D'Alessandro. UDAlessandro@itg.be  
National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Ha Noi, Vietnam.  
Contact: Nguyen Xuan Xa. ngxxa@yahoo.com

Type of business or sector Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability

Dates February - March 2008

Occupation or position held *Independent Consultant. Lambaréné, Gabon*

Main activities and responsibilities Research on the acceptability and feasibility of malaria intermittent preventive treatment in infants when delivered through the Expanded Programme of Immunisation. Evaluate present and potential impediments and facilitating factors to the implementation and long-term acceptability of IPTi and make recommendations for developing and strengthening interventions.  
Coordination of all research activities in the field

Name and address of employer Hospital Clínic Barcelona, Spain.  
Contact: Julian Gabor. Julian.gabor@gmx.de

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Type of business or sector           | International Health.   |
| Dates                                | December 2007   |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant. Hanoi, Vietnam</i>   |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Coordination of a workshop on the Use of Social Sciences in Malaria Control, introducing basic concepts of medical anthropology, adapted to public health and epidemiology. Workshop held for representatives of the Ministries of Public Health of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. |
| Name and address of employer         | Institute of Tropical Medicine ITM Antwerp.<br>Contact: Prof. D'Alessandro Umberto. UDAlessandro@itg.be<br>National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Ha Noi, Vietnam.<br>Contact: Nguyen Xuan Xa. ngxxa@yahoo.com  |
| Type of business or sector           | Institutional Capacity Building   |
| Dates                                | December 2007.  |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Kon Tum, Vietnam.</i>   |
| Main activities and responsibilities | First phase of an international research project (2008-2011) aimed at improving malaria control in the border region between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia and increasing the cooperation between the respective countries in malaria control and public health interventions.               |
| Name and address of employer         | Institute of Tropical Medicine ITG Antwerp.<br>Contact: Prof. D'Alessandro Umberto. UDAlessandro@itg.be<br>National Institute for Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Ha Noi, Vietnam.<br>Contact: Nguyen Xuan Xa. ngxxa@yahoo.com  |
| Type of business or sector           | Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability  |
| Dates                                | August 2007– October 2007.  |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Iquitos Region, Peru.</i>   |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Research into the social vulnerability and access to public health services in the Peruvian Amazon: strategies to improve adherence to current radical treatment for <i>P.vivax</i> malaria.<br>Coordination of all research activities.  |
| Name and address of employer         | Institute of Tropical Medicine ITG Antwerp.<br>Contact: Prof. Umberto D'Alessandro. UDAlessandro@itg.be<br>Instituto de Medicina Tropical von Humboldt. Universidad Cayetano Heredia, Lima. Peru.<br>Contact: Dr. Tanilú Grande. tanilu_grande@yahoo.com                                  |
| Type of business or sector           | Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability  |
| Dates                                | June 2007 – August 2007.  |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Brussels, Belgium.</i>  |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Bibliography review on the use of translators and interpreters for immigrants and ethnic minorities when accessing public institutions. Project funded by the European Refugee Fund, European Union.  |
| Name and address of employer         | Cofetis/Fosovet, National Coordinators of Social Interpreting Services, Belgium.<br>Contact: Stephan Backes. Stephan@cofetis.be   |
| Type of business or sector           | Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability  |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Dates                                | November 2006 – May 2007.   |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Lambaréné, Gabon.</i>   |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Research on the acceptability and feasibility of malaria intermittent preventive treatment in infants when delivered through the Expanded Programme of Immunisation. Evaluate present and potential impediments and facilitating factors to the implementation and long-term acceptability of IPTi and make recommendations for developing and strengthening interventions.<br>Coordination of all research activities in the field |
| Name and address of employer         | Hospital Clínic Barcelona, Spain.<br>Contact: Julian Gabor. Julian.gabor@gmx.de   |
| Type of business or sector           | International Health.   |
| Dates                                | January 2007.   |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Amazon Regions of Iquitos and Pastaza, Peru.</i>  |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Theoretical background research for PASS International preliminary mission to identify social vulnerability among the Candoshi and Achuar ethnic minorities in the Peruvian Amazon, considering community perspectives on malaria prevention, treatment and access to public health services.<br>Evaluation of possibilities for the implementation of malaria control programmes.  |
| Name and address of employer         | Institute for Tropical Medicine ITG Antwerp<br>Contact: Prof. Umberto d'Alessandro. UDAlessandro@itg.be   |
| Type of business or sector           | Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability  |
| Dates                                | April – July 2006   |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Independent Consultant and Researcher. Boromo District, Burkina Faso.</i>  |
| Main activities and responsibilities | Applied research on the social vulnerability of ethnic minority adolescents and their access to antenatal health care in rural Africa.  |
| Name and address of employer         | Institute of Tropical Medicine ITG Antwerp.<br>Contact: Prof. Umberto D'Alessandro. UDAlessandro@itg.be<br>Burkina Faso Ministry of Public Health, Ougadougou, Burkina Faso.<br>Contact: Sheick Oumar Coulibally. sheickoumar2@yahoo.fr   |
| Type of business or sector           | Ethnic Minorities and Social Vulnerability  |
| Dates                                | November 2005 – March 2006  |
| Occupation or position held          | <i>Foreign Expert and Consultant. Ayos and Akonolinga, Central Cameroon.</i>  |
| Main activities and responsibilities | To calculate the cost burden of Buruli ulcer disease and to evaluate its impact on the individual and household economy. To research the social ramifications and consequences Bu in order to enhance policy awareness for improved disease control.  |
| Name and address of employer         | Aide aux Lépreux Emmaus Swiss ALES.<br>Contact : René Staeheli. staeheli@ales.ch<br>Médecins Sans Frontières MSF.<br>Contact: office-zuh@geneva.msf.org   |
| Type of business or sector           | International Health.   |
| <b>Education and training</b>        |   |
| Dates                                | 2001-2005   |

Title of qualification awarded *International Relations: Cum Laude*  
 Principal subjects/occupational skills covered Political Science. Main subject: Public Institutions and Health Care & Ethnic Minority Rights.  
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training USC University of Southern California.

**Personal skills and competences**

Mother tongue(s) **English**

Other language(s)

Self-assessment

*European level (\*)*

**English**

**French**

**Dutch**

**Spanish**

| Understanding |                  |         |                  | Speaking           |                  |                   |                  | Writing |                  |
|---------------|------------------|---------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| Listening     |                  | Reading |                  | Spoken interaction |                  | Spoken production |                  |         |                  |
| C2            | Proficient user  | C2      | Proficient user  | C2                 | Proficient user  | C2                | Proficient user  | C2      | Proficient user  |
| C2            | Proficient user  | C2      | Proficient user  | C2                 | Proficient user  | C2                | Proficient user  | C2      | Proficient user  |
| B1            | Independent user | B1      | Independent user | B1                 | Independent user | B1                | Independent user | B1      | Independent user |
| C1            | Independent user | C1      | Independent user | B1                 | Independent user | B1                | Independent user | B1      | Independent user |

**Social skills and competences**

Social sciences have increasingly been recognised as an integral component of understanding social vulnerability and improve social inclusion strategies in public policy and planning.

Public policy and international health have been my priority for the last 3 years as an independent consultant.

My experience in developing countries and theoretical background in anthropology and political science are a good combination to carry out field research. My language skills, most particularly, English as a native language, is an asset.

**Computer skills and competences**

N/Vivo: Qualitative Data Analysis Software.  
 Epi Info: Statistical Analysis Software common in Epidemiology.  
 Microsoft Office

**Additional information**

Most Relevant Publications

Peeters Grietens, K.; Muela, J.; Toomer, E; Hausman, S.; (forthcoming) "It Is Me who Endures but my Family that Suffers": Social Isolation as a Consequence of the Household Cost Burden Of Buruli Ulcer Free of Charge of Hospital Treatment. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Disease*.  
 Muela, J., Hausmann, S., Toomer, E. & Peeters, K. (forthcoming). Stigma Research in Neglected Tropical Diseases. *PLoS NTD*.  
 Peeters Grietens, K., Gies, S., Toomer, E. D'Alessandro, U. (in progress) Bottlenecks for IPTp: the Case of Adolescent Pregnancies in Rural Burkina Faso.  
 Peeters Grietens, K.; Xa N.X.; Erhart, A.; Toomer, E. D'Alessandro, U. (in progress) Low Risk Perception of Contracting Malaria among the Raglay Ethnic Minority In South-Central Vietnam. Implications for Forest Malaria Control.  
 Peeters Grietens, K.; Xa N.X.; Erhart, A.; Toomer, E. D'Alessandro, U. (in progress) Sleeping habits and forest activity Among the Raglai ethnic minority population in vietnam and their importance for malaria control strategies.

**Annexes**