

## Curriculum Vitae

### Dr. Diego Augusto Menestrey Schwieger



#### Personal Information

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Date and place of birth: 16th of September 1981, Bogotá/ Colombia  
Family status: In a steady relationship, no children.

#### Personal address

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#### Professional address

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#### Brief Profile

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- Postdoctoral researcher with training in Social & Cultural Anthropology.
- Experience in the development and implementation of third-party-funded, interdisciplinary research projects.
- Experience in coordination of academic programs.
- Main research topics: Political ecology of land degradation and restoration, rural livelihoods, natural resource management, conservation, pastoralism.
- Teaching subjects at BA and MA level: Concepts and practices in environmental anthropology, institutional theory, natural resource governance, research methods in anthropology.
- Regional focus: Southern Africa (Namibia), Latin America (Colombia, Caribbean).

#### Professional Development

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Since 03/2019	Postdoctoral researcher (from 09/2023 principal investigator), Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Cologne.
09/2017 – 05/2018	Postdoctoral researcher, Range Ecology and Management Group, Botanical Institute, Univ. of Cologne.
09/2016 – 08/2017	Coordinator of the Master's program "Culture and Environment in Africa", Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Cologne.

05/2010 – 05/2016	Research fellow/Ph.D. student, Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Cologne.
08/2008 – 06/2009	Research assistant/MA student, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Latin-American section, Hamburg.
04/2008 – 08/2008	Student tutor/MA student, Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Hamburg.
01/2008 – 05/2008	Research assistant/MA student, Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Hamburg.
01/2006 – 12/2007	Research assistant/MA student, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Latin-American section, Hamburg.

### **Qualifications**

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06/2017	Ph.D. (Dr. Phil., magna cum laude), Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Cologne.  Title of dissertation: “The Pump Keeps on Running: On the Emergence of Water Management Institutions Between State Decentralization and Local Practices in Northern Kunene”. Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig, Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg, and Prof. Dr. Thomas Widlok.
04/2010	Magister Artium (M.A., “very good”), Dept. of Social & Cultural Anthropology, Univ. of Hamburg.
03/2004 – 04/2010	Studies in Social & Cultural Anthropology (major), Sociology (1st minor), and Latin-American Studies (2nd minor).
10/2002 – 02/2004	Studies in Aircraft Construction, University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg.
09/2001 – 07/2002	Abitur/German high school degree, Zentralkolleg Hamburg, Germany.
07/2000	Colombian high school degree, German School, Bogotá, Colombia.

### **Additional work experience**

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07/2012 – 09/2023	Research consultant, African Parks Network – Angola, Methodology development for a socio-economic study of pastoralism in Iona National Park.
02/2023 – 03/2023	Research consultant, GIZ Namibia, Support to Evidence-based and Coordinated Agri-Trade Policy Development in Namibia (ECAP).
06/2009 – 02/2009	Intercultural trainer, InWent gGmbH (preparatory training center for development cooperation, Bad Honnef).
07/2008 – 07/2009	Research consultant, United Nations University (Bonn), Water Management and Violent Conflicts in Northwestern Namibia (MICROCON program).
11/2005 – 12/2005	NGO Worker, Fundación Caipora, Bogotá/Colombia.
09/2005 – 10/2005	Educational consultant, Aseo Capital, Bogotá/Colombia.

## Publications

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*Total number: 12, thereof monographs/books (1), peer-reviewed articles (9), working papers (1), booklets (1).*

### Monographs

Menestrey Schwieger, D. A. 2017. The pump keeps on running: On the emergence of water management institutions between state decentralization and local practices in northern Kunene. Lit Verlag: Münster.

### Refereed journal articles

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A., 2023. Overcoming Namibia's worst drought in the last 40 years: Ethnographic insights from Okakarara constituency. *Journal of Namibian Studies*, 33, 31-56

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A., Dimba Kiaka, R., Schnegg, M., 2022. Water values and moral economic practices in Kunene, Namibia. *Water Alternatives*, 15(3): 614-630.

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. 2022. Exploring pastoralists' perceptions of desertification tipping points in Namibia's communal drylands: An ethnographic case study from Okakarara Constituency. *Pastoralism*, 12:3.

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. 2020. When design principles do not apply: The role of individual commitment and "voluntarism" in maintaining communal water supply in northern Kunene, Namibia. *Human Organization*, 79(3): 216-225.

Bollig, M., Schnegg, M., Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. 2020. Ethnographic Upscaling: Exploring and testing hypotheses drawn from in-depth ethnographic findings in spatially continuous cases. *Field Methods*, 32(4):346-364.

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. 2020. Socio-historical and structural factors linked to land degradation and desertification in Namibia's former Herero' homelands', *Journal of Arid Environments*, 178:104151.

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. 2019. Negotiating water on unequal terms: Cattle loans, dependencies and power in communal water management in northwest Namibia. *Nomadic Peoples*, 23(2):241-260.

Menestrey Schwieger, D. A. 2015. An ethnographic analysis of the role of power in institutional arrangements: Borehole cost recovery within a pastoral community in north-western Namibia. *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 25(4):258–269.

Bollig, M., & Menestrey Schwieger, D. A. 2014. Fragmentation, cooperation and power: Institutional dynamics in natural resource governance in north-western Namibia. *Human ecology*, 42(2):167-181.

### Working papers

Menestrey Schwieger, D. A. 2010. Institutions and conflict: communal water management in north-west Namibia. MICROCON Research Working Paper 34. Brighton: MICROCON.

### Booklets

Menestrey Schwieger, D.6 A. 2012. Institutions and conflict: An ethnographic study of communal water management in north-west Namibia. Köln: Kölner Ethnologische Beiträge.

## External funding

*Total amount of third-party funding: 254.487,10€*

### *Current projects*

<i>Project</i>	<i>Funder</i>	<i>Volume</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Function</i>
Collaborative project GlobalTip: NamTip - A Namibian perspective on desertification tipping points in the context of climate change - Subproject 3*: Social and Cultural Implications, FKZ: 01LC2321C (Phase II).	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Germany), research grant	254.487,10€	09/2023 – 08/2025	Applicant, Principal Investigator.

### *Participation in funded projects*

<i>Project</i>	<i>Funder/ Volume</i>	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Function</i>
Collaborative Project BioTip: Identifying and Understanding Desertification Tipping Points - A Namibian Perspective (NamTip) – Subproject 3* Social and Cultural Implications, FKZ: 01LC1821C (Phase I)	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Germany), research grant. Subproject: 439.321,79€, whole project: 3.983.193,76€.	Subproject: Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig. Whole Project: Prof. Dr. Anja Linstädter (lead)	02/2019 – 02/2023	Participation in writing grant proposal, implementation of research, reporting.
Collaborative Project BioTip: Desertification Tipping Points in Namibian Drylands (NamTip) – Pre-Phase FKZ: 01LC174A-B	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (GER), research grant whole project: 236.794,44€	PD Dr. Anja Linstädter	06/2017 – 05/2018	Participation in writing grant proposal for Phase I, reporting.
Local Institutions in Globalized Societies, Project number 154113741	DFG (long-term research grant) / whole project: approx.. 2.000.000,00€.	Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig, Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg	04/2010 – 04/2019	Collaboration in designing data collection instruments, implementation of research, reporting, coordination.

## Awards and further grants

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| 10/2015 | Internal funding for the preparation of a DFG proposal, Seed Funding of the Univ. of Cologne, Total: 2000€. |
| 12/2010 | Hamburg's student's price in Social & Cultural Anthropology.  |

## Presentations

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### Presentations at conferences and workshops

- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (09/2022). Anthropological perspectives on Desertification Tipping Points: Selection of results from the NamTip project. Namibian Rangeland Forum, Windhoek.
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (12/2021). Exploring pastoralists' perceptions of desertification tipping points in Namibia's communal drylands: An ethnographic case study from Okakarara constituency. Anthropology Southern Africa/ Ethnological and Anthropological Society of Nigeria International Conference, 2-4 December 2021. Windhoek, Namibia
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (06/2019). Socio-historical and structural factors linked to land degradation in Namibia's former Herero 'homelands'. POLISES (Global Food Security Policies and Their Social-Ecological Side Effects in Regions Prone to Global Change) Colloquium (Leipzig).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig) (07/2018). Hydraulic infrastructures, rhizomatic extensions of the state and the emergence of a hybrid hydro-Scape. LINGS project's workshop 'In Troubled Waters' (Hamburg).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg and Dr. Richard D. Kiaka) (07/2018). The Moral Price of Water in Rural Namibia'. LINGS project's workshop 'In Troubled Waters (Hamburg).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. Beyond 'Blueprints' and Institutional Robustness: Dynamics and "Successful" Practices of Communal Water Management in Northern Kunene. Association of African Studies in Germany (VAD) Conference (Leipzig).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (05/2018). Factors influencing local dynamics of poverty and social inequality in interrelation with the rural water decentralization reform. IGU Commission on African Studies Inaugural Conference (Windhoek).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (together with Dr. Dave Joubert) (05/2018). NamTip – an upcoming research project to understand and prevent desertification tipping points in Namibian rangelands (Poster). Commission on African Studies Inaugural Conference (IGU) (Windhoek).
- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (06/2013). On Counting Cows, Power and Institutional Change: Communal Water Management in the Kunene Region, North-western Namibia'. 10th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics (Lille).

### Panels organized

- Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (together with Dr. Meed Mbidzo) (12/2012). Life and livelihoods in the face of environmental 'tipping points': potential contributions and critical reflections from an Anthropological perspective (Accepted at the virtual conference organized by Anthropology Southern Africa (ASNA) and the Ethnological and Anthropological Society of Nigeria (EASON).

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (06/2018). Glocal (Dis)connections of Values, Ideals, and Practices of Water Management in Africa'. Panel at the Association of African Studies in Germany (VAD) Conference (Leipzig).

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig, Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg, Dr. Richard D. Kiaka, Dr. Elsemi Olwage) (05/2018). Linking CBNRM, Inequalities and Rural Poverty in Namibia and Southern Africa'. IGU Commission on African Studies Inaugural Conference (Windhoek).

### **Invited presentations**

Menestrey Schwieger, D.A. (02/2023). Anthropological perspectives on Desertification Tipping Points: Selection of results from the NamTip project. National Botanical Research Institute (Namibia)

### **Scientific services: Organization of scientific events, reviews, memberships**

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#### *Organization of workshops*

NamTip stakeholder and knowledge sharing workshop, Okakarara, 10/2022 (together with Dr. Cornelis van der Waal and Bertus Kruger).

Writing retreat and workshop for developing a joint proposal for Phase I of NamTip, Cologne, 02/2018.

LINGS stakeholder and knowledge sharing workshop, Windhoek, 11/2018 (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg, Dr. Elsemi Olwage and Dr. Richard D. Kiaka).

#### *Reviews for journals*

Climate and Development (1), Nomadic peoples (1).

#### *Memberships*

Global South Studies Center (GSSC), Anthropology Southern Africa (ASNA), Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA).

### **Science communication and public outreach**

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Newspaper article in The Namibian, "Kunene needs a new water management approach", 19th February 2019 (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg, Dr. Elsemi Olwage, and Dr. Richard D. Kiaka).

Public talk at the Namibian Scientific Society, "NamTip – an upcoming research project to understand and prevent desertification tipping points in Namibian rangelands", 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 (together with Dr. Dave Joubert).

### **Main cooperation partners**

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#### *International*

Dr. Meed Mbidzo, Department of Natural Resource Science, Univ. of Science and Technology, Namibia, currently collaborating in the implementation of the research project NamTip.

Willem Odendaal, Legal Assistance Centre, Namibia, facilitated the implementation of the research project “Water Management and Violent Conflicts in Northwestern Namibia” (part of the MICROCON program).

*National*

Prof. Dr. Anja Linstädter, Biodiversity Research /Systematic Botany, Univ. of Potsdam, Germany, currently collaborating in the implementation of the research project NamTip.

**Teaching**

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*Co-supervision of PhD theses*

Since 10/2023                      The Future of Waterberg Landscape in the Face of Desertification Tipping Points: Farmers’ Decision-Making Scenarios, Hleni Heita, Univ. of Science and Technology. First supervisor: Dr. Meed Mbidzo.

*Supervision of bachelor theses*

02/2017 – 10/2017                Zur Konstruktion von Geschlechterbildern im Reggaeton: Eine Text- und Videoanalyse zur Verbindung von Musik und Gender aus ethnologischer Perspektive. Univ. of Cologne. First supervisor: Prof. Dr. Michael Bollig.

*Field excursions*

03/2016 – 04/2016                Supervised 10 students from the University of Cologne and 2 from the University of Namibia in conducting their anthropological fieldwork training in northern Kunene, Namibia. (together with Prof. Michael Bollig and Dr. Elsemi Olwage).

*Courses*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Institution</i>
09/2022	Anthropological fieldwork and methods	Block Seminar	Ph.D. MA	15	Univ. of Namibia
03/2022	Local perceptions of desertification tipping points in Namibia’s drylands: a case study	Guest lecture	BA	1,5	Namibia Univ. of Science and Technology
09/2021	When design principles do not apply: a case study on communal water management in the northern Kunene Region	Guest lecture	BA	1,5	Namibia Univ. of Science and Technology
04/2021	Understanding desertification at the community level in Namibia’s eastern communal rangelands: a comparative study integrating social and ecological insights	Guest lecture	BA	1,5	Namibia Univ. of Science and Technology

Summer term 2018	Basic concepts of research in hazard, vulnerability, and risk management	Seminar	MA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Summer term 2018	Guerrillas, paras, narcos – an approach to understanding armed conflict and violence in Colombia	Seminar	BA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Winter term 2016/17	Qualitative and quantitative methods in Social Anthropology	Seminar	MA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Winter term 2016/17	Theoretical approaches to human-environment relations - an introduction	Seminar	BA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Summer term 2016	Anthropological perspectives on the caribbean	Seminar	BA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Summer term 2014	Governing the commons: Theories and concepts underlying community-based natural resource management	Seminar	MA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Cologne
Summer term 2010	Institutions and cooperation (together with Prof. Dr. Michael Schnegg, Dr. Theresa Linke, Kathrin Gradt)	Seminar	BA	1,5/ week	Univ. of Hamburg

#### *University didactics and further education*

- 05/2019 Basics of communication and conversational skills for scientists, 7,5 hours course, University of Cologne.
- 07/2017 Learning and teaching training for lecturers, 14 hours course, Univ. of Cologne.
- 09/2014 Teaching and didactical methods for lecturers II, 14 hours course, Univ. of Cologne.
- 09/2013 Teaching and didactical methods for lecturers I, 14 hours course, Univ. of Cologne.
- 07/2013 Third-party funding for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, 7,5 hours course, Univ. of Cologne.

#### **References**

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