

Having trained in South Africa and the UK, I have worked for over 25 years in the field of health policy and systems research. I have a keen interest in how research evidence can be used to strengthen health systems and services, through informing decisions at national and global levels. My research and policy work have focused particularly on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and the global level, including working with multilateral organisations such as the WHO on guideline development methods and health systems guidance.

My methodological interests include approaches for undertaking systematic reviews of complex health system interventions, and methods for synthesizing the findings of multiple qualitative studies and assessing confidence in such findings. Together with colleagues at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, I coordinated a landmark series of papers on the [GRADE-CERQual approach](#) for assessing confidence in findings from systematic reviews of qualitative studies. I am currently exploring how qualitative evidence can contribute to humanizing health decision making through highlighting the perspectives of key stakeholders, including marginalized groups – this work was highlighted in the recent Global Symposium on using qualitative evidence to inform decisions in the SDG era which we organized together with the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Brasilia.

As Joint Co-ordinating Editor of Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care ([EPOC](#)) and lead for the Norwegian EPOC satellite, I have played a key role in strengthening Cochrane's work in the field of health systems and in developing Cochrane methods for qualitative evidence synthesis. I have been Principal Investigator for a number of Research Council of Norway funded projects and Co-Investigator for projects funded by NIHR (UK), the EU and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, among others. In these projects, I work closely with partners in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda and with the wide EPOC LMIC network. I hold part-time positions as a Senior Researcher in the Centre for Epidemic Interventions Research ([CEIR](#)), Norwegian Institute of Public Health and as a Chief Specialist Scientist in the [Health Systems Research Unit](#) of the South African Medical Research Council, and sit on a number of WHO Advisory Committees.