



Charlotte Simons

(COPY)WRITER AND
AFRICANIST

Contact Details

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- E-mail: charlotte.s.simons@gmail.com
- Portfolio: charlottesimonsmedia.com
- Medium: charlotte-simons.medium.com

Core Skills

- Journalism, both online and offline
- Translating (Dutch - English, English - Dutch)
- Text editing
- Producing branded content
- Subtitling
- Management
- Social media
- Basic web design
- Content Management Systems (CMS)

Languages

- Dutch (native proficiency)
- English (full professional proficiency)
- French (elementary proficiency)
- German (elementary proficiency)
- Luganda (elementary proficiency)
- Kiswahili (elementary proficiency)

Profile

Since 2016, I have been working as a (freelance) copy writer and content writer. My areas of expertise include women's issues, Sub-Saharan Africa, (mental) health topics and pop culture. I'm also hugely passionate about the deinstitutionalisation of child care systems, family-based care and family strengthening in Africa - Uganda in particular. Since the beginning of 2020, I have been working parttime with a Ugandan NGO named Alternative Care Initiatives. Lastly, I'm currently finishing my master's degree in African Studies (with a focus on Uganda) at Leiden University, and I'm in the midst of co-writing a book on the orphanage industry in Sub-Saharan Africa (for which I was signed to Schönbach Agency, a well-known literary agency in The Netherlands).

Academic Background

MASTER'S DEGREE IN AFRICAN STUDIES

Leiden University, The Netherlands • 2019 - Present

- I'm finishing my master's degree in African Studies at the moment. My thesis is on the (sexual) abuse that children in child care institutions in Uganda experience, and how it impacts them.
- Courses: 'Africa in Practice', 'Economy, Geography and Society in Africa', 'History and Politics in Africa', 'Language and Communication in Africa', 'Literature, Art and Culture in Africa', 'Researching Africa in the 21st Century'.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Leiden University, The Netherlands • 2013 - 2019 (I worked for a few years in between)

- Geographic specialisation: Eastern Africa, Uganda in particular.
- Thematic focus: cultural studies, history.
- Thesis: '*Oeganda terug de kast in: de invloed van de Amerikaanse, christelijk-rechtse lobby op het homofobe klimaat in Oeganda*'. Rough translation: '*Uganda back into the closet: the influence of the American religious right on Uganda's homophobic climate*'.
- Minored in Journalism and New Media, also at Leiden University.

SEMESTER ABROAD AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, UGANDA

Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda • February 2015 - June 2015

From February 2015 up until June 2015, I spent a semester abroad, studying at Makerere University in the Ugandan capital city Kampala. I mainly attended private tutorial lessons to learn Luganda, the language spoken in Uganda's Central Region.

PROPAEDEUTIC DIPLOMA IN CULTURAL SCIENCES

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands • 2012 - 2013

In 2013, I obtained my propaedeutic diploma at the University of Amsterdam, which means that I successfully completed my first year. I then transferred to Leiden University.



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Work Experience

FREELANCE WRITER

Self-employed • 2016 - Present

I've written articles for different Dutch media outlets, such as LINDA.meiden, VICE.com, Grazia and OneWorld. A selection of my work can be found on charlottesimonsmedia.com.

ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

Alternative Care Initiatives, Kampala, Uganda • 2020 - Present

After interning with Alternative Care Initiatives (ACI) for my master's programme African Studies, I started working with this NGO parttime, doing advocacy work and conducting research. ACI wholeheartedly believe that children outside of parental care belong in families and their communities, not in childcare institutions. More information: alternative-care-initiatives.org.

EDITOR

VICE Media Benelux (VICE.com/nl), Amsterdam, The Netherlands • 2016 - 2018

At VICE Media Benelux, I filled different positions. I started out as an Editorial Intern in 2016, while minoring in Journalism and New Media at Leiden University. I then went on to become (Interim) Social Producer and Copy Editor the following year, after which I became Junior Editor from 2017 to 2018. During my time at VICE, I produced editorial and branded content, managed multiple social media accounts, translated articles from Dutch into English and vice versa, wrote subtitles and managed a small editorial team, among other things.

INTERNSHIP AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

RTL Nieuws, Johannesburg, South Africa • April 2017 - June 2017

From April up until June 2017, I interned with Koen de Regt in Johannesburg, South Africa, who was RTL 4's Africa correspondent at the time. RTL 4 is the most-watched commercial television station in The Netherlands.

STUDENT ASSISTANT

African Studies Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands • June 2014 - December 2014

As a student assistant at the African Studies Centre, I was mainly responsible for all kinds of secretarial and administrative tasks.

INTERNSHIP AT SIX SCENTS

The Metaproject/Six Scents Fragrances, New York, USA • March 2012 - April 2012

During my time at Six Scents, I mainly updated the company's social media channels, assisted with writing press releases and delivered packages around Manhattan.

Certifications

- International Baccalaureate Diploma
- University of Cambridge ESOL examinations level 3
- University of Cambridge ESOL examinations level 1