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Building life histories of Cape Town's enslaved, 1700-1850

Mbeki, L.

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Linda Mbeki was born in Morija, Lesotho, on September 26th 1979. She followed a liberal arts education at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she majored in Chemistry. For her masters at the University of Cape Town, she specialised in synthetic organic chemistry. A keen interest in history and the possibility to combine this with her scientific background led Linda to join the Institute for Geo- and Bioarchaeology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam as a Ph.D. candidate in 2012.



For the past two years Linda has worked as part of the editorial team of the open access journal Open Chemistry. This allows her to keep abreast of developments in classical chemistry and newer applied topics.

Linda is eager to apply the skills learnt from her doctoral study to investigate the impact industrialisation in South Africa had on the complex sub-Saharan societies that provided the labour required to make this process possible.