

BIOGRAPHY – DR CLAIRE WESTMAN

Dr Westman completed her PhD at the University of Stellenbosch in 2019 on the topic “There’s no such thing as gay’: Black lesbians and nationhood in post-apartheid South Africa”. Her research interest is on violence/rape committed against Black lesbian women within South Africa as a result of the continuation of racist, heteronormative, and patriarchal ideologies that arose during colonialism and apartheid and which continue today. She focuses specifically on patriarchal violence at the intersections of race, class, and sexuality, as well as how such violence is related to ideas around nationalism and national identity. Dr Westman joined the Free State Centre for Human Rights as a postdoctoral research fellow in March 2021.