

A circular portrait of Helen Schneider, a woman with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark top and a grey patterned scarf. The portrait is set against a white background and is framed by a blue circular graphic element on the left side of the slide.

Helen Schneider

Helen Schneider is a public-health specialist and health systems and policy researcher who has worked for more than 30 years on themes related to South Africa's health system. She joined the School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape in 2011 and was its Director from 2013 to 2016. Since 2015, she has also been the director of the UWC/MRC Health Services to Systems Research Unit, and in 2016 was awarded a South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Health Systems Governance.

Helen's research and policy interests have included an understanding of the political dynamics of AIDS policy under the Mbeki government and the health system-wide implications of programmatic interventions such as ARV scale-up; the implementation of South Africa's Ward Based Outreach Team Strategy; governance and leadership of national community health worker programmes; and most recently, contemporary approaches to strengthening of primary health care and district health systems.