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Title of Presentation: Thinking Beyond Gender Equality: Exploring ‘Agency as Expression of Purpose’ and ‘Transformation in Connection’ for women empowerment in the field of Information and Communication Technology and beyond.

Ineke Buskens is an independent research, evaluation, gender awareness and process facilitation consultant, based in Grabouw, Western Cape, South Africa. She has lived and worked in the Netherlands, Ghana, India, Brazil, Macau (SAR China) and South Africa. Ineke has published on qualitative and emancipatory research methodology, women’s health, research-with-women, gender and ICT, and Open Development. Ineke obtained her Drs. degree in Cultural Anthropology from the Rijks Universiteit Leiden in the Netherlands, where she co-designed and co-facilitated the first women’s studies majors in the country at the departments of Sociology and Cultural Anthropology.

After arrival in South Africa in April 1990, Ineke led the Centre for Research Methodology at the Human Sciences Research Council from 1991-1996, whereupon she started her own consultancy and has worked independently since then. Ineke has led several transnational and trans-disciplinary research projects of which the GRACE Network, which involved 35 research teams in 18 countries, was the latest (gracenetwork.net). Ineke has been the Network’s research director since its inception in 2004 and is the main editor of its two books. The Network’s second book "Women and ICT in Africa and the Middle East: Changing Selves, Changing Societies" has been characterized as ‘the most comprehensive analysis available on the link between ICT and women's empowerment’ by WorldCat. On 7 October 2014, the GRACE Network was presented with the sixth Artful Integrators' Award for having 'demonstrated its commitment to research- based intervention approaching gender-based injustice with the aim of prevention, attempting to engage root causes rather than only remediation'.

From September 2015 to December 2016 Ineke held the position of principal research fellow at the United Nations Institute of Computing and Society in Macau, SAR China, where she designed and facilitated the first Women IN ICT Workshop in East Asia, which became the platform for a potential emergence of the Women IN ICT East Asian Network.