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Laura Ferguson is an assistant professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California and the director of the [Program on Global Health & Human Rights](#) at the USC Institute on Inequalities in Global Health.

Her research focuses on understanding and addressing health system and societal factors affecting the uptake of health services, and developing the evidence base of how attention to human rights can improve health outcomes. She collaborates with a range of United Nations agencies as well as foundations, universities and non-governmental organizations in different countries. She has spent extended periods of time in low-income countries, primarily sub-Saharan Africa, collaborating with partners, helping to build the capacity of her local colleagues and designing and managing research and projects to tackle a range of issues including HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health and child health.

She is also an associate editor for the journal *Reproductive Health Matters*.

Ferguson earned her SM in population and international health from the Harvard University School of Public Health and her PhD from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.