

Jude Cobbing

Senior Program Manager, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

Research Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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[LinkedIn](#)

Education

- Ph.D. Groundwater Management, Nelson Mandela University, 2017
- M.S. Hydrogeology, University College, London, 2001
- B.S. Geology and English, University of Cape Town, 1993

Professional Experience

- March 2025 – Present – Senior Program Manager and Research Assistant Professor, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska
- June 2024 – March 2025 – Deputy Director, Feed the Future Innovation Laboratory for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska
- October 2020 – May 2024 – Advisor, WASH Governance and Infrastructure, Save the Children, Washington DC
- May 2017 – September 2020 – Consulting hydrogeologist, Washington DC
- March 2015 – April 2017 – Consulting hydrogeologist and PhD student, Washington DC
- June 2010 – February 2015 – Groundwater team leader, SLR Consulting, Johannesburg, South Africa
- August 2007 – June 2010 – Senior hydrogeologist, Water Geosciences Consulting, Pretoria, South Africa
- June 2005 – June 2007 – Hydrogeologist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa
- November 2000 – March 2005 – Hydrogeologist, British Geological Survey, Wallingford, England
- May 1996 – September 2000 – Teacher, book shop manager and M.Sc. student, London, England
- March 1995 – April 1996 – Rural Water Resources Project Manager, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Selected Outputs:

Publications and Multimedia

Videos and podcasts

2024

- Featured researcher, “Opportunities of Irrigation and Mechanization.” Daugherty Water for Food Podcasts, July 23, 2024, <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/our-work/communication/podcast>.

Presentations and Engagements

2025

- Great Plains Water Conference. Invited judge for student poster competition. September 18-19, 2025, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska.
- “Transboundary Water Cooperation.” Invited speaker, Third International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences, August 18-20, 2025, Durban, South Africa.

- “Water for Food and Water for the Environment: Trade-off or Opportunity?” Invited speaker and plenary panel chair, Third International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences, August 18-20, 2025, Durban, South Africa.
- “Nourish and Flourish: How to Enhance Agricultural Water Management to Feed 10 Billion People on a Livable Planet.” Invited consultant, July 8, 2025, World Bank, Washington, DC.
- “Smallholder agricultural water management: Tackling myths, Moving forward.” Organizer, Water for Food Global Conference, April 30, 2025, Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Lincoln, NE.
- Ghana study tour for Yeutter Institute undergraduate student fellows. Organizer (with E. Anders, N. Brozović, R. Rimšaitė, C. Gerlach, N. Lefore), March 15-22, 2025, Ghana.

2024

- 2024 Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, Delegate, October 28-31, Des Moines, Iowa.
- “Africa’s Irrigation Landscape.” Presenter and panelist at the 9th African Water Week, October 16, 2024, Cairo, Egypt.
- “The Innovation Lab for Irrigation and Mechanization Systems.” Speaker, Nebraska Water Center Conference, October 10, 2024, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Africa Food Systems Forum 2024, Delegate, September 3-6, 2024, Kigali, Rwanda.
- World Water Week, Delegate, August 24-29, 2024, Stockholm, Sweden.

Selected External Support:

- Central Kansas Water Bank review, Rimšaitė, R. (PI), Brozović, N., **Cobbing, J.**, Mieno, T., and Schoengold, K., *Kansas Department of Administration*, \$135,880; 2025-2026.