

Matthew Shearing

Professional Profile



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Nationality: British

Age: 49

Residential bases: Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, UK

Independent consultant with over 20 years of experience across the globe in developing statistics for the public good and improving the management and impact of data in international development.

Matthew has worked in national and international institutions across the private and public sectors on both statistical outputs and high-level strategic issues. As a consultant since 2015, he has in-depth experience in statistical capacity development with a wide range of countries and institutions. His focus has been on strategy, social inclusion, innovation, and managing data quality, with in-depth country experience across Africa and Asia-Pacific. Matthew is also highly experienced in Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation, and Learning (MREL) and Project/Programme Management. He is an **elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)** and **Co-Chair of its [Capacity Building Committee](#)** and has been highly active in volunteering contributions to international statistical conferences. Matthew is Co-Founder of the [Online Privacy Foundation](#), delivering research and advice on the use of personal data in social media.

Languages: English (native), French (intermediate), Indonesian (intermediate)

Qualifications

MA Hons. (2:1) 1996

Advanced-Level 1992

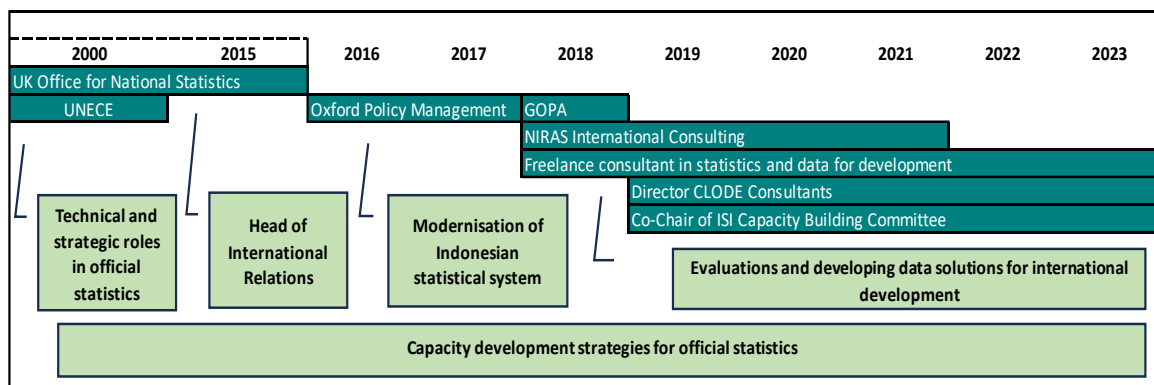
Ordinary Certificate 2004

Geography and Politics, University of Edinburgh, UK

Statistics and Pure Mathematics, Geography, French

Statistics, Royal Statistical Society

Career summary



Career history

Current roles:

Independent consultant, from April 2018 (full time from 2021): including regular assignments on statistical capacity development for United Nations bodies and the World Bank.

Director, [CLODE Consultants](#), from December 2018 ongoing: company management, project design, and supporting the company's implementation of training and capacity development in official statistics and data-based research.

Elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), from January 2019: voluntary work as Co-Chair of its **Capacity Building Committee (CBC)** developing a new strategy for ISI's capacity development activities in the modern data ecosystem.

Associate, NIRAS International Consulting (NIC), from September 2021: close-relationship and flexible use consultancy arrangements

Previous roles since 2001 (more details in sections below):

- **Principal Consultant (Statistics and Evaluation), NIRAS-LTS International,** Indonesia, from May 2018 to August 2021
- **Senior Official Statistics Advisor, GOPA,** Germany/global, April 2018 to August 2019
- **Senior Statistics Consultant, Oxford Policy Management Ltd,** Indonesia, September 2015 to April 2018
- **Head of International Relations, UK Statistics Authority and Office for National Statistics (ONS),** UK, 2011 – 2015
- **Head of Government Statistical Service (GSS) Development,** UK Statistics Authority (UKSA)/ ONS, 2010 - 2011
- **Principal Private Secretary to the UK National Statistician,** UKSA/ONS, 2008- 2010
- **Head of the ONS Directors General's Office,** UK, 2008
- **Head of ONS Executive Board Secretariat,** UK, 2006 – 2008
- **Senior EU Regional Statistics Advisor, ONS,** UK, 2004 - 2006
- **National Accounts Project officer, ONS,** UK, 2004
- **Seconded National Expert, UN-ECE Statistics Division,** Switzerland, 2003 - 2004
- **National Accounts Researcher, ONS,** UK, 2001 – 2003
- **Executive Officer, ONS,** UK, 2000- 2001

Consultancy assignments since 2015

Employers are indicator in brackets after the job title

Evaluator (SSB) of training to National Statistics Offices (NSOs) by Statistics Norway (SSB) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the [Food Security Statistics Programme](#), Nov 2023 – March 2024

Evaluation design and delivery. Evidence collection with international organisations and in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

Consultant (UNICEF) on mainstreaming Child Rights in strategic planning for official statistics, April – Dec 2023

Development of a toolkit to support UNICEF staff, data users, and official statisticians in advancing and mainstreaming Child Rights and inclusive data across strategic planning for official statistics, such as in National and Regional Strategies for the Development of Statistics (N/RSDSs). Worked with countries across Africa and Asia, including in-country support to the development of NSDSs in Rwanda and South Sudan.

Short-Term Consultant (World Bank East Asia and the Pacific) – Advisor on statistical capacity development, since Feb 2021, ongoing

Led the drafting of the [NSDS for Timor-Leste](#) and technical support on implementation, such as advising on the development of legal and institutional arrangements. Ad hoc advice to the Bank on statistical capacity building practice and theory, including development of [modernisation maturity assessment models](#).

Training moderator (CLODE Consultants) - Executive Programme in Strategic Leadership Insights for the Statistical Centre of Abu Dhabi (SCAD), June 2023

Training middle managers from across Government in leading modern statistical organisations.

Statistics and Evaluation Advisor (CLODE Consultants) – Evaluation of the SPC's Improving Access to Pacific Statistics and Data initiative, Dec 2022 – April 2023

Advising on learning and future planning by the Pacific Community (SPC) for evidence-informed decision-making in the Pacific through increasing the quality and accessibility of data and statistics.

Consultant (UN Economic Commission for Africa - UNECA) on the [Roadmap for the Transformation and Modernisation of Official Statistics in Africa](#) – June – Dec 2022

Lead author of the Roadmap, agreed by the African Statistical Commission, and development of recommended action plan for bodies in the African Statistical System. Plus, a review of and recommendations for the development of Malawi's National Statistical System (NSS).

Consultant on [data innovation in official statistics](#) (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - UNESCAP), Sept 2022 – April 2023

Designing tailored national strategies and providing [training](#) for the use of big data and traditional data sources for gender-environment indicators in Mongolia and Cambodia. Delivered country and regional-level learning activities and training material.

Senior Data Advisor (NIRAS International Consulting – Indonesia)- Evaluation of MAHKOTA's programme's contribution towards Indonesia's national poverty data system, July 2022 – Jan 2023

Advising DFAT (Australian Government) about the impact of the programme from official statistics perspectives and managing data quality.

Short-Term Expert (Expertise France) on SDG Indicators - Eurostat's Statistics Through Eastern Partnership programme, July 2021 - March 2022

Lead author of a [publication](#) presenting and analysing official statistics on progress towards SDG8 (Economic Growth and Decent Work) and capacity development challenges across Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Delivered workshops for partner countries on overall data reporting and production for SDG Indicators.

Team Leader (NIRAS International Consulting - NIC) – Digital Strategy Task Force, July- November 2021

Leading the development of corporate global strategy and tools for NIC's approach to the use of digital data and technology in international development, building on earlier establishment, as a NIC employee, of [NIRAS Digital Futures](#).

Statistics Advisor (NIC Indonesia), Investing in Women, DFAT, Jan– Sept 2021 & Jan 2023

Led the development of data collection tools and statistical analysis on perceptions towards gender issues of urban millennials across Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Senior Statistics Expert (CLODE Consultants), UN Women Country Gender Assessment for Fiji (FCGA), Sept 2020 – Feb 2022

Led the analysis and compilation of data sources and quality issues feeding into the FCGA. Provided policy advice for the Government of Fiji on gender equality and women's empowerment. Advised the Government of Fiji on improvements required across the National Statistical System.

Senior Evaluation Expert (NIRAS-LTS International), Climate Change Mitigation Indicator Compendium, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), May to Oct 2020

Advised on the development of a indicators to support CIFF's climate change mitigation work and providing best practice guidance for the development of supporting data systems/ data quality.

Team Leader (NIRAS-LTS International) [Frontier Data Study](#) for UK Department for International Development (DFID)/ Frontier Technologies Hub, August 2019 – June 2020

Led the design and implementation of a study to help the international development community understand how best to use emerging digital data sources, including in respect of ethics, meeting the Leaving No-One Behind Agenda 2030, and managing data quality issues.

Senior Project Advisor (CLODE Consultants), Statistics Support to the Moroccan Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) (National Statistical Office), Nov 2019 – Nov 2020

Led the design of and provided advice on a UK Government funded statistical capacity building project across the Moroccan National Statistical System.

Statistical Advisor (MDF Consultants) for the ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint Baseline Report, Indonesia, Nov 2019 to Nov 2020

Advised on the development of the monitoring system for the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and development of indicators and data sources, collection tools, methodology, and data quality.

Data Quality Strategy Leader (NIRAS-LTS International), UK Government's Global Prosperity Fund, May 2018 – March 2021

Developed and implemented a data quality strategy for primary and secondary data for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Prosperity Fund, based on standards from official statistics. Delivered training and guidance for Project Managers and Evaluators across the Fund's Programmes.

Programme Evaluation Lead for the Indonesia Renewable Energy and Regulatory Reform Programmes (NIRAS-LTS International), [UK Global Prosperity Fund](#), May 2018 – March 2021

Led Programme evaluation and learning activity including regular support and formal reporting. Involved evidence/data collection processes, evaluation analysis, training on MREL, and advising on improvements to monitoring systems.

Principal Evaluator (NIRAS-LTS International), SE Asia Economic Reform Programme. UK Global Prosperity Fund. Jakarta, Indonesia, May 2018 – March 2021

Supported the evaluation design/ work planning. Carried out evaluation activity (data collection and analysis) and contributed to reporting and ongoing learning.

Consultant (UNESCAP) for the Statistics Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, March-July 2019 and May-Dec 2020:

Advice on conference design, development of agenda, paper review, coaching for participants, and facilitation/ chairing of sessions at the [Asia-Pacific Statistics Weeks](#). Also leading the coaching of junior statisticians to prepare academic papers for the Journal of International Association of Official Statistics. Advice and support to ESCAP on ad hoc statistical capacity-building issues.

Project Manager/Technical Advisor (OPML), Data Quality Review for the [Green Prosperity Project](#) (GPP). Millennium Challenge Account – Indonesia (MCA-I), Oct 2017 – March 2018

Independent review of the quality and fitness-for-purpose of data within the M&E system for the GPP. Included the gathering, processing, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative evidence on data quality and reporting on all aspects of the data cycle according to international standards from official statistics.

Programme Manager (OPML), [Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme](#) (MFP3). DFID/UK Climate Change Unit. Indonesia, April 2017 to April 2018

Managed programme implementation, work planning, M&E activities and reporting, financial management, procurement oversight, risk management, project reporting and client liaison (DFID and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry).

Project Manager (OPML), [STATCAP – CERDAS](#) – Statistical Transformation and Quality Improvement for the modernisation of the Central Statistical Office of Indonesia (BPS). World Bank/ Government of Indonesia. Sept 2015 to March 2017

Worked with a team of international experts to design an integrated modern statistical system, methodologies, re-engineered key statistical series, overall corporate and IT strategies, a Road Map and Implementation Plan, and options for organisational structure; provided training on change, risk management, and high-level corporate development.

Previous career history details

Principal Consultant, NIRAS-LTS International, UK/Indonesia, from May 2018 to August 2021 (permanent part-time staff):

- Various consultancy assignments, including as **Team Leader** of the [Frontier Data Study](#) for the UK Department for International Development (DFID), and [Global Prosperity Fund Programme Evaluation Lead](#) for the Indonesia Programmes and **Principal Evaluator** for the ASEAN Economic Reform Programme, and the **Data Quality Strategy Lead** across the Prosperity Fund.
- Strategy, project design, and implementation in data-driven development and digital tech and data for the SDGs, including as **Founder** of the [NIRAS Digital Futures Hub](#)

Senior Official Statistics Advisor, GOPA, Germany/global, April 2018 to August 2019 (part-time consultant): Design of project proposals for statistical capacity development; development of global strategies, drafting strategic papers and facilitating international seminars.

Senior Consultant, Oxford Policy Management Ltd (UK), Indonesia, Sept 2015 to April 2018 (permanent full-time staff): Project/Programme management and design in official statistics, data innovation and data quality, and sustainable development projects. Project Manager and technical advisor for the modernisation of the Indonesian National Statistical System. Programme Manager of the UK Government's Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme (MFP3) in Indonesia.

Government and international institutions

Head of International Relations, UK Statistics Authority and Office for National Statistics (ONS), UK, 2011 - 2015: Advised the National Statistician, UK Statistics Authority Board, Ministers, Foreign Office, and Parliament on all issues in international official statistics. Developed and delivered UK international statistical policy and cross-departmental coordination mechanisms. Delivered projects for building statistical capacity in other countries (China, India) and led the development of the strategy for the Commonwealth Statisticians Group. UK's lead negotiator on EU statistical laws and led the UK's negotiations with the UN and OECD, e.g., on SDG Indicators and Measuring Well-Being. Managed all UK's interactions with other national and international institutions in the field of official statistics. Designed and delivered training across UK Government on the EU statistical system/laws. Managed the EU's Peer Review of the UK statistical system. Contributed to the development of EU capacity-building in EU Neighbourhood countries, including the development of Statistical Codes of Practice, and the development of the European Statistical Work Programme.

Head of Government Statistical Service (GSS) Development, UK Statistics Authority/ ONS, UK, 2010 - 2011: Designed human resources and communication/change management strategies for the GSS. Managed and advised the GSS Human Resources Committee.

Principal Private Secretary to the UK National Statistician (Dame Jil Matheson and Dame Karen Dunnell), UK Statistics Authority/ONS, UK, 2008- 2010: Managed the domestic affairs of the National Statistician (CEO/highest level of UK civil service), inc. development and delivery of corporate policies/change management, managing internal and external stakeholders, managing Ministerial and Parliamentary business, providing advice and representation.

Head of the ONS Directors General's Office, UK, 2008: Directly supported the DG for Statistical Delivery in developing and implementing the ONS Statistical Work Programme, in coordination with the work of the DG for Modernisation.

Head of ONS Board Secretariat, UK, 2006 – 2008: Managed and advised the Executive and non-Executive boards of ONS; developed and drove the implementation of corporate policies/change management, Vision and Strategy, and internal communication strategy

Senior EU Regional Statistics Advisor, ONS, UK, 2004 - 2006: Managed multiple stakeholders across departments in compiling Regional Statistics according to EU Regulations. Managed the UK elements of the EU Urban Audit Project to improve the comparability of statistics on urban areas across the EU and part of EU Think Tank for the development of the methodology. Advised UK local governments on the statistical aspects of the distribution of EU structural funds.

National Accounts Project officer, ONS, UK, 2004: Compiled National Accounts methodological inventories and developed knowledge management systems. Assisted the compilation of Public Sector Accounts.

Seconded National Expert, United Nations (ECE) Statistics Division, Switzerland, 2003 - 2004: Designed, delivered, and drafted the UN-ECE Survey of National Practices in estimating service lives of capital assets. Assisted the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) inc. drafting/presenting meeting papers, facilitation of meetings. Advised 'transition economies' countries on the development of their National Accounts.

National Accounts Researcher, ONS, UK, 2001 – 2003: Developed pilot methodology and analyses for the measurement of Government Output and Productivity.

Executive Officer, ONS, UK, 2000- 2001: Managed and developed databases for producing the ONS Management Accounts.

Various roles, UK, 1996-2000: Administrative grades within a central government and local government and management of retail stores across the UK.

Selected Publications

2004: [UNECE Survey of National Practices in estimating service lives of capital assets](#)

2011: Sumner, Byers, Shearing. [Determining personality traits and privacy concerns from Facebook activity](#)

2018: Sumner, Scofield, Buchanan, Evans, Shearing [The Role of Personality, Authoritarianism and Cognition in the United Kingdom's 2016 Referendum on European Union Membership](#)

2020: [Frontier Data Study: Releasing the power of digital data for development: \(UK Aid, DFID Frontier Technologies Hub\)](#)

2022: [Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics \(SJAOS\)- Regional Cooperation and Statistical Capacity Development – successes, challenges, and next steps \(Halderen; Shearing\)](#)

2022: [Eurostat Regional publication \(Statistics through Eastern Partnership – STEP\) “Progress towards SDG8 for Economic Growth and Decent Work: What do the Statistics Tell us?”](#)

2023: [Roadmap for the Transformation and Modernisation of official statistics in Africa \(UNECA\)](#)

2023: [Pape, Utz Johann; Shearing, Matthew; Danielewitz, Thomas. *Diagnosing Dimensions of Modernization of National Statistical Systems \(English\). Poverty & Equity Notes; no. 50; Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.*](#)

LinkedIn articles: July 2021 (also [Medium](#)) [Working at the frontier of digital data – lessons from the C19 pandemic](#); April 2020 [Using the digital data landscape to tackle COVID-19 challenges in the developing world](#); August 2019 [Public and private sectors in official statistics – let's get properly working together on Agenda 2030](#)

Membership of Professional Bodies

2019 – **Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)**, Co-Chair of its Statistical Capacity Building Committee; member of the **International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS)**

2011-15 **Eurostat Management Group on Statistical Cooperation (MGSC)**: UK representative on this Working Group for coordinating statistical capacity building in non-member states

2011-15 **Forum of Euro-Mediterranean Statisticians**: UK representative on this advisory group developing statistical capacity in the European Neighbourhood South (ENP-South)

2011-15 **EU Council of Ministers Working Group on Statistics**; UK representative on EU statistical law negotiations.

2011-15 Official advisor/representative of the UK National Statistician on the **European Statistical System Committee (ESSC)**; **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)**; **OECD Committee on Statistical Policy and Statistics (CSSP)**; **Commonwealth Statisticians Group**; and **UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Conference of European Statisticians**.

2011-15 **EU Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) Sub-Committee on Statistics (SCS)**; UK representative on this advisory committee to the EU Council of Ministers

2011-15 **EU High Level Group on Priority-setting in statistics**; UK representative on this Working Group for developing EU work programmes in official statistics

2004-2006 **EU Urban Audit Task Force**; developing approaches to statistical comparisons of urban areas in the EU

2002-2006 **EU Working Group on Regional Statistics**; developing EU statistical laws and strategy

- ISI World Statistics Congress Canada 2023: Discussant – **“Mobilizing Statistical Innovation Through Academic Partnerships for More Efficient and Targeted Policies”**; Chair – **“Mentoring to build capacity”**
- IAOS/ISI Regional Conference Zambia 2023: Discussant - **“Empowering African Statisticians and Data Scientists to Modernize the African Statistical System”**; Chair - **“Statistics in the scientific landscape of data science and machine learning”**
- IAOS Poland 2022 Organiser/Presenter - **“The role of the ISI in Building Capacity in the Building Back Better Era”**.
- ISI World Statistics Congress (virtual) 2021, Organiser/Presenter - **“Digital Data: what innovations in quality management are needed to keep the momentum to 2030?”**
- Philippines National Convention on Statistics 2019, Discussant - seminar on **Statistical Literacy**
- ISI World Statistics Congress Malaysia 2019, Organiser/Presenter – **“Developing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems and the use of Public-Private Partnerships in capacity development in Asia”**
- UN World Data Forum UAE 2018, Organiser/Presenter - **“Impact measurement, SDGs and support to official statistics – the role of private sector and partnerships”**
- UN-ESCAP Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics (APES) week Thailand 2017, Chair/ session organiser – **“Use of administrative data in Statistical Business Registers”**