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Gareth is the Head of the Governance, Crime and Justice Division at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) which he joined in January 2010. Between 2006 and 2009 he was the Policy Advisor and Special Projects Manager for the Gauteng Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Community Safety Firoz Cachalia. Prior to joining government, Gareth was a Senior Project Manager in the Criminal Justice Programme at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR Before joining CSVR, Gareth spent three years working as a Project Manager at the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA). He has also worked as a consultant for a number of private, government and international donor agencies and served on a national Task Team established by the Department of Justice to set up the country's first National Witness Protection Programme in 1996. He has published both locally and internationally on issues related to his areas of work.

Gareth holds a Masters Degree in Public and Development Management (MM-P&DM) from the University of the Witwatersrand (2002), a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Research Methodology from the University of Stellenbosch (1997), an Honours Degree in Political Studies (1994) and a Bachelor Degree in Social Sciences (1993) from the University of Cape Town.