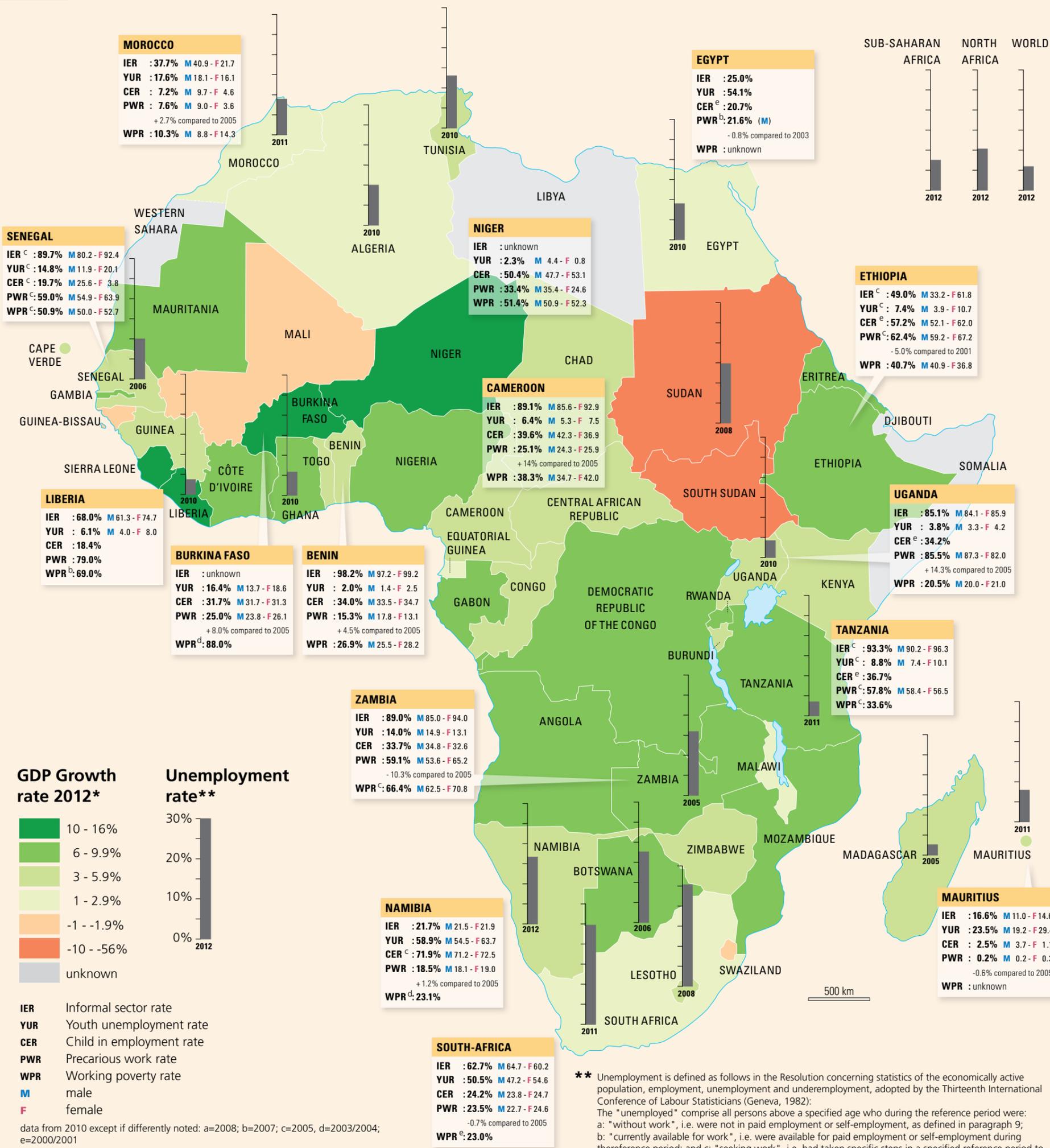


Africa's Economic Growth from a Labour Perspective: Selected Decent Work Indicators



* Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2005 U.S. dollars. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Source: Worldbank (2013) World Development Indicators. (retrieved from <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>)

** Unemployment is defined as follows in the Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment, adopted by the Thirteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (Geneva, 1982): The "unemployed" comprise all persons above a specified age who during the reference period were: a: "without work", i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment, as defined in paragraph 9; b: "currently available for work", i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and c: "seeking work", i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified reference period to seek paid employment or self-employment. The specific steps may include registration at a public or private employment exchange; application to employers; checking at worksites, farms, factory gates, market or other assembly places; placing or answering newspaper advertisements; seeking assistance of friends or relatives; looking for land, building, machinery or equipment to establish own enterprise; arranging for financial resources; applying for permits and licences, etc. Source: Baah-Boateng, W. (2013) Unemployment in Africa: How appropriate is the current definition for policy purposes?, paper presented at African Studies Centre Leiden seminar Unemployment in Africa, 26 September 2013

Explanatory note

The data presented on this map should be interpreted with caution. The introduction to the ILO's Decent Work Indicators in Africa: A First Assessment Based on National Sources Report (ILO, 2012), from which most of the data were taken, starts by emphasizing the scarcity of employment data in Africa. This concern is shared by an IMF working paper entitled Africa's Got Work to Do: Employment Prospects in the New Century (Fox et al., 2013). The main challenges relate to the inconsistency of data collection with regards to the time at which they were collected and the methodological differences that inhibit comparison across and between countries. The map is to be seen as an indication of current labour-market dynamics and is an attempt to scale up efforts in collecting up-to-date employment figures and in supporting African governments in this respect.

The data has been compiled from:
 ILO (2012) Decent Work Indicators in Africa: A first assessment based on national sources, Geneva: ILO.
 ILO (2011) Key Indicators of the Labour Market Seventh Edition, Geneva: ILO, (<http://kilm.ilo.org/manuscript/sectionA.asp>).
 ILO IPEC (2001) Child Labour In Tanzania: Country report 2000-2001, Integrated Labour Force and Child Labour Survey, Geneva: ILO.
 ILO IPEC (2001) Child Labour In Uganda: Country report 2000-2001, Integrated Labour Force and Child Labour Survey, Geneva: ILO.
 Kanyeze G. & Papeye, F. (2012) Growth, Employment and Decent Work in Namibia: A situation analysis, Employment Working Paper, 81, Geneva: ILO: p. 25.
 Worldbank (2013) World development Indicators (<http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>).
 CAPMAS (2013) Child Labour in Egypt (<http://www.capmas.gov.eg/>).
 Trading economics (2013) Vulnerable employment; male (% of male employment) in Egypt (<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/egypt/vulnerable-employment-male-percent-of-male-employment-wb-data.html>).
 Baah-Boateng W. (2013) Unemployment in Africa: How appropriate is the current definition for policy purposes?, paper presented at African Studies Centre Leiden seminar Unemployment in Africa, 26 September 2013.



Piet Konings and the History of Labour Studies at the African Studies Centre

Labour relations and trade unions are prominent subjects in the work of Piet Konings who produced a remarkable corpus of empirical and comparative studies, notably on Ghana and Cameroon, during his distinguished career as a senior researcher at the African Studies Centre in Leiden between 1978 and 2008.

Piet Konings called himself a 'sociologist of development' and his early work was on labour relations, trade unions and developmental issues in Africa. His PhD thesis, which he defended at Tilburg University in the Netherlands in 1977, was an historical-sociological study of the relationship between Ghanaian trade unions and government development strategies between 1874 and 1976. Numerous other papers on labour relations and labour protests followed and in the 1980s he published articles on Ghana's rural society, revolutionary development and the role of miners, before gradually doing more research on Cameroon. His research there focused on how Cameroonians have always striven, within their own specific circumstances and historical conditions, to take charge of their lives in contexts of insecurity and state unpredictability, and how they have survived and developed not only economically but also in multidimensional ways.

Piet remained closely involved in labour issues as they provided a way of gaining a deeper understanding of wider political problems and offered answers to questions about 'insiders' and 'outsiders' in the socio-political domain in Cameroon. His focus on labour relations is evident in his later monographs (1993, 1995 and 1998) on labour resistance, Unilever and tea estates in Cameroon.

A selection out of the oeuvre of Piet Konings:

- Konings, P.J.J. 1978. Political consciousness and political action of industrial workers in Ghana: a case study of VALCO workers at Tema. *African Perspectives* (2) 69-82. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4587>
- Konings, P.J.J. 1983. Rizeculteurs capitalistes et petits paysans : la naissance d'un conflit de classe au Ghana. *Politique africaine* (11) 77-94. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/3490>
- Konings, P.J.J. 1995. Plantation labour and economic crisis in Cameroon. *Development and change*, 26, (3) 525-549. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4610>
- Konings, P.J.J. 1996. Privatisation of agro-industrial parastatals and anglophone opposition in Cameroon. *The journal of commonwealth & comparative politics*, 34, (3) 199-217. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4614>
- Konings, P.J.J. 1998. "Women plantation workers and economic crisis in Cameroon," In *Women plantation workers*, vol. English Oxford [etc.]: Berg, pp. 151-165. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4618>
- Konings, P.J.J. 2000. "Trade unions and democratisation in Africa," In *Trajectoires de libération en Afrique contemporaine: hommage à Robert Buijtenhuijs*, vol. English pp. 167-183. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4623>
- Konings, P.J.J. 2002. "Structural adjustment and trade unions in Africa: the case of Ghana," In *Labour relations in development*, A. E. Fernández Jilberto & M. Riethof, eds., London/New York: Routledge, pp. 311-336. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4627>
- Konings, P.J.J. 2003. Organised labour and neo-liberal economic and political reforms in West and Central Africa. *Journal of contemporary African studies*, 21, (3) 447-471. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/4628>
- Konings, P.J.J. 2004. Trade union activism among university teachers during Cameroon's political liberalisation. *Nordic journal of African studies*, 13, (3) 289-301. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/3497>
- Konings, P.J.J. 2006. "Bendskin" drivers in Douala's neighbourhood: masters of the road and the city," In *Crisis and creativity. Exploring the wealth of the African neighbourhood*, P. J. J. Konings & D. W. J. Foenek, eds., Leiden: Brill, pp. 46-65. Free online available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/14740>

Many of Piet's publications are freely available online. The others can be borrowed from the ASC Library.

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/library/>

Want to keep up-to-date on labour issues in Africa? Subscribe to the ASC Library's alert on labour in Africa:

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/labour>

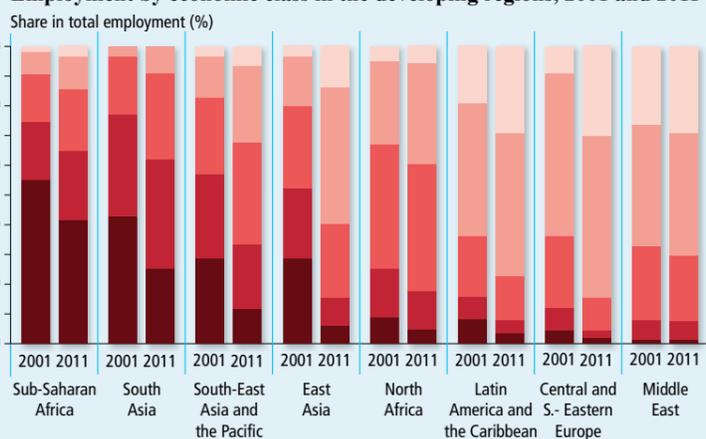
The need for a renewed labour oriented research agenda for Africa

In light of Africa's booming economies and that, according to IMF figures, six out of ten of the world's fastest-growing economies were in Africa in 2011, it has become increasingly urgent to consider such growth from a labour perspective. Trade unions are important and active players in the development arena and are significant contributors to the development effectiveness debate, as was illustrated by the creation of the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) in 2008 and the adoption of the Trade Union Principles and Guidelines on Development Effectiveness in 2011. But what do all these numbers, rankings, GDP figures and spectacular growth rates mean for African workers? Will they be better off in the future? To what extent are labour movements and labour-oriented institutions, including social dialogue, playing an instrumental role in this?

Although the Decent Work agenda is gaining importance, questions about the extent to which labour can benefit from the current economic boom in Africa remain largely unanswered. Against this backdrop, the African Studies Centre set up a research collaborative entitled 'Labour Issues and Trade Unions in Africa Today' in January 2013. Its aim is to fill the gap in current knowledge by creating and supporting a labour-oriented research agenda. Its key topics of interest include youth unemployment; organizing precarious and informal workers; the impact of emerging economies, such as China and India, on African labour markets and conditions; the changing roles of trade unions on the continent and the challenges they face after structural adjustment; the articulation of social dialogue and collective bargaining processes; and the dynamics in international solidarity mechanisms. The collaborative plans to act as a research hub bringing together African, Dutch and international experts in the field to exchange and discuss current trends and dynamics. By incorporating African and Western stakeholders and practitioners, it hopes to support evidence-based research with a high policy relevance.

If you are interested in joining the research collaborative or would like to be kept informed about upcoming events and research results, contact André Leliveld: leliveldmailto:@ascleiden.nl

Employment by economic class in the developing regions, 2001 and 2011



Source: Kapsos & Bourmpoula's (2013: 22) *Employment and Economic Class in the Developing World*, ILO Research Paper, 6, Geneva: ILO

This figure shows the relative impact of Africa's growth on productive employment. When comparing Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia, for instance, it can be seen that more than 60% of those employed in Sub-Saharan Africa fall in the extremely poor and moderately poor categories, despite the continent's growing middle class. In East Asia, on the other hand, there has been a significant increase in the developing middle class. The percentage of extremely poor in North Africa is considerably lower than in Sub-Saharan Africa but the group of near poor as a share of total employment is the largest.

- Extremely poor
- Moderately poor
- Near poor
- Developing middle class
- Developed middle class and above

If you want to learn more about labour issues and trade unions in Africa the following institutions and organization might be of interest.

Research Institutes:

- Institute for Work and Society (HIVA) at the Catholic University of Leuven: <http://hiva.kuleuven.be/nl/>
- International Institute for Social History (IISH) in Amsterdam: <http://socialhistory.org/en/region-desks/africa-desk>
- The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS): <http://www.soas.ac.uk/development/research/labour/>
- The African Labour Research Network: <http://www.alrn.net/>

Trade unions and labour NGOs:

- CNV Internationaal: www.cnvinternationaal.nl/
- FNV Mondiaal: <http://www.fnvmondiaal.nl/>
- ACV: contact Karin Debroey (U99KDB@acv-csc.be)
- FOS-socialist solidarity: <http://www.fos-socsol.be/>
- World Solidarity (WSM): <http://www.wsm.be/>
- Liberal Trade Union of Belgium (ACLVB): www.cgslb.be
- Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN): <http://www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation?lang=en>

The African Studies Centre (ASC)

The ASC in Leiden, founded in 1947, is the only research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. Its primary aims are to undertake scientific research on Africa in the social sciences and humanities and to promote a better understanding of African societies. It is an independent institute but maintains close links with Leiden University, as part of LeidenGlobal. The ASC's work is not only of importance to researchers but also to policymakers, journalists, NGOs, businesses and other organizations.

Research The ASC's research programme lasts for a period of five years. Projects are multidisciplinary, empirical in nature and are carried out in cooperation with African colleagues and institutions by the Centre's researchers and PhD and Research Masters students.

Library The ASC's Library, Documentation and Information Department has the most extensive and specialized collection on Africa in the Netherlands in the fields of the social sciences (including law and economics) and the humanities. The library, which is open to the general public, has more than 80,000 books, 1500 documentaries and feature films from and about Africa, and subscribes to nearly 750 periodicals. African Studies Abstracts Online offers some 10,000 abstracts and journal articles and web dossiers provide background information on specific topical events and themes.

Publications ASC researchers publish in many different journals and with well-known publishing houses. The Centre also has five publication series of its own:

- Africa Yearbook
- Afrika-Studiecentrum Series
- African Dynamics
- African Studies Collection
- and ASC Infosheets

Seminars Regular seminars are held at the ASC on Thursday afternoons on a wide range of topics. These are given by prominent local and international Africanists and are open to the general public.

Visiting Fellows Eight African academics are invited to Leiden every year on three-month fellowships to promote an effective academic dialogue between Africa and the North. These scholars use their stay in Leiden for data analysis and writing.

Research Masters in African Studies The ASC offers a two-year Research Masters in African Studies in cooperation with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. About 60% of the students on this course come from outside the Netherlands.

Thesis Award A prize is awarded annually for the best Masters thesis on Sub-Saharan Africa by a student at a university in the Netherlands or in Africa. The winning thesis is published in the African Studies Collection series.

ASC Community The ASC Community includes fellows, affiliates and associates of the Centre, and people with a professional interest in Africa who are working in business, policymaking, NGOs and in media circles.

We would like to welcome you as a partner in the ASC Community!

<http://www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/asc-community>

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