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# Annual Report 2011

African Studies Centre  
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## PREFACE

2011 was a busy year at the ASC in many different respects. One of the most important events was the finalization of the Centre's new research programme and revised management structure at the end of the year. This concluded a period of extensive debate involving colleagues from all over Africa and the Netherlands and presentations by senior ASC staff about their future 'research dreams'. The ASC now has one research programme focused on 'Africa and Global Restructuring', with four domains of enquiry: resources and well-being; constellations of governance; identification and belonging in a media age; and Africa's global connections.

The ASC's website had been in need of a considerable overhaul for a few years and this finally started in 2011. After an assessment of the problems and possibilities, the Centre's IT team worked hard to update the technical infrastructure, reorganize the website's content and improve its visibility. The ASC's new online presence is expected to be ready by mid-2012.

The ASC's Scientific Advisory Council played a central role in these changes and all the important steps were discussed and endorsed by the Board of Governors. The debate was fed by two evaluations, both of which took place in 2011. The first was done by an international evaluation committee made up of Filip Reyntjens (IOB, Antwerp) (chair); Michel Carton (IHEID, Geneva); Clara Carvalho (ASC, Lisbon); Paschal Mihyo (OSSREA, Addis Ababa); Barbara Spina (SOAS, London) and Henriette van den Heuvel (secretary). Its assessment was very favourable, with the activities of the Library, Documentation and Information Department being judged as 'excellent' in terms of productivity, quality, relevance and vitality. The same was true for the relevance of the ASC's research work for the global community of Africanists and for policy and practice, while the Centre's productivity, quality and vitality were judged to be 'very good', a high score indeed for research in the social sciences and the humanities. The ASC is certainly recognized as a world-class institute, and as one of the most influential of its kind globally.

The second evaluation was in November 2011 and was prompted by the austerity measures being introduced by the Dutch government that had employed a consultant to assess the relevance of six international academic institutes in the Netherlands for the new Dutch development policy and its focus themes and countries. Although the ASC's core funding comes from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, this is earmarked as 'official development assistance' and the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation wanted to have a better overview of the way it was being distributed. The ASC's new research programme for 2012-2016 highlights the policy-relevant research the ASC will be doing in the Ministry's main policy areas, namely security and the rule of law, food security, governance, water, sexual and reproductive health and rights and in cross-cutting themes such as gender, the environment and the private sector. Special, but not exclusive, attention will be paid to the ten African focus countries on the Dutch international development agenda. The ASC's contacts in the Directorate Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expect the ASC to be a knowledge hub for all African countries and also for other elements of the Dutch international relations agenda beyond official development assistance. And this is what the ASC will be, but we will remain an independent knowledge institute and will be responsible for our own research agenda.

The ASC has set up an 'ASC Community' to encourage the development of a network of Africanist scholars. Although the Centre has had a visiting fellowship programme for the last fifteen years and researchers in the Netherlands and Africa have special ties with the Centre, it was decided to put more emphasis on sharing the ASC's resources and facilities with a much larger group of Africanists in the Netherlands, Africa and elsewhere. The ASC Community now provides a 'linking-and-learning' infrastructure tool. The first members of the ASC Community registered as fellows, affiliates or associates in 2011, and more will follow in 2012. For about twenty African countries, the ASC Community is going to have Dutch and African country coordinators, and 'ASC ambassadors' have been appointed for the four current focus areas of development assistance and for each of the Ministry's ten African focus countries.





The African Studies Centre is part of an institutional attempt to highlight the many activities in Leiden connected to Area Studies. The Leiden Institute of Global and Area Studies (LIGA) was initiated in cooperation with colleagues at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Roosevelt Study Centre, the Museum for Antiquities, the National Museum of Ethnology and other parts of Leiden University. It will be formally launched in 2012 to encourage connections with colleagues working on Asia and the Americas. The initiative also fits well with the ASC's new research programme that is aptly entitled 'Africa and Global Restructuring'. However, the ASC is a national centre and is by no means restricted to linkages with Leiden alone. It is also a formal partner in the CERES Research School's new set-up and most PhD students with an ASC-based supervisor participate in CERES training courses and in the CERES Summer School.

Most of the ASC's researchers attended the important European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) in Uppsala in June 2011. ASC staff were involved in many of the ECAS panels and, at the request of the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI), the ASC played a major role in the editing of *African Engagements: Africa Negotiating an Emerging Multipolar World* (published by Brill) that was launched at the conference. Another successful conference in which many of the Centre's researchers took part in 2011 was organized by CODESRIA in Rabat in December. And as always, the ASC remained active and visible in public debates throughout the year at events such as the NABC's Ambassadors' Day and the Evert Vermeer Stichting's Africa Day.

In mid-2011 significant government budget cuts were announced (with immediate effect) and the ASC's Board decided it needed to accept the inevitable and prepare for further austerity measures. The ASC's management decided to focus initially on drawing up contracts with universities in the Netherlands regarding the sharing of PhD bonuses following the defence of students' theses. And it was agreed among ASC researchers that, from 2012 onwards, all senior researchers would attempt to earn 20% of their

salary by acquiring external funding for projects. The ASC started its own Project Office in 2011 as part of its new internal structuring to ensure the successful management of externally funded projects and the acquisition of new funding. As a result of initiatives taken in 2011, Mirjam de Bruijn won a prestigious VICI subsidy from NWO, and the ASC also became a (junior) partner in a big Wageningen-based EU-funded project on so-called agrohubs. Both should provide interesting research opportunities for the ASC in the years ahead.

The Chair of the ASC's governing body, Kathleen Ferrier, decided to step down in June 2011 as she felt, with regret, that she was no longer able to combine her position as an MP for the Christian Democratic Party with her role on the ASC Board due to a conflict of interests. We would like to thank her for all the time and energy she put into the ASC and are grateful to Hans Opschoor who kindly took over as Chair for the rest of 2011, and will remain in this position until the spring of 2013.

These are just a few of the ASC's highlights from 2011. I hope that you will enjoy reading about our activities in more detail in this Annual Report and look forward to seeing you at some of the events we are planning as part of the celebrations to mark our 65th anniversary in 2012.

Ton Dietz  
Director



## THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTRE IN BRIEF



6 The African Studies Centre in Leiden is the national centre for African Studies in the Netherlands and one of the prominent centres for African Studies in the world. It has been in existence since 1947 and was originally known as the Africa Institute when it was related to what is now the Netherlands African Business Council. The Centre's annual core funding of € 3 m comes from the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (via Leiden University) and another € 1.5 m comes from research grants and other income. In the Dutch government's budget, these core funds are regarded as part of its official development assistance, but fall under the authority of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

The Centre has its own Board of Governors whose five members represent the political, scientific, business, diplomatic and media sectors in the Netherlands. The Centre also has its own Scientific Advisory Council with representatives from all the universities and knowledge centres dealing with Africa in the Netherlands. Leiden University hosts the Centre and the ASC has special ties with its Faculties of Social and Behavioural Sciences and the Humanities. And new plans are being developed for the Leiden Institute of Global and Area Studies (LIGA). Some ASC staff also have professorial positions elsewhere in the Netherlands.

The Centre has strong linkages too with the Netherlands Association of African Studies (NVAS), the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS), the European Association of Development Institutes (EADI), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the South Africa Netherlands research Programme on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD) in Africa.

The African Studies Centre's main assets are:

- Its new research programme (2012-2016) entitled 'Africa and Global Restructuring' with its four major themes:
  - Resources and well-being
  - Identification and belonging in a media age
  - Constellations of governance
  - Africa's global connections
- Its library, documentation and information activities with one of the best libraries on scientific African publications in the world; an emphasis on publications from Africa itself; numerous publications that are unique to the Netherlands; resources such as films and the African Studies Abstracts Online, the web portal Connecting-Africa; and technical expertise to support African libraries and scholars in achieving digital access and visibility.
- Its publications, including the annual Africa Yearbook (with AEGIS partners); the yearly African Dynamics volume; the Afrika-Studiecentrum Series of refereed books published by Brill; the Centre's own African Studies Collection; ASC Infosheets and web dossiers; and ASC Working Papers. Its involvement in journal and book-editing activities, including lead positions in some Africanist journals.
- Its network of contacts among African academics and its visiting fellowship programme for temporary visits by African colleagues.
- Its (co-)supervision of nearly 100 PhD students at Dutch and African universities and its involvement in PhD training.
- Its two-year Research Masters programme in African Studies.
- Its fruitful linkages with policy, diplomacy, NGOs, the media and business circles in the Netherlands, Africa and beyond.
- Its seminars, conferences, debates and awards ceremonies.
- Its website that offers a wealth of information.

# ASC STAFF MEMBERS



# RESEARCH PROGRAMME

## 8 Introduction

The three separate research theme groups - Connections and Transformations (C&T); Social Movements and Political Culture (SMPC); and Economy, Environment and Exploitation (EEE) - and a few other individual research programmes rounded off their research activities in the ASC's 2007-2011 research programme in 2011. Five projects with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also received special attention: the IS Academy on the State in Africa, the IS Academy on Land Governance, the Consortium for Development Partnerships with CODESRIA, the Tracking Development and the Islam in Africa programme.

In total, the ASC's senior researchers spent 16.8 fte on a variety of activities, with half (8.6 fte) going on research activities, 1.1 fte on PhD supervision, 1.4 fte on other teaching activities (including the Research Masters in African Studies), 4.4 fte on research management and providing services to the academic community of Africanists and scholars in general (including work on publications, as journal and book-series editors, on academic juries and managing research projects) and 1.3 fte on providing services to the non-academic community (the media, public debates, educators, policymakers, NGOs and business in the Netherlands and in Africa).

### The ASC's Senior Researchers: time spent on different activities

	Research		PhD supervision		Other teaching		Services to the academic community		Services to non-academics		Total fte
	fte	%	fte	%	fte	%	fte	%	fte	%	
C&T	2.2	49	0.4	10	0.4	9	1.2	26	0.2	5	4.4
EEE	2.3	49	0.1	3	0.5	11	1.5	30	0.4	7	4.8
SMPC	2.6	57	0.4	9	0.4	8	0.6	13	0.5	12	4.5
Other	1.5	49	0.2	5	0.1	3	1.1	36	0.2	7	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16.8</b>

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE ASC'S RESEARCH OUTPUT IN 2011

In 2011 ASC staff produced 145 research products. Half of these (77) concerned refereed publications for academics, while the others were non-refereed publications for a mainly academic audience (32) and publications oriented to non-academic users (36) such as policymakers, people working for NGOs or in business, education and/or the media, both in the Netherlands (often with Dutch as the language of communication) and Africa (mainly in English or French). A few publications were in German, Bahasa Indonesia or Chinese. The large majority of the ASC's research products were written in English. Most were single-author products and the multi-author publications were often written with African colleagues.

Many research products can be found as books or book chapters (62); as monographs including PhD theses (15); as edited books (7); and as book chapters (46). There were 41 contributions to academic journals. The ASC's productive relationship with Brill Publishers once again resulted in the publication of the Africa Yearbook and another African Dynamics volume on an innovative topic. In 2011 this was entitled *Land, Law and Politics: Mediating Conflict and Reshaping the State* and was dedicated to Gerti Hesselings, a former director at the ASC who died in 2009. As mentioned earlier, Brill also published the ECAS conference book, to which ASC staff contributed, and a monograph in the Afrika-Studiecentrum Series on the late-colonial history of Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) entitled *Living the End of Empire: Politics and Society in Late Colonial Zambia* edited by Jan-Bart Gewald, Marja Hinfelaar & Giacomo Macola. Brill published three other books too in this series: *Not Just a Victim: The Child as Catalyst and Witness of Contemporary Africa* by Sandra Evers, Catrien Notermans & Erik van Ommering (eds.); *Rural Resistance in South Africa: The Mpondo Revolts after Fifty Years* by Thembeba Kepe & Lungisile Ntsebeza (eds.); and *Institutionalizing Elites: Political Elite Formation and Change in the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature* by Suzanne Francis. The ASC also has a fruitful relationship with Langaa, an African publisher, that led to the co-

publication of three volumes in 2011. Two other books were co-published with the University of Groningen and Mzumbe University in Tanzania in the new African Public Administration and Management series. The ASC has its own series, the African Studies Collection, that consists of books that are immediately available online as freely accessible products, for example PhD theses recently defended at Dutch universities. In 2011 there were eight such publications. In addition to books and journals, ASC staff also produced films, Infosheets, a map sheet, columns and working papers.

The ASC's publications cover most of Africa (including the majority of the focus countries for Dutch development assistance), with the emphasis in 2011 being on Ghana, Ethiopia, South Africa, Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya and Niger. Various publications deal with macro topics or relations between Africa and the rest of the world, with special attention being paid to relations between Africa and countries in Asia and Latin America. Many of these publications are multi-, inter- or even trans-disciplinary, with contributions from history, (legal) anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, geography and philosophy. And some have connections with medical and agro-technical sciences too.

## CONNECTIONS AND TRANSFORMATIONS (C&T) RESEARCH GROUP

The Connections and Transformations research group focused on social transformations in Africa that have emerged as a result of the introduction of new technologies. These technologies are supposed to create new connections between people and are gradually transforming society. Technology is defined in a broad sense here and is not only 'industrial' technology but also concerns new ways of social organization as introduced by religion, political ideologies or development strategies.

The emphasis was placed on publications and research on the formation of identities and elites in the late-colonial period, on the role of religious (Islamic



*PhD defense of Lotte Pelckmans at Leiden University: Prof. Mahaman Tidjani Alou and Prof. Wouter van Beek. Photo: Marieke van Winden*

and Christian) elites as exemplified by the formation of 'civil society' and non-governmental organizations, on the cultural meaning of food, the way majority groups treat minority groups, conflict management (for example about access to land) in formal legal systems, the cultural specificity of dealing with power and manifestations of power, and the mobility of conflict. Migration and the role of technology, especially the mobile phone, were key topics in the group's empirical research and publications as a means to understanding social transformation in African societies. The role of African youth received special attention too, as did health perceptions and sexual and health rights, with a focus on the middle classes in African cities. Researchers in this group concentrated on the way Africans are dealing with the multipolar world and its challenges and possibilities, in preparation for the ASC's new 2012-2016 research programme.

10 Five PhD theses were successfully defended in the C&T group. Linda van de Kamp was awarded her PhD cum laude at the VU University in Amsterdam based on a study entitled 'Violent Conversion: The Influence of Brazilian Pentecostalism on Urban Women in Mozambique'. Josien de Klerk was awarded her PhD at the University of Amsterdam for her study entitled 'Being Old in Times of AIDS: Aging, Caring and Relating in Northwest Tanzania' and Lotte Pelckmans defended her PhD thesis on 'Travelling Hierarchies: About Roads In and Out of Slave Status in a Fulbe Network in Central Mali' at Leiden University. Samuel Ntewusu was also awarded his PhD in Leiden for his thesis on 'Settling In and Holding On', a long-term study of Accra and the position of northern (immigrant) traders and transporters. And finally, Walter Nkwi was awarded his PhD at Leiden University for his thesis entitled 'Kfaang and its Technologies: Towards a Social History of Mobility in Kom, Cameroon, 1928-1998'.

## Examples of Research Activities and Findings

### Mobile Africa Revisited



The Mobile Africa Revisited programme, which is investigating the way nomadic pastoralists in Mali are appropriating the mobile phone, had a year of consolidation. The PhD projects that were being supervised by Mirjam de Bruijn were all between fieldwork and the writing-up stage and the project finalized its fieldwork phase and started with the compilation of a book. The main questions raised are the relationship between a mobile lifestyle and the mobile phone, and the changes in dependency relations (master-slave) that are still so vivid in these societies. It seems that the mobile phone is 'liberating' the dependent groups in an economic sense as they are the people appropriating the market, but this does not mean that the mentality of dependency has changed. The first conclusions that can be drawn from a comparison of the programme's various case studies highlight the economics



Phone shop in Juba, Sudan. Photo: Inge Brinkman

of the mobile phone 'industry' that have opened up a new avenue for young people and the creation of mobile communities, i.e. communities that cross the traditional borders creating their own borders that are defined by family relations and ethnicity, and are sometimes guided by a national identity. Walter Nkwi's PhD on the history of communication technology in the Grassfields in Cameroon showed an interesting continuity in the acceptance of what is labelled 'modernity' by the culture under study. Mobile telephony is just another innovation in the line of communication innovations since the colonial period. The programme produced a film entitled *Connecting Dreams* in which the relationship between the various forms of migration and mobility from the African margins are situated in the advancement of mobile communication technology. Connectedness between people in Cameroon and Cameroon and the Netherlands is central in this study. Mirjam de Bruijn also submitted a (successful) VICI application for NWO based on the Mobile Africa findings.

### The Legacy of Warfare in Angola



In the framework of the WOTRO-integrated Mobile Africa Revisited programme, Inge Brinkman developed ideas on the legacy of warfare in its relation to mobility, community and communication. For Angolan refugees living in Rundu in northern Namibia, there were multiple ways in which they could (re-)establish their network of connections. A lengthy war was waged in southeastern Angola between 1966 and 2002 when peace accords were signed. Peace changed the conditions and possibilities of mobility and communication. Instead of a uniform 'legacy of war' in a singular 'culture of displacement', Angolan refugees had multiple ways in which they reconsidered the notions of home, national belonging and identity in the context of these new conditions and possibilities. To study these new patterns of connections, mobility was adopted as a method. The idea of the classical 'field' as a bounded unit has been criticized but research 'on the move' is still rare and the researchers sought to establish the limits and possibilities of carrying out mobile research.



Islam conference in Dakar. Photo: Matar Ndour

### Islam in Africa



The Dakar part of the Islam in Africa research programme, which was funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and executed in collaboration with the Dutch Embassy in Senegal, was rounded off with a final conference and networking seminar in Dakar in February 2011 when the book *Islam et engagements au Sénégal* was presented by Mayke Kaag, the ASC's coordinator of the project. This volume aims to make the research results available to a large audience of academics and non-academics (the media, religious actors, civic organizations, policymakers and diplomats) and has been well received. In January 2011, Mayke and a selected group of scholars working on Islamic charities were invited to Geneva for a workshop on 'Zakat in a Comparative Light', which was organized by the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peace Building at the University of Geneva.

## 12 **Marriage, Christianity, AIDS and Connections in Botswana**



See the box on 'Condoms and Circumcision: The Uncertain Path of Contraceptives in Times of AIDS' in this Annual Report for an impression of Rijk van Dijk's work on marriage, Christianity, AIDS and connections in Molepolole, Botswana.

### **The Role of Blacksmiths in Kapsigi/Higi Culture**



Wouter van Beek finished a companion volume to his book *The Dancing Dead* on Kapsigi blacksmiths called *The Smith in Kapsigi/Higi Culture*, North Cameroon and Northeastern Nigeria. This monograph highlights the special position of smiths in West Africa. While on a field visit in January 2011, he discussed the contents of the book to get feedback from

a selected group of informants in Cameroon.

### **A New Look at the Establishment of Colonial Rule in Zambia: 1890-1920**



Jan-Bart Gewald continued to analyze how colonial rule came to be established in Northern Rhodesia (present-day Zambia). Between 1890 and 1923, the territory was administered by a private company listed on the London Stock Exchange, the British South Africa Company (BSAC). Current histories of Zambia note that Northern Rhodesia came to be adminis-

tered by the BSAC in 1890 but exactly how the colonial administration was established and how its authority was exercised in the day-to-day lives of Zambia's people has never previously been investigated. On the whole, historians and social commentators have taken the colonial conquest of South Africa as a template and transferred it to Zambia. However, on the basis of extensive archival research in Europe and Africa, as well as a number of extended field trips to Zambia, a manuscript is being written that provides a radically new analysis of the way in which colonial rule was set up in Zambia. Drawing on hitherto unexamined archives as well as a re-analysis of existing

materials, the book manuscript argues that colonial rules occurred not as a result of military conquest but through a complex interplay of consumption, technology and labour.

### **African Engagements with the Multipolar World**



With the end of the Cold War, the world seemed to move from a bipolar to a unipolar system, with the neo-liberal West globally imposing its laws. However other actors, such as China, India and Brazil, are becoming increasingly influential and this is leading to

a new multipolarity at a global level. The question of what this emerging multipolarity means for Africa is important. Will Africa be crushed in a mounting struggle over raw materials and political hegemony between the superpowers and fall victim to a new scramble for Africa? Or does this new historic conjuncture offer African countries and groups greater room for negotiation and manoeuvre, eventually leading to stronger democracy and enhanced growth? At the request of AEGIS and the organizers of the ECAS conference in Uppsala, Mayke Kaag, Ton Dietz and two colleagues from the Nordic Africa Institute produced a book on the subject that was launched at the ECAS conference in June 2011. The volume offers food for thought on how Africa's engagement with the world is being reshaped and revalued. And, even more importantly, on whose terms?



Advertisement for the promotion of the female condom in Molepolole, Botswana.  
Photo: Doreen Senzokuhle Setume

## Condoms and Circumcision: The Uncertain Path of Contraceptives in Times of AIDS

On the main road into Molepolole, Botswana, where the ASC is researching the influence and practices of Pentecostal churches, a billboard (see photo) in 2009 informed the general public about female condoms, which would place sexual empowerment firmly in the hands of women. A pamphlet that accompanied the 'Bliss' female condom described it as an innovation that would give women control and allow safe sex. 'Key a me, key ya rona' (It is mine, it is ours) was the Setswana advertisement and was widely promoted by the National AIDS Coordination Agency (NACA) that felt that women were ready to accept this new 'instrument' in the fight against AIDS. PSI, one of the organizations involved in its promotion, had experimented with the introduction of the condom in other countries before turning to Botswana. One of the interesting strategies it used was to promote its introduction to women via hair salons, knowing that women spend hours there while their hair is being styled and workers would have time to talk about the advantages and pleasures of this method of contraception. Using phallic models or simply their fingers, women were shown how to use the condom as some knowledge of internal female physiology is required. Needless to say, some women did indeed find the condom quite complex in terms of making sure it was properly in place, although others admitted that being able to put it in place before intercourse was a major advantage.

One of the places where these condoms were distributed for free in Molepolole was the Livingstone Mission Hospital. But without much success. Young women proved keen to collect them but with ulterior motives. The silicone ring attached to the condom turned out to be seen as a stylish item of jewellery. When detached and cleansed with washing liquid, it would turn bright colours – blue, pink, green and yellow – and made an ideal bracelet. In addition, men in Botswana were reportedly unhappy with the condom and did not enjoy their female partners using it. Instead of promoting female control over their sexual relations, women were becoming concerned that men would opt for other partners. The Livingstone Hospital stopped distributing the condoms and it was recognized in media reports that the instructions for using the condom virtually required a BSc in human physiology and were way beyond the comprehension levels of the illiterate.

The demise of the female condom is another stage in the troubled history of the condom as a means of contraception and of AIDS prevention. The free distribution of the male condom, especially in the early years of the AIDS pandemic, led to serious contestation from Christian organizations and churches. Believing it would promote 'playfulness', promiscuity and infidelity, the church resisted their distribution claiming that abstinence was the most appropriate and morally just principle. In tying sexuality exclusively to marriage and promoting abstinence regarding all pre-marital relations, the Roman Catholic Church had found support from the influential Pentecostal church and its ABC slogan: A for abstinence, B for being faithful and C for condomizing.

Another campaign, namely circumcision, has started to curb the spread of AIDS and interestingly seems to produce much less contestation than the condom. While circumcision as such is not about contraception, it targets male responsibilities concerning the spread of AIDS in sexual relations. Circumcision in Botswana used to be part of the ethnically based male initiation rituals, many of which were stopped under the influence of Christianity and colonialism in the early twentieth century. Generations of men have since come of age without





Advertisement for the promotion of circumcision in Molepolole, Botswana.  
Photo: John Hamathi

being circumcised, but over the last two years the Botswana government has actively been promoting a medicalized form of circumcision in the belief that it considerably reduces the transmission of the virus from men to their partners and helps to protect the status of women, while not reducing the pleasures of intimacy. Certain ethnic groups are also reviving their former initiation rituals as part of a reconstitution of their ethnic pride, with the best-known example being the Bakgatla of Mochudi.

Remarkably, the campaign to introduce circumcision as a weapon in the fight against AIDS is being embraced more than any condom campaign ever was. The churches have remained silent on circumcision so far since there are no (moral) controversies surrounding the practice that impinge on Christian ideals of sexuality and procreation.

Rijk van Dijk

## ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND EXPLOITATION (EEE) RESEARCH GROUP

The EEE research group studied processes of accumulation and impoverishment in African societies, with the central research question dealing with the influence of institutions and social relations on people's access to resources and their impact on wealth creation and social inequality. 2011 saw publications on the way small farmers deal with severe crises (for example, in Zimbabwe in the period of hyperinflation), on urban agriculture in African cities, and on the effects of land reform and social-demographic dynamics. The group produced an Infosheet about resettlement practices in Zimbabwe and contributed to another on the famine in the Horn of Africa and to a map sheet showing long-term social-demographic dynamics in Africa's macro regions and the differences in gender and age composition of the population in these regions. A lot of research time in 2011 was devoted to the study of conflicts related to access to land and water (the CoCooN project and the IS Academy on Land Governance). And a book was produced on the development and impact of eco-tourism in various parts of Africa.

### Examples of Research Activities and Findings

#### Conflict and Cooperation in Four River Basins in Kenya



Marcel Rutten's research activities in 2011 concentrated on starting a new research programme to look into conflict and cooperation over natural resources (CoCooN). This five-year project is a joint effort by Cordaid, IUCN/WISP, Moi University and the ASC. The initial surveys were conducted in four river basins in Kenya and findings from western Kenya suggest that globalization is spreading into the marginal areas of Africa, especially the few relatively high-potential ecological zones. These well-watered areas, which are often at the interface of competing

activities like farming and livestock keeping, are being eyed by (inter)national investors. Often, the search for water seems to be of more importance than the acquisition of land as such. In addition, the universal indiscriminate grabbing of land, allegedly always at the expense of local communities, needs a review. Some groups in these (African) societies have different opinions concerning their receptivity towards large-scale agricultural investments. The landless (agricultural) youth as well as elite pastoralists see benefits in welcoming these schemes. The reasons mentioned were job creation, a lack of profitability in small-scale farming, agricultural debts, preventing other pastoralists from invading (underused) ranches and restoring degraded range lands.

### Land Reform in Zimbabwe



In current discussions on the fast-track land-reform programme (FTLRP) in Zimbabwe, little academic attention has yet been given to land reform immediately after independence. Marleen Dekker and her research partners thus set up a research project to develop an understanding of how past experiences are useful for contextualizing current challenges. Although the farmers resettled in the early 1980s started in a different political and economic environment, the challenges they faced in establishing their farms and communities were similar to those reported today. However, livelihoods developed by the farmers in old resettlement areas have been severely constrained by the country's macro-economic context. Any discussion on the success of the FTLRP should acknowledge the impact of the devastating macro-economic context on the opportunities smallholder farmers have to establish their farms and become agriculturally productive.

### Food Security in Africa



The study of food and water security in Africa has regained the academic and policy importance it seemed to lose in the 1990s. EEE researchers like Akinyinka Akinyoade, Sebastiaan Soeters and others developed various research initiatives in the area of food and water security in Sub-Saharan

Africa. A study was done with the Netherlands Agency for Environmental Assessment to explore future challenges for Africa regarding the possibilities and constraints of achieving food security. The methodology encompassed global assessments and future developments for Sub-Saharan Africa that were complemented by geographically explicit vulnerability analysis of various facets of food and water security in relation to the Millennium Development Goals. For many food-insecure people, access to rather than the availability of food is a constraint. Availability of food is a constraint for the extremely vulnerable yet relatively few people have bad living conditions from both an environmental and a socio-economic perspective. To improve the lives of this specific group of ultra-poor people, efforts need to be made in targeting. Food-support programmes should incorporate a strategy for the structural alleviation of hunger that takes into account the region's environmental and economic carrying capacity. A new PhD study, funded by Woord en Daad, is trying to compare targeting approaches in Asia and Africa. To improve access to food, water and the energy required to prepare food, the focus needs to be on the so-called agrohub concept: the fast growth of metropolitan areas in Africa provides major opportunities for food providers in the hinterland of these exploding cities, and the improvement of the quality, reliability and profitability of value chains depends on the connections between private and public agencies. The ASC co-designed a research proposal for EU funding on agrohub (this was awarded in 2012).

The ASC produced a web dossier on food security, famine and drought with input from Wijnand Klaver in September 2011. This offered literature references on food security, food shortages, food supply, food aid and food policy and

16 coincided not only with the current food crisis in the Horn of Africa but also with the recent decision by the Dutch government to choose food security as one of the focal points of its development cooperation policy, with a focus on Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. To prevent people from leaving their homes in search of food, they should have a sustainable livelihood with adequate resources to feed themselves.

### School Feeding in Nakuru, Kenya



In the on-going Nakuru study on the relationship between school feeding and nutrition, two groups of primary schools were compared by Wijnand Klaver and his colleagues. The differences between the schools offering school feeding for Standard 1 for at least one year and those that did not is significant, with the former performing better in terms of weight and height. A more detailed analysis showed that attained growth was better when all Standard 1 pupils participated in the school feeding programme than in schools where only some of the pupils participated. The relationship between school feeding and children's growth was similar in schools in low-income areas only.

### Community-Based Health Insurance Schemes in Togo



Andre Leliveld and Marleen Dekker worked on a project on community-based health insurance schemes (CBHIs) in Togo, with a focus on insurance take-up in 2011. Findings showed that insurance uptake and participation in CBHIs remain low at between 6% and 10% of the target population. Promoting and increasing participation in CBHIs requires insight into the determinants of participation. Whereas many studies focus on scheme design and financial or income-related determinants of participation, the ASC undertook a more comprehensive analysis that looked at factors at play at individual, household and community levels. Some of the findings are consistent with empirical findings elsewhere that show that employment

status, the education of household members, household size and other socio-economic and demographic characteristics are significant determinants of CBHI participation. Significant differences were found between insured and uninsured households that are less frequently mentioned in existing studies and may contribute to a better understanding of participation rates in CBHI schemes. These factors include religion, the gender of the household head and related intra-household decision-making and village characteristics.

### Water-Sector Reforms and Interventions in Kenya



This collaborative project by Dick Foeken and Sam Owuor involved a visit to the Wandiege project in Kisumu to interview stakeholders. This led to a paper entitled 'From Self-Help Group to Water Company: The Wandiege Community Water Supply Project (Kisumu, Kenya)' that was presented at the 'Transforming Innovation in Africa' workshop in November 2011. A visit to Homa Bay was used to fill in the gaps left during the big survey in 2010 of access to water services after the water-sector reforms.



## Food for the Future in Africa's Metropoles

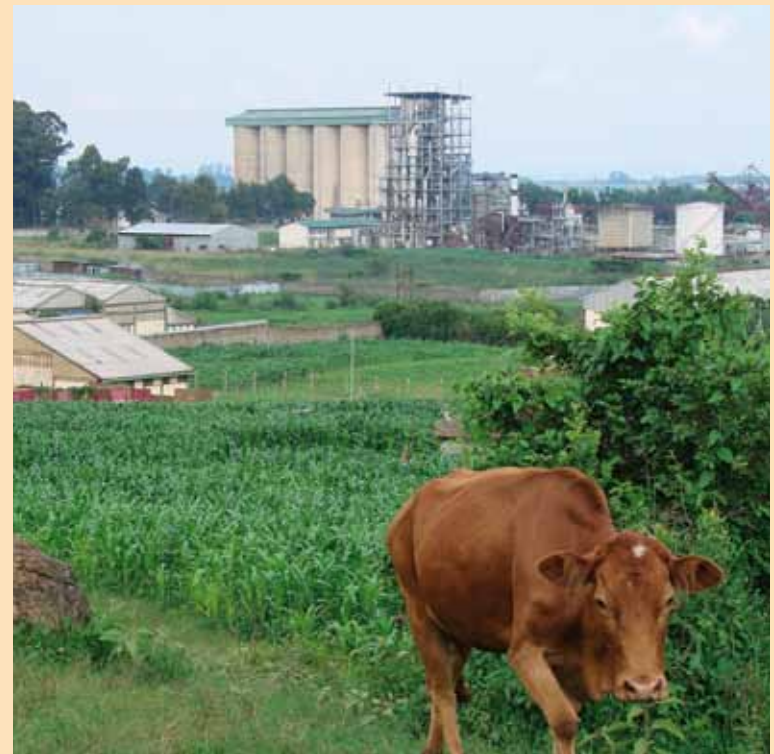
The UN predicts that Africa's population will double in the next 40 years. Much of this growth is going to occur in urban areas where populations are expected to triple by 2050 and urban populations will exceed the continent's rural population by 2040. A growing concern for African governments is how the food security of their (urban) citizens can be assured and how food crises can be prevented in the future. The structure of the demand for food will also change because, as incomes rise, people tend to expect to be able to consume more diversified diets in order to meet their dietary requirements for an active and healthy life. An urban agro-food system of the future will have to ensure an affordable and diversified supply of food (and fuel for food preparation), much of which will need to be produced locally in urban, peri-urban and nearby rural areas. To be socially inclusive and gender equitable, new forms of governance and technological innovation are called for.

People will be food secure when they have access to productive resources and/or to income-generating opportunities, i.e. when their livelihoods are secure. This, together with knowledge of basic nutrition as well as adequate water and sanitation, forms the basis for a good healthy life.

The ASC has a great deal of experience in this area. Its Food and Nutrition Studies Programme (FNSP), in cooperation with the Kenyan government, produced a range of policy support studies in the 1980s and 1990s, mostly of the rural areas. This was followed by the Nakuru Urban Agriculture Project (NUAP) that considered how current (and future) populations would feed themselves, a topic that is particularly pressing for today's growing metropolises in Africa. To help find answers, the ASC is currently engaging with other research and development partners in an integrated approach entitled 'Metropolitan Agro hubs' that draws together relevant and related subjects, such as spatial planning, climate and demographic scenarios, food system management, natural resources governance, energy, entrepreneurship, value chains, marketing, trade, logistics, retailers, local governance, recycling, food utilization, dietary diversity

and nutrition security. This is a multi-stakeholder process in which government, the private sector and civil society are participating, supported by knowledge institutions like the ASC.

Wijnand Klaver & Dick Foeken



*Small-scale livestock keeping and maize growing in Eldoret, Kenya, with the maize silos of the National Cereals and Produce Board in the background. Photo: Dick Foeken*

## 18 The Faces of Water Poverty in Kenya

Water is a basic need and an important catalyst for accelerating economic development in semi-arid areas. During the First African Water Week in Tunis (2008), the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the World Bank called for an increase in funding and a renewed focus on agricultural water management in Africa, including irrigation, drainage and rainwater harvesting. Growth in the agricultural sector is considered vital to poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (e.g. halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015). With only 64% of the population having access to improved water supplies, Africa has the lowest coverage of any region of the world. Climate change is, however, often mentioned as a major threat and probably the key factor in failures in food production. It is said to result in crop failure, livestock deaths and changes in water sources. But are changes in rainfall patterns the major reason for the drying up of water sources and is irrigated agriculture the real answer to achieving food security?

The Dutch government supported a water-provision programme in southern Kenya in the late 1980s. The approach was bottom up, with attention being paid to shallow wells, which are indigenous water holes dug into sand or rock that allow the extraction of water from shallow aquifers up to 30 m deep. Collaboration between an ASC staff member, an affiliated researcher and various well owners resulted in an improved well design with filter-lined walls, a cover and a durable hand or mobile diesel pump, at about 10% of the cost of drilling a normal borehole. The improved wells were monitored over several years by ASC researchers and it was noted that people became more food secure and poverty levels dropped. However, a number of these shallow wells started to dry up in 2005 and some 200 households were subsequently (re)surveyed in 2007. Output data and GPS coordinates of all the boreholes and the dry shallow wells in the area were recorded. Daily rainfall data from the early 1960s onwards were also collected and analyzed.



*Investigating why shallow wells are drying up in Kenya.  
Photo: Marcel Rutten*



Climate change appears to have been minimal and does not explain the drying up of so many (improved) shallow wells. The groundwater table has, however, dropped at least 50 m over the last ten years, primarily because of groundwater extraction for globalized agricultural production, for example, flowers for export and eucalyptus and chicken farms that arrived in the area after land became a commodity. The demand for water for human consumption is also on the rise due to Kenya's growing (urban) population.

The Kenyan government's long-term objective is to ensure that all Kenyans, especially the poor, have access to clean potable water and that water is available for key economic activities. The water-sector reforms being implemented now in Kenya under the Water Act 2002 are designed to contribute to the realization of this objective as well as to addressing the regulations and service-provision weaknesses in the previous Water Act Cap 372. The ASC is currently working on another research project in Kenya in an urban setting, using household surveys, water-quality analysis, (in-depth) interviews and case studies. Its two main objectives are to describe and analyze the nature, extent and impact of water-sector reforms and interventions at the municipal level, and to assess the impact of these reforms on the livelihoods of poor urban households.

*For more information, see the ASC's web dossier on 'Water in Africa' at: [www.ascleiden.nl/Library/Webdossiers/Food\(In\)Security.aspx](http://www.ascleiden.nl/Library/Webdossiers/Food(In)Security.aspx)*

Marcel Rutten

## **SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN AFRICA (SMPC) RESEARCH GROUP**

The SMPC research group studied (new) social movements, elites and political organization in Africa related to the study of political cultures on the continent. This can only be done with a long-term perspective as historical studies are connected with studies of the impact of recent processes of liberalization and globalization on the political culture and the formation and behaviour of political elites. Issues such as political reform and democratization, political insecurity and instability but also social mechanisms of conflict management and prevention were studied as well as the creation of tolerance for political or social outliers or minorities in society. In addition, this group considered macro processes (at the level of the African Union) and also undertook comparative studies in 2011 on the changing role of the state in Africa related to security and the rule of law. The group has been instrumental in producing the annual Africa Yearbook and in providing lemmas about Africa to influential encyclopaedias. 2011 saw a lot of attention for the 'positive wind' blowing in Africa, for example, in the two books by Stephen Ellis on Africa's 'rainy season', and there were publications on the consequences of neo-liberal reforms on Africa's agriculture, the management of border, labour and land conflicts, and the functioning of 'local governance' (local democracy and decentralization). Various publications dealt with the role of religion in public places and the reform of family law as a result of the influence of Islamist movements. In addition to its contemporary studies, the group also did historical studies, for example about the beginnings of the ANC's anti-Apartheid struggle in South Africa.



## 20 Examples of Research Activities and Findings

### Season of Rains: Africa and the World



Stephen Ellis's book in both Dutch and English - *Het regen-seizoen* or *Season of Rains* - on Africa's current place in the world was based on the findings of a research project done at the request of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is what Sir Edward Clay had to say about it in a review for the Royal African Society:

*The Africans play a bigger role in the world than our current assessment of Africa itself would suggest possible. Sixty years after Independence, Africans are everywhere, making an impact as economic migrants, refugees, workers in most sectors at all levels, in sport, culture, in religion (returning it to secularising Europe), finance, involving staggering outflows and remittances and, increasingly, crime. Stephen Ellis ... distilled his scholarship ... The book is a lucid and brief analysis of Africa in the world. It is a subversive masterpiece, undermining stereotypes of and about Africans. Everyone interested in Africa should read it to give their assumptions an invigorating cold shower and to modify their own policies. The author deconstructs western and African thinking about Africa since Independence. The departing Europeans and the nationalists who assumed power conceived their roles as a revised version of the civilising mission the former took up during imperialism - that short intermission in the longer and deeper flow of African history. Africa did not 'catch up' in the sense both had hoped, by rejecting tradition and accepting modernity. The old European imperialists intensified some attributes of colonialism for decades after Uhuru. For its part, Africa energetically and unevenly adapted some attributes of modernity to its own traditions. The new leaders proved adept in exploiting the rules of the post-colonial game they had little hand in framing. The Europeans - with other developed countries - tried to prop up the formal States they had designed. Undetected - or misinterpreted - older African traditions of reality, organisation, belief and norms asserted themselves beside that State, however .... One familiar argument Stephen Ellis tests and re-orientates is that Uhuru was not a complete break with the past, nor brought Independence. Africa's economic and financial dependence increased*

*sharply after Uhuru because most African elites wanted it to. They became skilled in operating the European-style political institutions they inherited in ways that complemented the parallel states of their own creation. They became adept at speaking in terms comforting to the donors: the book's title quotes a Cameroonian poet writing of how we attribute to the rainy season omens of what we want to hear .... The Europeans need to re-examine their policies if they are to catch up with a current flowing fast away from them towards the east, responding to the attractive power of Asia, and of Asian interest in Africa. Africans are not beleaguered in the Dark Continent, nor isolated in the 'dark ages' of their backwardness; they no longer trot along in the wake of their former colonisers, nor aspire to imitate 'models' which have failed their designers as they have those who adopted them.*

### A History of the Sawaba Rebellion in Niger: 1954-1974



Klaas van Walraven made a research trip to Niger in October to verify the final details in a book manuscript on the 1954-1974 Sawaba Rebellion entitled *Yearning for Relief*. In addition to archival research, several interviews were conducted with surviving eyewitnesses of what can be seen as an important but hidden and suppressed part of African history. He was interviewed and filmed by Nigerien journalists working on a documentary of the history of Sawaba. Discussions were also held with Nigerien colleagues about a photo exhibition on the same subject that will be organized at the Université Abdou Moumouni at a later date. A short research trip was made to Aix-en-Provence in September to verify some remaining details at the Archives d'Outre-Mer.

### The Genesis of the ANC's Armed Struggle in South Africa: 1948-1961

Revelations made to Stephen Ellis by veterans of the period and the opening of various archives have thrown significant new light on the origins of Umkhonto we Sizwe. It is now clear that the South African Communist Party (SACP) was the first component of the congress alliance to decide



to launch an armed struggle against the apartheid state in late 1960, having consulted the Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung in person. Only later was the issue debated in the senior organs of the African National Congress and other allied organizations. It has also become apparent that the first commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe, Nelson Mandela, was a member of the SACP. The main thrust of these observations is to demonstrate the degree to which the start of the armed struggle in South Africa was inscribed in the politics of the Cold War.

### Muslim Public Intellectuals in West Africa



Benjamin Soares continued his research on African Muslim public intellectuals, their understandings and practices of Islam, and their various agendas. While on research trips to Mali and Senegal, he conducted interviews with key Muslim public figures, carried out field research and collected relevant print and audiovisual materials that he presented in seminars

and conferences in Egypt, France, Malaysia, South Africa and the US. He also completed a chapter for a forthcoming book on the subject entitled Islamic Education in Africa.

### Conflict-generating Potential of Religion in the Public Sphere in Ethiopia



A paper published in African Affairs highlighted the conflict-generating potential of religion in the public sphere in Ethiopia and the peculiar impact of 'ethnicity' on political performance/governance. In work on religion and politics in the Horn of Africa, Jan Abbink produced a joint monograph

that he started with his now-deceased PhD colleague Berhanu Gebeyehu on religious media use in Ethiopia.

### Religion and Modernity in Colonial and Post-colonial Mali

Benjamin Soares collected additional materials in Mali for his forthcoming book on religion and modernity there. He presented his ideas at the University of Michigan and in a seminar on 'The 9/11 Generation: Young Muslims in the New World Order' that he co-organized at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe. His article on attempts to reform Mali's family law appeared in Margot Badran's edited volume entitled Gender and Islam in Africa.

### Food Security and Conflict in Chad



Han van Dijk continued his research on the relationship between food (in-)security, bio-physical development and conflict in Chad. Analysis of anthropometric data showed significant differences in the height of adults in different age cohorts and between villages that were exposed to hazardous conditions. This was also related to present levels of income and

the organization of food production.

### Population Growth and Pressure on Resources in Ethiopia

A published study by Jan Abbink on livelihoods and development options in the south-central Ethiopian district of Wolaitta revealed the growing pressure that population growth is placing on limited resources and the unresolved dilemmas of government policies in alleviating problems. Governance and environmental challenges in agrarian production and policies were also discussed in a more general sense in a chapter on the problems of donor development aid to African countries, particularly Ethiopia where a closure of public space and democratic debate has jeopardized the developmental project and consensus politics, while donor-country aid policies remain focused one-dimensionally on 'economic aid' and 'market development' projects, with wider 'good governance' and democratization support falling by the wayside.







*The scales of justice. Downloaded from: <http://nigeriansabroadlive.com>*

## Security and the Rule of Law

Nigeria is a distinguished member of the international community and as such we must, at all times, conform and be seen to conform with all norms, conventions and rules that are sine qua non to peaceful living and respectable human co-existence.' So stated a Nigerian police chief in a 2004 press interview. Shortly afterwards, he was convicted of fraud on a huge scale.

The juxtaposition of this statement of impeccable correctness and the realities of Nigerian life provides an insight into the problems concerning security and the rule of law in Africa. The contemporary world community of states was founded in 1945 when the United Nations was founded with just 51 members. With the accession of South Sudan in 2011, the UN now has 193 members. This growth in the number of world states is largely due to the decolonization of Europe's empires. It has shaped the world we live in.

Countries aspiring to sovereignty understand that they must be seen to fulfil the requirements of statehood if they are to be accepted as a member of the world community. Yet the norms of international statehood in fact evolved to a large extent in Europe from the seventeenth century onwards. Europeans gradually endowed themselves with states regulated by written rules and rulers themselves eventually became subject to these rules. Europeans and societies founded by them in the course of their extraordinary expansion have come to think of the law as a set of rules made by society to regulate itself.

The key characteristic of the modern state, as the great sociologist Max Weber wrote, is its monopoly of legitimate violence.

These ideas and institutions were exported all over the world, also by means of colonization. As a result, states like Nigeria repose to a large extent on institutions and conventions, reflected in law, that have their roots in colonial government or in European influence more generally. The reality of how they are governed, however, derives also from local histories that often fall beyond the scope of the law and formal government procedures.

One of the great dramas of the twenty-first century is likely to be the way actual governance evolves in countries whose institutions of government were originally imposed by colonial legislators and implemented by European officials, and how this impacts on the wider world.

There is no more important example of this conundrum than Nigeria. The historical evolution of governance, state and crime since the creation of Nigeria in its modern form in 1914 is the subject of a current ASC research project by Stephen Ellis.

Stephen Ellis

## SPECIAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Three researchers - Ton Dietz, Wim van Binsbergen and Ineke van Kessel - had individual research programmes that did not fall within the three above-mentioned groups as such. Ineke van Kessel's book on Ghanaians in military service in the Netherlands East Indies, where they were known as Black Dutchmen, was published in Indonesia in Bahasa Indonesia and she also wrote about South Africa being a member of the BRICS group of countries for *Internationale Spectator*:

### Examples of Research Activities and Findings

#### Using Remittance Money in Ghana



In a publication as part of the output of the TransNet research team, Ton Dietz and other colleagues discussed the strategic roles that migrants play in the development of their country of origin, notably their rural home towns. This was based on a multi-sited, contemporaneous study in cultural economics to explore the influence of transnational ties between Ghanaian migrants in Amsterdam and individual and collective actors in Ghana, notably in rural Ashanti communities. The research highlighted the role of institutions, linking communities living abroad to their people back home or in the home country as a whole. Two of these inter-linked institutions were given special attention in this publication, namely, community development and funerals.

#### Black Athena Comes of Age



Ten years after its original publication, Wim van Binsbergen's book about Black Athena came of age. In it, he reflected on the connection between early Greek culture at the dawn of European civilization and Africa as a source of inspiration. This has been an intellectual encounter over the years between a group of Dutch scholars studying the Ancient Mediterranean, Ancient Egypt and Africa and, on the other hand, Martin Bernal who is one

of the most challenging and innovative but also controversial and criticized scholars of recent decades. Since the 1980s, Bernal has claimed that the roots of Western civilization were not in Ancient Greece but outside Europe, in Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, and ultimately in Sub-Saharan Africa, creating havoc in Western identity and addressing issues such as racism, exclusion, cultural domination, and White and North Atlantic hegemony. With three original contributions by Bernal, Wim van Binsbergen's new book does not call for canonization of the Black Athena thesis as a mainstream achievement of empirical research but does call for recognition of Martin Bernal as the visionary initiator of an inspiring research programme. He concludes that Black Athena has come of age. In 2011 he also co-produced a book about ethnicity in the protohistoric period of the circum-Mediterranean area.

## SERVING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

ASC staff contributed in many ways to the functioning of the community of Africanist scholars in the Netherlands and in Europe for AEGIS and EADI, in Africa with the CDP programme with CODESRIA and work for SANPAD, and elsewhere for example, as part of the African Studies Association in the US. This also included work with NVAS, being on PhD committees and providing advice for students and academic staff, reviewing and refereeing papers and reports, and membership of various boards of scientific bodies and juries. ASC research staff are the editors of two academic journals (*Quest* and *African Diaspora*) and also of various book series. And the ASC had a very lively and extensive seminar programme, with many invited guests from academia all over the world.

## RESEARCH FOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

The C&T research group published the results of its research for Oxfam novib on mobilities and insecurity among pastoral societies in West Africa. Research for SNV on the history of this major Dutch development organization was

24 also completed with the publication of some additional working papers on Cameroon and Zambia. And finally, reports were produced for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs about Islam in Africa, with a focus on Senegal.

The EEE group did research for the International Migration Organization on the impact of counter-trafficking policies on the illegal migration of African women to Europe. And studies were finalized for Plan Netherlands on approaches to community health insurance in Togo.

The SMPC group conducted research for the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and Ineke van Kessel did a study on the context of South African labour unions for the CNV, as part of an ASC-CNV research programme in various African countries.

The ASC's director was involved in research for ICCO, Woord en Daad and Prisma to develop a methodology for the participatory assessment of development and he also wrote columns for Dutch-language magazines like Internationale Samenwerking, Oneworld and ViceVersa. ASC staff were also active on boards of various NGOs and in carrying out research for ministries, the business community and think tanks (for example, connecting with the Netherlands-Africa Business Council, the Worldconnectors and The Broker).

## Examples of Research Activities and Findings

### Labour Unions in South Africa



While doing research in South Africa for the Dutch labour union CNV, Ineke van Kessel was struck by the sense of paralysis in the world of organized labour and business. COSATU and other trade unions and organized business were waiting for the outcome of the ANC's conference in December 2012 when a new leader will be elected, who will also become South Africa's president in 2014. Organized labour is unprepared when it comes to dealing with the consequences of a globalizing world with the increased flexibility of

labour and is focusing instead on defending the rights of its traditional power base, i.e. workers with (more or less) permanent jobs. There are hardly any initiatives to organize in the informal sector among seasonal workers and workers on temporary contracts.

### Counter-Trafficking Initiative, Nigeria

Akinyinka Akinyoade conducted (desk) research on the International Migration Organization's counter-trafficking initiative to support the establishment and sustained development of integrated referral service-delivery systems of social protection and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking in Edo and Lagos States in Nigeria. A slow but steady take off was observed for projects implementing prevention services in endemic source areas of the two states. Achievements were made in research observatories set up in two universities, the provision of shelters, legal aid and resources for victims through four local NGOs in collaboration with NAPTIP, the government agency set up to prevent trafficking in persons. The health, legal and social-service delivery components of the project were successfully coordinated using a rights-based approach.

### Participatory Assessment of Development

Ton Dietz's major research project dealt with the development of a methodology for participatory assessment of development based on research in northern Ghana and southern Burkina Faso, to be used by local researchers and NGOs working in Africa. After three rounds of workshops in 2009 and 2010, and many student thesis projects (see [www.padev.nl](http://www.padev.nl)), 2011 was mainly devoted to producing a methodology guidebook. Bringing together local people in three-day workshops enabled a bottom-up discovery process of reconstructing development and change and valuing the many development initiatives and their impact on people's capabilities and on the various wealth classes in local society.

## RESEARCH MASTERS IN AFRICAN STUDIES 2010-2011

The Research Masters in African Studies (RESMAAS) is a two-year programme offered jointly by Leiden University and the African Studies Centre that started in September 2006. The courses are given at the African Studies Centre, in collaboration with the Research School for Resource Studies for Development (CERES) that coordinates researchers from six universities (Utrecht University, University of Amsterdam, Wageningen University and Research Centre, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, and the VU University Amsterdam. Furthermore the University of Groningen, Leuven University, the National Museum of Ethnology (Leiden), the Royal Tropical Institute (Amsterdam) and CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa in Dakar, Senegal). These institutions have generously offered their cooperation. The programme includes contributions from more than 40 lecturers engaged in interdisciplinary dialogues and disciplinary specializations at these universities. The programme attracts very motivated, international students from various countries, several of whom have won scholarships from highly competitive grant initiatives to help finance their studies.

Seven RESMAAS students graduated in 2011. The students gave presentations of their theses on 19 August 2011 at a ceremony attended by fellow students, ASC staff and family and friends. Michael Stasik, who won the 2011 Africa Thesis Award for his thesis entitled 'DISCOConnections: Popular Music Audiences in Freetown, Sierra Leone', was also present. His study, which was supervised by Prof. Paul Richards (Wageningen University) and Dr Daniela Merolla (Leiden University), was well received because of its theoretical depth and good empirical base.

The second year RESMAAS students returned to Leiden after a successful six months of fieldwork and held fieldwork-reporting sessions with fascinating stories, experiences and photos before starting the writing up of their theses.

The most recent cohort comprises thirteen students, eleven of whom started the programme in September 2011 and two more were able to join as part of the February intake. Among the thirteen are five students who received



*From left to right: Maurice John Hutton, David Drengk, Jonas Grunau, Roeland Hemsteede, Mariska Lammers, Nils Von Der Assen, Enid Guéné, Maïke Lolkema, Anwar Seid. Photo: Sajoh Bah*

grants: Thandi Soko (Malawi) and Anwar Suleiman (Eritrea) received the highest (Platinum) scholarship from the Leiden University Excellence Scholarship Programme (LexS). Marina Denisenko (Russia) is one of the last to receive the prestigious Huygens Scholarship, Ya Hui Tai joined the RESMAAS with an award from the Leiden-Orange Tulip Scholarship for outstanding Taiwanese students and Amadu Sajoh Bah (Sierra Leone/the Netherlands) is one of the two students sponsored by a generous gift from the Rabobank.

The RESMAAS programme was externally evaluated in 2010. The evaluation report was very positive and the course has been reaccredited for another five years. RESMAAS board meetings included a wider group of ASC staff in 2011.



*Ton Dietz (Director ASC), Mirjam de Bruijn (Director RESMAAS) and Azeb Amha (Coordinator) receiving the Rabobank scholarship cheque. Photo: Maaike Westra*

Based on the evaluation's recommendations and discussions with RESMAAS board members, changes were implemented in the RESMAAS curriculum and organization. The ASC was delighted when Leiden University decided to make the RESMAAS programme the beneficiary of a special gift of €50,000 from the Rabobank to Leiden University. This is recognition of all the hard work put into making the course a success by the programme director, Mirjam de Bruijn, the programme coordinator, Azeb Amha, and all the ASC's partners in Leiden at the Faculties of Humanities and Social and Behavioural Sciences and elsewhere in the Netherlands.

## Overview of Research Masters Theses in 2011

### **Humphrey Asamoah Agyekum**

*Dreaming in the Shadow of Violence: How Political Insecurity and Military Actions Affect Youth's Future Planning in Guinea Bissau*

### **Eyob Balcha Gebremariam**

*The Quest for Development Alternatives in Africa: Questioning Development Assumptions of AAF-SAP & NEPAD*

### **Inge Ligtoet**

*Fear and Faith: Uncertainty, Misfortune and Spiritual Insecurity in Calabar, Nigeria*

### **Leah Llewellyn**

*Juggling Agendas: Circus in Ethiopia*

### **E.N.Yenkong Pangmashi**

*Prisoners In-justice: Prisoners' Encounters with the Criminal Justice System in Cameroon*

### **Florian Michael Schöpplerle**

*The Economics of Akie Identity: Adaptation and Change among a Hunter-Gatherer People in Tanzania*

### **Sara de Wit**

*Global Warning: An Ethnography of the Encounter of Global and Local Climate Change Discourses in the Bamenda Grassfields, Cameroon*



*Somali pirates in action.*

*Photo reproduced with the permission of the EU NAVFOR website*

## **Studying Somali Piracy: On Accessing the Field by Other Means**

Pirates are again making the headlines all over the world. Yet nowhere have they been as daring as off the coast of Somalia, where more than 100 ships have been hijacked over the last few years.

In my Research Masters' project at the ASC I have been looking at piracy as a transnational economic network that connects pirates in Somalia to the global shipping and insurance sector in London. In fact, without ransom payments, there would be no piracy off the coast of Somalia, at least not in its current form and scale. As well as referring to themselves as 'companies', groups of pirates have developed into well-organized enterprises with investors, accountants, negotiators, protection/security forces and logistics experts. Meanwhile in London, a ransom infrastructure consisting of insurance companies, lawyers, negotiators and private security companies has evolved to respond to pirate hijackings. The aim of my research is to understand what these actors do, how they are organized and how they interact in a transnational economic network.

As I embarked on this research, I was confronted with the practical question of how to actually conduct research into piracy. I was not able to go to Somalia due to the security situation. And in London too, piracy is a sensitive issue and many actors in the sector are reluctant to talk about it. Thus the 'being there' type of field research did not work. So what should I do? Just drop the whole idea? Would it be possible to access the field by other means?

Fortunately, there seemed to be other ways of gathering information. Many journalists have travelled to pirate villages in Somalia to interview officials, local residents and the pirates themselves. Their work, which can be accessed through various news articles, books and film documentaries on YouTube, is an important source for understanding piracy and its local impact in Somalia. Furthermore, there are international organizations working on piracy, for example UN agencies, the European Union and NGOs. Their reports contain essential information about pirate organizations and feature original documents such as business plans and codes of conduct. The shipping industry has also produced materials to inform its stakeholders on the subject and how to deal with it, providing insight into piracy from within the sector itself. Other important sources for my research included court decisions on piracy cases, parliamentary hearings on piracy and satellite images of pirate villages. My knowledge of piracy was consolidated further through interviews with informants from the shipping and insurance sector in London, and journalists and piracy experts at international organizations in Nairobi. And meetings with members of the Somali diaspora in Nairobi enabled me to better grasp the Somali perspective on piracy concerning illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic waste.

Having developed a variety of methods tailored to my research, I have managed to gain access to both the London and Somali fields. I have thus been able to study piracy in different places and explore how interactions take place in a transnational economic network.

Jan Stockbruegger

## PHD PROGRAMME

**28** The ASC's involvement in PhD supervision and training has expanded tremendously in the last decade. The ASC is now a full member of the CERES Research School and ASC staff and PhD students are also involved in the AEGIS Cortona Summer School for PhD students. The ASC's Wouter van Beek and Ton Dietz have a long involvement in PhD training and supervisory activities with SANPAD in South Africa too. Other ASC staff were involved in PhD (co-) supervision activities as well in 2011 and steps were taken to reorganize the ASC's PhD policy and institutional arrangements.

Most ASC research staff are involved in PhD supervision activities, either as part-time professors at Dutch universities or as advisors. The ASC does not itself have the right to award PhDs (promotierecht) and for this it relies on its relationships with universities, in particular Leiden University (Mirjam de Bruijn and Ton Dietz have professorial positions there and Jan Kees van Donge, Dick Foeken and Jan-Bart Gewalt are PhD co-promoters), Wageningen University (Han van Dijk is a professor there), the VU University (Jan Abbink and Stephen Ellis have professorial appointments there and Rijk van Dijk and Jan Kees van Donge are PhD co-promoters), the University of Amsterdam (where Ton Dietz is a professor and Rijk van Dijk and Mirjam de Bruijn are PhD co-promoters), Erasmus University Rotterdam (Wim van Binsbergen was a professor there; André Leliveld is co-promotor at the Institute of Social Studies), Radboud University Nijmegen and Utrecht University (Marcel Rutten is a PhD co-promotor) and Tilburg University (where Wouter van Beek is a professor). In addition, ASC staff members are PhD advisors on projects in Africa and elsewhere in Europe.

The PhD students attached to ASC research staff members can be categorized in three broad groups:

a) Resident PhD students: these are PhD students who have a work space at the ASC when they are in the Netherlands (many are often in Africa), and who are attached to projects that can be regarded as 'ASC projects' (e.g. linked to the IS Academies, the Tracking Development project and specific NWO/WOTRO projects that are all administered by the ASC).

- b) Non-resident PhD students are supervised by ASC staff whose supervision time is paid by the ASC.
- c) Non-resident PhD students are supervised by ASC staff but the supervision time involved is paid by other universities.



The Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has implemented a so-called bonus financing system following PhD graduation. For the first two categories of PhD students, the ASC has made clear agreements for financial compensation for the time the Centre spends on supervision. For the PhD students involved (and for others who want to become affiliates of the ASC Community), more recognizable initiatives are being taken to form an Africanist PhD community at the ASC and as part of CERES.

The following PhD students successfully defended their theses in 2011:

Linda van de Kamp	Violent Conversion: Brazilian Pentecostalism and the Urban Pioneering of Women in Mozambique
Josien de Klerk	Being Old in Times of AIDS: Aging, Caring and Relating in Northwest Tanzania
Lotte Pelckmans	Travelling Hierarchies: Moving In and Out of Slave Status in a Central Malian FulBe Network
Walter Nkwi	Kfaang and its Technologies. Towards a Social History of Mobility in Kom, Cameroon: 1928-1998
Samuel Ntewusu	Settling In and Holding On: A Socio-economic History of Northern Traders and Transporters in Accra's Tudu: 1908-2008
Inge Ruigrok	Negotiating Governance: Politics, Culture, and the State in Post-war Angola



Checkpoint when leaving Ziguinchor on the road to Oussouye.  
Photo: Fatima Diallo

## The Besieged State: Technologies of Governance in the Lower Casamance, Senegal

Senegal is considered a model of democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, as was shown in the recent elections in 2012 that brought a second 'alternance' even though they were marked by a certain degree of pre-electoral violence that caused local people and observers to hold their breath. The situation in Senegal highlights how it is an almost impossible task, even for a state renowned for its political stability, to create a public space where regional or separatist claims can be expressed in a peaceful manner. Since the start of the Casamance rebellion in 1982 after the State's suppression of a protest march against the functioning of the administration and the marginalization of the Lower Casamance, the use of violence has complicated the political management of this region.

This PhD research project focuses on the ways in which power is exercised by decoding the articulation of negotiations around state authority. It aims to understand the strategies and tactics that have been put in place to maintain the state's dominance over community life. The central objective of the study is, thus, to analyze how the Senegalese State is positioning itself with regard to the various local actors in order to maintain itself in Lower Casamance.

At the heart of the ambivalence surrounding this conflict is the idea that the rebellion is not linked to the absence of a link with the State but instead to the tensions in this relationship and the absence of a political alternative. Analysis of this ambivalence leads to a discussion of the State's way of operation and its interaction with the other actors in domains where the contestation of its authority seems to produce risks for state building. Essentially, the research is about key areas of governance such as decentralization, the management of violence, border controls and the disputed communication between the institutions of state, local actors, the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) and the neighbouring countries of The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau.

In reality, the violence as a form of crystallization of the various opposing forces leaves considerable room for several players that are if not anti-state then at least non-state, such as the traditional actors who, because of the historical system of social regulation, and neighbouring states that, because of geopolitics, are assumed to exercise a certain control with which the State has to come to terms. The result is an oligopolistic form of configuration of governance and the domestication of state strategies by unexpected tactics on the part of subordinate actors. Among these are a substantial informalization of the rules that have been made in the process of decentralization but that retain their formal outlook, a haggling over the monopoly of violence, and the politics of eviction. While eroding state authority, they have become the essential conditions for maintaining the authority of the State. This form of mitigated articulation is leading to a redefinition of the State.

Fatima Diallo



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

### 30 THE IS ACADEMY

The IS Academy (IS=Internationale Samenwerking, International Cooperation) is a joint venture of the African Studies Centre (ASC) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Department (DAF) at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme, entitled 'The State in Africa', provides the opportunity for regular contact between ASC researchers and the department dealing with the Dutch Africa policy and encourages consultation, collaboration and the exchange of information.

2011 was officially the final year of this programme. The six PhD research projects were the most important component of the programme and the PhD students all worked on finalizing their theses. Three were originally selected by the Steering Committee from a large group of (academic) applicants, two are policy officers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who were working in the Africa Department before they started their PhDs and the sixth is from the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD). Three of the PhD students are expected to defend their theses in 2012, one in 2013 and the other two at a later date.

As in previous years, lectures were organized by the IS Academy in addition to the regular seminars and publications that were arranged by the ASC's Social Movements and Political Culture research group on subjects related to those being studied in the IS Academy. For more details see: [www.ascleiden.nl/Research/ISAcademy.aspx](http://www.ascleiden.nl/Research/ISAcademy.aspx)

The IS Academy offered scholarships that allowed six African students to participate in the Research Masters in African Studies. Three of these students graduated in 2009 and 2010 and two more - Pangmashi Yenkong from Cameroon and Eyob Balcha Gebremariam from Ethiopia - graduated in 2011. Pangmashi Yenkong's thesis, which was supervised by Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn and Dr Janine Ubink (Faculty of Law, Leiden University), was entitled 'Prisoners In-justice: Prisoners' Encounters with the Criminal Justice System

in Cameroon'. Eyob Balcha Gebremariam's thesis was entitled 'The Quest for Development Alternatives in Africa: Questioning Development Assumptions of AAF-SAP and NEPAD' and was supervised by Prof. Jan Abbink and Dr Klaas van Walraven. Bintou Diallo from Burkina Faso is expected to graduate from the RESMAAS programme in 2012.

#### Example of a Research Project

##### Land Registration Conflicts in Rwanda

One of the IS Academy PhD projects has been dealing with the situation in Rwanda, which is often portrayed as a shining example of Africa's renaissance. After finishing a final two-month period of fieldwork in Rwanda, Margot Leegwater found the current socio-political situation to be very tense. Under a 2005 land law, Rwanda is currently organizing a first registration of land parcels, a registration that in her research area is leading to increased land conflicts within families and between people who had to share land in 1996. As a result of scarcity, increasing numbers of young people have been unable to inherit land from their parents. In a difficult political climate in which people are afraid to speak out, increasing land problems could lead to renewed violence.

##### IS Academy PhD Researchers in 2011

*Marion Eeckhout*

Research: Boosting mediocre economic performance in Sub-Saharan Africa:  
A comparison of institutional processes of change in Ghana

*Margot Leegwater*

Research: Land access and ethnicity in southeastern Rwanda

*Melle Leenstra*

Research: Beyond the façade. The instrumentalization of the Zambian health sector

*Matthias Olthaar*

Research: Opportunities for smallholders in value chains: Sesame in Ethiopia and Tanzania

*Martin van Vliet*

Research: Empirical study of the democratic consolidation process in Mali

*Lotje de Vries*

Research: State formation in southern Sudan: The role of borders and transnational dimensions of conflict in the construction of the state of South Sudan

### IS Academy Lectures

#### ● 22 June

Land Reform, Food Security and Stability in Africa: Lessons from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Kenya

Dr Prosper Matondi (Director of the Ruzivo Trust, Harare, Zimbabwe), Prof. Lionel Cliffe (Centre for African Studies at the University of Leeds, UK) and Sarah Soede (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

#### ● 27 October

Negotiating Islam and Democracy in Sahelian Africa: Senegal, Mali and Niger  
Dr Leonardo Villalón (Associate Professor of African Politics at the University of Florida) and Carmen Hagenars (Cluster Coordinator for West Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

#### ● 8 December

Bloeddiamanten of een gouden toekomst? De rol van grondstoffen in Congo

Dr David Van Reybrouck (Leiden University and author of Congo, een geschiedenis), Jaime de Bourbon Parme (Special Envoy for Raw Materials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Joost van Puijenbroek (IKV Pax Christi) and Femke van Zeijl (interviewer)



*IS Academy seminar on blood diamonds. From left to right: Jaime de Bourbon Parme, Joost van Puijenbroek, David Van Reybrouck, Femke van Zeijl.  
Photo: Gitty Petit*

## 32 Democracy and Accountability in Africa: Beyond the Façade of Western Prescriptions

### **'The Times They Are A-Changin'**

The third wave of democracy that swept away numerous authoritarian regimes on the African continent in the 1990s brought a sense of euphoria surrounding Africa's future prospects. With formal democratic institutions and procedures now in place, state-society relations would be strengthened and this would surely impact positively on socio-economic development. On foundations of democratic accountability, the interests of an increasingly young, vibrant, well-educated and urban citizenry would be served by a new generation of African politicians. International consultants travelled Africa with an illuminating toolkit of advice for good, democratic governance, subtly projecting western historical political trajectories on Africa's future.

### **Beyond Euphoria**

Scholars were, however, soon pointing at patterns of authoritarianism that proved hard to change and at the remarkable adaptive skills of African political elites. The view that state-society relations in Africa were predominately informal and particularistic rather than guided by formal institutions operating in the national interest became prominent. A leading scholar in the field of African politics concluded that 'elections rarely equate with accountability' in Sub-Saharan Africa. Instead, politicians operate as 'Big Men' and patrons, fuelling personalized ethnic or regionally based networks of clients with public funds. The state, in this view, is nothing but a façade behind which these kinds of informal dynamics determine state-society relations.

### **Accountability in Practice**

My PHD research did not start from such grand theories, universalistic and institutional or informal and Africa-specific, but set out to examine accountability mechanisms in daily practice, focusing on Mali but also with references to other countries. Over a period of ten years, I have studied evolving state-society relations and local accountability mechanisms in



*Mali's fragmented party system displayed. Photo: Roel Burgler*

southern Mali and the impact of decentralization policies and the municipal elections that were conducted in 1999, 2004 and 2009. I have also examined the functioning of parliamentarians and political parties in practice and their contribution to shaping political accountability. A final area of interest concerns the extent to which recent constitutional reform processes on the continent have laid the foundations for improved accountability.

My research highlights the importance of adopting a cultural and political perspective rather than a universalistic and technocratic viewpoint if one wants to understand state-society dynamics and accountability mechanisms. It also illustrates different kinds of interaction between formal institutions and informal networks in practice, networks that are more complex than the patron-client model might suggest. The PhD project concludes with a number of policy recommendations that could be relevant for international organizations that are aiming to spearhead democratization and improve service delivery on the African continent.

Martin van Vliet

## TRACKING DEVELOPMENT

2011 was a year of intensive collaboration for the Tracking Development team in order to finalize four PhD projects and start work on the project's monograph and an anthology. The final conference, in December 2011, was a success and Tracking Development's results continued to attract considerable attention from within and outside the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (its major source of funding). One of the project's African PhD candidates, Bethuel Kinuthia, published three papers on the Malaysian part of his Malaysia-Kenya comparison, while the other African PhD student, Blandina Kilama, continued her PhD research comparing cashew-nut dynamics in Vietnam and Tanzania. Tracking Development will conclude in 2012 with a book summarizing the project's main findings and an anthology with contributions by the team's main contributors.

### Examples of Research Activities and Findings

#### Uganda and Cambodia's Divergence in Agricultural Performance



André Leliveld's research as part of the Tracking Development project was devoted to comparing the agricultural sector's performance and the policies of post-conflict Cambodia and Uganda. The findings show that some growth can be observed in agricultural production in the two countries over the last few decades but growth has been erratic and restricted to a few crops only. Since 2005, Cambodia has started to outperform Uganda in terms of agricultural production and agricultural productivity growth. Research focused on the factors that underlie this divergence. The ASC's own analysis suggests that this divergence can partly be explained by a different role in Cambodian politics in the design and implementation of agricultural policies since 2005. The reasons why the policy to improve agriculture worked better in Cambodia than in Uganda can be summarized as follows: the Cambodian government became interested in rice as a new

source of income; a change in the attitude of donors resulted in more funds being made available for agriculture; productive cooperation with NGOs was initiated; a competent technocrat in the position of Minister of Agriculture was able to deal with the government, the party, and NGOs at the same time; and, finally, agriculture became an area where concern for the welfare of the people could be demonstrated.

#### Governance, Rent Seeking, Finances, Markets and Regulation



Jan Kees van Donge's contributions to the finalization of the Tracking Development project consisted of three papers for the project's final conference in December: on the debate about governance and rent seeking; on the divergent access to finance between South East Asia and Africa; and on the delicate balance between markets and regulation.

He concluded that rent-seeking behaviour in South East Asia has a growth-enhancing rationale and is less harmful to growth but that crucial 'pockets of efficiency' seem to be excluded from harmful rent seeking.



## 34 Reversed Fortunes in the South

My research work as part of the Tracking Development programme, an international research project on the comparative development trajectories of South East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa over the last fifty years, compared the industrial experiences of Kenya and Malaysia from independence to the present, with special emphasis on the role of foreign direct investment in industrial development. Malaysia is considered one of South East Asia's success stories, having transformed itself from a primary-sector-based economy in the 1960s to an export-driven economy spurred on by high technology, knowledge-based and capital-intensive industries that has resulted in a dramatic reduction in poverty levels fifty years later. Although Kenya had many similarities with Malaysia in the 1960s, such as ethnic diversity, comparable economic structures, a dependence on the primary sector and the pursuit of similar development strategies, it has experienced limited growth over the same period and has failed to industrialize or alleviate poverty to any significant extent.

My study identifies 1970 as a major turning point in the two countries when they were both confronted with industrialization policy dilemmas, in addition to economic and political crises, which in Malaysia resulted in racially motivated riots and the suspension of government. Malaysia's response was the introduction of an economic blueprint that identified the manufacturing sector as the main driver of growth and the formation of a growth coalition that favoured marginalized communities. This was not the case in Kenya and the country declined to shift its policy from its expensive import substitution strategy. In addition, it relied on an ethnically constituted political party for resource allocation and suffered the consequences. At the time, both countries depended to some extent on foreign direct investment (FDI) but Kenya lost its appeal for FDI in the 1970s. My study shows that FDI in Malaysia contributed to growth directly through increased output, employment and export diversification but even more importantly, indirectly, through the generation of productivity and export spillovers to domestic firms through imitations and backward linkages. This was not the

case in Kenya. And in addition, there is evidence of technology sourcing of FDI (foreign firms learning from well-established domestic firms) through backward linkages in Malaysia. In the short term, FDI is seen to have generated negative spillovers through competition in both countries.

Malaysia's successful industrialization compared to Kenya's can also be explained by its prudent use of resource rents that have financed industrial development. This has comprised a delicate blend of export- and import-oriented industrialization strategies that were complemented by FDI and other forms of external support. Kenya did not have this luxury and was simply unable to sustain the financing of its ambitious import substitution strategy in the early 1970s, which marked an important turning point for the country. Finally, employment creation and poverty alleviation were seen as both political and economic outcomes by the political class in Malaysia that committed itself, propelled initially by the threat of communism and later by increased ethnic tensions, to introducing the process of industrialization and creating dependable institutions. These features are still largely absent in Kenya and unemployment and poverty remain major challenges.

Bethuel Kinuthia



## 36 CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS (CDP)

Consortium for Development Partnerships (CDP) is an international research network that links different institutions and scholars who are interested in conducting collaborative research in Africa. The research is relevant to policy issues concerning economic development, democratization and conflict resolution. CDP offers a unique intra-regional network in Africa and provides opportunities for young scholars, NGOs, civil society and policymakers to interact with senior scholars to enhance research capacities. The network is coordinated by CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa) and the ASC, and has received generous grants from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The first research projects in which ASC researchers participated were carried out in 2006 and 2007. In the second phase (September 2009-December 2011), the ASC coordinated three of the nine projects:

- Local Governance and Decentralization (Mali & Burkina Faso)
- Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building (Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast & Mali)
- Media and Voice in Democracy (Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast & Benin)

In the first few months of 2011, the CDP teams all held review or dissemination workshops to discuss their preliminary results and draft reports with policymakers and civil society. These were presented at the Steering Committee's meeting in Dakar in August and were then submitted for publication in 2012.

### **The Local Governance and Decentralization Project**

This project team focused on the role of women in local governance and how decentralization has affected female leadership in Mali and Burkina Faso. The results demonstrate that women have more chance of being elected at the communal level than nationally, and they mostly come from well-to-do families, often have husbands with a political function, are well educated and have a



*The CDP's Steering Committee meeting, Dakar, 26 & 27 August 2011.  
Photo: Linda van de Kamp*

professional career. More generally, the new opportunities decentralization offers regarding exercising influence are not yet well understood or appropriated by all sectors of the local population. This is often due to a lack of language skills, illiteracy and disinterest.

### **The Local Dynamics of Conflict and Peace Building Project**

Using a combination of approaches from conflict studies, anthropology and law, one of the findings of this team is that the methods and strategies of youth militias, which are part of the conflict over resources in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, have been copied in other parts of the country and regionalized, as can be seen in the attempted coup that sought to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea. Based on this and other findings from research carried

out in Ghana, Nigeria and Mali, this research project offers insightful analysis into the spin-offs of conflicts. These are known as 'conflict mobilities' and include refugees, weapons, displaced people, human trafficking and techniques of war that have travelled as part of the global diffusion of terrorism and piracy in the Horn and the Gulfs of Aden and Guinea and the kidnappings in Nigeria and Niger.

### **The Media and Voice in Democracy Project**

This project's dissemination workshop on how community radio stations in Burkina Faso, Benin and Ivory Coast are influencing and shaping democratic expression attracted many journalists and media people. The main points of discussion were about how to improve the number and quality of radio programmes on issues of democracy, citizenship and elections. The project team is now going to design a workshop for journalists in the participating countries.

### **CDP III**

A new (third) phase for CDP is envisaged. During visits by CODESRIA's team to the ASC and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the ASC team to CODESRIA, new research themes and regions were identified. The proposed fields of research are conflict, economic exchange, governance from below, access to land and food security, and justice and human rights. They take into account the current challenges for development in Africa but also the changing research environment, particularly with regard to the development of knowledge about Africa and its use by stakeholders and decision makers.



*An African radio station. Photo: Michael Stasik*

#### *Selected Publications*

M. Djiré, A. Keïta & R.T. Dembélé, *Appropriation des instruments de la fiscalité: élaboration du budget de la commune rurale de Kalabancoro*. Dakar: CODESRIA, Research Report No. 8.

J.E. Gbaguidi, C. Lokonon, M. Ahotondji & L. Yemadjro, *Presse audiovisuelle et construction démocratique au Bénin: de la nécessité de deux niveaux de lecture des mutations en cours*. Dakar: CODESRIA, Research Report No. 10.

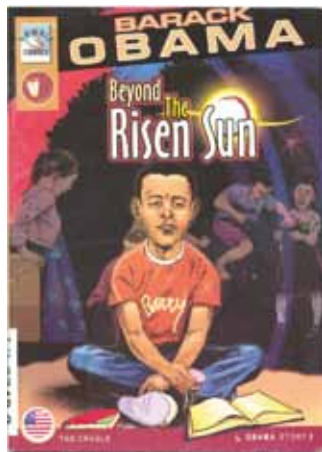
*For a complete list of CDP publications:*  
<http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?rubrique38&lang=en>

*For more information about CDP:*  
[www.ascleiden.nl/Research/ConsortiumForDevelopmentPartnerships.aspx](http://www.ascleiden.nl/Research/ConsortiumForDevelopmentPartnerships.aspx)  
[www.codesria.org](http://www.codesria.org)



**38** An international evaluation committee assessed the ASC Library and the Centre's IT in April as part of the overall 'ASC Evaluation 2004-2010'. It looked at quality, productivity, relevance, and its vitality and feasibility and concluded that the ASC Library was 'excellent' in all four aspects: *'The Review Committee commends the LDI for its range of activities and skills, its focused support for its own staff and students at the ASC and its extensive network of links and services in the Netherlands, Europe, Africa and worldwide.'*

2011 saw an extension of the ASC's digital library with the acquisition of two major new databases and numerous electronic books. Heinemann's *African Writers Series* was added and offers 250 online books by classic African writers such as Chinua Achebe, Buchi Emecheta, Nadine Gordimer, Okot p'Bitek and others. The second database was *African Newspapers*, which gives full-text online access to 65 newspapers from Africa from between 1800 and 1922. In addition, the library more than doubled its descriptions of electronic documents and the collection of e-docs grew to 1200 items, with links to the original documents being made available via the ASC's online catalogue.



This comic book, *The Story of Barack Obama*, is part of the ASC's library collection.

Following an earlier reorganization of the paper library in 2007, the library was reshuffled again in 2011. 200 Africana journals that are now available online or that were rarely used were moved to the attic of the FSW building to create an extra 200 m of shelf space in the library. This will provide room for the collection to grow over the next four or five years.

Even in today's electronic era, the number of loans and visitors has remained surprisingly constant and

## Figures and trends for 2011

	2010	2011
Number of visitors	3,847	3,876
Loans	5,337	5,436
Requests for information		
- by phone	739	844
- by email	1,070	1,167
New acquisitions (orders)	2,861	3,025
Items catalogued (including gifts)	3,043	3,511
Abstracts ( <i>ASA Online</i> )	1,710	1,519
Subscriptions to <i>ASA Online</i> mailing list	1,430	1,607
Titles in ASC Library catalogue	169,982	172,948
Searches in ASC Library catalogue	–	157,37
Use of ASC link in ASC Library catalogue	10,840	12,151
Titles in Connecting-Africa	31,484	32,569
Connecting Africa (visitors)	7,200	12,522
ASC website: unique visitors	183,831	171,177
ASC website: visited pages (excluding affiliated websites, internal use & robots)	847,065	835,450
AfricaBib (downloads)	91,225	62,639
ASC Repository (downloads)	58,353	65,665

2011 even saw a slight increase in visitor numbers. Nearly 10% (417) of the total loans (5436) were DVDs of films and documentaries, which highlights the importance of this kind of material in research and education.

The ASC Library received no fewer than 475 (paper) books in the form of gifts from patrons. And more than 200 of these publications turned out to be the only existing library copy in the world.



Instruction course for a group of Ethiopian PhDs. Photo: Jos Damen

## Collection Development, Acquisitions and Cataloguing

The ASC feels that it is important that the 'African voice' be represented in the library and annual acquisition trips help to fulfil this goal. Elvire Eijkman visited the FILDAK (*Foire Internationale du Livre et du Matériel Didactique de Dakar*) that was held in December 2011 when publishers from Senegal (Fama Éditions, NEAS, Maguilèn, EDJA and others) and from Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Morocco, Tunisia and various other countries were present. Visits were also made to IFAN at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar and Université Gaston Berger in Saint Louis and nearly 190 books, journals, newspapers and DVDs were purchased for the ASC Library in Leiden. Information was also gathered at the West African Research Centre about a project to collect books from eleven West African countries for the Library of Congress.

The preservation of (and linkage to) electronic documents from and on Africa took another step forward. By the end of 2011, more than 1200 e-docs (government publications, dissertations, reports from African institutes and NGOs) were available in the ASC Library and these can be accessed via the ASC's online catalogue.

Developments in the information world such as overall availability, open access and changing scholarly communication are expected to have consequences for the ASC Library. The changing landscape means more emphasis on African primary and grey material, the increasing importance of acquisition journeys and the need for more descriptions of free electronic material. These topics were covered in a report prepared in 2011 regarding the Collection Development Policy at the ASC entitled 'Patron-driven, Perpetual Access and Primary Data' (*Dienstbaar, duurzaam en divers*).

## 40 Book Donations: Religion, the Environment, Ghana and More

Book donations from scholars and visitors allow the ASC Library to obtain rare books and fill the gaps in its collection. 2011 was a rewarding year in this respect as almost 500 books donated by friends of the library helped to extend the collection.

Prof. Gerrie ter Haar kindly donated more than 150 books, pamphlets, theses, conference proceedings and other grey material to the library. Most of these items deal with religion in West Africa, particularly Ghana. The value of such a large, focused research collection is enormous, partly as a contrast to the more analytical end-products of academic work that form the heart of the ASC Library. These items contained, for example, primary material from key figures like Pastor Mensa Otabil in the Ghanaian Pentecostal movement, with his sermons perfectly supplementing the academic sources the library already has on this subject. The same applies to personal experiences of the 'deliverance from the powers of darkness' which balances the ASC's academic narratives on religious conversion. Prof. ter Haar's collection also included several textbooks used as preparation for writing General Certificate of Education exams on West

African traditional religion in the early 1990s. This is an excellent addition to the library's small collection of more recent textbooks on cultural and religious studies and RME (Religious and Moral Education) for junior and secondary schools in Ghana and provides an opportunity for future curriculum research. The books donated were all unique copies in the Netherlands, and half of the books are even unique globally.

Other donations came from the former library of the Centrum voor Milieu-kunde in Leiden that donated more than 200 books on environmental issues and Cameroon; Zakariyau Idrees-Oboh Oseni gave materials on Islam and Nigeria; Ingrid Djuly on the ANC; Nelleke Hovestreydt on Joan Baxter and Malawi; Harry Wels on Wits; Jan Jansen on Tanzania; and Oliver Nyrubugura on Congo. The ASC is very grateful to them all for their generosity.

Many of the ASC's own researchers also donated books: Ton Dietz (on Kenya); Stephen Ellis (on Sierra Leone and Liberia); Mirjam de Bruijn (on Yako and Cameroon); Jan-Bart Gewald (crime novels and books on South Africa); Marion Eeckhout (on the FAO); Ursula Oberst (on Cameroon), Ineke van Kessel (on Kimberley, South Africa) and Linda van de Kamp (on Burkina Faso). We thank them too.

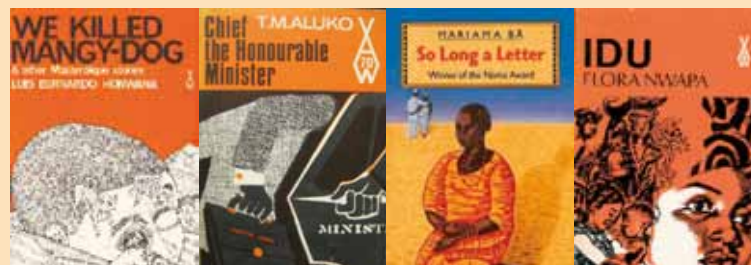


To bring some of the special books and films in the ASC's collection to the attention of a wider audience, three 'Acquisition Highlights' were published on the Centre's website in 2011. The first was dedicated to the publication of Part I of *The Cambridge History of South Africa: From Early Times to 1885* by Leiden historian Robert Ross et al. This book was included on the American Library Association's list of Outstanding Academic Titles, a list published in Choice that is targeted at academic libraries in the US. The première of the feature film *Black Butterflies* about the South African poet Ingrid Jonker was a good opportunity to publish an Acquisition Highlight related to this special poet. The third Acquisition Highlight in 2011 was on the online Heinemann *African Writers Series*.

In 2011, 3025 books and e-docs were processed (an increase of 6% over 2010), including 437 gifts and 476 e-docs. In addition to articles covered for *ASA Online*, 674 journal articles were catalogued and 57 new titles of Africana journals were added to the ASC's online catalogue (many full-text), as were 107 new DVDs.

## Abstracting and Indexing

ASA Online, the ASC's abstracts journal, published 1476 new abstracts in 2011 and the number of subscribers to the journal's alert service rose again, this year by 13% from 1430 in 2010 to 1617 in 2011. The abstracts are also included in Africa-Wide Information, a service provided by EBSCO Host. ASC library staff contributed bibliographic information and abstracts for publication in the Journal of Religion in Africa.



## Two new databases: African Writers Series & African Newspapers

The ASC purchased the Heinemann *African Writers Series* (AWS) in 2011. Heinemann published key texts in modern African literature for forty years and although the online edition does not include all the works that came out in the print series, it does have more than 250 volumes of fiction, poetry, drama and non-fiction prose, including works by Chinua Achebe, Ama Ata Aidoo, Steve Biko, Buchi Emecheta, Nadine Gordimer, Bessie Head, Doris Lessing, Nelson Mandela, Dambudzo Marechera, Christopher Okigbo, Okot p'Bitek and Tayeb Salih. The AWS started in 1962 with the publication of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* (which was originally published in 1958), with Achebe himself as the founding editor.

The digitized collection makes it possible to search the data in many ways. All the authors are indexed by gender, nationality and date of birth/death, and all the texts by details of first publication (date, place, publisher and language) and of first publication in the AWS (date and AWS series number).

A helpful addition is the inclusion of biographies for all the authors in the series. The AWS database contains an introductory essay by Robert Fraser with Nourdin Bejjit. And finally, the AWS is also notable for its striking book-cover designs that often incorporate elements of traditional African art. The 'Cover Gallery' shows full colour scans of many of these original covers. The AWS database can be consulted from the Leiden University IP domain.

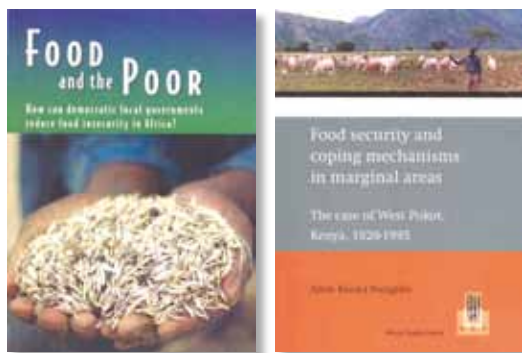
The other database bought by the ASC is the African Newspapers Database. Readex (a division of NewsBank) and the Center for Research Libraries (one of the world's largest newspaper repositories) have created a database of more than 60 fully searchable newspapers published in Africa during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These historical newspapers originate from many African countries and include titles like *Gold Coast Independent*, *Liberia Recorder*, *A Voz da Guiné*, *Lagos Standard* and *Beira Post*.

## 42 Web Dossiers

Three web dossiers were compiled in 2011. The first, *'Southern Sudan at a Crossroads'*, was to coincide with the referendum in Sudan on 9 January 2011 when Southern Sudanese (living across Sudan and in the diaspora) voted on whether to remain part of Sudan or secede and become a separate country. The dossier contained a selection of titles on the civil war in Southern Sudan, the peace process and the events leading up to the referendum.

The second dossier highlighted Afrikaans and its literature and was compiled on the occasion of the *Festival voor het Afrikaans* (Festival of Afrikaans) that was held in Amsterdam from 17-19 June 2011. The festival aimed to show that Afrikaans is alive and well by demonstrating something of its rich cultural heritage. In addition to Afrikaans literature and music, and the policy on the use of Afrikaans in post-apartheid South Africa, the dossier lists the titles of Afrikaans novels, short stories, poetry, prose and drama that have been published since 2000.

The third web dossier was devoted to food (in)security in Africa (see box).



## Web Dossier 2011: Food (In)Security, Famine and Drought in Africa

The ASC Library compiled a web dossier to provide background information on the food (in)security situation in Africa. This coincided not only with the food crisis in the Horn of Africa but also with the 2011 decision by the Dutch government to make food security one of the focal points of its development cooperation policy. The Netherlands allocated €4.6 bn to developing countries in 2011, with roughly half of this going to Africa.

The web dossier is based on the ASC Library's collection and contains the titles of books, articles, book chapters and DVDs on food shortages (famine, drought and malnutrition), food security and food aid, and also food supply and food policy. For each of these topics, there was a general section on Africa and a section devoted to country cases, with more specific literature covering the countries selected by the Dutch government for development cooperation in the coming years, namely Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. Each title is linked directly to the corresponding record in the library's online catalogue. This provided additional bibliographic details, abstracts and links to full-text publications. The dossier began with an introduction by Wijnand Klaver and concluded with a selection of links to relevant websites.

This web dossier of food (in)security can still be consulted on the ASC website: [www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/food-insecurity-famine-and-drought-africa](http://www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/food-insecurity-famine-and-drought-africa)

## Professional Relations

The titles of all 45,000 books in the library of the South African Institute (Zuid-Afrikahuis) in Amsterdam were transferred to the GGC Dutch library system in 2011. These books can now be traced via Picarta, WorldCat and other search engines. This transfer was the last part of a project initiated in 2009 by ASC Library staff, following the awarding of a grant of €75,000 to the ASC by the Foundation PICA to allow all the book titles from six Dutch libraries (Rijksmuseum; UNESCO-IHE; ISS; Aletta; Zuid-Afrikahuis; Geldmuseum) to be included in the national library system.

European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS) held their sixth annual meeting in Uppsala on 14 June, prior to the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS). Tor Sellström spoke about 'The Nordic Documentation on the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa Project' and Stefano Bellucci from the IISG in Amsterdam talked about archives on social and labour history in Africa. Two of the ECAS panels focused on library issues, namely 'Africa and African Perspectives in the Global Information Space' and 'African Studies on the Web'.

Several ASC Library staff members attended workshops and seminars: the OCLC Contact Day, Ingressus (about RDA), a workshop on social media, Seminar Digital Content, Kijkje in de keuken at Aletta Amsterdam, EBSCO's information day on 'The Window to Discovery', OCLC EMEA Regional Council in Frankfurt, and the UNESCO meeting on 'The Global View on Open Access'. And in October the head of the ASC Library visited four universities in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa University, Arba Minch, Mekele and the Civil Service University) as part of a NICHE project by NUFFIC that was hosted by Tilburg University. The ASC Library's aim was to help strengthen the electronic libraries at these universities. OSSREA and the African Union's library in Addis Ababa were also visited.

Jos Damen presented a paper entitled '*Dutch Letters from Ghana: Literature and Society in the 17th and 18th Centuries, with Special Reference to Willem van Focquenbroch and Jacobus Capitein*' at a conference on 'Colonial and Post-Colonial Connections in Dutch Literature' at UC Berkeley in September. And the paper '*Whose Archives? Conservation and Creation of Africanist Archives in the Post-Colonial Era*' by Mirjam de Bruijn and Jos Damen was presented at CODESRIA's 12th General Assembly in Rabat in December 2011. Discussions were also held with the *Bibliothèque Nationale du Royaume du Maroc* on digitizing newspapers.

The ASC's relationship with Amsterdam's Africa in the Picture (AitP) film festival was strengthened in 2011. AitP is now an official partner and the ASC Library is responsible for the AitP's film archives. AitP films on DVD in the ASC's collection are heavily used for research and education purposes, which helps to broaden the appeal of African films more generally.

The ASC Library also supports research and education at the ASC and elsewhere by assisting (PhD) students and researchers to access documents and gain more extensive knowledge of the possibilities of social media, putting together presentations and providing films. In 2011 a display of 35 African crime novels in a showcase in the ASC Library even inspired a lecturer to give a course on crime writing in Africa.



*Dutch Letters from Ghana: Jos Damen at UC Berkeley.  
Photo: Anja Hollanders-van der Noord*



*Visit to Saint Louis: Abdoulaye Niang (editor of 'Sociologie sénégalaise') and  
Elvire Eijkman (ASC). Photo: Tiny Kraan*

## Website & Information Technology

The popularity of the ASC mailing lists grew again in 2011 and by December 2011 the number of subscribers for the alert services for new ASC publications stood at 1053, for ASC seminars at 2702, for abstracts online at 1637, for library acquisitions at 603 and for web dossiers at 677.

The ASC's website was less heavily used in 2011 than in 2010, with 171,177 unique (external) visitors viewing 835,450 web pages in 2011. The ASC also hosts several other related websites such as AfricaBib (101,689 unique visitors), Connecting-Africa (12,522 unique visitors), the AEGIS website (10,779 unique visitors) and Anansi Masters (2041 films viewed).

Contactivity, an organization specializing in cross-media solutions, conducted an IT quick scan at the ASC in 2011. The resulting report, which highlighted four priorities, was used to set the outline of the new ASC website that is to be launched in 2012.

The ASC's repository is hosted by Leiden University. Publications in the repository in the African Studies Collection were accessed over 65,655 times in 2011, and more than 18% of the visitors were in Africa. The ASC strongly backs the policy of Open Access, with 1276 publications (out of 1277) in the repository being freely available online.

The ASC has several active accounts on Twitter and Facebook to disseminate news about the ASC and Africa more generally.

[www.connecting-africa.net](http://www.connecting-africa.net)  
[www.africabib.org](http://www.africabib.org) [www.ascleiden.nl](http://www.ascleiden.nl)  
<http://twitter.com/ASCLibrary> <http://twitter.com/edithderoos>  
[www.anansimasters.nl](http://www.anansimasters.nl)



*Ton Dietz's inaugural address at the Auditorium of the Leiden University.  
Photo: Maaike Westra*

2011 saw many different events and seminars at the ASC. The year started with Ton Dietz, the ASC's new director, delivering his inaugural address on 14 January to mark his appointment as Professor of Development in Africa at Leiden University. Entitled 'Silverlining Africa: From Images of Doom and Gloom to Glimmers of Hope; From Places to Avoid to Places to Enjoy', his address underlined the changing images of Africa and, using demographical data, he showed the positive developments currently taking place in Africa. The full text of his address can be found on the ASC website: <http://www.ascleiden.nl/events/silverlining-africa.aspx>

He also delivered a keynote address entitled 'African Youth' at the Africa Day in The Hague that was organized by the African ambassadors to the Netherlands on 23 May 2011.

### Conferences

Researchers from the ASC participated in various conferences during the year. One of the most important was the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) that organizes an international gathering every two years. Its 2011 meeting, which was held at the Nordiska Afrikainstitutet (NAI) in Uppsala, Sweden from 15 to 18 June was on 'African Engagements: On Whose Terms?'. To coincide with the conference, Ton Dietz and Mayke Kaag from the ASC co-edited *African Engagements: Africa Negotiating an Emerging Multipolar World* with Kjell Havnevik and Terje Oestigaard. The volume, which was published by Brill, was launched during the conference in Uppsala and was well received by delegates. The first AEGIS Gerti Hesseling Prize was presented on the first day of the AEGIS conference to Prof. Kojo Amanor from the University of Ghana for the best contribution by an Africa-based scholar to a European journal of African Studies. The prize was awarded on the basis of his article 'Family Values, Land Sales and Agricultural Commodification in South-Eastern Ghana' that appeared in 2010 in *Africa*, the well-respected journal of the International African Institute (IAI) in London.

One of the ASC's main partners in Africa is the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) that is based in Dakar, Senegal. CODESRIA's 2011 General Assembly on 'Africa and the Challenges of the 21st Century' was held in the Ecole Mohammeda d'Ingénieurs in Rabat, Morocco from 5-9 December and was well attended by ASC researchers. The Centre had an information stand at the book market and a number of staff gave papers at the plenary and parallel sessions and enjoyed the chance to renew ties with other African scholars.





Performance of Tribal Touch at the NVAS Conference on Africa's cultural heritage.  
Photo: Marieke van Winden

The ASC is also closely connected with the Netherlands Association of African Studies (NVAS), a network of about 360 Africanists working in the Netherlands. Its annual study day was held at the Afrika Museum in Berg en Dal on 5 November and included lectures on Africa's cultural heritage, guided tours of the artefacts and the outdoor museum and a spectacular mask dance by Tribal Touch to round off the day.

Gerti Hesseling, the ASC's director from 1996 to 2004, left her impressive collection of books on Africa, and more specifically on Senegal, to the Université Gaston Berger in Saint Louis, Senegal after her death in 2009. On 15 and 16 December, the Université Gaston Berger, the Supreme Court of Senegal and the African Studies Centre co-organized a conference in her memory: 'Les journées d'études en hommage au professeur Gerti Hesseling'. The themes chosen for discussion were all subjects close to Gerti's heart and included (i) land rights and natural resources management; (ii) decentralization, urbanization and spatial and environmental planning; (iii) human rights, peace and development; and (iv) power and democracy. The 'African' launch of the ASC's 2011 publication *Land, Law and Politics in Africa*. Mediating Conflict and Reshaping the State (in the African Dynamics series) was one of the highlights of the conference. This publication is a tribute to the work of Gerti Hesseling who had a successful career as a scholar of constitutional and land law, focusing on West Africa in particular.

## Seminars

The ASC again offered a varied and interesting seminar programme in 2011 for people from different disciplines but all with an interest in Africa. One of the best attended seminars was 'Rethinking Syncretism. A Case Study of Chrislam in Lagos' that was given by Marloes Janson from the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. She presented an ethnographic case study to explore the emergence of Chrislam, a religious movement offering a mix of Christian and Islamic beliefs and practices in contemporary Lagos.

Another well-attended seminar was one on the meta-narratives of South African history by Robert Ross, Professor of Languages and Cultures of Africa at Leiden University, who discussed the various ways in which historians of South Africa have chosen the plot lines they have used. All are essentially politically driven since history and other social sciences in South Africa, like war, are the continuation of politics by other means. The focus of this seminar was on nationalism, social and economic stratification, changes of social relations and the breakdown of kinship.

Various successful film seminars were held in 2011 too. Eric Hahonou, an Assistant Professor at Roskilde University, Denmark, introduced his documentary entitled 'Yesterday's Slaves: Democracy and Ethnicity in Benin' that he made with Camilla Strandbiorg. It covers topics such as slavery, emancipation, democracy, citizenship and ethnic groups, and tells the personal story of a man from the marginalized Gando who seizes the opportunity to access political representation.

In addition to the Thursday afternoon seminar series, the ASC organizes internal lunch seminars on all kinds of subjects that are often given by scholars visiting the ASC. For example, Prof. Shuhei Shimada gave a lunch seminar on 24 February on Africa Studies in Japan. And in March, a delegation from CODESRIA visited the ASC for three days and gave a seminar on higher education in Africa and followed it up with a meeting with scientific staff to



hear about their research. And last but not least, the ASC also organized a get-together for African journalists and correspondents working for Dutch newspapers and Africa journals when some of the ASC staff presented their research projects.

### Africa Thesis Award

The 2011 Africa Thesis Award was won by Michael Stasik from Leiden University for his thesis on 'DISCOConnections. Popular Music Audiences in Freetown, Sierra Leone'. Sierra Leone used to only be associated with civil war and atrocities but today it is a much-changed country and his research showed Freetown, its capital, to be a buzzing hub of popular music. Michael Stasik received a prize of € 1000 and his thesis will be published at Langaa Publishers, Cameroon.



David van Reybrouck interviewed by Femke van Zeijl.

This year 56 theses were submitted by African and Dutch Masters students on topics ranging from the actualization of the right to development in Nigeria and school support networks in Burkina Faso to entrepreneurship in Ugandan microenterprises. The two runners up were Dirk Ormel for his thesis

on the illegal exploitation of natural resources in DRC and Anna-Riikka Kaupinnen for her work on Ghanaian beauty treatments. The jury of the 2011 African Thesis Award consisted of Harry Wels (chair), Bridget O'Laughlin, Alice Kubo, Jan-Bart Gewalt and Albert Bek, who represented Radio Netherlands Worldwide, the ASC's partner in the Thesis Award.



From left to right: Harry Wels (chair of the jury), Michael Stasik (the winner), Alice Kubo, Albert Bek (both jury members). Photos: Gitty Petit

The award ceremony at the Perscentrum Nieuwspoor in The Hague on 8 December was combined with one of the IS Academy seminars that the ASC regularly organizes with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. David van Reybrouck, the author of Congo, een geschiedenis, was the main guest and was interviewed by journalist Femke van Zeijl on 'Blood Diamonds or a Golden Future?: The Role of Raw Materials in Congo'. He concluded that Congo can be compared to a broken-down warehouse (that was a source of slaves, ivory, rubber and minerals in the past) from which everyone in the world can grab what s/he needs, while Congolese peasants and mine workers never receive anything. The interview was followed by a lively debate in which Jaime de Bourbon Parme (special representative for natural resources at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Joost van Puijenbroek (IKV Pax Christi) participated as well. It was an interesting and well-attended afternoon. The other IS Academy seminars are listed elsewhere in this Annual Report.

## 48 Exhibitions

The ASC had several photo exhibitions in 2011. Photos by Prof. Gerard Persoon from Leiden University's Department of Cultural Anthropology were on show in the ASC Library in the first three months of the year. They had been taken on one of his trips to Douala, Cameroon when he met people preparing for the annual carnival parade. The next exhibition displayed the work of professional photographer Judith Quax, who has been working on a long-term project on clandestine immigration and has photographed the emptiness left behind in the villages of thousands of young West African men after they have left for the Canary Islands, and ultimately a new life in Europe. Mayke Kaag, who has conducted research at the ASC on transnational migrant networks in Senegal, introduced Judith Quax and put her work into a broader perspective.

In the same period, photos by Djibril Sy were on display in the ASC's corridors on the third floor in an exhibition entitled *La lutte contre le sous-développement*. Djibril Sy is an internationally renowned Senegalese photographer whose pictures show the daily lives and never-ending work of peasants in West Africa.

Another interesting exhibition was by the South African artist Avhashoni Mainganye. In his fascinating collages, which were on loan from the iZArte Gallery in Zutphen, he uses different types of material, often torn-up paper but also industrial waste.

The exhibition 'Henny Weima and Friends' was dedicated to art from Congo and Benin. Henny Weima's drawings had been done when she had to leave Zaire (Congo) in 1997 after having lived and worked there for 16 years. The 24 drawings she did of her garden from inside her ransacked home gave an impression of the period just before she left her beloved Bateke Plateau. In addition to her own pictures, the exhibition also included work by some of her friends (artists and children), for example some beautiful batiks by Paulin Zoffoun from Benin.



*Paintings by Congolese children were part of the 'Henny Weima and Friends' exhibition in the ASC library. Photo:ASC*

### Contact with the Press

The ASC is regularly contacted by the press (radio, TV, newspapers) for background information on the news and facts about Africa for radio and TV interviews and for online articles. The following are examples of subjects that the ASC helped with in 2011:

- Ton Dietz had a monthly column in IS Magazine (Internationale Samenwerking), now called OneWorld that is published by NCDO. He also gave interviews to Mark Wallet from the Reformatorisch Dagblad 'De toekomst is aan Afrika' (2 February) after his inaugural address and Trouw published an article 'Afrikaanse leeuwen willen wereld veroveren' on 3 February. He was also to be heard on Radio 5 in the popular scientific programme Hoe? Zo! explaining how Africa is ready for a breakthrough. And Radio

Netherlands Worldwide published an article entitled 'Africa is lined with silver'.

- A lot was published on the famine in the Horn of Africa in the summer of 2011. Ton Dietz was interviewed several times: he was on the NOS Journal on 5 August talking about problems with relief supplies; on Radio 1's Bureau Buitenland and on BNR Radio; and two articles in the Volkskrant (3 August) entitled 'Doneren aan Somalische gemeenschap' and in OneWorld (15 Sept.) on 'Beeld van hongerig Afrika klopt niet' focused on the same issue.
- Mirjam de Bruijn was interviewed on NOS Journaal on March 4 about the Arab Spring and the influence of social media, not only among youth in Arab countries but also in Africa.
- Jan Abbink was interviewed on Nieuwsuur ('Honger Afrika nog lang niet voorbij') on 28 September and was quoted in the AD 'In het hart van de hongersnood' and in Trouw 'Binnen 1 jaar verkiezingen in Somalië' (8 September).
- Linda van de Kamp and Lotte Pelckmans generated media interest following their PhD defences with articles in Reformatorisch Dagblad, the Nederlands Dagblad, Mare and on the NOS Nieuws website and www.standplaatsdewereld.nl.
- Stephen Ellis's book *Het regenseizoen (Season of Rains)* generated numerous requests for interviews including one by Mark Schenkel in the NRC on 8 September.
- Wouter van Beek, the ASC's Dogon expert, was invited onto the travel programme Erica op Reis (3 October) that was presented by Erica Terpstra and he welcomed her into his home in the Dogon region in Mali.

Many other ASC staff members have been quoted, consulted or interviewed by radio and television stations, and Dutch and international newspapers and journals, too many times to mention here in detail.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide is a frequent guest at the ASC as the radio station often organizes interviews with seminar speakers and visiting fellows for their French and English websites, which have 30,000 visitors a week.

## Afrikadag

The Afrikadag, which has been organized for many years by the Evert Vermeer Stichting, was held on 29 October 2011 in The Hague. Several ASC researchers gave lectures and the Centre was, as always, present with a book and information stand.



The ASC's stand at the Afrikadag attracted lots of visitors. Photo: ASC

# GOVERNING BODIES AND PERSONNEL (on 31 December 2011)

## 50 Members of the Board of Governors

Prof. J.B. Opschoor (Chair) Institute of Social Studies & VU University  
Ms B.E.A. Ambags (Vice-Chair) Former ambassador to Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe  
Ms J.J. Groen Journalist with the Volkskrant  
A. Lenstra Former Vice-President of Unilever

## Members of the Scientific Advisory Council

Dr N. Awortwi Institute of Social Studies, The Hague  
Prof. G.E. Frerks (Chair) Wageningen University  
D.H.M. Hilhorst Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam  
Dr H. Huisman Utrecht University  
Dr J.J.A.M. Jansen Leiden University  
Dr C.H.M. Lutz University of Groningen  
Prof. M. Mous Leiden University  
Dr W. Nauta Maastricht University  
Dr N.R.M. Pouw University of Amsterdam  
Prof. R. Reis University of Amsterdam  
Dr L. Smith Radboud University  
Dr M.J. Spierenburg VU University, Amsterdam  
J.J. Voeten Tilburg University  
Dr P.D.M. Weesie University of Groningen  
Dr H. Wels VU University, Amsterdam



The Board of Governors on 31 December 2011.  
From left to right: Hans Opschoor, Trix Ambags, Janny Groen and Anton Lenstra  
Photo: Gitty Petit



## Personnel

### Director

Prof. A.J. Dietz

### Research Staff (and their areas of specialization)

Prof. G.J. Abbink	Ethnicity, conflict management, religion, politics, ethnography, culture, the Horn of Africa
Dr A. Akinyoade	Demography, healthcare, education, media, Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique, Namibia
Prof. W.E.A. van Beek	Religion, tourism, Mali, Cameroon, Southern Africa
Prof. W.M.J. van Binsbergen	Modern and traditional African knowledge in the framework of globalization, Botswana, Zambia
Dr I. Brinkman	History, history of communication technology, Angola
Prof. M.E. de Bruijn	Mobility, social hierarchies, communication technology, West Africa
Dr M. Dekker	Social networks, (micro) insurance, land reform, economic development, poverty reduction, Ethiopia, Togo, Zimbabwe
Prof. J.W.M. van Dijk	Forestry and agriculture, resource management, decentralization, law and governance, state formation, conflict, West Africa
Dr R.A. van Dijk	New religious movements, AIDS, globalization, Botswana, Malawi, Ghana
Prof. S.D.K. Ellis	Religion and politics, history, West Africa, South Africa, Madagascar
Dr D.W.J. Foeken	Urban poverty, urban agriculture, urban water supply, Kenya
Dr J-B. Gewalt	Social and political history, interaction between people and technology, Southern Africa
Prof. J.C. Hoorweg	Ecology and economics of the East African coast, Kenya

Dr M.M.A. Kaag	Migration, social change, development issues, local government, land use, West Africa
Dr W.M.J. van Kessel	Democratization, mass media, social movements, history, South Africa, Ghana
W. Klaver	Food and nutrition security, urban agriculture, household economics, Kenya
Dr P.J.J. Konings	Civil society and social movements during economic and political liberalization, Ghana, Cameroon
Dr A.H.M. Leliveld	Social security, (micro) insurance, international aid, economic development, Uganda, Togo
Dr M.M.E.M. Rutten	Land reform, water issues, pastoralism, (eco) tourism, wildlife management, democratization, higher education, migration, fair trade, Kenya, East Africa
Dr B.F. Soares	Religion (especially Islam), history, politics, West Africa
Dr K. van Walraven	International relations, conflict management, rebellions, Niger, West Africa

### Coordinator Research Masters in African Studies

Dr A. Amha Linguistics, the Horn of Africa

### PhD Students

A. Adamou, A. Alemu Fanta, A. Altaf, M.S. Bekele, K. van Bommel, M. van den Bergh, I. Butter, F. Diallo, L. Djerandi, M. Eeckhout, N. Haynes, P. Justin, A. Kazimierczuk, B. Kilama, B. Kinuthia, D. Kobusingye, M.E. Leegwater, M. Leenstra, H.M. Leyten, C.T. Nijenhuis, H. Nyamnjoh, A. van Oostrum, A. Pannenberg, D. Seli, D. Setume, R.R. Simiyu, S. Soeters, C. Tankou, E. Tegemoh, M. van Vliet, L. de Vries

Approximately 60 other PhD students are being (co-)supervised by ASC staff members at various universities in the Netherlands.



## 52 Library, Documentation and Information Department

J.C.M. Damen	head of department
M.M.O. Boin	documentalist
G.C. van de Bruinhorst	collection development
M.C.A. van Doorn	documentalist
E.M. Eijkman	documentalist, collection development
M.M. Kromhout	assistant librarian
M.B. van der Lee	assistant librarian
M. Oosterkamp	assistant librarian
K. Polman	documentalist
E.M. de Roos	assistant librarian
C.M. Sommeling	documentalist
P.G. Verkaik	assistant librarian

### Support Staff

J. Binnendijk	financial administrator
T. Blomsma	executive secretary to the director
P.A.G. Both	student assistant
H.W. van Drie	student assistant
M.R. Lolkema	student assistant
U. Oberst	programme coordinator
G. Petit	project manager
A. Reeves	editor
L.A. van Rooijen	assistant financial administrator, publications manager
W. Veerman	programmer, computer manager
H.K. Westra	programmer, webmaster
M.A. Westra	HRM, coordinator of visiting fellows and PhD students
M.C.A. van Winden	PR coordinator
W.J. Zwart	publications assistant

## Visiting Fellows in 2011

Prof. Khalil Alio	University of N'Djamena, Chad C&T research group
Dr Gary Baines	Rhodes University, South Africa C&T research group
Manase Chiweshe	Rhodes University, South Africa & Ruzivo Trust, Zimbabwe EEE research group
Dr Merera Gudina Jefi	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia SMPC research group
Dr Eric Hahonou	University of Roskilde, Denmark SMPC research group
Dr Raymond Kouassi Kra	University of Cocody-Abidjan, Ivory Coast CDP / C&T research group
Norman Moyo	Ruzivo Trust, Zimbabwe EEE research group
Dr Huda Nura Mustafa	SOAS, UK SMPC research group
Dr Oka Obono	University of Ibadan, Nigeria C&T research group
Dr Félix Watang Zieba	University of Maroua, Cameroon EEE research group

## The following members of staff left the ASC in 2011

K. van Bommel	student assistant
I.C. Butter	student assistant
I.G. Butter	student assistant
J.K. van Donge	researcher
I.J.G.C. Ligtoet	student assistant
A. de Vries	secretary

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

(in €'000)	2010	2011
<b>Income</b>		
Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences	3,100	3,052
Projects for third parties	1,050	1,077
Other income (publications, etc.)	264	404
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	4,414	4,533
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Personnel	2,304	2,560
Institutional costs	1,811	1,884
Inventory depreciation	24	15
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	4,139	4,459



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*Special seminar organized together with The Hague Academic Coalition and the Institute of Social Studies on June 24 at the Haagse Hogeschool by Shantayanan Devarajan, Chief Economist of the World Bank's Africa Region. Photo: Marieke van Winden*

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Africa's Future and The World Bank to Support it

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Returning home with food purchased at Mopti market in Mali. Photo: Lotte Pelckmans

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Water kiosk in Kisii, Kenya, constructed in the context of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative (UN-Habitat). Photo: Dick Foeken

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Pupils at a primary school in Nakuru, Kenya, practising for a national dance festival. Photo: Dick Foeken

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