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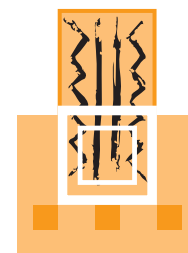
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2009

# African Studies Centre Afrika-Studiecentrum



Annual Report  
**2009**



Afrika  
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centrum

African  
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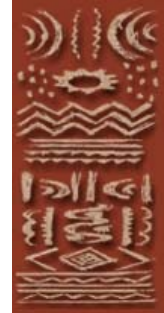
Centre d'Etudes  
Africaines

# ADDRESS

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## PREFACE

4 2009 saw many activities in the field of research at the African Studies Centre (ASC), an extension of the library's collection and information dissemination services, and wide-ranging contributions to the public debate on and about Africa. The mid-term evaluation that was carried out in 2009 under the auspices of the Scientific Advisory Council and the Board of Governors revealed substantial progress in both the Centre's research and the library. There was a considerable increase in the number of publications produced for our scientific audience in all publication categories and a notable shift towards publications in 'top' and 'very good' journals and with well-regarded publishers. Output for the policy-oriented forum and the wider public also increased significantly. In addition, external funding in the period under review was successfully increased to close to 40% of the Centre's total income, which greatly exceeded all targets. Roughly half of this was from national and international competitive funds and the remainder came from non-competitive funding, which is also a sign of strength because these funds were granted on the basis of the ASC's reputation and demonstrate the Centre's societal relevance. Thanks to external funding, the number of PhD researchers, the majority of whom come from Africa, also rose. Further details of the Centre's current research programme can be found in this Annual Report and on our website [www.ascleiden.nl](http://www.ascleiden.nl).

The ASC's library booked significant progress in 2009. As one of the oldest post-1945 libraries in the world specializing in multilingual Africana materials in the social sciences and the humanities, it has managed to position the ASC as a knowledge centre in the digital era. This has been accomplished through the Connecting-Africa web service, the setting up of an institutional repository in African Studies and the takeover and integration of the AfricaBib online bibliography. These achievements are providing a good basis for continued innovation with respect to the interactivity and technical sophistication of the website. Significant progress was made in 2009 in building up the electronic library by making electronic Africana journals available online, adding links to full-text information in the library catalogue, completing the user-friendly Africana thesaurus and extending the outreach of *African Studies Abstracts Online*. However, maintaining and conserving the high-quality paper-based collection will demand

considerable investment, commitment and ambition in years to come. All these achievements in the ASC's research and information services would not have been possible without the continuous commitment of the support staff in financial, project and personnel administration and public relations.

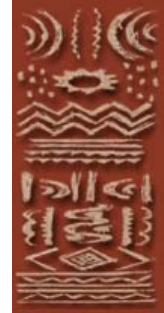
Following the mid-term review, a new policy report was formulated to specify the ASC's ambitions for the near future. These include improving and strengthening its research capacity through external research collaboration and internal multidisciplinary; extending digital information services while maintaining the level of acquisitions in the library's paper-based collection; and the professionalization of the support staff.

An important event in the strategic cooperation between the ASC and the Directorate Africa of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs took place in November 2009 with the 'Elections in Africa: Fair, Façade or Failure?' conference, a policy-oriented forum with scientific insights into politics and state formation. Co-organized with the Evert Vermeer Foundation, the conference delegates analyzed how elections have contributed to stability and democracy in Africa, especially in Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.

The second phase of the Consortium for Development Partnerships (CDP) started in September 2009 thanks to a large grant from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ASC is part of this research organization, which links different institutes in West Africa, Europe and the US and is aiming to develop a policy-relevant research programme by building up the research capacity within the institutes involved and furthering research collaboration between them. The ASC is coordinating three of the nine projects with CODESRIA in Dakar in this phase, which runs until August 2011.

This year also saw an important change in the governance of the ASC. In December 2009 Ms Kathleen Ferrier took over as Chair of the Board of Governors of the ASC following the retirement of Ms Elizabeth Schmitz. Ms Schmitz had chaired the Board for almost ten years, during which time the ASC deve-





loped into a leading centre for socio-economic research on Africa and played a key role in scientific collaboration between African and European research institutes. We sincerely thank Ms Schmitz for her wisdom, guidance and enduring commitment to the ASC and its mission.

Ms Ferrier has been a Member of Parliament representing the CDA party since 2002 and sits on various parliamentary committees and external advisory panels. She is currently her party's spokesperson on development cooperation, a subject she has always been closely involved in and on which she has published extensively. We wish her all the best in her new position at the ASC.

We were all saddened by the death of Prof. Gerti Hesseling, my predecessor, in March 2009. She is still sorely missed at the ASC but her legacy lives on and the staff have fond memories of her time as Director at the Centre. And one final change is taking place in the spring of 2010. Prof. Ton Dietz will take over as Director of the ASC when I leave to become Rector of the Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. I wish him every success at the helm of this wonderful institute and hope he will enjoy his time here as Director as much as I have.

Leo de Haan  
Director  
Spring 2010



## GERTI HESSELING

1946 - 2009

It was with the deepest sadness that the ASC learnt of the death of Professor Gerti Hesselting, the former Director of the Centre, on 21 March 2009.

Gerti joined the ASC on 1 November 1979 as a young researcher on constitutional jurisprudence. She became a member of the newly created Department of Political and Historical Studies and began to do research in Senegal, a country that would hold a special place in her heart for the rest of her life. In 1982 she was awarded her PhD at the University of Amsterdam on Senegalese constitutional law and political developments in the country. She did not, however, limit her later research to Senegal but extended it to cover all of the Sahel and thematically included macro-level research on constitutional affairs and, at micro level, issues such as land rights. In the early 1990s she was seconded to the Club du Sahel where she coordinated a large multidisciplinary research project looking into the relationship between land rights and sustainable development, gaining the respect of many of her African colleagues during this period.

The most important period in Gerti's career for both her and the ASC was her time as Director of the African Studies Centre from 1996 to 2004. Under her inspiring leadership, a major reorganization was undertaken to introduce a whole new management structure with, for the first time, a director with full responsibility for the daily running of the institute, a Board of Governors, a Scientific Advisory Council, a general as well as a scientific management team, and research groups. She also improved the institute's internal management system and introduced formal job descriptions and performance appraisals. It was thanks to Gerti's enthusiasm and skill that the whole process was so comparatively effortless and the new Board of Governors was installed in May 1997 amid much celebration.

During Gerti's period as Director, the ASC's ties with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs were strengthened and the Centre adopted a more



prominent position in the field of African Studies in general. To mark the ASC's 50th anniversary, a day of festivities was organized in Amsterdam for a wide group of academics, policy makers, Africans living in the Netherlands and people with an affinity for the continent and to launch a new research theme on Africans in the Netherlands. Gerti's success at the ASC resulted in her being invited to chair the prestigious RAWOO, an advisory body that oversaw Dutch scientific research in developing countries, a position she held from 2003 to 2005.

Gerti stepped down as Director of the ASC in 2004 so that she could devote more time to the academic work she so enjoyed. Recognition of her academic achievements came with her appointment as Professor Extraordinary to the Koningsberger Chair of Peace Building and the Rule of Law at Utrecht University. It was the icing on the cake for Gerti. And up until the time of her death, she was still busy finishing off a number of articles for publication.

Gerti devoted a large part of her life to African Studies and the African Studies Centre, and is greatly missed in Dutch academia and by the many whose (academic) lives she touched. Her colleagues past and present at the ASC will never forget her enthusiasm, sense of social justice, deep interest in both her subject and the people she met and her cheerful and outgoing personality. And many of the ASC's visiting fellows will remember the warm hospitality that Gerti and her husband Gerard extended to them at their home in Amsterdam.

Cards, letters and emails from colleagues and friends poured into the ASC after Gerti's death and it became clear just how much she was loved and admired by so many in both Africa and the Netherlands. She was awarded the *Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mali* posthumously by the Malian government in recognition and appreciation of the work she did in Africa. It was a very fitting tribute to a wonderful colleague.





# RESEARCH PROGRAMME



According to the ASC's mission statement, one of the Centre's primary strategic goals is to undertake pioneering scientific research of a multidisciplinary nature on Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in the field of the social sciences, for an international scientific and policy-directed forum. With more than fifty years of research experience and an extensive library, the ASC is a leading partner in the international knowledge and learning community of African Studies.

Research at the ASC is currently organized in three groups: Connections and Transformations; Economy, Environment and Exploitation; and Social Movements and Political Culture in Africa. Each group consists of a number of ASC researchers and affiliated members from other academic institutions in the Netherlands and Africa. Researchers in each group have different disciplinary backgrounds so the groups are of a multidisciplinary character. They are built around a major research theme and together these form the ASC's research programme.

Research on African societies is, as a matter of principle, undertaken jointly with researchers from other research centres, universities and their various networks in Africa. Research is thus not only firmly anchored in African realities but is also the most direct way to mutual learning, sharing experiences and developing common research agendas, i.e. to developing international knowledge and a learning community in African Studies. The ASC puts considerable time and resources into academic capacity building in Africa through training, special PhD

programmes and its Research Masters programme. Capacity development is supplemented by a visiting scholars' programme in which ten to twelve African post-docs work at the Centre in Leiden every year for a period of up to three months.

The focus of the ASC's research is to investigate the social, economic and political developments on the African continent from a social-sciences perspective in its broadest sense, i.e. including not only the social sciences and economics but also such disciplines as history, law, ecology, nutrition and linguistics. As research at the ASC is of a multidisciplinary character, a problem-oriented approach defined by scientific and policy-oriented criteria is particularly suitable. A strong empirical emphasis is one of the hallmarks of ASC research.

The Centre's research has a high degree of scientific relevance and is potentially significant for policy in Africa and in the Netherlands. The ASC is first and foremost an academic research institution with a research agenda of its own, but it is ready to engage in research projects initiated and facilitated by external governmental and non-governmental parties if these are in line with its own research priorities and academic standards. The resources the ASC can draw upon allow its research to be of an empirical nature and rooted in primary data collection in African societies but without neglecting additional sources in and beyond Africa.

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## 8 Connections and Transformations Research Group

The Connections and Transformations (C & T) research group is exploring questions that have emerged around the introduction of technologies in African societies and the social transformations these are generating. Research is focusing

on understanding the ways in which technologies enable people to create connections that can lead to social transformations in their societies. The research group has thus linked up with debates about the relationship between technology and society, and discussions on connections and social transformations and is exploring the socio-historical and cultural relationships that have developed between people and technology in Africa. The main objective of this research

### **‘Couples Tied in Knots of Debt’\*: Keeping Up Appearances at Weddings in Botswana**

Since its economic boom in the late 1970s, Botswana has seen one of the highest economic growth rates in the world. Although this wealth has been unevenly spread across its tiny population of 2 million, a middle class has developed and its spending power has driven consumption and new styles of consumerism. Anyone visiting Botswana is struck by the country's wealth and prosperity although there are great disparities and inequalities in income levels. At the bottom of the social ladder are groups that cannot take part in these consumptive patterns and do not enjoy living in expensive houses, private medical care or private schooling for their children. In rural areas they are directly dependent on subsistence levels of farming, trading agricultural produce and the herding and trading of livestock. Cattle rearing is in many ways considered crucial, particularly for the building of men's social status, but what is interesting here is that even those who have become part of the new, urban-based middle classes, cattle are still considered an important marker of prestige.

Botswana has, however, also become known for its unusual combination of relative prosperity alongside an HIV/AIDS pandemic. The country has one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the world and the government has made resources available for care, treatment and prevention. On the basis of its economic wealth as well resources derived from international donors, it has been able to run an extensive ART programme that provides life-prolonging treatment to thousands of infected people.

It is in this context that many of the government-sponsored awareness-raising campaigns are addressing the issue of (sexual) relationships, for example the recent 'Who is in your sexual network?' campaign. One of its important underlying messages is that 'multiple concurrent partnerships' be reduced to prevent the spread of the virus and one of the elements stressed in this respect is marriage, and particularly fidelity within marriage. Tying sexuality to the marital bond is a policy that the country's influential Christian groups also emphasize.

This public message about reducing sexual networking and strengthening marriage as a social panacea in the fight against HIV/AIDS is complicated by the fact that marriage has become a hugely costly affair. Weddings are now showcases of middle-class status, prestige and spending power and for couples and their families it has become tremendously important to have a stylish wedding. Couples start preparing for their wedding up to two years in advance of the big day so as to save enough to buy the dresses (at least three for the bride), to hire marquees to accommodate all the guests and to cover the meal and the wedding cake(s), the transport, the rings, the music, the MC, the invitations, the church, the traditional healer and of course the *bogadi/lobola* (bride price). The celebrations are held at the bride's home one week, followed by similar events at the groom's the week after so the costs of many things have to be doubled. At both, the standing of the family must be obvious through the splendour of these public celebrations, with big colourful marquees that can be seen from





programme is to unravel the dynamics of the interaction between changes in connections or disconnections and the introduction of new (communication, social and organizational) technologies and investigate how these dynamics are translating into social and cultural transformations in Africa and beyond.

2009 was the research group's third year and one of consolidation. Its ambitions

were diverse but all its members embarked on field research at some time during the year: Rijk van Dijk worked in Botswana on the relationship between religion and marriage in the context of HIV/AIDS, Mirjam de Bruijn went to Cameroon to study communication and mobility, Jan-Bart Gewald undertook an archival tour in Southern Africa in his quest to discover the historical relationship between technology and society, and Wouter van Beek followed his reli-

afar when strategically placed near the entrance to the compound or the family home.

To cover these costs, couples usually take out a bank loan, sometimes amounting to up to a year's salary. The result is that even before the actual wedding takes place, they are in debt, serious debt in most cases as banks are keen to provide vast loans, knowing that working couples are usually able to cover the high interest rates demanded. Of late, people have started to complain that, at the start of married life, they are now facing enormous debts that need to be serviced from their monthly incomes. They feel they are paying a high price for the sake of keeping up appearances for their parents and families. This pressure is so high that it even leads to situations where the marriage ends in divorce long before the debts incurred to pay for the wedding itself have been paid off.

'In the past,' couples say, 'our parents only had to organize the bride price (*bogadi/lobola*). This is the number of head of cattle that are presented by the family of the groom to the bride's family and concludes the marriage negotiations and establishes the bond between the couple as a recognized marriage. In the town of Molepolole where I am conducting research, the bride price stands at 8 head of cattle. As this has been the figure for a long time, it would seem that the basic requirement for getting married has not been much affected by inflation. But paying the *lobola* alone is no longer sufficient. Splendour, style, consumption and spending power have become the true markers of a successful relationship; irrespective of the future poverty it may cause the couple. 'Yes, our uncles help us with the cattle but for the rest we are on our own,' a couple complained,

indicating that this was an important reason why they were only getting married in their forties. Many are simply unable to afford it and therefore never marry. It is better not to have a wedding at all than to jeopardize the family's good name and standing by putting on a poor show. Emphasizing marriage as a social panacea in the fight against AIDS may be part of the Christian agenda but in reality very different issues appear to be at stake.

*Rijk van Dijk*

\* The title of this article is taken from a headline that appeared in *Mmegi*, one of Botswana's leading newspapers, in October 2008.



*A sumptuous wedding in Botswana*

*Photo: Rijk van Dijk*





10 gious questions and also his project on tourism in Mali and Cameroon. Mayke Kaag went to Senegal to work on the relationship between Islam and politics there and to continue her study of transnational Islamic NGOs.

These fieldwork experiences allowed the group to develop its ideas on connections and transformations that are being translated into a book scheduled for publication in 2010. Discussions centred on what connections entail and how they relate to technologies and social change. And focusing on the connection, instead of the actors, led researchers away from network analysis and towards linkage analysis. Connections do not need per se to be used by everybody in the same way and increasingly it is being seen that people are appropriating moments of connecting in different ways and that for some this means progress while for others it means a complete rupture. This appropriation of connections entails social change. The example from research on the relationship between new forms of religious marriage and conviviality clearly highlights this. Another is the mobile phone that connects as well as creates fear. These new possibilities for connecting involve new social relations or they may give new meanings to (old) social relations, i.e. the diminishing importance of differences in distance and time. The group's methodologies increasingly adopted a deeper qualitative analysis, moving towards the in-depth knowledge of a few individuals and their feelings and emotions as they relate to society and technology. Archives can be read in a similar way and turned into lively fieldwork sites. The group also started experimenting with assistance at a distance. The Internet now helps researchers to keep contact with research sites even when far away, enabling them to engage with assistants regularly and to guide them in their data gathering. Modern means of connecting have become part of the group's research methodologies.

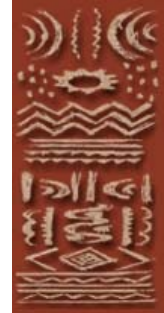
The group's ASC-funded PhD researchers (Doreen Setume, Walter Nkwi and Samuel Ntewusu) all finalized their fieldwork in 2009 and started writing their theses. The PhD students in the group's diverse externally funded projects were mostly in the field although Lotte Pelckmans, Linda van de Kamp and Laurens Nijzink were in the final stages of writing. Neil Parsons joined the research

group as a visiting fellow and revealed another important era of connecting: the African telegraph. The research group also continued collaborating with associated fellows, namely Daniela Merolla and Robert Ross (Leiden University), Francis Nyamnjoh (UCT, South Africa), Marja Spierenburg (VU), Ria Reis (UvA) and Brenda Oude Breuil (UU).

Jan-Bart Gewald coordinated the 'Internal Combustion Engine in Africa' project in 2009. It was very productive in terms of output and research and a new research proposal with colleagues from Leiden University was submitted for an integrated WOTRO programme. The PhD students working on ICE in Africa made good progress and a second project, 'Muskets to Nokias', which started in 2009, proceeded well with the publication of post-doc researcher Giacomo Macola's monograph and the arrival of Pierre Kalenga as a PhD student at the University of Lubumbashi in Congo DRC. Research into the social history of the motor vehicle in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) prior to 1940 brought to the fore the importance of the relationship between labour and transport. The introduction of new forms of technology, such as bicycles, trains and motor cars, significantly altered the relationship between labour and transport, and ultimately society. Research findings clearly indicate that the mass mobilization and utilization of labour for transport during World War One in Northern Rhodesia transformed society there forever.

Rijk van Dijk put together a research programme on sexuality, reproduction and religion in Botswana to investigate the ways in which various modern forms of Christianity are shaping relationships in the field of sexuality and reproduction in the Botswana context with its HIV/AIDS pandemic. If accepted by NWO, the programme will strengthen the group's emphasis on studying connections and (social) technologies, in this case in the area of sexuality and reproduction where Christian bodies are connecting to technologies of 'behavioural change', the use of bio-medical knowledge and the implementation of interventionist ideas in new and unprecedented ways. Rijk van Dijk's ongoing work on Pentecostalism and faith-based organizations tied in with these aspects of the programme. Linda van de Kamp's work on Pentecostalism in Mozambique





concentrated on the impact of faith on relationships (especially on women). Worldwide connections that are forged in these churches relate to important changes in the world of ideas and identities in African cities.

Wouter van Beek was responsible for a SANPAD project with the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in collaboration with the University of Tilburg. It entailed a multifaceted in-depth study of a cluster of important sacred places in South Africa including the Mothuleng Cave and the Badimu Valley near Clarence. He also finalized a lengthy monograph on Kapsiki religion entitled *The Dancing Dead. Ritual and Religion among the Kapsiki/Higi*.

Mayke Kaag continued to coordinate a research programme on Islam and society in Senegal in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dakar. The project was looking into changing connections between the political, economic and religious spheres in Senegal, particularly the ways in which Islamic actors are playing a role in this process. Research was undertaken by Senegalese and Dutch researchers. Preliminary results showed how changing interconnections between the political and religious spheres that are mediated by both religious and political actors as well as by the growing importance of the media are increasingly shaping current political dynamics.

Mirjam de Bruijn coordinated the 'Mobile Africa Revisited' programme on mobile communication, marginality and mobility, with Inge Brinkman and Francis Nyamnjoh. 2009 was primarily devoted to field research but the programme's first publication came out and was hailed as the start of a new research field by reviewers. Publications on the use of the Internet in mobile communities, newly appearing notions of distance and time, and new forms of communities and the mobile margins also appeared. Linked to this research programme was a project on mobility and resources in a comparative framework that is funded by Volkswagen Stiftung and coordinated by Mirjam de Bruijn in collaboration with the University of Cologne. Both programmes are developing ideas of connections in a globalizing world and show that new ICTs are leading to transformations in society that can only be understood in a historical context. They are being com-

pared with past ICTs that were introduced under colonial rule, as described in Walter Nkwi's thesis on social transformations in twentieth-century Cameroon.

A research group that explicitly relates to connections should itself be connected, and part of the group's time is indeed devoted to staying connected, not only in terms of relations but also in promoting and further developing its theoretical and analytical framework. The C & T research group enjoyed a good working relationship with the African Studies group in Bayreuth in 2009, which resulted in a book project on technology and social change by Dieter Neubert and Wouter van Beek. It was also well connected with colleagues in the various countries where group members work and through their linkage to the ASC's research programmes in Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Chad, Mali, Senegal, Cameroon and Angola. Research networks were set up for the group's sub-programmes. The mobile communication project has its own website [www.mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com](http://www.mobileafricarevisited.wordpress.com) and the International Research Network on Religion and AIDS in Africa was also initiated. Jan-Bart Gewald is an executive committee member of the African Borderland Research Network (ABORNE) <http://www.aborne.org/> and an advisory member of the International Network of Genocide Scholars (INOGS) [www.inogs.com/main/page\\_about.html](http://www.inogs.com/main/page_about.html). An excellent working relationship was also established with a publications and research centre in Cameroon ([www.langaa-rpcig.net](http://www.langaa-rpcig.net)) that has access to a wide African audience.

*Mirjam de Bruijn*





## 12 Economy, Environment and Exploitation Research Group

The Economy, Environment and Exploitation (EEE) research group's programme on 'The Political Economy of Poverty and Wealth in Africa' is analyzing processes of impoverishment and accumulation in African societies. The central question is how the process of continued commoditization in Africa and related changes in social relations of production affect people's access to resources and the institutions and relations through which these resources are provided, and how this, in turn, defines their constraints and opportunities for wealth accumulation. From a political economy perspective, the programme is investigating development trajectories in various African societies, the role of markets in these trajectories and that of water as the most crucial natural resource in Africa after land. The programme includes case studies on selected countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and commodities and products (horticultural products, financial services, land and water).

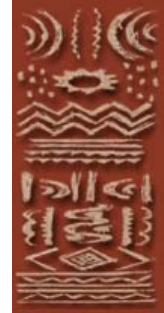
In 2009 EEE research group members rounded off some past programmes and started others. One of the projects that drew to a close was the Nakuru Urban Agriculture Project (NUAP), which was run by Dick Foeken and Wijnand Klaver in collaboration with Sam Owuor from Nairobi University. Using a livelihood perspective, they concluded that urban agriculture constitutes an important contribution to households' livelihoods, particularly for the poor. However, the poor are underrepresented among urban farmers because they lack resources and those that do practise this type of agriculture perform worse than better-off households. These findings are all the more concerning as food prices have risen considerably over the past few years, which has increased problems regarding food security. The growth pattern of younger children in poor households can be particularly affected and these children benefit considerably from a decent school lunch. NUAP Phase 2 focused on the contribution school farming makes to school feeding programmes. The study showed that school feeding, and to a lesser extent school farming, is very common in Nakuru and most of the schools that grow crops do so to support school feeding programmes although

their actual contribution to these programmes is usually marginal. Participation in school feeding is positively related to height, with the effect of school feeding being particularly strong in schools in lower socioeconomic areas. The ASC's new urban research programme on water supplies in low-income neighbourhoods in Kenya produced an introductory overview of the urban water sector in Kenya and fieldwork has started in Kisumu, with other towns still to be visited.

A study of the economic crisis in Zimbabwe by Marleen Dekker showed that households in areas with higher agro-ecological potential and in resettlement areas are more likely to be able to maintain their livelihoods than households in regions with fewer opportunities for (cash crop) cultivation and communal areas that are facing considerable constraints. This pattern is determined by the local and regional institutional environment in which households and individuals operate, ranging from village heads and local security forces to private cotton-input suppliers and government-based assistance programmes. The same communities were surveyed in 2000 in a study of risk-sharing behaviour when it was found that men and women are both more likely to form groups with their own sex than with the opposite sex. However, when the groupings and risk-sharing agreements are supported only by trust, the effect is weaker. In part, this is due to trust based on the co-membership of gender-mixed religions.

New research programmes looking into health insurance were initiated by Marleen Dekker in Ethiopia and Togo. André Leliveld and the ASC's Belgian partner Louvain Développement also participated in this project, which is being funded by Plan Netherlands. Analysis of the Togo data explored health-care utilization by members of rural households facing physical illness and a variety of the health-care service providers ranging from local traditional healers to national hospitals. Findings show that in cases of physical illness, household members prefer to use 'modern' health-care services but financial constraints prevent them from immediate and full utilization of the services on offer. In both academic and policy circles, community-based health insurance schemes have been presented as a viable method of overcoming these financial constrictions and improving access to health-care services for the poor in rural areas. The findings however





suggest that the introduction of community-based health insurance schemes should not be seen as an all-inclusive solution to access and financing problems of (poor) rural households in Africa. For example, health insurance schemes are not only a manifestation of the increasing monetization of health-care provisions but also enforce this process, excluding poorer households for whom cash availability is a serious problem. The focus of health insurance schemes on modern

biomedical health-care provisioning denies medical plurality in Africa, where traditional health services still play a major and often complementary role.

Akinyinka Akinyoade's research on access to higher education in Nigeria concluded that this is still a major development challenge. The increased availability of university education for all has been characterized by problems of falling

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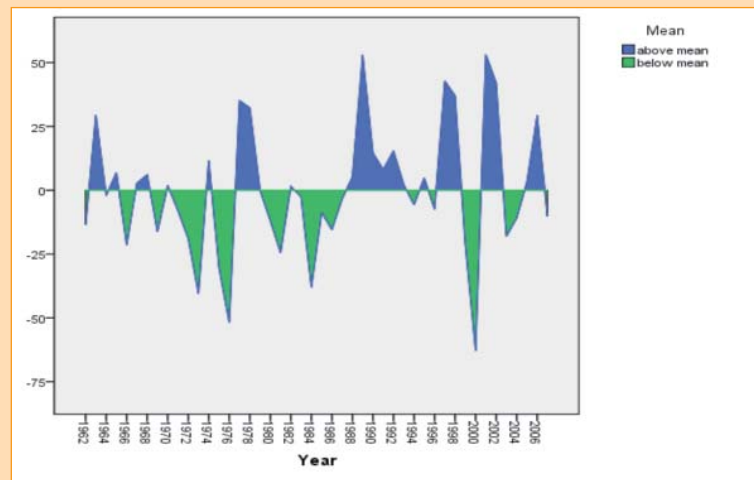
## Dying Cows Due to Climate Change?

**'No, It's Dwindling Pastures, Fencing, Livestock Disease and Plastic Bags on Top of Normal Seasonal Droughts, Stupid!'**

Reports of wildebeest, zebra and elands being returned from areas outside Kenya's world-famous Maasai Mara and Amboseli national parks appeared in the news in February 2010. Drought had reduced the natural prey of lions and other predators there and as a result they were roaming beyond the parks looking for game. In their search, they were turning to the domestic stock of the local Maasai pastoralists, or rather what was left as most herds were decimated between February and October 2009. In the media but also among groups of scientists, this latest decrease in the number of both domestic and wild animals is being attributed to drought caused by climate change, which is also thought to explain the retreat of the glaciers on Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro (Thompson *et al.* 2009). The 'melting' debate though is a heated one and some groups of scientists claim that the reduction in the size of the glaciers is primarily (~65%) being caused by a natural drying of the air, which started in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, rather than by a rise in temperature due to global warming (Kaser *et al.* 2004, Mölg *et al.* 2008).

It is however relevant that the deaths of livestock and wild animals have been caused by a reduction in the availability of biomass. This again is the result of a number of causes including below-average rainfall in three or four subsequent seasons since late 2007. The 2007 short rains, both the long and short rainy seasons in 2008 and again the long wet season in 2009 were of below-average precipitation. The short wet season in 2009 that brought almost 40% of the

year's total came too late and may actually have contributed to killing the few weakened animals that were left due to the low temperatures that accompanied the rain, especially towards the end of December. The cumulative effect of poor rains in the two years prior to December 2009, however, prevented a full recovery of the grass and pasture areas when the heavy rain later finally fell. But is this a sign of climate change, and one that is so often – and wrongly – understood as desertification?







**14** Data collected in the period between 1962 and 2009 show increased rainfall, as is highlighted in this figure that illustrates percentage deviation from the 601.6 mm mean. So how can the loss of so many animals in the second half of 2009 be explained? The reality on the ground, as the survival strategies narrated by a number of pastoralists elaborate, is much more complex.

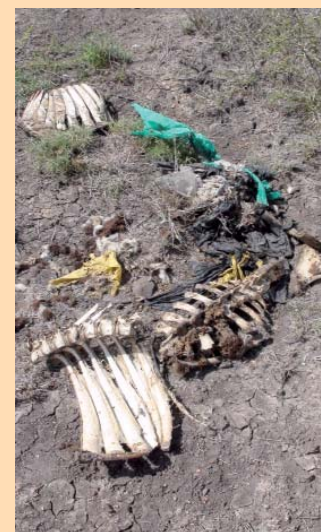
Livestock movements have become more complicated, with some animals going as far as Lake Manyara in Tanzania, Mount Kenya in central Kenya, Coast Province or even Nairobi and its environs. Movements and patterns are more diverse and take place over longer periods of time, with animals being moved in two or three phases. Most movements started in mid-2008 after the long rains of March-May failed but when there were still a good number of livestock as circumstances had previously been fairly favourable. In subdivided areas, movements were initially mainly to family members or stock friends, while the second phase in mid-2009 mostly involved movement out of the home area after the failure of the short and long rains in November-December 2008 and March-May 2009, respectively.

From August 2009 onwards after having lost large numbers of cattle, many moved their remaining animals for a third time. Pastoralists with relatives in the army took their animals to the Embakasi Barracks ranch near Nairobi and others went sometimes up to 200-300 km to hilly disease-infected areas in an attempt to find pasturing. Many of these areas were government-owned forests that were officially closed to outsiders and although cattle were able to move around to graze during the night this was not without risk as animals could easily fall on the hillside or die from eating leaves instead of grass. After all the grass disappeared, some herders turned to buying extra feed (e.g. maize meal) and sliced cactus, tried to find leftovers from restaurants or found drought-resistant creepers for their animals. But by October 2009 they were finally forced to give hay to the few cows they had left as the rains had not yet returned and there was insufficient grass. These few surviving animals soon also began to collapse but this was as a result of the combination of the hay and the plastic bags and other foreign matter they were consuming in an attempt to reduce their hunger.

The plastic bags were later discovered in the cows' stomachs and identified to as the major killer.

It was not so much the drought *per se* but restrictions on cattle movements due to fencing, reduced grazing areas that forced animals up hillsides into disease-infested areas and the spread of garbage in the form of plastic bags and papers and other materials such as shoes and old clothes that were the direct cause of the high rate of livestock mortality in the 2008/2009 drought. Areas of sustainable dry-season grazing will be key for pastoralists and their animals if they are to continue utilizing the semi-arid regions of Africa. However, if the resilience of the system is reduced too much during (long) periods of drought, pastoralists are bound to lose huge numbers of livestock in the future.

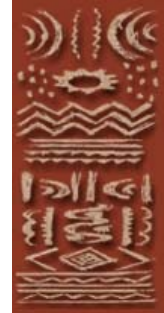
*Marcel Rutten*



*Ingesting plastic bags has been identified as one of the major reasons for the deaths of large numbers of cattle*  
Photo: Marcel Rutten







standards, access and equity. Other factors such as geo-ethnic origin, location, social class, gender and physical ability continue to be the basis of exclusion despite specific national interventions aimed at broadening access. Akinyoade also studied water-based conflicts in Sagamu, Nigeria and found that while the state's involvement in the provision of social services has been informed by the goal of entrenching the material interests of a privileged, dominant class within the country, this has grossly impaired its capacity to extend services, including the provision of potable water, to a wider spectrum of Nigerian society on a non-discriminatory basis. More than all other factors therefore, this structural constraint has transformed water into a scarce commodity by limiting it to those populations and ethnic categories directly relevant to the economic interests of the country's dominant groups. Advocacy for greater equity in resource allocation through the extension of water and other amenities to all Nigerian rural and urban communities is essential. In another study, Akinyoade concluded that marriage in Ghana is undergoing changes that are altering child-bearing patterns: the size of families and the spacing of births are being shaped by the contradictory interests of individuals and couples in communities, which has resulted in changes in fertility levels.

Jan Hoorweg published the outcome of a collaborative multifaceted fisheries programme in which a multidisciplinary team studied artisanal fishers along the Kenyan Coast. The research focused on fishers' income diversification, the pressure on marine resources and the relationship between the two. Overexploitation of natural resources is often associated with poverty among the local population. Extra sources of income are thought to release this pressure but income diversification has not reduced the strain on the marine environment. On the contrary, the indications are that many part-time fishers are entering the profession and fishers with alternative employment are tending to stay inshore and use damaging gear more frequently. Policies to provide employment opportunities for coastal communities are unlikely to reduce the pressure on marine resources and need to be planned carefully in terms of location, labour requirements and coastal pollution.

Marcel Rutten's research activities concentrated on collecting data on the condition of shallow wells in southern Kenya that were improved in the mid-1990s, and the reasons for their frequent failure. It was concluded that some of the different activities introduced about ten years ago (e.g. flower farming) and in other cases more recently (e.g. commercial eucalyptus growing) are the main reason for the depletion of water levels. Sand harvesting and the cutting down of trees along river banks have further undermined the area's water-storage capacity. Climate change was ruled out as the major cause of the problem as the area has, in fact, received slightly more rainfall in the last decade than normal. The resulting drying-up of shallow wells is causing tension in the region although this is not along ethnic lines and it is not dividing the original pastoralists and the mainly agricultural immigrants. These tensions are instead emerging in a new class struggle between small-scale farmers and pastoralists on the one hand and powerful individuals and/or companies on the other. These findings are adding fuel to discussions about the effects of globalization on the rural poor in Africa. Initial findings from the twenty-year study on land tenure changes, which were repeated in 2009 for the fourth time among the same group of households in two locations in southern Kenya, questioned claims by De Soto that formalized property rights result in wealth creation for the poor. On the contrary, the individualization of property rights is contributing to a growing inequality in wealth in this area.

The ASC's Tracking Development project, which is being organized by the EEE research group in cooperation with the KITLV and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reached its halfway mark in 2009. The programme aims to contribute to an understanding of the key factors that explain success and failure in the creation of wealth in developing countries by investigating why South East Asian and Sub-Saharan African countries have diverged so sharply in development performance in the last fifty years. The development trajectories of four pairs of countries (Kenya & Malaysia; Uganda & Cambodia; Tanzania & Vietnam; Nigeria & Indonesia) are being compared to establish the main trends, processes and junctures in their decision making. Research is still being conducted but some early results will be discussed at a conference in 2010.





16 EEE researchers have established contacts with Dutch-based and foreign scholars conducting research in Africa. In particular, linkages have been established with African scholars who have collaborated in a wide range of studies and publications. In 2009, for example, several departments at the University of Nairobi and Moi University in Kenya joined ASC colleagues in putting together project proposals, conducting research and writing scientific output. Fieldwork was conducted in Togo with Louvain Développement and Plan Togo, and the research group has a network in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe that has been instrumental in data collection. EEE researchers collaborated in the setting up of new networks, for example, one consisting of Utrecht University, Wageningen University, the Royal Tropical Institute, DDE (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Agriterra, Triodos/Facet and Hivos, and the ASC was involved in starting the IS Academy on land governance. Another network established in 2009 was the Coalition for European lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) with members such as Cordaid, Both Ends, IKV/Pax Christi, IIED, Oxfam, Kimmage Development Studies, Agriprofocus, Practical Action UK, VSF and African-based organizations like RECONCILE and IUCN/WISP. In Europe, EEE members primarily collaborated with colleagues at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London and the University of Salzburg. Finally, EEE members also cooperated with Radboud University (Nijmegen) and Masinde Muliro University (Kakamega, Kenya) in lecturing and in a supervisory capacity.

*Marcel Rutten*



*Kenyan school children growing vegetables in their school garden for the school's feeding programme.*  
Photo: Dick Foeken





## Social Movements and Political Culture in Africa Research Group

The Social Movements and Political Culture (SMPC) research group is addressing new social movements and organizational forms in Africa against the background of the continent's changing political cultures. This provides a general, open-ended framework for research into why and how people seek modes of social, cultural and political expression in new organizational forms; the new developments there are in the continent's political cultures and governance structures, and, more specifically, why processes of democratization have not been very successful to date. How insecurity takes on new forms, why certain violent conflicts persist, and why traditional ideologies and social mechanisms of mediation and tolerance seem to diminish in force, be reinvented or become problematic in new contexts are also being considered. African populations are struggling to keep their inherited socio-cultural and survival mechanisms alive and the SMPC group is investigating how and why they are redefining ideals of modernity, development and belonging in their own terms. The multidisciplinary programme considers conditions of international flows of people, resources and capital, Africa's place in the global system and the dynamics of local ideologies, emerging social networks, political struggles and cultural change.

The activities of the SMPC research group in 2009 centred on the dissemination of research results in numerous publications, ongoing research and the (co) supervision of PhD students working on topics related to the group's research. Significant work was done on the research group's two central themes: (new) social movements and political culture in Africa. These two phenomena presented an excellent window for the study of politics, governance, social change and resistance in Africa as well as Africa's international relations and development processes claimed by governments, international donors and business interests. Detailed field research by the group in 2009 produced fascinating results in the fields of political history, political science, sociology and anthropology.

Stephen Ellis continued his externally commissioned research on Africa's place in

a world in rapid mutation, which was initiated at the request of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It aims to identify some of the key elements concerning Africa's participation in world affairs regarding issues such as foreign investment, migration and the spectacular rise in Chinese interests in Africa. Papers were discussed with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which organized a series of debates on key themes with a view to reviewing their approach to certain policy matters. His research showed that the growth of China's influence in Africa continued throughout 2009, with subsequent effects on both the approach of international actors towards Africa and the internal evolution of individual African countries. Other new Asian actors, such as India, Malaysia, South Korea and Iran, continued to show an enhanced interest in Africa. In addition, foreign interests rented or otherwise acquired control of large areas of agricultural land in Africa, with production largely for export to their own countries. This trend will undoubtedly have a major bearing on Africa's place in the world but also on important questions concerning food availability, the trade in foodstuffs and agricultural investments. One very general and provisional finding concerns the emerging contours of an African continent that is clearly distancing itself from the close relationship it forged with Europe during the colonial period. Stephen Ellis's book on the history of Madagascar was published in 2009 and he and Ineke van Kessel jointly edited *Movers & Shakers: Social Movements in Africa* which presents the initial results of the SMPC research group's programme.

As well as working on *Movers & Shakers: Social Movements in Africa* with Stephen Ellis, Ineke van Kessel conducted fieldwork in South Africa in April for four weeks, a visit that was timed to coincide with the national and provincial elections there. Due to the participation of a new political party, the Congress of the People (COPE), they were the most heavily contested since the first democratic elections in 1994. The interviews and archival research she did enabled her to gather material for a book entitled *Trajectories of the Transition*, which traces and documents the lives and experiences of former anti-apartheid activists in the United Democratic Front (UDF), who were previously interviewed in 1990-92, and to analyze their understandings of present-day South Africa. She found that a number of the interviewees – mainly Coloureds and South African Indians –





18 saw COPE as the true guardian of the inclusive, non-racial legacy of the UDF, as opposed to the more exclusive African nationalism of the present ANC. Gaining 7.4% of the votes cast, COPE did not perform badly for a newcomer but failed to offer an alternative to ANC hegemony. In September 2009, Ineke van Kessel started work on *Nelson Mandela in een notendop*, a monograph in Dutch to be published in a popular history series by Bert Bakker/Prometheus.

In addition to his work as Director of CERES and at Wageningen University, Han van Dijk continued his research on oil and (the lack of) social development in Chad. This highlighted the growing danger of the country turning into a fully blown failed state that is incapable of allowing its population to benefit from its oil revenues, of maintaining law and order and stabilizing its domestic affairs, and of creating a semblance of socio-political development. Alongside autocratic elite

## Muslim Public Intellectuals in Africa

Until recently there have been few studies of the changing role and influence of Muslim public intellectuals in contemporary Africa. An ongoing comparative research project at the ASC has been studying Muslim public intellectuals in West Africa, those persons who communicate about Islam or as Muslims to the public or various publics in Africa, and sometimes beyond. This communication can be oral and/or written and may be face-to-face in sermons, teaching and lectures or mass-mediated via television, radio, audiocassette, video, DVD, the Internet or text messaging. The definition of Muslim public intellectual is intentionally broad to encompass 'traditional' Muslim intellectuals – the *'ulama* or scholars (who are overwhelmingly men) – as well as newer Muslim intellectuals who are operating in the public sphere, such as secularly educated authors, newspaper columnists, media stars, youth activists, preachers and others, some of whom are women.

Muslim public intellectuals' understandings and practice of Islam and the kinds of social and political agendas they seek to advance have varied considerably over time and place. They may consider themselves reformists, modernists, Islamists and even occasionally feminists. While some have been concerned with taking control of the state and Islamizing its institutions, particularly law and education, others have been more concerned with questions of personal piety, ethical reform and attempting to extirpate the allegedly un-Islamic from the individual and society. Still others have focused attention on questions of poverty, justice and women's rights. Over the past two decades, new forms of associational life, the spread of mass education, increased transnational and global interconnecti-

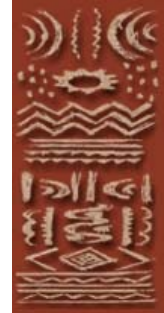
ons, and new media technologies have had an enormous influence on religious expression and the changing roles of public intellectuals in Africa.

In addition to its objective of being an empirically grounded study of Muslim public intellectuals, this research has a set of interrelated theoretical objectives. First, the project contributes to the field of the sociology of intellectuals, which has rarely used empirical material from Africa or material about African Muslim intellectuals. It also tests key sociological theories of intellectuals from European social thought. Although the theorizing about intellectuals has largely relied upon European and North American data, important recent work on the sociology of Muslim intellectuals by such scholars as Olivier Roy and Muhammad Qasim Zaman and on changes in the public sphere in Muslim societies by Dale Eickelman, Armando Salvatore and others also informs this research. Some of the key questions about Muslim public intellectuals concern their social positioning, education, transnational ties, affiliations and aspirations; if and how they are changing as a social group (women, youth, new intellectuals with backgrounds in science, engineering, business and politics); and their relationship with other social and political movements, including Islamic social movements.

Second, the project broaches philosophical questions about the changing role, place and influence of intellectuals in the contemporary world. Whereas many point to the declining influence of public intellectuals in the West, this is much less the case in some places in Africa where Muslim public intellectuals have







rule, the situation on its border with Sudan and the Darfur question undoubtedly contributed to this. He also continued work on a project on violence and food security in Africa, developing a draft research programme with Chadian colleagues.

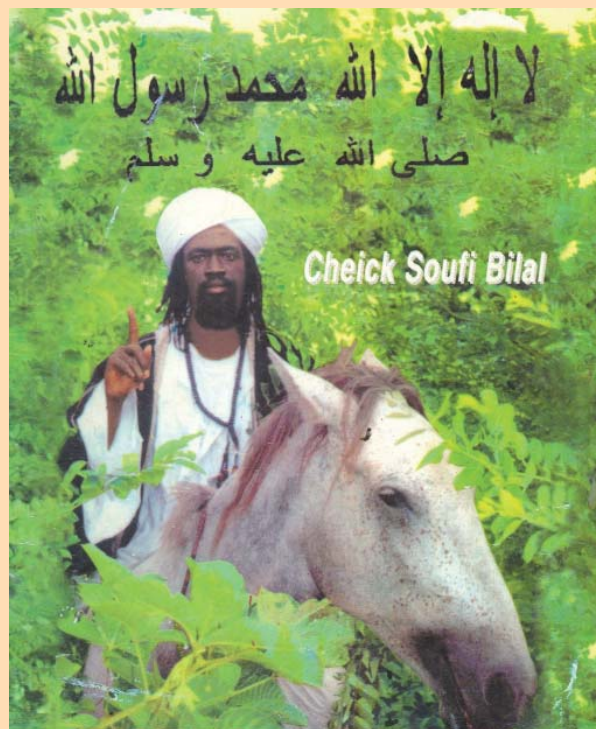
Piet Konings's research highlighted relations between neo-liberal globalization and religious institutions and civil society in Cameroon that are elaborated in

his new book entitled *Neoliberal Bandwagonism: Civil Society and the Politics of Belonging in Anglophone Cameroon*. Neoliberal thinking perceives civil-society organizations as vital intermediary channels for the successful implementation of economic and political reforms, and is inclined to blame the current resurgence of the 'politics of belonging' for the poor record of reforms in Africa and elsewhere. Piet Konings rejects such notions and argues that the relationship

recently been playing a more prominent social and political role. While commentators have pointed to a trend towards the fragmentation of religious authority in the Muslim world, case studies from Africa demonstrate the increased influence of certain Muslim public figures. Indeed, the key role these intellectuals played in the debates leading up to and after the extension of sharia to cover criminal law in twelve of Nigeria's northern states helps to illustrate shifts in and the consolidation of religious authority by certain figures.

Various public intellectuals in Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal have been studied in this project. The rise (and fall) of some of these charismatic figures has been charted, for example, Muslim preachers who are employing new media technologies, and some of the new large-scale Muslim organizations they have founded. Young self-styled Sufis appeal specifically to youth and urban dwellers have also been included. Some of them, such as Soufi Bilal Diallo in Bamako, Mali, are refashioning how to be young and Muslim in ways that challenge conventional understandings of Muslim youth and their assumed proclivities toward Islamism. This research shows how difficult it can be to understand these new public figures if one limits oneself to the conventional assumptions usually made about contemporary or 'modern' forms of Islam in Africa and elsewhere.

Benjamin Soares



Soufi Bilal Diallo, a young Muslim public intellectual in Mali  
Reproduced with the permission of Soufi Bilal Diallo





**20** between civil society and the politics of belonging in Africa is more complex than western donors and scholars are willing to admit. He contends that ethno-regional movements are more significant constituents of civil society than conventional civil-society organizations, which are often uncritically imposed or endorsed. He also wrote on trade unionism in Cameroon and the collective action of student movements protesting neo-liberal education reforms.

Benjamin Soares continued to work on the role and influence of Muslim public intellectuals in West Africa, focusing on their understanding and practices of Islam and their various social and political agendas. Alongside ethnographic research and the collection of relevant print and audiovisual materials, he conducted interviews with key Muslim public figures in Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. Work on religion and modernity in colonial and post-colonial Mali also continued, addressing issues of Islam and Muslim youth culture as well as responses to attempts to reform Mali's family law. This touched on the wider topic of Islam and politics, on which he collaborated with Filippo Osella during the editing of a special issue on 'Islam, Politics, Anthropology' of the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute. He also brought out the French edition of a previously edited and well-received book on Islam in Africa that includes additional chapters and an updated introduction (*Islam, État et société en Afrique*). Another subject of collaborative study was religion and the media in Africa, on which he started writing a book in 2009.

Klaas van Walraven continued his major socio-historical study of the history of the Sawaba rebellion in Niger in the 1950s and 1960s. Interviews held in 2009 with former Sawabists revealed interesting insights into the personal trajectories of Africans who saw the unfolding of the Cultural Revolution in China where they had been sent for training, including the upheavals surrounding the Gang of Four. He also uncovered more about Sawaba ideology and its attitude towards the use of violence. In 2009 Niger faced rising political tensions as a result of the unconstitutional extension of the presidential mandate, raising the spectre of renewed autocratic rule. Kidnappings of Europeans by (proxies of) Al-Qaeda-in-the-Maghreb meant that Klaas van Walraven could only briefly visit one town as

the security situation prevented him from going to Arlit where his next research project is based. He was again heavily involved in the annual Africa Yearbook that presents an overview of the continent's key developments.

Jan Abbink's research was on religious discourse in the public sphere in Ethiopia and Somalia. The mutation of the ICU, a Somali Islamist social movement, into a violent terrorist movement was analyzed in an attempt to discover trends in northeast Africa's security situation and in the wider political field of ungoverned spaces in Africa. Political instability and the half-hearted responses proposed by the international community to these issues have had an adverse effect on overall development in the region in education, health care, institution building and economic opportunities. In an ongoing study of the effects of development on local societies, studies were also made of changing patterns of violence and the iconography of exoticist discourse on the Suri agro-pastoralists of southern Ethiopia, showing the problematic appropriation of African peoples and their cultures by external actors. Work on a project related to livelihood and identity in the Wolaïtta region focused on demographic pressures and socio-political problems of development. A new trend in Ethiopia that is more common elsewhere in Africa was also noted, namely the almost unrestricted opening up of the country's economic resources for foreign exploitation, notably land (which is all state-owned in Ethiopia). This presents a whole new research agenda of effects and consequences. Jan Abbink continued to supervise Ethiopian PhD research projects on Oromo identities and social change, and religious community relations in northern Ethiopia.

While the execution of the research group's programme is based on empirical academic research, cooperation was sought with policy-making institutions and persons (NGOs, international organizations, ministries) to develop specific research questions and approaches that might yield insights that could be used in policy plans and initiatives. To encourage academic exchange in 2009, the group's programme again connected with African visiting scholars and existing partners in Africa.

*Jan Abbink*





## The IS Academy: 'The State in Africa'

The IS Academy, which is a joint venture of the African Studies Centre (ASC) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Department (DAF) at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reached its halfway mark in 2009. Its 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.

In addition to lectures organized by the IS Academy itself in 2009, there were also regular seminars and publications by the ASC's Social Movements and Political Culture research group members on subjects relevant to those being studied in the IS Academy.

August 2009 saw the graduation from the Research Masters in African Studies programme of the first two (Cameroonian) students who had received scholarships from the IS Academy. Two new students, this time from Uganda and Burkina Faso, started their research masters at the beginning of 2009 and two more (from Cameroon and Ethiopia) started in September.

A one-day IS Academy seminar on 'Elections in Africa: Fair, Façade or Failure?' was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 November. The aim was to identify both the positive and negative aspects of African elections by considering the subject from a scientific, a political as well as a policy point of view. Based on two keynote speeches and parallel sessions on Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia and Ghana, a report was drawn up on how elections have contributed to stability and democracy.



*IS Academy Seminar: 'Elections in Africa: Fair, Façade or Failure?'  
Panel of experts (from left to right): Roel von Meijenfheldt (Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy), Prof. Nicolas van de Walle (Cornell University), Dr Staffan Lindberg (University of Florida), Bert Koenders (Minister for Development Cooperation) and facilitator Dr Nina Tellegen (DOEN Foundation)  
Photo: Gitty Petit*







## 22 Elections in Africa: Fair, Façade or Failure? Some Thoughts and Conclusions

Accountability is always a problem for the international community but we can help in the transition process. When offering budget support, we expect governments to be accountable to their citizens and should be firm when leaders do not work in the interests of their citizens. Bottom-up and top-down approaches need to come together. We know we cannot enforce democracy by military means: tailor-made and joined-up forces are required but geo-politics makes this difficult. Election commissions are vital but should not be the only way for people to express themselves.

**Ghana:** Recent Ghanaian elections have been relatively successful. Some elements of this success could be adopted by other countries but some are specifically Ghanaian. The successful role of its independent electoral commission, the way defeat was conceded and allowed for alteration, and the effective role of the independent media are all aspects that could be easily exported. However the last election was marked by fraud and this still needs to be investigated and more attention needs to be paid to ensuring a democratic culture. The role of the middle class and elite consensus is very specific to Ghanaian culture and questions were also raised about the diaspora and the right of those living abroad to vote.

**Ethiopia:** It was generally agreed that the outlook for democracy in Ethiopia remains bleak. There has been no consolidation of democratic practice and regime survival remains the most important issue for the government. Donor commitment should continue its support for development and civil society but it was felt that it will not be possible to reverse the situation only by working with civil-society groups. Direct talks are needed with the government.

**Kenya:** What happened at the last election is well known but highly complex. The issue of land remains extremely important, particularly when it is controlled by political parties. It is dangerous when the winner takes all and there is a need to move towards 'trias politica plus', which involves strengthening civil society and the population counteracting political power. This is a society that has already shown its power by removing 70%-80% of its ministers. The international community has to support checks and balances, and also learn about the root causes of the conflict and the country's land issues. Processes that inform and remain consistent and unified are beneficial and it is necessary to work closely with stakeholders in Kenya.

**Burundi:** There have been some successes in Burundi but the country's political stability is still determined by external players and not internal structures. There is no guarantee, however, that this dependence on the international community can be maintained.





## IS Academy PhD Researchers

*Marion Eeckhout*

Research: A comparison of institutional gaps in state-business relations in Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania

*Margot Leegwater*

Research: Land conflicts at the local level in Rwanda and Burundi and the dialectics of government policies concerning local practices of land access and ethnicity

*Melle Leenstra*

Research: The Zambian health sector from a political science/public administration perspective

*Arnoud Pool*

Research: Smallholders, the state and agricultural export supply chain development

*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 Southern Sudanese state

## The Rwandan State and Restricted Access to Land

'I do not like this umudugudu (newly constructed village), it would be better if the "old caseload" (Tutsi) refugees were here because they did not have fields. Then I could live on my hill, where I was born, near my fields. Nowadays it is a long way to my fields: it takes two hours or more to get there. You work but not like someone who can be next to his field. There are even times when you plant things and someone steals them because you are so far away. ... At present we are suffering as we have to buy food because we do not grow enough, our harvests are not as good as they used to be because it is a long way to the fields. ... The umudugudu doesn't help a lot even though they say that it is development.'

Life has recently changed a great deal for the peasant population in rural southeast Rwanda. In 1996 the local authorities forced the Hutu population to share their plots with returning Tutsi refugees. These refugees, who had fled earlier violence against Tutsi between 1959 and 1962, were not able to reclaim their former land after more than 30 years in exile. And after the 1994 genocide, returning Tutsi, Tutsi survivors of the genocide and the Hutu population

had to rebuild their traumatized society whose social fabric had been completely destroyed. Around the same time, the government launched a villagization (umudugudu) programme that was meant to accommodate returned refugees and other people without a roof over their heads. However the government decided that the entire rural population had to regroup in villages to put an end to traditionally dispersed housing.

My research is on access to land in Rwanda, how people gain access to the land they cultivate and how local practices of access are related to government policies on land and ethnicity. While on fieldwork I talked to peasants in a village in the southeast of the country and gradually established that these enforced government policies have had huge consequences for the local population. More than 90% of people in Rwanda depend on farming and a lot of them are having a difficult time supporting their families. Many Hutu lost considerable amounts of land when they had to share their plots and a lot of the returned Tutsi refugees were unable to reclaim their former lands and had to make do with the smaller plots they were allocated. Some farmers lost land because of





## 24 IS Academy Lectures

- *26 March*  
Development in Africa and Asia: How Can the Difference Be Explained?  
Dr Jan Kees van Donge (ASC) & Dr David Henley (KITLV)
- *8 June*  
New Oil Producers in Africa and the Challenges of Governance: The Case of Ghana  
Ian Gary (Oxfam America)
- *16 December*  
Global Investments in Agriculture and Large-Scale Land Acquisitions. Stakes and Relations with Rural Development  
Dr Lucia van Geuns (Energy Programme, Clingendael Institute); Dr Paul Mathieu (FAO/University of Leuven); Prof. Annelies Zoomers (Utrecht University)

the villagization programme and many now have plots at some distance from their homes after moving to a village. Because of these developments, many families are nowadays having to cope with the fact that they do not own enough land for their children to inherit, which is leading to increasing conflict within families as well as between neighbours.

Ethnicity is central in my research because the history of land access and the recent land sharing policy have an ethnic component. It is, however, an emotive issue given Rwanda's past and the authorities do not allow any references to ethnicity, which means that the issue can never be discussed openly. Land is also a sensitive topic. It is scarce but is also most people's most important productive asset in a country where the majority of the population is primarily engaged in subsistence farming. Many Hutu farmers resent having to share their land:

'I wasn't happy when we had to share our land; to give a plot to someone you don't know. And as it is not your decision, it really hurts. There are times when you are short of something in your field that you could find in the field that you planted before but had to give up and the other person will not give it to you. You gave up this field for free and he does not want to give you anything back and he even refuses to give you something. This really hurts. But because it was compulsory, you had to do it.'

In the case of land sharing, it is difficult to establish whether Hutu farmers blame the authorities or their Tutsi neighbours. In general, however, it would seem that below the surface, the social life of rural areas is to a large extent based on mistrust, fear and tension, and that these tensions are often of an ethnic nature. Time will tell if this is the case.

*Margot Leegwater*



*Rwandan women attending a meeting of their farming cooperative  
Photo: Margot Leegwater*



# RESEARCH MASTERS IN AFRICAN STUDIES 2009-2010



The Research Masters in African Studies (ResMaAS) is a two-year MPhil offered jointly by Leiden University and the African Studies Centre. Students are based at the ASC but the programme is organized in collaboration with CERES, the Research School for Resource Studies for Development 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 in Amsterdam), 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). The programme includes contributions from more than 40 lecturers engaged in interdisciplinary dialogues and with disciplinary specializations.

The programme has admitted four groups since it started in 2006. In September 2009 eleven ResMaAS students graduated at an official ceremony in the presence of family, friends and supervisors when the highlights of their research findings were shared in lively and informative presentations. Three students who could not make it on this date have since finalized their theses and received their diplomas too. ResMaAS graduates have, to date, been successful in finding PhD positions in the Netherlands and abroad. And the thesis of one of the 2008 graduates, Hilde Kroes, was the subject of a very positive review by former Minister for Development Cooperation Jan Pronk and Dr Nicky Pouw. The reviews appeared in *The Broker*, an online journal: <http://www.thebrokeronline.eu/en/The-Broker-thesis-project3/The-Broker-thesis-project/Theses/The-journey-home>

The new academic year started in September 2009 with nine first-year students and two students who had enrolled in the previous year but arrived too late to follow the course then. Delays with the issuing of visas and the release of scholarship funds are recurrent practical problems the programme faces. Courses for the new students concentrated on the theory and practice of African Studies, with special attention being paid to the construction of images of Africa in the social sciences and the humanities. The critical acquisition of knowledge on and about Africa, with a particular focus on (inter) disciplinary approaches, methodologies and case studies, was an essential part of the first-year lectures. The second-year students all left for their research projects, which were on topics ranging from communicating climate change in Cameroon to a community-based tourism project in Namibia and research among the African diaspora in Brazil on the use of food in ritual ceremonies.

The ResMaAS course is constantly being evaluated with a view to improving the curriculum, optimizing student participation in the three study tracks and institutionalizing the collaboration of the ASC and Leiden University with universities and institutions elsewhere in the Netherlands and Belgium. Changes in the administration of the ResMaAS included the appointment of Dr Azeb Amha as the programme's new Course Coordinator after Dr Daniela Merolla returned to full-time research and teaching. At the end of 2009, the ResMaAS Board consisted of Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn (Programme Director), Dr Rijk van Dijk, Prof. Paul Hebinck, Prof. Peter Pels, Prof. Robert Ross, Ms Leah Llewellyn (student representative) and Dr Azeb Amha.

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**26** Claire Lauterbach's second-year ResMaAS project focused on northern Ugandans residing in Kampala who see themselves as 'outsiders', their social networks and their access to urban living space. A large number consider themselves to be displaced due to the conflicts in the north but have established self-help

networks to provide incomes and a means of collectively addressing not only the financial pressures of subsistence-level living but also the trauma of unwanted separation from their home area. Examples like this group, with its internal hierarchies, complicate the uniform images generally held of displaced persons.

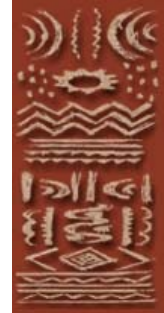


*The weekly training session of the Butabiika area Acholi dance troupe from northern Uganda*

*Photo: Dorcus Apil*







## LIBRARY, DOCUMENTATION & INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

The ASC Library continued to follow a two-track policy in 2009. On the one hand, it bought books and journals to be lent out or used in the library itself, while on the other hand a lot of researchers and students from all round the world accessed the digital library that the ASC library is building.

In 2009 the paper collection was extended by 2,469 books, with the ASC copy of more than 1,000 of these books being the only copy in the Netherlands. This is no surprise as the uniqueness of the ASC's collection is legendary. The library's collection specialists are keen to buy books from Africa and obtain other unique books but at the same time ensure that the general academic debate on Africa is reflected in the collection.

The digital library is now equally as important as the library's paper collection and the ASC is trying to expand access to electronically available information as far as possible. In 2009 the Connecting-Africa web service grew by 7,979 items, 101 e-journal titles were added to the catalogue, the Institutional Repository of the African Studies Centre was extended to include numerous publications by ASC staff, links were added to the abstracts in *ASA Online* and the first 60 e-docs were made available.

### Collection Development

Elvire Eijkman went to the 12th Nairobi International Book Fair at the SARIT Centre in September 2009, returning with about 200 books and DVDs from different African publishers, researchers and organizations. She also visited the Nairobi Office of the Library of Congress where she met with Director Pamela Howard and Head of Acquisitions Terry Ngatia. And information on repositories and open access was exchanged with the Deputy Director of the Jomo Kenyatta University Library, Hudson Liyai.

To bring some of the special books in the ASC's collection to the attention of a wider audience, three 'Acquisition Highlights' were published on the Centre's website in 2009. These focused on the German colonial farmer, hunter, soldier,

fugitive and ethnographer Wilhelm Mattenklodt, the Congolese elections and the South African cartoonist Zapiro.

### Figures and Trends for 2009

	2008	2009
Number of visitors	4,216	3,842
Loans	6,221	6,318
Requests for information		
by phone	758	595
by email	829	836
New acquisitions (orders)	2,137	2,104
Items catalogued (including gifts)	2,323	2,469
Abstracts ( <i>ASA Online</i> )	1,660	1,617
Subscriptions to <i>ASA Online</i> mailing list	965	1,210
Titles in ASC catalogue	159,213	163,587
Titles in Connecting-Africa	19,871	27,850
ASC website: unique visitors	202,443	182,835
ASC website: visited pages	1,222,767	831,987
ASC website hits		
(excl. affiliated websites, internal use & robots)	7,162,056	7,002,954

### Donations

Faced with a move to smaller premises, the Congregatie van de Heilige Geest (Spiritans) had to part with its Africa library and archives. The ASC was very happy to receive several boxes from them containing excellent material on the Central African Republic and the Portuguese-speaking colonies of Angola and Mozambique.





**28** Rantimi Julius-Adeoye, a Leiden PhD student working on the dramaturgy of Ahmed Yerima, provided the ASC with several books written by this major Nigerian playwright, who is also the director of Nigeria's National Troupe and the National Theatre. He donated several plays by the promising writer Bunmi Julius-Adeoye too.

Bernardine Beenackers, a historian, kindly presented the ASC library with 89 books, mostly academic classics and books on African art history. Especially interesting are the popular and/or practical books on Nigeria covering the period in the 1970s when she lived and worked there.

## Acquisitions and Cataloguing

In 2009 2,104 books were processed and 450 gifts and 434 journal articles were catalogued. Over a hundred titles of electronic Africana journals were also added to the ASC's online catalogue, thus enabling easier access to full-text information. The acquisitions and cataloguing team was strengthened in 2009 with the arrival of Edith de Roos to work on journal subscriptions and Monica Härnquist.

## Abstracting and Indexing

*ASA Online*, the ASC's abstracts journal, published 1,617 new abstracts in 2009 and the number of subscribers to the journal's alert service rose by almost 25% from 965 in 2008 to 1,210 in 2009. This was probably at least partly due to the decision to add links to the full text of every abstract in *ASA Online*, one of the suggestions made by respondents in a 2008 survey of subscribers to the *ASA Online* alert service. These 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* as well.

## Professional Relations

In cooperation with the Nordiska Africa Institute (Uppsala), Frankfurt University Library and ASA UK, Ursula Oberst compiled a Wikipedia entry on African Studies journals that included links to 1,200 full-text journals.

Library staff attended a number of conferences in 2009. For example, Elvire Eijkman went to Cambridge for the SCOLMA conference on 'Africa and the Moving Image: The Role of Libraries and Archives', and Jos Damen contributed to the 'African Studies on the Web' panel discussion at the ECAS3 conference in Leipzig. His paper entitled 'Electronic Journals and Africa Studies' was later published in *African Research and Documentation*. He, Katrien Polman and Ursula Oberst also attended the 3rd European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS) meeting on African digital materials and Africana archives, which was held at Leipzig's Bibliotheca Albertina. Marlene van Doorn gave a presentation about the African Studies Thesaurus at the Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers conference in Maropeng in March and she and Katrien Polman presented 'From Classification to Thesaurus ... and Back?' at the international UDC 'Classification at a Crossroads' seminar in The Hague in October. Their paper will be published in *Knowledge Organization*.

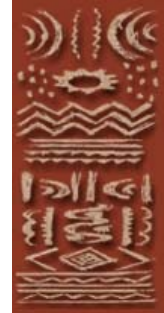
The Sub-Saharan Africa Internet library ([www.ilissAfrica.de](http://www.ilissAfrica.de)) is a portal that offers integrated access to relevant conventional and digital information resources on Sub-Saharan Africa. The ASC's online catalogue is now one of the seven resources included in this new Internet library.

## Web Dossiers

Three web dossiers were compiled in 2009 by Katrien Polman and Marlene van Doorn. The first, 'South African Elections 2009', was released to coincide with the country's general elections in April 2009 and the second, entitled 'African Cinema II', was published in September to coincide with the 12<sup>th</sup> Africa in the Picture film festival. And the third dossier, 'Elections in Africa', came out in







November at the time of the 'Elections in Africa: Fair, Façade or Failure?' conference that was organized in The Hague by the ASC, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Evert Vermeer Foundation.

## Website and Information Technology

With over 182,000 unique visitors, the ASC website was slightly less visited in 2009 than in 2008, when the number of hits rose by almost 30%. Apart from the frequently visited pages of the individual research staff members, the most popular pages remain those of the library, the ASC's publications, conferences and the online abstracts.

Other websites maintained by ASC staff include useful sites such as the AEGIS (African Studies in Europe) website at [www.aegis-eu.org](http://www.aegis-eu.org), the Connecting-Africa web service at [www.connecting-africa.net](http://www.connecting-africa.net) and the AfricaBib online bibliography at [www.africabib.org](http://www.africabib.org). AfricaBib was the most popular with over 247,000 searches, more than twice as many as in 2008 due to additional links to full-text journal articles. Almost 38,000 of these searches were from African countries. The other websites had as many visitors as in 2008: Connecting-Africa had 10,657 and AEGIS (including ECAS) had 40,481.

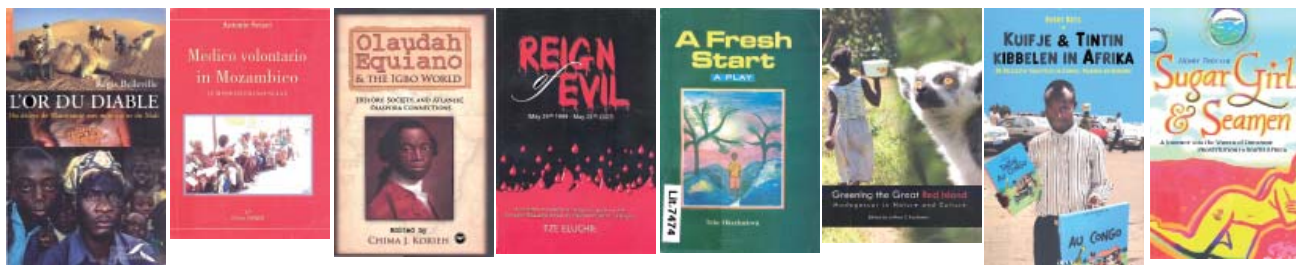
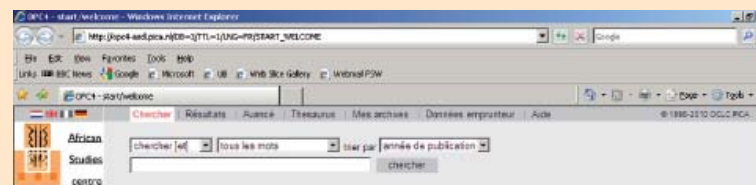
To ensure the ASC's website remains advanced, useful and service-oriented, a link resolver from the catalogue to full-text publications was developed. This ASC link was used 8,133 times in 2009, although only 420 times by users in Africa.

## French and German Versions of the ASC Catalogue

When French and German versions of the catalogue were added to the existing English and Dutch versions in 2009, the ASC's library became the first Dutch library to have an online catalogue with four interfaces. The French version is already being extensively used by francophone visitors, especially those in Africa. And the link resolver in the ASC catalogue is also now available in different languages too.

Depuis octobre 2009, le catalogue du Centre d'Études Africaines comprend aussi une version française et allemande.

Seit Oktober 2009 besitzt der Katalog des Afrika-Studienzentrums in Leiden neben dem Englischen und Niederländischen auch ein Deutsches und Französisches Interface.



## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

### 30 Seminars

The ASC organized about 25 seminars in 2009. The Horn of Africa featured prominently in the annual programme with seminars on ethnic federalism in Ethiopia, the peace agreements in Sudan and the war in Darfur. Several seminars were devoted to African movies, notably Neil Parson's presentation on the representation of Africans in early South African films, a documentary entitled *Getting Justice in Kenya* which was followed by a discussion on human rights with Maina Kiai, a presentation by Mariët Bakker on the African documentary and Rob Nugent's *The End of the Rainbow* on gold mining in Guinea. Mirjam de Bruijn's seminar on mobile phones, Daniel Volman's seminar on US foreign policy towards Africa and Paul Hoebink's seminar on development and stagnation in Sub-Saharan Africa were particularly well attended. Overall, the seminars attracted larger audiences than in previous years. It has become customary to invite ASC visiting fellows to give a lunch seminar and in 2009 all the visiting fellows from Africa gave seminars on their research projects. And the IS Academy also organized seminars as part of its academic programme. (See the section in this Annual Report on the IS Academy for more details.)

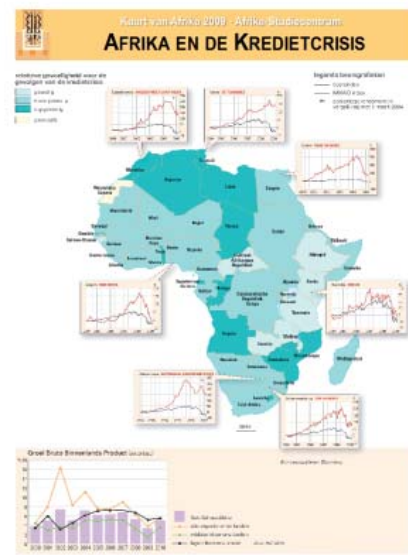


*The Former President of Ghana meets local Ghanaians outside the ASC*  
Photo: Maaïke Westra

On 25 September, a huge audience at the ASC, including many Ghanaians, welcomed the former President of Ghana, John Kufuor, who was visiting the Netherlands at the invitation of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Ministry. After a short introduction to the 'Meet the Ex-President!' seminar, he engaged in discussion with members of a panel and answered a barrage of questions from the floor. Then the former president gracefully agreed to a series of photo opportunities with the Ghanaian community in the Netherlands.

### Afrikadag

The 'Afrikadag', organized by the Evert Vermeer Foundation at the Haagse Hogeschool, is an important Africa event in the Netherlands. It is an opportunity to showcase what the ASC does, meet other institutions and persons with an interest in Africa and sell ASC publications. The ASC has had a booth at this annual event for a number of years now and provides speakers for various panels and discussion groups. On 25 April, Leo de Haan chaired a session entitled 'Afrika en de kredietcrisis' with specially invited guests including the Africa project manager at Rabo Development Frank Nagel and freelance journalist Roeland Muskens. The ASC produced a special themed map to accompany the session with information about how the credit crisis was affecting Africa.





## Africa Thesis Award

The Africa Thesis Award aims to encourage student research and writing on Africa and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose Masters thesis has been completed on research conducted on Africa. It is an initiative of the ASC's Scientific Advisory Council and has been awarded every year since 2003. The jury in 2009 consisted of Prof. Meine Pieter van Dijk (chair), Nelke van der Lans, Catherine Cissé, Dr Jan-Bart Gewald and Dr Jan Kees van Donge.

The 2009 Africa Thesis Award was won by Miranda Poeze from the VU University for her thesis entitled 'In Search of Greener Pastures?: The Case of Boat-Migrants from Senegal to the Canary Islands'. The jury was impressed by the original way in which she treated this very topical subject. She spent seven months interviewing (unsuccessful) Senegalese boat migrants and the families of (successful) migrants in Dakar in an attempt to discover why Senegalese migrants make the dangerous voyage from the West African coast to the Canary Islands. Due to hierarchical and authoritarian Senegalese family relations, it appears that many older family members force these young migrants to make the trip to Europe. The main motivating factor for migration is not necessarily poverty at home but more often a desire to improve the family's social status. The winning thesis is to be published in the ASC's African Studies Collection.

IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES?  
THE CASE OF BOAT-MIGRANTS FROM SENEGAL TO THE CANARY ISLANDS



Miranda Poeze, 'IN SEARCH OF GREENER PASTURES? THE CASE OF BOAT-MIGRANTS FROM SENEGAL TO THE CANARY ISLANDS', 2009. Master's thesis, Vrije Universiteit van Amsterdam, ECRM - Cultural Anthropology. Supervised by prof. dr. G.J. Aldrich, VU and dr. H.J.J. Roessing, VU. December 20, 2009.

The prize of € 1000 was presented to Miranda Poeze on 27 October at the 'Afrika Studie Avond' in Leiden. Photo journalist Joël van Houdt was also present and showed the stunning photos he took during an adventurous boat journey from to the (Spanish) island of Lanzarote with 28 would-be migrants on board. The expedition was ultimately unsuccessful for many of them as the police were waiting for the boat when it landed and some of the migrants were taken into custody.

## Exhibitions

In 2009 the ASC had exhibitions of photos and paintings on display in its corridors and in the Centre's library. These were, as always, much appreciated not only by the ASC staff but also by students, other Leiden University staff members and visitors.

### January-March: Yolé!Africa

Yolé!Africa is a centre for culture and art in Kampala, Uganda that was founded in 2000 by anthropologist Ellen Lammers and artist Petna Ndaliko Katondolo to give refugees from Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea and also Ugandan youngsters the chance to paint, dance and act. The exhibition at the ASC featured paintings by Yosief Habties Indrias (born in Eritrea in 1977) and Daniel Kambere Tsongo (born in Congo in 1964). See [www.stichting-ijayo.nl](http://www.stichting-ijayo.nl) for more details about the centre.



'Cry for Justice' by Yosief Habties Indrias





## 32 April-June: *Sharing Realities II*, Paintings by Nelson Makamo

Nelson Makamo (1982) is a young artist from South Africa who is inspired by the black neighbourhoods of Johannesburg. His charcoal sketches are carefully worked out and enlarged and although he is not afraid of adding a little colour to some of his drawings, black remains dominant in all of them. The drawings in this exhibition were on loan from the iZArte gallery in Zutphen, which has a collection of drawings, sculpture, glass, ceramics and jewellery from South Africa: [www.izarte.nl](http://www.izarte.nl).



*'Time will Tell' by Nelson Makamo*



*Photo taken in Cape Town's Masiphumelele Township, by Hanneke de Vries*

## July-September: Photo exhibition by Hanneke de Vries

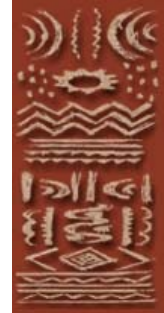
In 2009, freelance photographer and journalist Hanneke de Vries took photos when she visited the Himbas in northern Namibia, various South African townships and also the fashionable Barrydale Karoo Hotel in South Africa. By interacting closely with the people she was photographing, she was able to build up a relationship of trust that allowed her to show a person's real character. See [www.hannekedevries.nl](http://www.hannekedevries.nl) for more information about her African photos.

## October-January: *Bibi, An Artist from Nigeria*

Bibi, a Nigerian artist, was born Bridget Oronya in Lagos in 1986. She and her sisters showed their artistic abilities as children by making people out of paper and using cigarette wrappers to design clothes for them, creating whole families and scenes that depicted their daily lives. These are themes that often return in Bibi's work today. Due to the political situation in Nigeria in the early 1990s, Bibi







and her sisters were sent to Côte d'Ivoire for six months in 1993 and the girls' journey back to Nigeria still inspires Bibi's work: [www.paintingbibi.org](http://www.paintingbibi.org). It is art with a feminine touch!



*'Portrait of a Lady' by Bibi*

## Contact with the Media

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As in previous years, many ASC staff members were asked to give interviews to the media and background information and comments on new items. To name but a few, Marcel Rutten gave interviews about the Kenya Tribunal, the situation in Kenya after the 2008 clashes and development in Africa to Business News Radio, and about the drought in Kenya to Tros Nieuwsshow; Jan Abbink gave at least 15 interviews on current affairs programmes, for example on the Somali crisis and the killing of terrorist suspects (Radio Netherlands Worldwide and NOS Headlines), the decisions taken by the Ethiopia-Eritrea Claims Commission on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict damages claims (Radio France International, English section) and about Eritrea in general (in Trouw); Benjamin Soares was interviewed by The Washington Post about Islam and politics in Mali; Ineke van Kessel gave an interview to NetwerkTV about the return of King Bonsu's head to Ghana; and Stephen Ellis maintained his reputation as the ASC's most popular interviewee giving interviews to a variety of newspapers and national and international radio and TV stations around the world from O Publico in Lisbon to VOX Africa TV, BBC World, Al Jazeera and Australian Radio. And several ASC researchers were asked to advise on preparations for the IKON television programme Rosenmöller in Africa to be broadcast in 2010.



## GOVERNING BODIES AND PERSONNEL (on 31 December 2009)

### 34 Members of the Board of Governors

Ms K.G. Ferrier (Chair)	CDA Member of Parliament
Ms B.E.A. Ambags (Vice-chair)	Former Ambassador to Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe
Ms J. Groen	Journalist with the <i>Volkskrant</i>
A. Lenstra	Former Vice-President of Unilever
Prof. J.B. Opschoor	Institute of Social Studies & VU University



ASC Board of Governors

From left to right: Janny Groen, Anton Lenstra, Trix Ambags, Prof. Hans Opschoor,  
Kathleen Ferrier

Photo: Gitty Petit

### Members of the Scientific Advisory Council

Dr P. Boele van Hensbroek	University of Groningen (retiring in early 2010)
Prof. M.P. van Dijk	Erasmus University, Rotterdam (retiring in early 2010)
Dr S.J.T.M. Evers	VU University, Amsterdam (retiring in early 2010)
Prof. G.E. Frerks (chair)	Wageningen University
G.A. de Groot	Tilburg University
D.H.M. Hillhorst	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam
Dr H. Huisman	Utrecht University
Dr C.H.M. Lutz	University of Groningen
Prof. M.P.G.M. Mous	Leiden University
Dr W. Nauta	Maastricht University
Prof. P.J. Pels	Leiden University
Dr J. Post	University of Amsterdam (retiring in early 2010)
Dr N.R.M. Pouw	University of Amsterdam
Prof. R. Reis	University of Amsterdam
Prof. P. Richards	Wageningen University (retiring in early 2010)
Dr H.J. van Rinsum	Utrecht University (retiring in early 2010)
Prof. M. Salih	Institute of Social Studies (retiring in early 2010)
Dr M.J. Spierenburg	VU University, Amsterdam
Dr C.B. de Steenhuijsen Piters	Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam (retiring in early 2010)
Dr P.D.M. Weesie	University of Groningen
Dr H. Wels	Free University, Amsterdam
Prof. F. Wijnen	Radboud University, Nijmegen





## Personnel

### Director

Prof. L.J. de Haan

### 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, health care, education, the 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	recent 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, South Africa, 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
Dr J.K. van Donge	public administration, democratization, agricultural policy, economic developments, East and Southern Africa
Prof. S.D.K. Ellis	religion and politics, history, West Africa, South Africa, Madagascar

Dr D.W.J. Foeken

Dr J.-B. Gewald

Prof. J.C. Hoorweg

Dr M.M.A. Kaag

R. Keja

Dr W.M.J. van Kessel

W. Klaver

Dr P.J.J. Konings

Dr A.H.M. Leliveld

Dr M.M.E.M. Rutten

Dr B.F. Soares

C. 't Hart

Dr K. van Walraven

urban poverty, urban agriculture, urban water supply, Kenya

social and political history, interaction between people and technology, Southern Africa  
the ecology and economics of the East African coast

migration, social change, development issues, local government, land use, West Africa  
mobility, children's rights discourse, Senegal, Cameroon

democratization, the mass media, social movements, history, South Africa, Ghana

food and food security, urban agriculture, household economics, Kenya

civil society and social movements during economic and political liberalization, Ghana, Cameroon

social security, (micro) insurance, international aid, economic development, Uganda

land reform, water supply and shortages, pastoralism, (eco) tourism, wildlife management, democratization, higher education, migration, fair trade, Kenya, East Africa

religion (Islam in particular), history, politics, West Africa

health insurance, Togo, Congo

international relations, conflict management, rebellions, Niger, West Africa

### Coordinator Research Masters in African Studies

Dr A. Amha

linguistics, the Horn of Africa







## 36 PhD Students

A. Alemu Fanta; F. Diallo; M. Eeckhout; B. Gebeyehu; N. Haynes; L. van de Kamp; B. Kilama; B. Kinuthia; M.E. Leegwater; M. Leenstra; H. Leyten; C.T. Nijenhuis; L. Nijzink; W. Nkwu; S. Ntewusu; A. van Oostrum; A. Pannenburg; L. Pelckmans; D. Seli; D. Setume; R.R. Simiyu; S. Soeters; E. Tegemoh; M. van Vliet; L.A. de Vries

## Library, Documentation and Information Department

J.C.M. Damen	head of department
M.M.O. Boin	documentalist
G.C. van de Bruinhorst	documentalist
M.C.A. van Doorn	documentalist
E.M. Eijkman	documentalist
M.B. van der Lee	assistant librarian
L.A.M. Lijnders	student assistant
A.A.M. van Marrewijk	assistant librarian
M. Oosterkamp	assistant librarian
K. Polman	documentalist
E.M. de Roos	assistant librarian
C.M. Sommeling	documentalist
P.G. Verkaik	assistant librarian

## Administrative Staff

J. Binnendijk	financial administrator
I.C. Butter	student assistant
I.J.G.C. Ligtoet	student assistant
U. Oberst	programme coordinator
G. Petit	executive secretary to the director
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	HR administrator; management assistant

M.C.A. van Winden  
W.J. Zwart

PR coordinator  
publications assistant

## Visiting Fellows in 2009

Dr Kassahun Berhanu	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia SMPC research group
Dr David Enweremadu	University of Ibadan, Nigeria SMPC research group
Dr Moses N. Mwangi	Associate member, EEE research group
Dr Etanislás Ngodi	Network on Migration and Development in Central Africa, Congo SMPC research group
Dr Samia Satti Osman	Khartoum University, Sudan
Mohamed Nour	C & T research group
Dr Samuel O. Owuor	University of Nairobi, Kenya EEE research group
Dr Neil Parsons	University of Botswana C & T research group

## The following members of staff left the ASC during 2009

K.K. Dorrepaal	assistant financial administrator; publications manager
Dr D. Merolla	coordinator Research Masters in African Studies
M.C. Wilson	student assistant
L. van Wouw	webmaster



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



37

(in € '000)	2008	2009
<b>Income</b>		
Netherlands Ministries of:	2,977	3,100
• Education, Culture and Sciences		
• Foreign Affairs		
• Agriculture, Nature Conservation & Fisheries		
Projects for third parties	636	952
Other income (publications, etc.)	149	211
	<hr/> 3,762	<hr/> 4,263
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Personnel	2,410	2,420
Institutional costs	1,487	1,701
Inventory depreciation	26	26
	<hr/> 3,923	<hr/> 4,147

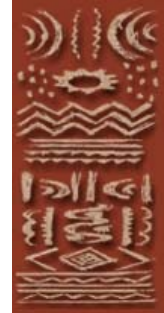


# PUBLICATIONS

## 38 Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Publications

- Abbink, J., Conflict and Social Change on the South-West Ethiopian Frontier: An Analysis of Suri Society, *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 3 (1): 22-41.
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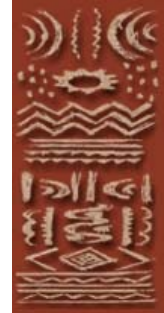
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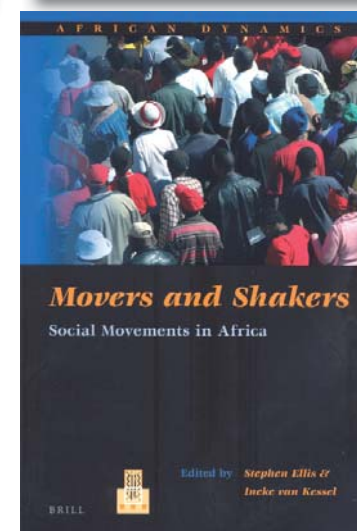
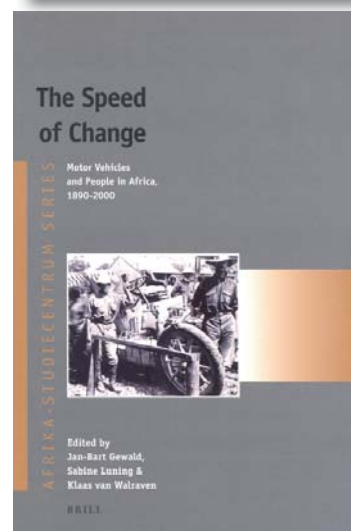
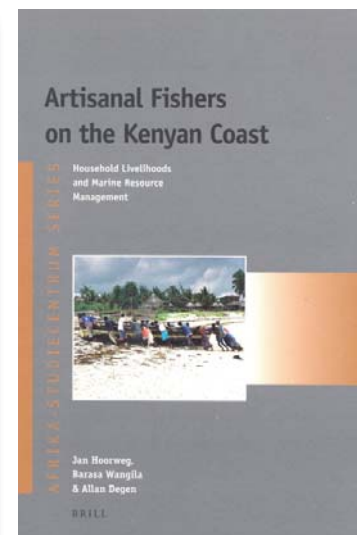
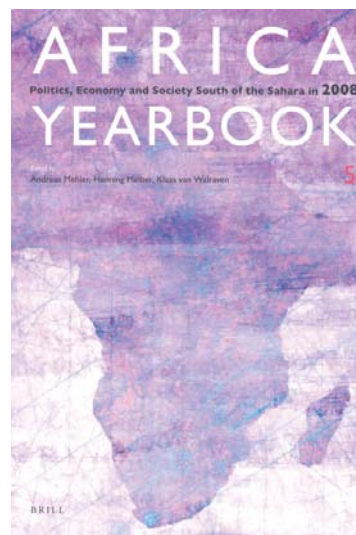
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## SEMINARS

*15 January*

The Darfur War: Masculinity in Crisis and the Contingency of Sudanese Citizenship  
Dr Karin Willemse

*5 February*

Ethnic Federalism in Ethiopia: Genuine Federalism or Divide and Rule  
Dr Aregawi Berhe

*18 February*

Comprendre le Mouvement Nsilulu et la crise politique au Congo Brazzaville  
Dr Etanislav Ngodi

*26 February*

The Double Face of Care and Control: Sickness and Political Subjectivities among Ghanaian Migrants in London  
Kristine Krause

*3 March*

Water-Sector Reforms in Urban Kenya: Institutional Set-Up, Impact and Challenges  
Dr Samuel O. Owuor

*10 March*

'Zimbabwe is No Longer Zimbabwe'  
Dr Marleen Dekker

*16 March*

End of the Rainbow  
Rob Nugent

*26 March*

Development and Stagnation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Is There Still a Role for Development Cooperation?  
Prof. Paul Hoebink

*16 April*

Prestige Diplomacy, Southern Solidarity or Soft Imperialism? Lula's Brazil-Africa Relations  
Prof. Paulo Visentini

*23 April*

Congo: A Work in Progress?  
Prof. Filip de Boeck & Dr Julie Ndaya

*7 May*

Region-Building, Regional Order and Regionalization in Africa  
Prof. Daniel Bach

*20 May*

Exploring Diasporas within Africa  
Dr Oliver Bakewell

*25 May*

Recent Manifestations of Afrikaner Identity in Language and Music  
Prof. Kees van der Waal

*9 June*

Blood from Stones: Ali Mugabe and the 40(0)(0) Thieves. Elites and the Destruction of Zimbabwe's Economy  
Dr Bill Kinsey

*23 June*

Struggle for Discourse Hegemony: The Poetics and Politics of Ethiopian Religious Media  
Berhanu Gebeyehu

*3 September*

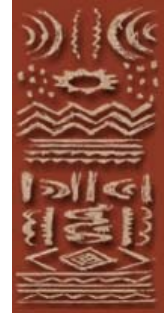
The African Documentary: 'A Picture Paints a Thousand Words'  
Mariët Bakker

*24 September*

Iconisation and Ethnography  
Agnès Pataux, Steef Meyknecht, Prof. Wouter van Beek, Dr Vanessa Wijn-  
gaarden, Dr Jan Jansen, Prof. Peter Pels & Metje Postma

*25 September*

Meet the Ex-President!  
His Excellency John Kufuor, Former President of Ghana





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Beyond 'Good Cop'/'Bad Cop': Everyday Police Corruption in South Africa  
Dr Darshan Vigneswaran
- 13 October  
Ten Years of Muslim Publishing in Tanzania: A Librarian's Perspective  
Gerard C. van de Bruinhorst
- 22 October  
The Telephone Has Grown Legs: Mobile Communication Meets Borders in Africa  
Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn
- 29 October  
Obama, Africom, and the Militarization of Africa  
Dr Daniel Volman
- 11 November  
Getting Justice: Kenya's Deadly Game of Wait and See  
Maina Kiai  
Organized in cooperation with Hivos

- 12 November  
A 'Lost' Rival to Hollywood: South African Feature Films and Their Representation of Africans (1911-1923)  
Prof. Neil Parsons
- 19 November  
Nigeria's Anti-Corruption Campaign (1999-2007): The Politics of a Failed Reform  
Dr David U. Enweremadu
- 15 December  
Sudan's Peace Agreements. Current Challenges and Future Prospects  
Prof. Abdel Ghaffar Mohamed Ahmed

## COLOPHON

### Annual Report 2009, African Studies Centre

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