Vacancy - PhD researcher

‘Embedding land conflict – Decentralized land governance and conflict transformation in Uganda’

The Programme
This research programme ‘Grounding Land Governance’ investigates how land governance evolves in post-conflict situations, as an outcome of the interaction between multiple stakeholders, including government, traditional authorities, NGOs, and local people. Thereby, it looks in particular at how decentralization influences relations of governance, how it impacts the legitimacy and authority of local institutions, and how it affects the resolution of land conflicts. It builds around comparative analysis of case studies from Uganda, Burundi and southern Sudan. A central aim of the project is to foster learning and stimulate exchange on this theme between academics, development organizations, local community institutions, and local governments.

The PhD researcher will be responsible for the research project in Uganda. Decentralization in Uganda has a long history. Though serving as an example for many other African countries, results of the programme are mixed in terms of local participation in decision making and downward accountability of office holders. The research project will explore the experiences with decentralization of land governance in particular. Disputes about land often represent a complex blending of intra-family tensions, local politics and corruption, patronage, institutionalised dispossession or exclusion, and wider economic developments. The project explores such complex relationships between (local) land conflicts and conflicts at other levels in Uganda, identify how those relationships are restructured as a result of decentralization, and what this implies for post-conflict stability.

The research programme is a collaborative effort of:
- the Faculty of Development Studies of the University of Science & Technology in Mbarara, Uganda;
- the Africa Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands;
- the Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM), Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands;
- Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Law and Governance Group, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- VNG International, the Netherlands;
- LOGO South - Millennium Development Goal Program, Kampala, Uganda;
- Bureau de la Coopération suisse, Burundi;
- Resource Based Conflicts Network, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Position
As a PhD researcher, you conduct research on and do ethnographic fieldwork in Uganda. You will collaborate with the other partners in the research team to contribute to the wider aims of the programme. In particular, you will engage in disseminating findings and discussing their implications among relevant stakeholders, including local communities, policy makers, NGOs and academia. The position is based at the Africa Studies Centre. Supervision is provided by the African Studies Centre, CICAM and Mbarara University collaboratively. The PhD title will be awarded by Wageningen University, the Netherlands (see http://www.wageningenuniversity.nl/UK/informationfor/PhD+programmes/

The Requirements
- You have a Masters degree in a relevant discipline (sociology, anthropology, development studies, political sciences)
- You can demonstrate your capacity of conducting high quality research. Earlier research experience on local governance and its reform, or on land disputes is an asset

- You are prepared to carry out extensive ethnographic fieldwork (qualitative, in-depth interviews, participant observation) in the rural area's of Uganda, as well as to conduct a short period of fieldwork in Southern Sudan.
- You have experience in the countries of research: Burundi, Uganda, Southern Sudan
- You are interested in combining a sociological/political/anthropological perspective in research.
- You possess a good knowledge of English. PhD candidates from non-Anglophone countries are required to submit an internationally recognised Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language (TOEFL or British Council, IELTS).
  Speaking local languages is considered an asset
- You are prepared to travel to the Netherlands and Uganda for extended periods, for proposal writing/training (6 months) and writing-up of the PhD thesis (a year).
- You are prepared to attend workshops and seminars of the programme, and give presentations of your own work. On request, you will contribute to courses at ASC and FDS.
- You produce half-yearly reports to be send to the programme coordinators of the ASC, in which all financial aspects and the proceedings of the research are explained, inclusive of all evidence (original tickets, original receipts) of the costs made
- You are available and prepared to do the PhD full-time for a duration of four years and end the 4 years programme with a completed PhD thesis conform international academic standards
- We have a preference for candidates already based in Africa

Contract
Includes stipend of 1,200 (in Uganda) / 1,500 (in the Netherlands) Euro per month. Research and transport costs will be covered by the programme. The candidate is expected to start immediately and be in position for 4 years in a full-time engagement. After 1 year an assessment is made of the progress of the candidate, on the basis of which is decided on the continuation of the contract.

Organisation
The African Studies Centre in Leiden is the only multidisciplinary academic research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. It welcomes African scholars through its visiting fellowship programme, has a monthly seminar programme and an extensive library that is open to the general public. Its current research and education programmes focus on the following themes: Connections and Transformations: The Social Construction of Linking Technologies in Africa and Beyond; Economy, Environment and Exploitation; and Social Movements and Political Culture.
Website: http://www.ascleiden.nl/

The Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) contributes to the interdisciplinary analysis of development in Uganda, by focusing practically on the comparative problems and prospects for Uganda and the Great Lakes region. Other faculty objectives include advancing capacity in development studies by contributing to local, national and international policymaking. It faculty offers degree programmes in development studies as well as community based training focusing on the practical applications of physical and social science to the needs of the community.
Website: http://www.must.ac.ug/view_fac_ins.php?faculty_id=3&faculty_code=ds

The Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM) of the Radboud University Nijmegen is an interdisciplinary institute that offers education and carries out research in the field of conflict studies. In addition to offering elective education in the Bachelor's stage, the CICAM participates in the Human Geography Master's programme 'Conflicts, Territories and Identities'. Its research deals with questions regarding possibilities of conflict prevention and conflict intervention, with special attention to post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding processes.
Website: http://www.ru.nl/cicam

To apply for this PhD position the interested candidates are requested to send
- An (electronic) copy of Research Master, MA degree or Mphil

- thesis or recent publication
- A letter of motivation
- A preliminary (draft) research proposal for the research project (max 1000 words)
- Evidence of familiarity and engagement with ethnographic research
- Declaration of availability to pursue the PhD full time for the next 4 years
- The names and addresses of three referees

Additional information can be obtained from: Prof dr ir J.W.M. van Dijk (dijkh@ascleiden.nl) (tel +31 71 527 3372) or Dr Mathijs van Leeuwen (m.vanleeuwen@fm.ru.nl +31 24 361 1649). **Applications should be sent electronically to Ms Maaike Westra westra@ascleiden.nl**

The final date of application is **October 10, 2010**

Vacancy - PhD researcher

‘Shifting legitimacies – decentralized land governance and legal pluralism in Burundi’

The Programme
This research programme ‘Grounding Land Governance’ investigates how land governance evolves in post-conflict situations, as an outcome of the interaction between multiple stakeholders, including government, traditional authorities, NGOs, and local people. Thereby, it looks in particular at how decentralization influences relations of governance, how it impacts the legitimacy and authority of local institutions, and how it affects the resolution of land conflicts. It builds around comparative analysis of case studies from Uganda, Burundi and southern Sudan. A central aim of the project is to foster learning and stimulate exchange on this theme between academics, development organizations, local community institutions, and local governments.

The PhD researcher will be responsible for the research project in Burundi. The transition from war to peace in Burundi is marked by multiple land conflicts related to displacement and return, a surge in land grabbing, as well as structural land scarcity, persisting inequality and a lack of alternative livelihood options. This research project explores how state authorities as well as customary institutions and new institutions created through aid interventions deal with these multiple land conflicts. Currently, there is considerable debate about the attributes and interplay between these different institutions, which each have their limitations. With a view to more effective responses to land conflict, decentralization and land governance reform have been introduced in Burundi. These developments reshape the authority and legitimacy of the different institutions and legal frameworks and intensify a situation of legal pluralism. The project explores such changes in relative authority and legitimacy of locally prevailing institutions, and how this impacts local capacities for resolving land conflicts.

The research programme is a collaborative effort of:
- the Faculty of Development Studies of the University of Science & Technology in Mbarara, Uganda;
- the Africa Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands;
- the Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM), Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands;
- Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Law and Governance Group, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- VNG International, the Netherlands;
- LOGO South - Millennium Development Goal Program, Kampala, Uganda;
- Bureau de la Coopération suisse, Burundi;
- Resource Based Conflicts Network, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Position
As a PhD researcher, you conduct research on and do ethnographic fieldwork in Burundi. You will collaborate with the other partners in the research team to contribute to the wider aims of the programme. In particular, you will engage in disseminating findings and discussing their implications among relevant stakeholders, including local communities, policy makers, NGOs and academia. The position is based at the Africa Studies Centre. Supervision is provided by the African Studies Centre, The Disaster Studies group at Wageningen University and Mbarara University collaboratively. The PhD title will be awarded by Wageningen University, the Netherlands (see
http://www.wageningenuniversity.nl/UK/informationfor/PhD+programmes/

The Requirements
- You have a Masters degree in a relevant discipline (sociology, anthropology, development studies, political sciences)

- You can demonstrate your capacity of conducting high quality research. Earlier research experience on local governance and its reform, or on land disputes is an asset
- You are prepared to carry out extensive ethnographic fieldwork (qualitative, in-depth interviews, participant observation) in the rural area's of Burundi, as well as to conduct a short period of fieldwork in Uganda
- You have experience in the countries of research: Burundi, Uganda, Southern Sudan
- You are interested in combining a sociological/political/anthropological perspective in research.
- You possess a good knowledge of English and French. PhD candidates from non-Anglophone countries are required to submit an internationally recognised Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language (TOEFL or British Council, IELTS). Proficiency in Kirundi or Kiswahili is considered an asset;
- You are prepared to travel to the Netherlands and Uganda for extended periods, for proposal writing/training (6 months) and writing-up of the PhD thesis (a year).
- You are prepared to attend workshops and seminars of the programme, and give presentations of your own work. On request, you will contribute to courses at ASC and FDS.
- You produce half-yearly reports to be send to the programme coordinators of the ASC, in which all financial aspects and the proceedings of the research are explained, inclusive of all evidence (original tickets, original receipts) of the costs made
- You are available and prepared to do the PhD full-time for a duration of four years and end the 4 years programme with a completed PhD thesis conform international academic standards
- We have preference for a candidate already based in Africa

Contract
Includes stipend of 1,200 (in Burundi/Uganda) / 1,500 (in the Netherlands) Euro per month. Research and transport costs will be covered by the programme. The candidate is expected to start immediately and be in position for 4 years in a full-time engagement. After 1 year an assessment is made of the progress of the candidate, on the basis of which is decided on the continuation of the contract.

Organisation
The African Studies Centre in Leiden is the only multidisciplinary academic research institute in the Netherlands devoted entirely to the study of Africa. It welcomes African scholars through its visiting fellowship programme, has a monthly seminar programme and an extensive library that is open to the general public. Its current research and education programmes focus on the following themes: Connections and Transformations: The Social Construction of Linking Technologies in Africa and Beyond; Economy, Environment and Exploitation; and Social Movements and Political Culture.
Website: http://www.ascleiden.nl/

The Faculty of Development Studies (FDS) at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) contributes to the interdisciplinary analysis of development in Uganda, by focusing practically on the comparative problems and prospects for Uganda and the Great Lakes region. Other faculty objectives include advancing capacity in development studies by contributing to local, national and international policymaking. It faculty offers degree programmes in development studies as well as community based training focusing on the practical applications of physical and social science to the needs of the community.
Website: http://www.must.ac.ug/view_fac_ins.php?faculty_id=3&faculty_code=ds

Disaster Studies offers education, research and policy advice on the issues of conflict and natural disasters, the relations between these crises and processes of development, and the dynamics of aid interventions during and after disaster and conflict. It contributes with qualitative research to multi-disciplinary approaches. Disaster Studies combines academic teaching and research with a desire to enhance policy discussions and local and international responses to disaster and conflict. Research is interactive in nature and builds on dialogue with policy-makers and people in the field.
Website: http://www.disasterstudies.nl/UK/

To apply for this PhD position the interested candidates are requested to send

- An (electronic) copy of Research MA degree or Mphil
- thesis or recent publication
- A letter of motivation
- A preliminary (draft) research proposal for the research project (max 1000 words)
- Evidence of familiarity and engagement with ethnographic research
- Declaration of availability to pursue the PhD full time for the next 4 years
- The names and addresses of three referees

Additional information can be obtained from: Prof dr ir J.W.M. van Dijk (dijkh@ascleiden.nl) (tel +31 71 527 3372) or Dr Mathijs van Leeuwen (m.vanleeuwen@fm.ru.nl +31 24 361 1649). **Applications should be sent electronically to Ms Maaike Westra westra@ascleiden.nl**

The final date of application is **October 10, 2010**

Vacancy - PhD researcher

‘Reconstructing the state – Decentralized land governance and relations of governance in Southern Sudan’

The Programme
This research programme ‘Grounding Land Governance’ investigates how land governance evolves in post-conflict situations, as an outcome of the interaction between multiple stakeholders, including government, traditional authorities, NGOs, and local people. Thereby, it looks in particular at how decentralization influences relations of governance, how it impacts the legitimacy and authority of local institutions, and how it affects the resolution of land conflicts. It builds around comparative analysis of case studies from Uganda, Burundi and southern Sudan. A central aim of the project is to foster learning and stimulate exchange on this theme between academics, development organizations, local community institutions, and local governments.

The PhD researcher will be responsible for the research project in Southern Sudan. In Southern Sudan, decentralization policies are implemented after a very long civil war, in a context where the state has largely been absent in the past. Reforming land governance in such a context is a process of reordering and re-negotiating power relationships between local people and the state. Legitimacy of both local institutions and newly emerging state structures is contested, and it remains unclear how local people will participate in decision making about problems related to land allocation. The project explores how decentralization develops in the interaction between emerging land governance by the state and ongoing local land governance processes. The project will focus on the challenges for outsiders’ intervention in dealing with such institutions, which are often preconceived in terms such as ‘patronage’ or ‘nepotism’, yet may be deeply rooted in local communities. It will explore how public authority gets shape, and how political legitimacy, downward accountability and accessibility of both state and non-state institutions comes about at the local level.

The research programme is a collaborative effort of:
- the Faculty of Development Studies of the University of Science & Technology in Mbarara, Uganda;
- the Africa Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands;
- the Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management (CICAM), Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands;
- Disaster Studies, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Law and Governance Group, Wageningen University, the Netherlands;
- Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands;
- VNG International, the Netherlands;
- LOGO South - Millennium Development Goal Program, Kampala, Uganda;
- Bureau de la Coopération suisse, Burundi;
- Resource Based Conflicts Network, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Position
As a PhD researcher, you conduct research on and do ethnographic fieldwork in Southern Sudan. You will collaborate with the other partners in the research team to contribute to the wider aims of the programme. In particular, you will engage in disseminating findings and discussing their implications among relevant stakeholders, including local communities, policy makers, NGOs and academia. The position is based at the Africa Studies Centre. Supervision is provided by the African Studies Centre, CICAM and Mbarara University collaboratively. PhD title will be awarded by Wageningen University, the Netherlands (see http://www.wageningenuniversity.nl/UK/informationfor/PhD+programmes/

The Requirements
- You have a Masters degree in a relevant discipline (sociology, anthropology, development studies, political sciences)

- You can demonstrate your capacity of conducting high quality research. Earlier research experience on local governance and its reform, or on land disputes is an asset
- You are prepared to carry out extensive ethnographic fieldwork (qualitative, in-depth interviews, participant observation) in the rural area's of Southern Sudan, as well as to conduct a short period of fieldwork in Burundi
- You have experience in the countries of research: Burundi, Uganda, Southern Sudan
- You are interested in combining a sociological/political/anthropological perspective in research.
- You possess a good knowledge of English and French. PhD candidates from non-Anglophone countries are required to submit an internationally recognised Certificate of Proficiency in the English Language (TOEFL or British Council, IELTS).
  Speaking local languages is considered an asset
- You are prepared to travel to the Netherlands and Uganda for extended periods, for proposal writing/training (6 months) and writing-up of the PhD thesis (a year).
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- You produce half-yearly reports to be send to the programme coordinators of the ASC, in which all financial aspects and the proceedings of the research are explained, inclusive of all evidence (original tickets, original receipts) of the costs made
- You are available and prepared to do the PhD full-time for a duration of four years and end the 4 years programme with a completed PhD thesis conform international academic standards
- We have preference for an Africa-based candidate

Contract
Includes stipend of 1,200 (in Southern Sudan) / 1,500 (in the Netherlands) Euro per month. Research and transport costs will be covered by the programme. The candidate is expected to start immediately and be in position for 4 years in a full-time engagement. After 1 year an assessment is made of the progress of the candidate, on the basis of which is decided on the continuation of the contract.

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Website: http://www.ascleiden.nl/

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Website: http://www.must.ac.ug/view_fac_ins.php?faculty_id=3&faculty_code=ds

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Website: http://www.ru.nl/cicam

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