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2008 marked the African Studies Centre's 60th anniversary, or at least that of its predecessor. Having organized the huge 2nd European Conference on African Studies just a few months earlier, we decided to celebrate this anniversary not with another conference but with a 'birthday party' for all the ASC personnel and the members of its advisory and governing bodies. Celebrations were also required in 2008 to mark 40 years of the ASC's African Studies Abstracts. The first volume of abstracts, published as Documentatieblad, appeared in 1968 and since then some 75,000 abstracts of journal articles and edited works on Africa in the field of the social sciences and the humanities have been published by the African Studies Centre. And since 2003 these have also been available online. Well-deserved congratulations go to the library staff for all their hard work in this area.

Congratulations are also in order here for two ASC researchers who were appointed as professors in 2008: Mirjam de Bruijn gave her inaugural address at Leiden University on becoming Professor of Contemporary History and Anthropology of West and Central Africa, while Stephen Ellis was appointed Desmond Tutu Professor in Youth, Sport and Reconciliation at the VU University in Amsterdam. Both remain at the ASC as researchers and we wish them all the very best in their new endeavours.

The ASC library was very pleased to be able to take over the American online bibliographic database AfricaBib in 2008. It is a welcome addition to the Centre's online services and will be continually extended and provided with links to full texts of articles. Many of the journal articles in the ASC catalogue are now only two clicks away from the full text. The ASC link resolver also provides other options such as book covers, access to movie trailers and information on a book's availability in other European, African or American libraries. And on the subject of publications, we were delighted that seven new titles appeared in the African Studies Collection series in 2008. This is fast becoming a very popular in-house series.

After last year's launch of the new research programme, the research staff started on their new research plans, often in conjunction with a number of externally funded projects. Without exception, these projects are being implemented in close collaboration with researchers in Africa, demonstrating again the continuous commitment of the Centre and individual researchers to what is at the heart of any study of African societies, namely joint empirical research. The IS Academy on 'The State in Africa', a collaborative programme between the ASC and the Directorate Africa at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took off with a number of additional PhD projects and a series of challenging lectures by high-profile scientists.

New times also present new challenges and one of the greatest challenges the ASC is facing is coping with its ever-rising financial costs. Stepping up efforts to increase external funding seems the most obvious solution but this too requires investment from the Centre's core budget. An example of one such project already in progress is the successful, externally funded project on mobile telephony in Africa and the impact the arrival of the mobile phone is having on African societies across the continent. The ASC clearly needs to diversify its funding sources and the mid-term evaluation process, which started at the end of 2008, will help us to reflect on new points of departure, redefine objectives and set clear priorities in order to successfully continue our mission.
While compiling this report, the ASC was saddened to learn of the death of Gerti Hesseling, who was director at the Centre between 1996 and 2004. We will all miss her enthusiasm, sense of social justice, deep interest in both her subject and the people she met, and her cheerful and outgoing personality.

As the ASC continues its research on Africa, it is becoming increasingly involved in different subjects and research projects. This Annual Report outlines many of them and I hope you will enjoy reading about our work and the changing face of Africa from a social-sciences perspective.

Leo de Haan
Director

ASC researchers (For names and specializations, see page 30.)
RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Introduction

According to the ASC 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 organized in three theme groups: Connections and Transformations; Economy, Environment and Exploitation; and Social Movements and Political Culture. Each group consists of a number of ASC researchers and some affiliated members from other academic institutions in the Netherlands and Africa. Researchers in each group usually have different disciplinary backgrounds so the theme 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 the 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 rapid social, economic and political developments on the African continent. It is approached in 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, it is especially suitable for a problem-oriented approach defined by scientific and policy-oriented criteria. A strong empirical emphasis is one of the hallmarks of ASC research.

The ASC’s research has a high degree of scientific relevance and almost all of it is potentially significant for policy both in Africa and in the Netherlands. The Centre is first and foremost an academic research institution with a research agenda of its own. However, it is ready to engage in research projects initiated and facilitated by external governmental and non-governmental parties if these are in line with the ASC’s own research priorities and academic standards. The resources the ASC can draw upon allow its research to be of an empirical nature, rooted in primary data collection in African societies, without neglecting additional sources in and beyond Africa.
The Connections and Transformations theme group conducts research into social transformations in Africa that have resulted from the introduction of new forms of technology. New technologies are seen to be shaping different connections between people that, in turn, will lead to transformations in society. Technology is considered in the broadest sense of the word here, including not only industrial technology but also models of organization as they are introduced by religions, ideological or development strategies.

Workshops were organized in 2008 to develop the core ideas of the theme group’s research programme more extensively, with special attention being paid to the increasing intensity of and acceleration in contacts between different areas in the sense of exchanges of people and ideas. It is clear that, in Africa too, information and communications technology is playing a significant role in this area even though governments and international organizations are making such contacts and the mobility of people increasingly difficult. Research into connections should begin with research into the bonding (the internal connectivity of a group) and bridging (the capacity to form connections between groups) of people, groups and societies and the part played here by ideology and social technology. Processes of marginalization in the context of the many social relations maintained by people in Africa should not be ignored.

The theme group’s research into the connection between HIV/AIDS and religion considered how churches in Botswana are trying to influence the marriage patterns of their members through counselling in an attempt to cut the rate of HIV/AIDS. Churches are appearing to be increasingly more influential in this fight and are establishing faith-based organizations that are successfully acquiring funds from international organizations to put the battle against HIV/AIDS on the public agenda.

The ‘ICE in Africa: The Relationship between People and the Internal Combustion Engine in Africa’ project, which is financed by an NWO-VIDI grant, organized an international conference in 2008 to discuss the major social changes that took place in Zambia in the 1950s following the revival of mining there. In addition, and on the basis of historical research in Ghana, Malawi and Zambia, it was shown how the introduction of a new technology, like automobiles, led to changes in patterns of consumption and in the ambitions of ordinary Africans.

The NWO-funded ‘Mobile Africa Revisited’ project, which is investigating mobilities as enabling connections and the way they are shaped by various communication technologies, organized a kick-off workshop in 2008.
Some research projects take a long time to come to fruition and mine on Dogon masks has demanded a lot of patience. I started my research on the Dogon of Central Mali in 1979-1980 and have made return visits more or less every other year since then. The topic was broader than just masks but masks form the core of the Dogon’s second funeral; the first being the burial of the body itself, which the Dogon do in caves in the sandstone cliffs that tower over their villages. The second funeral is the *dama* and is a masquerade that takes months to prepare and three weeks to carry out, a ritual that guides the deceased from the status of deceased to their new status as ancestor. It is only held about once every twelve years. During the mask feast, all the young men who have never danced with masks before are initiated into dancers; they all make their own mask and the costume belonging to it, and perform for weeks in the village, with five days of dancing in full costume before a huge audience. After this *dama*, the young men are initiated, the deceased are ancestors and newborn babies can take the name of their dead grandparents. This is strictly according to Dogon religion.

However, the Dogon area attracts tourists due to its cliffside setting and its spectacular performances. More than 100,000 flock annually to the Falaise de Bandiagara, with one of the attractions indeed being the mask dances, which are routinely performed for tourists. Tireli, my fieldwork village, has become renowned for its mask performances, partly as a result of a book of photographs I published in 1982.

This is when the problem started. The village consists of two halves but they have always held their *dama* together, although the last one was in 1970. Both halves competed for the tourists’ attention and organized tourist dances in 1982. But a tourist dance is not a real *dama* and contains no initiation element. What then happened was that the two halves could no longer agree about holding a real *dama*. So throughout my research I have waited for a *dama* to be held: initially drought made it impossible (as the festival needs plenty of millet beer), then a locust plague destroyed the crops, and then the clan elder in charge of the mask altar spoiled his sanctuary. There was a long series of excuses over the years.

I waited all that time, telling my colleagues that the mask festival would perhaps be held the following year. In the end, nobody believed me any longer and I sometimes wavered myself. Other villages had their *dama* without problems and I participated, but participating as an outsider is different from being on the inside. As the years went by I waited and waited, publishing on masks (in other *dama*) and on other elements of Dogon religion but without the insider knowledge of ‘my own masks’.

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*Stilt masque representing waterbird*  
(Photographer: Wouter van Beek)
Then came last year February. The news from Mali was promising; a *dama* would finally be held in Tireli. But there was a hitch. Only the southern half of the village had decided to dance, the northern half – my half! – was still undecided. Well, I did not want to wait in vain, so I went, with a notion of reconciliation between the two halves at the back of my mind. After all, this was a conflict I was personally involved in. So I went early, at the end of March, to adapt to the heat (46°C during the day, minimum 35°C). It soon became apparent that reconciliation was out of the question. The south would dance and the north was bent on thwarting their dance as far as possible. Throughout the long preparations, 'my' northerners did everything in their power to hinder the south's *dama*. The altar that guards the masks is in the north and the clan elder refused to perform the traditional sacrifice: it would be an affront. The south gave a sack of millet and a rooster for the sacrifice but the elder, at the instigation of the other northerners, refused not only to sacrifice it but refused the gift as such. The sack of millet remained on the ground in front of the clan house, and they let the rooster die by the door. A gift refused in this way is almost a declaration of war and that was indeed the case here. But the south continued with its *dama*. The ritual preparations involve a series of visits by the masks of one half to the other. The south followed this rule religiously but the north forbad their masks in their half, even at night. When the young village chief, a northerner, tried to intervene, he was castigated by his elders for 'spoiling the village'.

Why this uncompromising position? The reason was complex and has a long history. Mask dances are a tourist attraction in Tireli but who can dance for the tourists? The orthodox position was that only the initiated should dance, i.e., those who had danced a real *dama*. The other view was more liberal: tourist dances are one thing, a *dama* is different and so anybody can dance. During a historic meeting of the two village halves in the early 1980s, the south had opted for the first position, the north for the second. This suited the north well, as tourism had intensified after my book came out, and they had lots of clients. The south gradually ran into difficulties as the dancers grew older and older – and are these dancers ever athletic even in temperatures of 45°C! So waiting through the drought, the locusts and the quarrels, the boys from the south had grown impatient and wanted to dance and corner the tourist market. For the same reason, the north would not hear of a real *dama*, as that would rob them of their tourist monopoly.

This was the issue that came to a head in 2008. The south prepared a *dama* for itself, and the north tried to make it illegal. The south prevailed and held their dance, a great spectacle with sixty-odd masks, a wonderful setting and lots of spectators. No one from the north came to watch. My older brother, one of the fiercest opponents of the south's *dama*, did not see even one mask. But as Dogon are fascinated by their own masks, he asked me every night what it looked like, and he has seen my photos. Things became complicated when the clan elder in charge of the masks died and the preparations had to be interrupted for his funeral. This death reminded the Dogon that masks are not just things for tourists but are a vital force in themselves. They are powerful and to be feared. The reactions to this death were characteristic. The north said: 'He had been ill for a long time'. But the south knew better: 'His refusal to sacrifice was illegitimate and the altar struck him down'. In the end, the *dama* was a great success for the south at least. And now we are waiting for the *dama* from the other half!

*Wouter van Beek*
The Economy, Environment and Exploitation theme group researches processes of impoverishment and accumulation in African societies. The programme’s core research question is how people’s access to resources is determined by institutions and social relations and how this affects the creation of opportunities for the accumulation of wealth. Researchers are focusing on the development and integration of markets in Africa and the exploitation of resources from a political-economic perspective.

The group’s important scientific results to date appeared in a 2008 volume in the African Dynamics series on poverty and development in Africa that highlighted how, although development policy claims to be pro-poor, it is, in reality, the better-off who benefit the most from these policies. This often stems from the fact that incorrect assumptions are made in development policy about who the poor really are and where poverty is actually located. The enormous heterogeneity amongst the poor, which makes it impossible for some to benefit from certain opportunities, is not being recognized. It has also become clear that, despite the many similarities between African economies, the differences in population, climate, political system and external trade relations are so important that specific country analyses are needed to create better-adjusted policies to fight poverty.

Although the ASC’s Tracking Development project, which is researching precisely this issue, has not yet been able to provide any clear-cut answers, several preliminary conclusions can be drawn. For instance, comparative research of Uganda and Cambodia has demonstrated that accelerated economic growth recently occurred as a result of high export prices, favourable trade agreements and extensive development aid. Cautious macro-economic policies regarding taxation and advantageous exchange rates have also added to this growth. However this is mainly based on resource exploitation and not on increased productivity. Both countries still have a narrow economic basis and depend heavily on development aid. The sustainability of such economic growth therefore has to be questioned. From the start, the comparison between Kenya and Malaysia has shown that structural differences in the availability of natural resources, the influence of their strategic geographic location and access to education are all important, with Malaysia coming out on top in all these areas. The comparison between Tanzania and Vietnam highlights how it is not economic liberalization but disciplined government fiscal policy, macro-economic stabilization and support for the agrarian sector that are the key factors in economic growth.

The theme group’s research in Kenya into access to natural resources, specifically water, has shown that the shortage of water due to lower groundwater levels has led to increased levels of conflict. According to meteorological and environmental data, these water problems cannot be attributed directly to climate change but a link to an increase in groundwater usage for floriculture and forestry is clear. It is striking that conflicts are being fought out less along ethnic lines (the Maasai versus the others) and more along class lines (small-scale Maasai and Kikuyu farmers versus powerful landowners or companies).
Surviving in Present-day Zimbabwe

Mai Justin (45) is a farmer in the Sengezi Resettlement Scheme. She has twelve acres of land and was doing reasonably well after establishing her farm here in the early 1980s. In years with good rainfall she was able to produce more food than she needed to feed her family and was always able to keep some in stock for less successful years, or could sell some at the market. With the money she earned, she could pay the school fees for her four children and also invest in cattle. Over the years she had built up a herd of eight head of cattle.

About seven or eight years ago, life started to become progressively more difficult, the seeds and fertilizer she needed for farming were difficult to come by and increasingly more expensive, and the money she earned from selling her crops was worthless within a few weeks. In 2005, her daughters Melody and Fungai decided to go to Botswana to try their luck at (illegal) cross-border trading. Although Mai Justin finds it difficult to farm her plots without their labour, the remittances her daughters bring home at least provide her with the money she needs to buy inputs and food.

When I visited her at her homestead the first time in November 2008, she did not have time to talk. The day before she had finished her last cup of mealie meal and she did not have any money left to buy food. She had heard about a farmer in another village who was willing to exchange maize for a beast and she wanted to visit him to discuss the details. When we met two days later she told me she had traded a cow for ten bags of maize. A bad barter, she said, as her cows used to fetch at least twenty bags of maize. But these days, maize is scarce and her daughters were only coming home in ten days’ time. This was the third time in the last few years that she had had to sell an animal to meet an emergency. And Mai Justin was one of the lucky ones, she still had a cow she could sell.

Mai Justin’s story is just one example of how people are currently struggling to survive in Zimbabwe. The political and economic crisis of the past decade has resulted in double-digit negative growth rates, skyrocketing inflation, a decline in the rule of law and order, and a disintegration of markets, notably the rural input, output and labour markets. My research has involved documenting how the socio-economic environment of small-scale farmers has changed over the past seven years and how farmers have responded to these changes. For this study I teamed up with three local researchers to revisit 75 households in two different parts of the country that had been part of a longitudinal study starting just after independence in 1980. Building on existing survey data from the late 1990s, we collected new survey data in 2007/2008 and are exploring important developments regarding the changes in these farmers’ livelihoods.
We are finding changes ranging from increased mobility to decreased asset holdings, both of which are directly influenced by the local institutional environment. Apart from natural mobility related to life-cycle events such as marriage and the temporary fostering of children, we are seeing increasing mobility in search of livelihoods. Household members are having to move away to look for employment in towns or abroad, like Mai Justin’s daughters, or to start a new farm somewhere else. More land is being devoted to food production in terms of crop cultivation, with a wider range of food crops being grown than before. With high inflation, a sharp reduction in demand for labour on commercial farms and a lack of demand for products in general, the options for off-farm income have been significantly reduced in all areas. Finally, we are seeing a reduction in asset holdings, most specifically in cattle ownership. The number of households with no or fewer than two head of cattle increased dramatically between 1999 and 2008.

Although such changes have been observed in both research areas, the situation is less dire in the area where crop marketing organizations are still operational. With the continued provision of inputs (on credit), these organizations are able to support an agricultural production system that remains at the heart of these farmers’ livelihoods.

*Marleen Dekker*
The Social Movements and Political Culture theme group is researching new social movements, elites and forms of political organization in Africa against the background of the continent’s political cultures. On the one hand, these political cultures are deeply rooted in the past; while on the other they are finding themselves subject to rapid changes through liberalization and globalization. Research questions focus on the difficult process of political reform and democratization, new forms of insecurity and political instability, and changes in the existing social mechanisms of mediation and tolerance.

In 2008 the theme group contributed to the analysis of both continuing and emerging conflicts in Kenya, Sudan (in the South and in Darfur), Chad, Ethiopia, Somalia and DR Congo. In general, it was noted that these conflicts were a result of the interaction between local historical factors and processes of integration in the world system. A study of the legal and historical backgrounds of the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea highlighted how mistakes in the International Court of Justice’s 2002 verdict were still having repercussions.

This has taken place against a backdrop of political reform in Africa in the fields of democratic accountability and economic redistribution, which have shown only limited progress. However, researchers expect important input and reactions from social movements in Africa to reforms of the political system. To stimulate the conceptualization of these social movements, a conference was organized to discuss the link between current social movement theories and various cases in Africa (and Europe) and to compare types of mobilization and the formulation of demands. In this context, the preliminary results of research into the post-1994 careers of anti-apartheid activists in South Africa could be mentioned. The shift within the ANC’s mobilization strategy from non-racialism to Africanism is not being contested by most of the former activists, except by Coloured activists in the Western Cape.

In 2008 the theme group contributed significantly to the success of the IS Academy’s ‘The State in Africa’ project that is being organized in cooperation with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The PhD students researching state formation in Southern Sudan, land conflicts and the political system in Rwanda/Burundi, and health-sector policies and donor interventions in Zambia all undertook fieldwork. Research also started on a new PhD project on the process of democratization in Mali, in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute of Multiparty Democracy.
Some years ago I met an Ethiopian Christian merchant in northern Ethiopia who had just returned from visiting a Muslim shrine. I asked him why he, as a Christian, had gone there. A naïve question, it appeared, because Christians in Ethiopia regularly visit Muslim 'holy places', just as Muslims also often visit Christian holy locations or consult powerful Christian healers or religious persons. The man answered: 'I went because of my vow to the saint some years back. I had health problems and other worries and I went to the shrine to receive a blessing and healing. It worked. So I went back to pay my respects and take some gifts. The shrine has power and the sheikh there is a good man.'

As part of my ongoing research on religious culture and political developments in the Horn of Africa, I have myself visited various Muslim shrines in northern Ethiopia, mostly in the Wollo region. This is an ancient Ethiopian heartland that has old and prestigious Orthodox Christian monasteries and churches, and is an area of ethnic and religious heterogeneity but with a shared underlying culture and language (Amharic). In current debates in African Studies on the relationship between religion and politics, a question that always arises is about the exact role religion has in African political and community life. This role appears to be significant and can take many surprising forms. The Muslim shrines that I visited in Wollo are places where an important Muslim holy man (wali, pl. awliya, or sheikh) is venerated. These men are seen as intercessors with God (Allah) and their descendants or successors practise their role as mediators and devotees of a certain Sufi order. The saints as such are not venerated as if they themselves were holy or prophets but as powerful men divinely gifted with healing powers, justice and a pious character.

Two places in Wollo – Teru-Sina and Chaali – are marked by specific religious practices and a relaxed atmosphere of deep religiosity and devotion in a communal setting. They are centres belonging to a particular Sufi order, which in northern Ethiopia is usually the Qadiriyya order.

The big wooden mosque at the Muslim ‘monastery’ (Sufi Center) of Teru-Sina, Wollo (Photo: Jan Abbink)
These places have the traits of a monastery in that they are exclusively devoted to religious service and have separate areas for men and women, who may not intermingle. Each has their own mosque or prayer house and is self-sufficient in cooking and other daily chores. Farmers in the surrounding areas provide the foodstuffs that the residents do not cultivate themselves and members spend their days praying, studying and discussing religious texts. There is a remarkable communal spirit. Some people come to stay for a couple of years to recover from personal problems or crisis, to ‘find themselves’ or to learn about religion. Others stay longer or become life-long devotees. The community always has the shrine of the founder as its centre and is headed by the incumbent of the sheikh line. Thousands of visitors come on pilgrimage to the shrine on Mawlid (the Prophet Mohammed’s birthday) or on the Id al’Adha (Feast of the Offering) for commemorative rites and healing ceremonies. These places are vibrant centres of religious experience and play an important role in local communal life.

As we are not only commissioned to tell nice stories about human experiences but also to do research, the question to ask here is: what is the scientific value of knowledge about such religious places? Well, research has shown that the scope of (Muslim) religious expression in Ethiopia and elsewhere is broad and intricately interwoven in a country’s cultural and historical fabric. In northern Ethiopia, a model of religious culture has developed that defies easy stereotyping. The history and anthropology of this society and its breadth of religious expression and perhaps religious epistemologies (i.e. ways of apprehending the world) need to be explored and explained. Research can thus, hopefully, bring nuance into discussions of religion in Africa. It can also underline the fact that these ‘traditional’ places of Muslim (Sufi) religious culture are precarious: they are in danger of being delegitimized by radical purist Islam and its zealots who are expanding their influence in Ethiopia, imposing their fanatic versions of Islam and introducing intimidation and a lack of tolerance. They would, for example, totally prohibit any Christian (or even any mainstream Muslim!) from visiting such places.

And finally, there is the danger that writing about these shrines will encourage people to start visiting such places en masse, perhaps not showing them the respect they deserve. I would discourage this and let the local people practise their faith in their own way. This holds not only for the Muslim zealots who want to ‘reform’ what they incorrectly and arrogantly see as ‘un-Islamic’ or ‘wrong’ religious practice but also for the tourists and other outsiders. They would be well advised not to impose their exoticizing and often suffocating curiosity on the people of Ethiopia who are striving to remain faithful to the traditions of their ancestors and what they cherish in order to find a place in today’s modern world. There are enough indications to suggest that these Muslim retreats are fulfilling precisely this function.

Jan Abbink
The Research Masters in African Studies (ResMaAS) is a two-year programme offered jointly by Leiden University and the African Studies Centre. Organized at the ASC under the direction of Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn, the programme involves contributions from more than forty lecturers engaged in interdisciplinary dialogues and disciplinary specializations. The course concentrates on the theory and practice of African Studies in the first semester, while in the second semester specialized tracks and seminars prepare the students for their six months of fieldwork. The fourth and last semester is entirely dedicated to the writing up of fieldwork results and writing a thesis. The thematic tracks and regional courses are offered in a 'colloquium' format (with three consecutive lectures) to enhance interdisciplinarity and offer students the opportunity to attend lectures that are part of a track/regional course different to their chosen specialization.

Now in its third year, the Research Masters in African Studies celebrated the graduation in 2008 of the first eight students who started the ResMaAS programme in 2006. One of the students, Jonna Both, was awarded her diploma cum laude. The new group of talented first-year students (academic programme 2008-2010) is concluding its track specialization, while the second-year students (academic programme 2007-2009) have returned from their fieldwork with promising material. They are meeting regularly with track leaders Mirjam de Bruijn and Robert Ross who are supervising the writing of their theses.

The ResMaAS coordinators, supported by the members of the Board, the Study Committee and the Exam Committee, have evaluated the first three-year programme, together with the students and lecturers. A difficult issue has been the compulsory double intake in September and February because the programme's progressive nature does not make a February intake feasible. The financial platform of the Research Masters also needs to be evaluated and consolidated but, considering the difficulty of raising funds and the increasing cutbacks, the course organizers are particularly happy that the two current scholarships for African students have been confirmed for the coming academic year. Extra funding to support students on fieldwork is still needed.

Such an intensive and complex programme is only possible thanks to the generous cooperation of several institutions and their lecturers: 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), the University of Groningen, Leuven University, the National Museum of Ethnology, the Royal Tropical Institute, and CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa) in Senegal.

Daniela Merolla
THE IS ACADEMY: ‘THE STATE IN AFRICA’

The African Studies Centre and the Sub-Saharan Africa Department (DAF) at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs started formal cooperation as IS Academy partners in February 2007. The programme entitled ‘The State in Africa’ encourages research and the sharing of information on the functioning of the state in Africa. State institutions in Africa are important partners of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but, perhaps more than in other parts of the world, there is a considerable difference in Africa between formal institutions and rules of state and the real institutions and forces that determine state behaviour. This has major consequences for the expectations of both parties and for the outcome of agreements between African states and the Netherlands. The IS Academy plans to build on existing knowledge about the character of the African state and offer input for a realistic and effective Dutch Africa policy. The IS Academy provides the opportunity for regular contact between ASC staff and the government department handling the Dutch-Africa policy. The IS Academy aims to encourage and stimulate consultation, collaboration and an exchange of information.

The Human Factors Beyond the Façade of the State and the Sector

Discussions on the African state sketch a gloomy and discouraging view of Africa. Failed and criminalized states are seen to be serving the interests of those in power, and nepotism and corruption appear to have more influence on the workings of bureaucracy than legislation and official regulations do. Closely linked to arguments about the failing African state are those on the failings of development cooperation. Donors are sometimes thought to be more interested in funding corrupt client regimes than fostering development and assisting the poor.

Such a troubling situation has prompted my research into the current functioning of African bureaucracy to see how it works, with the Zambian health sector as a case study. This research will contribute to the academic debate on the African state by looking at the human factors beyond the façade of the state and the sector itself. It involves an overview of Zambia’s recent political history and donor government relations, and will evaluate policy developments in the health sector, which is presently operating under the shadow of changing approaches to development assistance. And finally the project will investigate the world of health workers and analyze the sector’s human resources management. In short, this research is considering how the health sector’s bureaucracy and its staff are working in the current social and political context.

I conducted fieldwork in Zambia from September to December 2008 and left with the impression of a sector going through the ebb and flow of its own...
Research Questions

In the programme’s first years of operation, a detailed research programme based on PhD students’ research was established in consultation with both parties to cover:

- **Good governance and donor intervention in the African state**
  The aim of this research is to gain insight into the character of the African state and the consequences of sustainable development, and to allow for a reassessment of expectations concerning development in Africa. This research theme plans to revisit the influence of the aid architecture on African states, taking its evolution into account.

- **Failing states, conflict and conflict resolution**
  The goal of this part of the IS Academy’s research is to analyze forms of governance and security organization beyond the central state, assessing how donors can take such developments into account when formulating policy.

unique history. Within the context of Zambia’s political developments, including the transition to more pluralist and democratic rule and a campaign against corruption, the health sector has formulated policy plans and is trying to deliver services to the best of its ability. In the 1990s the government announced an ambitious programme to reform the sector’s structure, with the goal of bringing services as close to the family as possible. Since then however, many of the measures have been reversed and international donor policies have shifted from sending doctors to developing countries and delivering drugs directly to these countries to increasing involvement in the management of the sector under a sector-wide approach. In recent years this involvement has shifted towards general budget support and global programmes to combat specific diseases, most notably the AIDS pandemic. This has led to an improvement in systems for delivering health care, and the decline in health indicators throughout the 1980s and 1990s has been reversed. But these improvements seem paltry in the face of the population’s general health care needs.

While the government and donors have been learning by trial and error, an indigenous Zambian workforce has developed and now manages the health sector. Against the back drop of a brain-drain and the insatiable appetite for doctors and nurses in the North, health workers are forging ahead and investing in the education of their own and their relatives’ children. They are building houses, cultivating land and preparing for retirement but questions remain about whether these human resources are being managed in such a way so as to ensure that Zambian citizens receive the health services they require and are entitled to. Or are health workers’ needs and wishes being given priority?

* Melle Leenstra

[Student nurses (Photo: Paulien Boone)]
• The state and the private sector
This area calls for an assessment of the consequences of antagonistic relations between the state and the private sector for private-sector development policy. In addition, attention will be paid to alternative approaches for supporting private-sector development in relation to the economic policy environment.

IS Academy PhD Researchers

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.

Marion Eeckhout
Research: Institutional gaps in state-business relations and 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 land access and ethnicity with local practices of land access.

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: The democratic consolidation process in Mali.

IS Academy Lectures

• 22 April
From Maladjusted States to Developmental States
Thandika Mkandawire
(United Nations Research Institute for Social Development)

• 29 May
India and Africa: Building Ties for the New Century
Dr Sujit Dutta
(Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)

• 5 June
Oil and Politics in Africa
Dr Ricardo Soares de Oliveira
(Oxford University)

• 22 October
Speaking to Global Debates with a National and Continental Lens: South African and African Social Movements in Comparative Perspective
Prof. Adam Habib
(University of Johannesburg)

• 6 November
The US Elections, US Foreign Policy toward Africa, and Africom
Prof. Peter J. Schraeder
(Loyola University, Chicago)

• 19 November
Governance for Development in Africa: What’s the Problem and What’s Next?
David Booth
(Overseas Development Institute, London)
Highlights in 2008

Two events in 2008 deserve special mention with regard to the Library, Documentation and Information Department. The first is the publication by the African Studies Centre of 75,000 abstracts over the last 40 years in African Studies Abstracts. The online version that was introduced in 2003 seems to be equally popular and much appreciated by users around the world. The other event that should be highlighted is the ASC’s takeover of the American online bibliographic database AfricaBib. Currently listing over 100,000 bibliographic items, AfricaBib will continue to be modernized and links to full-text journal articles will be added in the near future.

The Collection

The ACS’s library collection grew by more than 2,000 books in 2008. These were bought from regular publishers, (Internet) booksellers and antiquarian bookshops, with special attention being paid to books published in Africa, a focus that was kept alive by acquisition trips to Africa. Elvire Eijkman and Tiny Kraan went to the Third Cape Town Book Fair in June 2008, returning with books published by various African organizations and small publishing houses such as Botsotso, BK, Vivlia, Jacana, Blue Weaver and Snailpress. They also visited the hometown of poet Floris Brown, all of whose publications they were able to acquire for the ASC library.

In 2008 the ASC received donations from Penitentiary De Stadspoort in Amsterdam (books on African law and literature); Ada L. van der Linde (books on women and development in Africa); Jan Willem Geuzebroek (books on former Portuguese colonies in Africa); and materials on Rwanda and Burundi from...
the widow of the late Prof. Albert Trouwborst (the ASC’s interim director from 1994-1995). Part of the library collection of the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NIZA) in Amsterdam was also donated to the ASC’s library. And the Library of the Dutch Parliament gave the ASC official government publications on the Cape of Good Hope from the years 1854-1885.

In 2008 2,137 book orders were processed and 289 gifts and 630 journal articles were catalogued. Titles of more than 50 electronic Africana journals were added to the ASC’s online catalogue, thus enabling easier access to full-text information.

The ASC’s video collection totalled approximately 1,000 films (compared to 450 at the end of 2003) in 2008. These films are used for educational and scientific purposes and are also screened during conferences. In 2008 all the videos were transferred to DVD.

After thirty years of collection development, Tiny Kraan retired in 2008 as an information specialist at the ASC library. She always had a keen interest in African films and so to mark her retirement, two African documentary films were screened in May 2008 as ‘Tiny’s Choice’: Rivers of Sand by Robert Gardner (1955) and Inside a Sharia Court by Ruhi Hamid (2007).
Abstracting and Indexing

ASA Online (ASAO), the ASC’s abstracts journal, provides an overview of articles from periodicals and edited works that are available in the library on Africa in the field of the social sciences and the humanities. In 2008 1,752 abstracts were published and the number of subscribers to the ASAO ‘alert service’ totalled 965. A web survey (‘Survey Monkey’) was conducted among all subscribers in December 2008 and the results will be used to update and modernize ASAO Online. The African Studies Abstracts are included in the Africa-Wide NIPAD database that is hosted by NISC. In 2008 NISC’s Africa-Wide NIPAD was integrated in the EBSCO host service which will make the databases more widely available.

ASC library staff contributed bibliographic information and abstracts for publication in Politique Africaine and Journal of Religion in Africa in 2008. They also contributed several lists of journal titles published in Africa to the CERES journal-ranking system for the social sciences, which also includes journals from developing countries.

The usage of the African Studies Thesaurus, which was operationalized in 2006, has exceeded all expectations. It is seen as a trustworthy source of information and has, for instance, been used by the SID Brattleboro Library in Vermont in their African Diaspora Project in their digital repository.

75,000 African Studies Abstracts in 40 Years

The African Studies Centre’s library provides an overview of journal articles and edited works on Africa that are available in its library in African Studies Abstracts, which is published quarterly. These abstracts are widely used: there were 965 subscribers to ASA Online in 2008 and the website is also frequently visited.

The first volume of abstracts was published in 1968 as Documentatieblad and in 1994 the name was changed to the more appropriate African Studies Abstracts (and in 2003 the word Online was added).

During these forty years, an unbelievable 75,000 abstracts have been published. All of them can be found in the ASC’s online catalogue and the abstracts have also appeared separately on the ASC website since 2003. Each issue of the ASAO contains up to 425 abstracts, which are arranged geographically. Some 220 journals are abstracted on a regular basis, including all the leading African Studies journals and a significant number of the journals published in Africa.
Other Activities

Four web dossiers were compiled in 2008 by Katrien Polman and Marlene van Doorn. The first, ‘China in Africa’, was published in March to coincide with a seminar presented at the ASC by Gregor Dobler on ‘Migrants and Hosts: Chinese Traders’ Strategies in Namibia and their Interaction with National Politics’. The second dossier, made in June, was on ‘Disability in Africa’ and accompanied the photo exhibition Helden op stokken that was on display at the African Studies Centre. The web dossier on ‘Children in Africa’ was released to coincide with the conference on ‘African Children in Focus: A Paradigm Shift in Methodology and Theory?’ that was held in Leiden on 18-19 September. And the final web dossier in 2008 was about the Ghanaian elections and came out at the time of the parliamentary and presidential elections in Ghana on 7 December.

The Bibliography on Islam in Contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa, compiled by Paul Schrijver in 2006, was given an honorable mention by the committee of the Conover-Porter Award of the Africana Librarians Council. ‘The Award Committee’s recognition goes to the free online version of the bibliography hosted at the African Studies Centre’s website. With author and subject browsing and fielded searching, and searchable abstracts re-purposed from the ASC Library’s catalog, the online database format offers to the web-browsing world a resource discovery tool far surpassing the printed work.’

Database AfricaBib taken over and extended

The bibliographic database AfricaBib, which was taken over by the ASC in 2008, is a collection of Africana social-science records that are presented in one easily accessible location on the Internet as the culmination of over thirty years of Africana research. The site consists of two bibliographic databases covering Africana periodical literature (Africana Periodical Literature Bibliographic Database) and African women’s literature (African Women Bibliographic Database). There is also a comprehensive bibliography on women travellers and explorers in and to Africa (Women Travellers, Explorers and Missionaries to Africa Bibliographic Database).

The databases were created by Davis Bullwinkle, the Director of the Institute for Economic Advancement Research Library within the Institute for Economic Advancement on the campus of the University of Arkansas-Little Rock from 1974 onwards. By February 2008 the database indexed over 60,000 items that had appeared in more than 500 periodical titles. The African Women Bibliographic Database contains over 35,000 items.

In March 2008 Davis Bullwinkle retired and the African Studies Centre agreed to host the website and continue the AfricaBib service in the spirit of its founder. The ASC added more than 10,000 bibliographic records in 2008 and links to several thousand full-text online journal articles. It will be continuously expanded in the years to come.
CODESRIA in Senegal is one of the ASC’s strategic partners and the library cooperated with it in two specific areas in 2008. The first was a consultative meeting on the CODESRIA Indexation project that was held in Dakar in May to investigate the possibility of establishing a reference system for African publications in the social sciences and the humanities. CODESRIA had invited information professionals and researchers from North Africa, Central Africa, South Africa, West Africa and Europe to give their views and share their experiences. Elvire Eijkman presented a paper on abstracting and indexing.

The second area of cooperation was the Third Conference on Electronic Publishing and Dissemination entitled ‘Putting African Scholarly Journals Online’, which was held in October. The ASC was part of the organization of the conference and helped select 25 (of the 70 submitted) papers on the subject. Elvire Eijkman and Jos Damen attended the conference and Jos chaired one of the sessions and presented a lead paper on electronic journals on African Studies.

At the AEGIS Summer School in Cortona, Italy, Jos Damen (ASC) and Marco Guadagnino (Open Archive, Napoli-L’Orientale) gave presentations on ‘Connecting-Africa: Towards a Euro-African Open Source Archive for African Studies’.

The second meeting of the European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS) was held in July at the Bibliothèque Éric-de-Dampierre (Laboratoire d’Ethnologie et de Sociologie Comparative) at Paris X University Nanterre. More than thirty academic librarians, archivists and information specialists from all over Europe attended the presentations and round-table sessions on Africana archives and the acquisition of Africana books and electronic sources.

Website and Information Technology

With over 200,000 unique visitors, the ASC’s website was even more popular in 2008 than in 2007, with hits up by a total of 30%. The most frequently visited pages remain those on ASC publications, the library, vacancies and online abstracts. One of the most popular items on the website was the online bibliography on Islam in Africa. And various mailing lists (on conferences and publications) and RSS feeds are also frequently used.

The APIS (ASC Publicaties Invoer Systeem) tool has made it possible to use Reference Manager to upload metadata and the full text of publications to researchers’ personal pages on the ASC website and at the same time publish the full text in the Leiden repository. During 2008 ASC researchers were trained to use the APIS tool and update their personal pages.

An old-fashioned online catalogue has extra value if visitors can click on a description of a journal article and go directly to the full text on the publisher’s website. In 2008 all 160,000 items in the online catalogue were provided with a link resolver. Many of the journal articles in the ASC catalogue are now only two clicks away from the full text. The ASC link provides other options too, such as book covers, access to movie trailers, information on a book’s availability in other European, African or American libraries and an indication of where a book can be found in the ASC library. In its first year, the ASC link was used about 10,000 times.
Seminars, Conferences and Study Days

The ASC organized more than thirty seminars in 2008 on topics ranging from the mobile phone to the impact of climate change, and from football to the World Bank’s lending strategies. Of these seminars, fourteen were one-hour lunchtime seminars providing a platform for visiting fellows and ASC staff. The format of these seminars is informal, while speakers in the regular Thursday afternoon series are invited to submit a paper. Caroline Elkins’s seminar on the colonial roots of violent conflict in Kenya and, by contrast, an ‘Africa Today’ seminar on the peaceful elections in Ghana were both very popular. Other well-attended seminars dealt with the Netherlands Africa policy (Bram van Oijik), the *hijab* in Nigeria (Hauwa Mahdi), Chinese traders in Namibia (Gregor Dobler) and the World Bank (Steve Berkman).

In addition, the ASC organized six IS Academy lectures in The Hague and Leiden in the context of its cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For this series, topics of current concern such as oil and politics, the role of India and China in Africa as well as issues of governance and development were selected. Particularly topical was Peter Schraeder’s lecture on US policy towards Africa on 6 November, coming as it did in the wake of Barack Obama’s election victory. One of the objectives of the IS Academy lectures is to promote discussion and dialogue between academics and staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In October, the Social Movements and Political Culture theme group hosted a conference on social movements in Africa that produced interesting exchanges and in-depth discussions on how far work done on social movements in general is relevant in the study of African societies, and if specific characteristics come into play in the global South and whether African movements develop according to their own dynamics, distinct from similar movements elsewhere. The conference was preceded by a workshop for invited authors who will contribute chapters to a volume on social movements to be published in the ASC’s African Dynamics series in 2009.

November saw the annual study day with the Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This year’s topic was ‘The State in Africa’ and David Booth (Overseas Development Institute, London) gave an introduction entitled ‘ODI’s Africa Power and Politics Programme: Potential for Going with the Grain’. He was followed by Geert Geut (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) who talked about ‘Strategic Governance and Corruption Analysis Ethiopia and/or Tanzania’ and Martin van Vliet (NIMD/ASC) who spoke about ‘The Façade and Substance of African Political Parties’. Comments and reactions by several ASC and BuZa staff resulted in a fruitful exchange between policy-makers and researchers.

During the year the ASC also organized various conferences abroad and in conjunction with other groups. In April a conference entitled ‘Religious Engagements with AIDS in Africa’ was held at the Centre of African Studies in Copenhagen to set up an international group of experts on the theme. In July the ASC’s Benjamin Soares initiated a conference in Abuja, Nigeria on ‘New Media and Religious Transformations in Africa’. And in September there was the NVAS conference in Leiden on ‘African Children in Focus: A Paradigm Shift in Methodology and Theory?’.

Afrikadag

The Evert Vermeer Stichting’s Afrikadag is an important Africa event in the Netherlands that in the last few years has regularly attracted about 2000 visitors. It offers an opportunity to showcase what the ASC does, to meet other institutions and persons with an interest in Africa and to sell ASC publications.
The ASC always has a booth at this annual event in The Hague and provides speakers for various panels and discussion groups. On 19 April 2008 Johan te Velde (IKV Pax Christi), Martin Koper (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and Leo de Haan hosted a well-attended debate entitled ‘Wat te doen met fragiele staten?’. And Marieke van Winden moderated a session on modern African art, at which the Nigerian painter Victor Ekpuk gave a presentation about African art in general and his own work in particular. A new initiative by the African Studies Centre is to present a thematic Afrikakaart every year. In 2008 the map showed direct foreign investment in Africa, and was distributed free of charge to visitors at the Afrikadag.

**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 the basis of research conducted on Africa. In 2008 the ASC received thirty theses varying from the ‘Institutional Analysis of Water Management on Communal Irrigation Systems in Ethiopia’ to ‘Pregnancy Strategies in the Mande Mountains of Mali’.

The Africa Thesis Award for 2008 was awarded to Janneke Barten from Wageningen University for her thesis entitled ‘Families in Movement: Transformation of the Family in Urban Mali, with a Focus on Intercontinental Mobility’. The main issue addressed was the way family relationships are being transformed in urban Mali and among Malian migrants in Europe. It also considered the insights these changes offer for the use of the concept of ‘family’ in the social sciences: it can be seen as a social network and as a structure that allows things to be achieved. Other studies point to growing individualism among members, the increasing importance of consumption and changing sexual norms and values. Janneke’s main conclusions are, however, that the family should not be seen as a ‘fixed category’ but as a dynamic process. The jury – Meine Pieter van Dijk (chair), Catharine Cissé, Jan Kees van Donge, Gerti Hesseling and Nelke van der Lans – was impressed by the high quality of Janneke’s empirical research and her excellent style of writing. The prize was presented on 28 October and Janneke was interviewed by Sybilla Claus for an article entitled ‘Malinezen ontdoen van individualiteit’ that appeared in Trouw on 29 October. The winning thesis has been published in the ASC’s African Studies Collection: www.asclleiden.nl/Publications/AfricanStudiesCollection.aspx

Janneke Barten, the winner of the 2008 Africa Thesis Award.
Exhibitions

In 2008 the ASC again had exhibitions of photos and paintings on display in its corridors and in the Centre’s library. These were much appreciated not only by the ASC staff but also by students, their lecturers and visitors in general.

January-March: Wall to Wall: Art and Artists of Sirigu
Sirigu is a village in northern Ghana where the local people are mainly farmers on low incomes. The women in Sirigu’s traditional society have a weak position socially but pottery and wall decorations are activities that can provide them with an income and give them a cultural identity. This exhibition was on loan to the ASC courtesy of the World Art House in Well in Limburg.

April-June: Leitjes en Krijtjes: Education in Mali
Photographer Lucas van der Wee worked in Mali in West Africa for five months in 2006 while his partner, Marlies Bedeker, was doing research in rural Malinese schools. Together they assembled this exhibition of photos to show the daily lives of three schools in words and images. The photos helped to highlight how the international community’s promise of education for all children by 2015 involves more than just erecting school buildings. Good education means quality educational tools and well-educated teachers who are able to teach in a language the children can understand.

July-August: Helden op stokken
Disabled people in Africa rarely have a voice: they are hidden away by their families and are unseen by the outside world. We have all seen (pictures of) disabled beggars in Africa but how do the others live? What are their ideas and dreams? Answers to these questions were to be found in the twelve portraits of disabled men and women in Africa that were on display in the summer of 2008. The beer trader has problems with corrupt customs officials, the athlete wants to explode in her wheelchair race, a deaf gay wants to be a role model and the blind lawyer is committing herself to human rights. And then there is the child who is excited about going to school but is turned away on the first day. This photo exhibition was based on the heroes of the book ‘Helden op stokken’ by Sybilla Claus and Petra Jorissen. A special debate took place to mark this exhibition and after an introduction by Sybilla Claus, Dr. Victoria Nyst spoke about sign language in Ghana and Mali.
July-September: The Kuru Art Project

Deep in the Kalahari Desert a group of San artists relive their ancient past when the desert was endless and game and food abundant. They revive it in strong forms and vibrant colours and express a yearning for better days that are forever gone. But they show their own people and the world that they are still the ‘First People’, and that they are not about to disappear or become assimilated. They are searching for their own (artistic) place in a new world order in which their land is all but lost, food is scarce and the thrill of the hunt is rare. This exhibition showed contemporary San paintings that have received worldwide acclaim.

October-December: ‘The More You Look, the More You See’: The work of Osagie Edomwanagbon

The artist Osagie Edomwanagbon has had an exciting journey in his search for freedom and beauty. Having grown up in Nigeria, he studied graphic art in Auchi but became involved in student protests which resulted in him having to flee the country. He arrived in the Netherlands in 1988 and eventually joined the group of artists at the Minerva Academy in Groningen where he started to paint brightly coloured abstract landscapes depicting his roots.

Contact with the Media

Researchers at the African Studies Centre are regularly contacted by the media to comment or provide background information on topical issues. Radio is the most popular medium and in 2008 researchers gave 56 interviews to radio stations in the Netherlands and abroad. Researchers are also regularly interviewed for newspaper and magazine articles. In 2008, for example, nearly 40 interviews appeared as written articles, mostly in newspapers. Many of the interviews were connected to current affairs, such as the EU mission in Chad (Trouw, 22 April & 7 May 2008). Sometimes however, the interview was related to specific research being done at the Centre, for example the ASC’s mobile phone project, Mirjam de Bruijn’s inaugural lecture, Julie Ndaya’s PhD defence, power sharing and violence in Kenya (Marcel Rutten), Islam in Africa (Benjamin Soares) and football rituals in Ghana (Arnold Pannenborg).
GOVERNING BODIES AND PERSONNEL (on 31 December 2008)

Members of the Board of Governors

Ms E.M.A. Schmitz  
(Chair)  
Judge, Zwolle Law Courts; former Deputy Minister of Justice and Mayor of Haarlem

Ms B.E.A. Ambags  
(Vice-chair)  
Former ambassador to Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe

Ms J. Groen  
A. Lenstra  
Prof. J.B. Opschoor  
Journalist with the Volkskrant  
Former Vice-President of Unilever  
Professor at the Institute of Social Studies and the VU University

Members of the Scientific Advisory Council

Prof. G.E. Frerks  (Chair)  
Dr P. Boele van Hensbroek  
Prof. M.P. van Dijk  
Dr S.J.T.M. Evers  
G.A. de Groot  
Dr H. Huisman  
Dr C.H.M. Lutz  
Prof. M. Mous  
Dr W. Nauta  
Prof. Pj. Pels  
Dr J. Post  
Dr R. Reis  
Prof. P. Richards  
Dr H.J. van Rinsum  
Prof. M. Salih  
Dr C.B. de Steenhuijsen Piters  
Dr H. Wels  
Prof. F. Wijsen  
Wageningen University  
University of Groningen  
Erasmus University, Rotterdam  
VU University, Amsterdam  
University of Tilburg  
Utrecht University  
University of Groningen  
Leiden University  
University of Maastricht  
Leiden University  
University of Amsterdam  
University of Amsterdam  
Wageningen University  
Utrecht University  
Institute of Social Studies, The Hague  
Royal Tropical Institute  
VU University, Amsterdam  
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, healthcare, 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 urban poverty, urban agriculture, urban water supply, Kenya
Dr J.B. Gewald social and political history, interaction between people and technology, Southern Africa
Prof. G.S.C.M. Hesseling legal anthropology, peace building and law, natural resource management in the Sahel
Prof. J.C. Hoorweg the ecology and economics of the East African coast
Dr M.M.A. Kaag migration, social change, development issues, local government, land use, West Africa
Dr W.M.J. van Kessel democratization, the mass media, social movements, history, South Africa, Ghana
W. Klaver food and food security, urban agriculture, household economics, Kenya
Dr P.J.J. Konings civil society and social movements during economic and political liberalization, Ghana, Cameroon
Dr A.H.M. Leliveld social security, (micro) insurance, international aid, economic development, Uganda
Dr M.M.E.M. Rutten land reform, water supply and shortages, pastoralism, (eco) tourism, wildlife management, democratization, higher education, migration, fair trade, Kenya, East Africa
Dr B.F. Soares religion (Islam in particular), history, politics, West Africa
Dr K. van Walraven international relations, conflict management, rebellions, Niger, West Africa
Coordinator Research Masters in African Studies

Dr D. Merolla
African literature, literary analysis, gender, ethnicity

Library, Documentation and Information Department

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

Administrative Staff

J. Binnendijk
financial administrator
I.C. Butter
student assistant
K.K. Dorrepaal
assistant financial administrator; publications manager
L.A.M. Lijnders
student assistant
U. Oberst
programme coordinator
G. Petit
executive secretary to the director
A. Reeves
editor
W. Veerman
programmer, computer manager
M.A. Westra
HR administrator and management assistant
M.C.A. van Winden
PR coordinator
L. van Wouw
programmer, webmaster
W.J. Zwart-Brouwer
publications assistant

PhD Students

A. Alemu Fanta; A. Aderemi; F. Diallo; Th. Djedjebi; L. Djerandi; B. Gebeyehu; L. van de Kamp; B. Kilama; B. Kinuthia; M.E. Leegwater; M. Leenstra; C.T. Nijenhuis; L. Nijzink; W. Nkwi; S. Ntewusu; A. van Oostrum; V. Pedro; L. Pelckmans; D. Sel; D. Setume; R.R. Simiyu; S. Soeters; B. Tasew; L. de Vries
Visiting Fellows in 2008

Prof. Khalil Alio  University of N'Djamena, Chad  (C&T theme group)
Jeremiah O. Arowosegbe  University of Ibadan, Nigeria  (SMPC theme group)
Dr Zekeria Denna  University of Nouakchott, Mauritania  (SMPC theme group)
Fatimata Diallo  University of Gaston Berger, Senegal  (C&T theme group)
Dr Getie Gelaye  Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg, Germany  (SMPC theme group)
Dr Victor Igreja  Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences  (C&T theme group)
Dr Alfred Lakwo  Uganda Martyrs University & AFARD, Uganda  (EEE theme group)
Dr Moses Mwangi  United Nations Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Nairobi  (EEE theme group)
Dr Basile Ndjio  University of Douala, Cameroon  (SMPC theme group)
Dr Lovemore Togarasei  University of Botswana  (C&T theme group)

The following members of staff left the ASC during 2008

M.A. Dijk  student assistant
A. van Dokkum  research assistant
R. Keja  student assistant
C.J.M. Kraan  documentalist
J. Nijssen  financial administrator
M. Verdouw-Greuter  assistant librarian
# Financial Overview

## Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Netherlands Ministries of:</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Education, Culture and Sciences</td>
<td>2,895</td>
<td>2,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Foreign Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agriculture, Nature Conservation &amp; Fisheries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects for third parties</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income (publications, etc.)</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,776</td>
<td>3,762</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>2,486</td>
<td>2,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional costs</td>
<td>1,331</td>
<td>1,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory depreciation</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,843</td>
<td>3,923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As an associated institute of the CERES research school, the ASC's 2008 publications have been classified below according to its rating system for evaluating research output. This differentiates between refereed and non-refereed journal articles and book publications.

I. Refereed Journal Articles and Book Publications

(1A) journal articles with an ISI rating and a high citation index and refereed book publications published by the world's top of publishers combined with (1B) other journal articles with an ISI rating and refereed book publications published by the world's semi-top publishers


(1C) other refereed journal articles and refereed book publications published by other publishers


Beek, W. van, ‘Heeft ritueel dan toch betekenis?’ *Jaarboek voor liturgie onderzoek* 24: 23-49.


Binsbergen, W. van, ‘Existential dilemmas of a North Atlantic anthropologist in the production of relevant Africanist knowledge: On the occasion of the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, granting an honorary doctorate to Professor René Devisch of the Catholic University Louvain, Belgium’, CODESRIA Bulletin (1-2): 15-20 (also in French).


ANNUAL REPORT 2008


2. Non-refereed Journal Articles and Book Publications

(2D) Non-refereed journal articles and book publications published for an academic audience


Abbink, J. & A. van Dokkum, eds, Verdeeld Afrika. Etniciteit, conflict en de grenzen van de staat, Diemen, AMB.


Bruijn, M. de, ‘“The telephone has grown legs”. Mobile communication and social change in the margins of African society’, Leiden: Leiden University, Inaugural Address.


(2E) Non-refereed journal articles and book publications published for a non-academic audience


Beek, W. van, ‘Is Afrika een continent voor toeristen?’, CUL, Amsterdam, pp. 4-6.


Brujin, M. de, ‘EU-missie Tsjaad spekt vooral economie’, Trouw, 7 May.


Dekker, M., Reisgids Zuid-Afrika, Haarlem: Uitgeverij Gottmer/Becht.

Ellis, S., ‘Written history of Liberia for film Pray the Devil Back to Hell’, (Fork Films, NYC), 1 October.


Haan, L. de, ‘Wat te doen met fragiele staten?’, column Africaserver.


Kessel, I. van, ‘Geweld Kenia is niet einde van democratie’, Volkskrant 7 January.


Kessel, I. van, ‘India’s Sidis, a forgotten diaspora of Africans’, The East African 14 September.


Rutten, M., ‘Hoe snel hebben ze de boel weer opgebouwd?’ Mare 17 January, pp. 8-9.

**Book Reviews**

SEMINARS

24 January
Beyond the Façade. A Study of the Zambian Health Bureaucracy in its Socio-Political Environment
Melle Leenstra

31 January
Kenya, British Colonial Violence in the Twentieth Century: Confronting the Horrors, Understanding the Legacies
Prof. Caroline Elkins

14 February
The Friendly Donor
Bram van Ojik

19 February
Le partenariat UE-Afrique dans l’impasse? Le cas des accords de pêche
Dr Zekeria O. Ahmed Salem Denna

21 February
The Hijab in Nigeria, the Woman’s Body and the Feminist Private/Public Discourse
Dr Hauwa Mahdi

4 March
Decolonizing the Social Sciences in the Global South: Claude Ake and the Praxis of Knowledge Production in Africa
Jeremiah O. Arowosegbe

6 March
Islam and Immunization in Northern Nigeria
Prof. Elisha P. Renne

18 March
Orality, Power and Rural Politics in Ethiopia: A Study of Resistance Poetry in Amharic
Dr Getie Gelaye

25 March
The Wireless Camel: Effects and Meaning of the Mobile Phone in Sudan
Prof. Mirjam de Bruijn

27 March
Migrants and Hosts: Chinese Traders’ Strategies in Namibia and their Interaction with National Politics
Gregor Dobler

3 April
Living with ART: Medicine for Life in Uganda
Prof. Susan Reynolds Whyte

15 April
The Formation of Risk Pooling Groups in Rural Zimbabwe: What Can We Learn from a Behavioural Experiment?
Dr Marileen Dekker

Hauwa Mahdi’s seminar on ‘The Hijab in Nigeria, the Woman’s Body and the Feminist Private/Public Discourse’
17 April
Globalization and Local Development: The Sedibeng Steel Industry in South Africa
Lennard van Vuren & Wynand Grobler & Wim Pelupessy

24 April
Chalk and Cheese? South East Asia and the Conundrum of African Development
Dr David Henley

8 May
Constructing Democracy in Africa: Constitutionalism and Deliberation in Mali
Dr Susanna Wing

15 May
Poison and Dope: Radio and the Art of Political Invective in East-Africa, 1940-1965
Dr James Brennan

19 May
Violence, Magic and Memory: Zulu Radio Drama and the Politics of Identity in the Apartheid and Post-Apartheid Eras
Liz Gunner

21 May
Stratégies de lutte contre la pauvreté féminine: exemple des groupements ou associations de femmes de la région de Dakar (Senegal)
Dr Ndèye Sokhna Guèye

27 May
The World Bank and the ‘Gods of Lending’
Steve Berkman

3 June
The Transformation of the African Christian Landscape through Media Technologies: Focus on Pentecostal Christianity in Botswana and Zimbabwe
Dr Lovemore Togarasei

10 June
The Iranian Revolution and Conversion to Shi‘ism in Senegal
Dr Mara Leichtman

19 June
Dr Muchaparara Musemwa

23 June
Cameroonian Feymana and Nigerian ‘419’ Email Scammers: Two Examples of Africa’s Reinvention of the Global Capitalism
Dr Basil Ndjio

24 June
EK versus Afrika Cup: De relatie tussen voetbal in Afrika en Europa
Arnold Pannenborg, Edwin Schoon, André van der Stouwe, Marc Broere & Stefan Verwer

One of the ASC’s seminars in “Het Poortgebouw”
1 July
   Fighting with Masks
   Prof. Wouter van Beek

9 September
   Preaching Water, Drinking Wine? General Perceptions on Political Parties and Internal Party Democracy in East Africa and the Case of Mali
   Josh Majoy & Martin van Vliet

7 October
   Dynamics of Reproductive Behaviour in Rural Coastal Communities in Southern Ghana
   Dr Akinyinka Akinyoade

9 October
   Workshop ‘Mobile Telephony in Africa: Daily Lives and Societal Debates’

9 October
   Climate Change in Africa
   Dr Jon Lovett

16 October
   Status and Egalitarianism in Traditional Communities: An Analysis of Funeral Attendance in Six Zimbabwean Villages
   Abigail Barr & Mattea Stein

10 November
   Conflict, Mobility and Language: The Case of Migrant Hadjaraye of Guera to Neighboring Regions of Chari-Baguirmi and Salamat (Chad)
   Dr Khalil Alio

18 November
   Legacies of liberation: the careers and changing worldviews of former UDF activists
   Dr Ineke van Kessel

27 November
   Africa Today Seminar: Yes We Can: Will Ghana Remain the Beacon of Stability in a Region in Turmoil, Also After the Elections of December 2008
   Heerko Dijksterhuis

9 December
   Introducing ISM in Africa. The Concept of Institutional Social Mobility in the Anthropological Study of Marriage in Botswana
   Dr Rijk van Dijk

11 December
   Religious Media, Devotional Islam, and the Morality of Ethnic Pluralism in Mauritius
   Prof. Patrick Eisenlohr

Peter Schraeder’s IS Academy lecture on US policy towards Africa
## COLOPHON

### Annual Report 2008, African Studies Centre

**Editors**  
Gitty Petit, Ann Reeves and Marieke van Winden

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