The African Studies Centre Leiden is the national knowledge centre on Africa in the Netherlands. The ASCL undertakes research and is involved in teaching about Africa and aims to promote a better understanding of and insight into historical, current and future developments in Africa. It is an interfaculty institute of Leiden University and has a world-famous library and documentation centre that is open to the general public.

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The award
The award aims to encourage students to conduct research and write on African topics and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose master’s thesis has been completed on the basis of empirical research. The award consists of a prize of €500,- and publication of the winning thesis in the ASCL’s African Studies Collection. All theses submitted will be made available fulltext online via the ASCL’s library catalogue.

Far who
Master students who completed their thesis at a university on the African continent or in the Netherlands between 31 August 2023 and 31 August 2024 can apply. Students in the Netherlands must have received an 8 out of 10 or above. Students from non-Dutch universities with a grade A (or equivalent) may apply if the accompanying letter from the supervisor confirms the excellence of the thesis.

Conditions and quality
The thesis should be based on independent empirical research with a geographical focus on an African country, region, or its migrant communities elsewhere in the world. Theses in the fields of the social sciences or humanities can be submitted (geography, political science, anthropology, development studies, economics, history, religion, literature) in English, French, or Dutch. Should the thesis be in Dutch, a five-page English summary has to be attached.

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- a digital version of the thesis in PDF
- a summary (max. 300 words)
- a signed letter of recommendation from the student’s supervisor, detailing the quality of the thesis and an explanation of the grade, and details of the educational institution from which the student has graduated.

Only full applications will be processed. All documents can be sent to asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl.

Deadline
The deadline for applications is Thursday 31 October 2024. The prize will be presented to the winner during the Africa Thesis Award Ceremony in 2025, where the winner will present his/her/their thesis.

More information
For more information regarding the submission of a thesis, please contact Jessie van Moorsel (ASCL Secretariat) through asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl. The jury’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Award winner 2023: Rachel Dubale
“They think we can eat the condominium”. Chronicles of Economic, Social and Political Practices in Addis Ababa’s Condominiums

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