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Beste NVAS-nieuwsbrieflezers,

Graag stel ik mij voor aan jullie. Ik ben Sahro Mohamed Ahmed, de nieuwe editor van de NVAS-nieuwsbrief. Ik studeer Culturele Antropologie aan de universiteit van Leiden en kom oorspronkelijk uit Somalië.

Fiona Klein Klouwenberg is niet langer de editor van de nieuwsbrief omdat zij haar tijd en energie nodig heeft voor het afmaken van haar doctoraalscriptie Afrikanistiek. Naast haar constructieve werk voor de nieuwsbrief heeft Fiona ook veel energie geïnvesteerd in de NVAS als vereniging, o.a. door mee te denken over een nieuwe website en een communicatieplan, waarvoor bij deze veel dank!

Verder zal het NVAS-bestuur van gedaante veranderen. Op 28 juni 2006 wordt tijdens de NVAS-bestuursvergadering besloten over de nieuwe samenstelling van het NVAS-bestuur. Wij nemen dan afscheid van een aantal bestuursleden, waaronder de voorzitter, en verwelkomen Dr. Sandra Evers (Amsterdam), Dr. Catrien Notermans (Nijmegen), Dr. Daniela Merolla (Leiden) en Dr. Michel Doortmont (Groningen).

Tot slot melden wij graag dat de NVAS-website bijna volledig is omgezet naar het Nederlands, waarvoor dank aan John, Fiona, Lotte en Marieke.

We willen langs deze weg allen die afscheid nemen danken voor hun inzet voor de NVAS en wensen iedereen veel succes met hun verdere werkzaamheden.

In deze nieuwsbrief leest u o.a. een verslag van de conferentie over slavernij in mei jl., die mede gefinancierd is door de NVAS. Verder vragen wij uw aandacht voor de komende NVAS-studiedag met als thema "Muziek als sociale kritiek", waarover wij graag uw ideeën horen.

Sahro Mohamed Ahmed
Redactielid

Verslag Conferentie Slavernij te Leiden

Bespreking van Conferentie Slavernij op 18 mei te Leiden.

Door Lotte Pelckmans, met dank aan I. van Kessel

"African slave trades and African slavery in a global comparative perspective"

Het thema slavernij roept vaak clichébeelden op van de trans-Atlantische slavenhandel. Echter, er waren ook andere handelsroutes waarlangs miljoenen Afrikaanse slaven verhandeld werden. Daar is heel wat minder aandacht voor, zowel bij het brede publiek als in de wetenschap. Een doodgezwegen dan wel domweg vergeten onderwerp?

Naar aanleiding van het meermaals bekroonde wetenschappelijke werk van Pétre-Grenouilleau "Les Traites Négrières; Essai d'Histoire Globale" (2004) in Frankrijk, werd een conferentie over Afrikaanse slavernij en slavenhandel gehouden op 18 mei 2006. Pétre-Grenouilleau vergeleek (als eerste) de verschillende grote slavenhandelsroutes: de bekende trans-Atlantische handel naar de Amerika's, de inter-Afrikaanse slavenhandel en de handel van Afrikanen naar het (Midden-) Oosten. Zijn studie werd gelauwerd omwille van de diepgang, de interdisciplinariteit (geschiedkundig, antropologisch, oriëntalistisch) en de originaliteit van het onderwerp. Het werk werd echter ook verguisd door een collectief van mensen uit een aantal overzeese koloniën van Frankrijk, die de onderzoeker van racisme en revisionisme beschuldigden omdat hij de trans-Atlantische slavenhandel zou minimaliseren n.a.v. de vergelijking met (de omvang van) de andere slavenhandelsroutes. Organisatoren Piet Emmer (opleiding Geschiedenis UL) en Ineke van Kessel (ASC) slaagden erin een aantal internationale sprekers over te laten komen, mede dankzij een financiële bijdrage van de NVAS. De ochtend werd besteed aan het totaalbeeld in vergelijkend perspectief; deze comparatieve benadering was het vernieuwende element van de conferentie. Tot dusver was er weinig onderling contact tussen onderzoekers van de verschillende handelsroutes. Het doorbreken van dit "hokjesdenken" was een van de doelstellingen van de conferentie. Na een korte inleiding door prof. P. Emmer gaf prof. O. Pétre-Grenouilleau (Université de Bretagne, Lorient) op basis van breed literatuuronderzoek een synthese van de drie historische patronen in de slavenhandel: de trans-Atlantische slavenhandel, de inter-Afrikaanse slavenhandel, en de handel in Afrikaanse slaven met het gebied van de Middellandse Zee en de Stille Oceaan. In de overige bijdragen werd elk van deze patronen nader besproken. Ronald Segal schetste»

een beeld van de slavenhandel in de Islamitische wereld, gebaseerd op zijn boek "Islam's Black Slaves" (2001).

Dr. A.A. Perbi (University of Ghana) besprak de inter-Afrikaanse slavenhandel, aan de hand van haar onlangs verschenen boek "A History of Indigenous Slavery in Ghana: from the 15th to the 19th century" (2004). De laatste spreker van de ochtend, dr. Yaw Bredwa-Mensah (University of Ghana) analyseerde op grond van zijn archeologische onderzoek naar vroegere Deense plantages het systeem van slavernij aan de Goudkust.

De geschiedenis van de trans-Atlantische slavenhandel is tot in grote mate van detail gedocumenteerd. Historici van de inter-Afrikaanse en oriëntaalse slavenhandel daarentegen kampen met een gebrek aan historische bronnen. Dr. Perbi maakte voor haar studie gebruik van orale overlevering, naast archieven en rechtszaken. Als historisch archeoloog had dr. Bredwa-Mensah bronnen tot zijn beschikking die nog weinig zijn benut in de geschiedschrijving van de inter-Afrikaanse slavenhandel.

Het middagprogramma bood gelegenheid voor promovendi om hun onderzoek te presenteren. Drs. Everts analyseerde de variaties in handelsrelaties tussen Afrikanen en Europeanen in diverse plaatsen aan de Afrikaanse Westkust. Drs. Silva vergeleek de Nederlandse en de Portugese slavenhandel op Brazilië. Drs. Roitman beschreef de Sefardische handelsnetwerken in de Atlantische slavenhandel.

Na de pauze was het woord aan twee promovendi antropologie (drs. Pelckmans en drs. Van Til), die op grond van hun veldwerk in Afrika een beeld gaven van de doorwerking van het slavernijverleden in de huidige maatschappelijke verhoudingen in respectievelijk Mali en Mauritanië.

Het programma werd besloten met een algemene discussie, na kortere discussieronden eerder op de dag. Het vergelijkend perspectief en de interdisciplinaire benadering (historici, antropologen en een archeoloog) bood een vruchtbare basis voor de uitwisseling van bevindingen, interpretaties en mogelijke nieuwe invalshoeken voor verder onderzoek, zoals o.a.:

- De gevolgen van slavenhandel en slavernij voor maatschappelijke en politieke ontwikkelingen in Afrika
- Waarom kende West-Europa geen slavernij?
- het gender perspectief, dat tot dusver onderbelicht is gebleven
- De verbindingen tussen Atlantische, inter-Afrikaanse en oriëntaalse slavenhandel
- Nieuwe soorten kennisbronnen bij gebrek aan (geschreven) archiefmateriaal. ■

Verslag Conferentie Horn of Africa, VU

Short report of the Conference ***Empowering the People, Civil Societies and the Diaspora in Promoting Democracy, Peace, Respect for Human Rights and Good Governance in the Horn of Africa***

With thanks to Bashir Hussein of SomaCent Somali Development and Research Center

On the 10th of June the *Conference Empowering the People, Civil Societies and the Diaspora in Promoting Democracy, Peace, Respect for Human Rights and Good Governance in the Horn of Africa* was held at the Vrije Universiteit – Amsterdam. The Conference was organized by Development Services International (DSI) and Hadish-Tesfa Network (HTN) in cooperation with African Humanitarian Foundation and the African Diaspora in the Netherlands

Context/Background

According to the organizers, the Horn of Africa region is mired into intractable conflicts that have grossly undermined the process of peace, democratization and - above all - development. Political power has been usurped by those in power and the warlords. In Ethiopia the process of democratization is in quagmire with the ruling party and opposition at each other's throats. Eritrea is under a totalitarian regime that seems to be hostile to the process of democratization and in Somalia endless wars between and among warlords, clans, and ethnic groups continue unabated with civilian casualties and sufferings at unprecedented high levels. Add to the conflicts the region is currently threatened by severe famine and hunger. The conference aimed to engage the donors and the African Diaporas into serious, intensive discussions, and debate on what is wrong with Africa in general and the region in particular. Questions to be addressed included:

1. Why the Horn has become a conflict-ridden region of Africa?
2. What are some of the internal and external reasons for the instability?
3. What is the responsibility and accountability of the Leadership and the opposition groups?
4. What is the role of Governments, political groups, the People, Civil Societies and the Diaspora including the African intellectuals in promoting respect for human rights, rule of law, democracy, peace and reconciliation and in the elimination of poverty or in realizing the objectives of sustainable development? »

5. What are the roles and practices of the Dutch/EU Governments and Parliaments as well as that of the International community including that of Northern and Southern NGOs?
6. What is to be done to help solve the complex problems?
7. How does one empower the powerless?
8. How does one achieve the above-mentioned noble aims and objectives beyond making slogans, declarations and resolutions?

On the panel section 'the challenges and opportunities of empowering the people, civil society and the Diaspora in promoting democracy, peace, human rights & good governance in the horn', the following speakers shared their views; Prof J. Abbink of Africa Studies Center in Leiden, Dr. A. Abdullah of SAHAN Consultancy in Amsterdam, Dr. Mekkie Eldukhuri from Sudan, Madam Tsigereda Walilign, Senior Advisor, European Parliament Brussels, Mr. Hiruy Tedla, Eritrean Congress Party, formerly Secretary General of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) an umbrella organization of 16 political movements, Stockholm and many others.

Although the problems of the Great Horn of Africa were more or less discussed by the participants, the issues that raised a great deal of the debate were centered on two countries, namely Ethiopia and Eritrea. Particularly, issues relating to peace-building, the democratization process, respect for human rights, Ethio-Eritrean border conflict and the refugees crisis (in the case of Eritrea) were focused on. A woman guest speaker from Darfur (Sudan) addressed issues relating to women's rights and girls' education in that country. Another guest-speaker from Somalia had dealt with the role of the African Diaspora, especially the African professionals and academicians living in Europe and elsewhere. He underlined how the African Diaspora is by-passed by the international community when it comes to the development of Africa despite the key role that they can play in this process and their overall potentialities. The conference has created a lot of interest at the international level. Many guests and participants came from as distant places/countries as United States, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Belgium, etc. They included many well-known African scholars from the Horn (especially Eritrea and Ethiopia). Well-known Dutch and European academicians, business people and institutions participated and contributed to the conference actively. ■

Verslag Manifestatie

A brief report of the Somalia/Somaliland Day Manifestation, The Hague

On the 3rd of June 2006, the first ever manifestation 'Somalia/Somaliland Day' was organized in The Hague, Netherlands.

The manifestation was organized by Nedsom, www.nedsom.nl and Somaliland-Bouwen, www.somaliland-bouwen.nl.

About a 100-150 Somalis and Somalilanders from all walks of life and from different parts of the world attended the occasion. There were also several donor agencies present as well as dozens of Dutch-based Somali/Somaliland organizations and foundations to exhibit and present their development-related work.

The day begun with introductions from the organizers, followed by introductions of the development organizations based in Somalia/Somaliland.

After that different presentations covered the Somalia-Somaliland current situation- varying from agricultural challenges, the current drought, conflict, the (dis) engagement of the Diaspora, health and youth. The different presentations gave detailed analysis and clear insight on the progresses made and the existing challenges that affect the region.

By means of a debate, the audience-comprising mainly of young Somalis-were given the opportunity to come forward with what they thought could be possible solutions. It became a heated discussion with several advocating for a re-unification of the countries. All in all the following points were noted down;

- Lack of intellectual entrepreneurship
- Lack of involvement and commitment of the Somali community abroad
- The re-unification of Somali & Somaliland
- Coherent and progressive regular expert meetings to address the different challenges
- Ethnicity as a great people-divider among Somalis
- More involvement of youth and women
- Concerns about the current political situation in Somalia

It is hoped that the 2nd manifestation will be held soon, perhaps within a few months. The day ended with a Somali cultural fashion show and music. For a detailed report on the proceedings of the conference, please go to www.somaliland-bouwen.nl.

Komende conferenties

NVAS studiedag in oktober 2006 "Muziek als sociale kritiek"

De volgende NVAS-studiedag zal plaatsvinden in het najaar van 2006 in Leiden. Thema van de conferentie is "Muziek als sociale kritiek".

Tips en suggesties wat betreft sprekers en invalshoeken kunt u sturen naar:

Lpelckmans@ascleiden.nl

Alle suggesties zijn welkom!!

AEGIS European Conference on African Studies

The African Studies Centre is hosting AEGIS's (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies) second biennial conference in Leiden, the Netherlands from 11-14 July 2007. The first European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in London in July 2005. I is hoped that ECAS 2007 will be just as interesting and thought-provoking. The conference in Leiden has "African Alternatives: Initiative and Creativity beyond Current Constraints" as its theme and the African Studies Centre is currently looking for proposals for panels from all areas of African Studies. We would welcome suggestions related to the conference theme from any field of the social sciences. For more information on AEGIS: www.aegis-eu.org

DPRN/ASC regional expert meetings 2006

Can We Make a Difference? *Dutch Development Aid in Africa 2*, 7 and 9 November 2006, Poortgebouw Leiden. More info on the regional expert meetings: www.ascleiden.nl

Even kennismaken

Nieuwe leden NVAS per april 2006

De afgelopen periode ontvingen we 9 aanmeldingen van nieuwe leden. Hieronder publiceren we de gegevens die we de afgelopen periode ontvingen.

Claudia Venhorst

E-mail: senegal@home.nl

Student Religiestudies, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen. Ik studeer in 2007 af op "Ritueel & werk in de Mouriden-broederschap, Senegal".

Onderzoeksinteresses & -land:
Ritual studies, islam, religie, Senegal.

Suzanne Letterie

E-mail: s.n.b.letterie@umail.leidenuniv.nl

Student Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelings-sociologie, Universiteit Leiden.

Onderzoeksinteresse & -land:
Human security en onderwijs. Onderzoek gedaan in Bukina Faso en Mali.

Amos Arij de Jong

E-mail: a.a.de.jong@leidenuniv.nl of amosdejong@gmail.com

Culturele Antropologie en Ontwikkelings-sociologie aan de Universiteit van Leiden.

Onderzoeksinteresse & -land:
Ontwikkeling van kinderen; kritisch realisme, Ghana.

Momenteel bezig met de afronding van mijn Bachelor jaar en met de voorbereiding op het onderzoek in 2007 in Ghana. Mijn onderzoeksinteresse is altijd, van jongs af aan, de ontwikkeling van kinderen geweest. Daarom gaat mijn Bachelor scriptie over "de antropologie van de ontwikkeling van kinderen in Afrika" en zal mijn Master research zich hier volledig op richten. Daarbij wordt gebruik gemaakt van de methodologie van het Kritisch Realisme.

mijn grootste drijfveren.
Nog geen wetenschappelijke publicaties.

Louise Muller

E-mail: s0349267@sms.ed.ac.uk

Maatschappijgeschiedenis, (interculturele) filosofie, African Studies. Op dit moment ben ik een Ph.D. student aan de Universiteit van Edinburgh.

Onderzoeksinteresse en -land:
Interculturele ethiek, philosophy of mind, Ghanese filosofie en geschiedenis; Ghana

Belangrijkste publicaties

1. Muller, L.F., "A thematic comparison between four African scholars: Idowu, Mbiti, Okot p'Bitek & Appiah: what do they tell us about the existence of 'truth' and a 'High God', and why is their work significant? in: Quest: an African Journal of Philosophy, Volume XVIII, No. 1-2, 2004 : Rotterdam (zie www.quest-journal.net/directions_for_contributors.htm)

2. Diverse publicaties van interviews met ministers en politici, en boekrecensies in Demo; het Magazine van de Jonge Democraten (1997-1999).

3. Nelis, Huub, Van Steensel, K.M. e.a., Jongeren als experts/ Stille revolutionairen. Publicatie Stichting Maatschappij en Onderneming (SMO), (2000). Mijn stageverslag vormt een belangrijke bron voor dit boek.

4. Muller, L.F., Het einde van Amerika, Roest nr.0 1999. Boekrecensie van Robert D. Kaplan's An Empire Wilderness: Travels into America's Future (1998), New York, Uitgeverij Alfred A. Knopf (1999).

5. Muller, L.F., Slaven in de familie, Roest nr.1 1999. Boekrecensie van Edward Ball's Slaves in the family. Amsterdam: Uitgeverij Arena (1999)

Wilt u, als (nieuw) lid, alsnog uw gegevens plaatsen? Dan kunt u contact opnemen met Marieke van Winden, e-mail winden@ascleiden.nl

Afrika-onderzoek

SAVUSA

SAVUSA (South Africa - Vrije Universiteit - Strategic Alliances) werd in 2002 ontwikkeld om de academische samenwerking tussen VU-faculteiten en universiteiten te bevorderen, door middel van het faciliteren van publicaties. Aanvankelijk gold SAVUSA's mandaat alleen voor de zogenaamde 'Humanities', maar in december 2004 besloot het College van Bestuur van de VU om van SAVUSA een universiteitsbreed initiatief te maken.

In april 2005 heeft de VU drie nieuwe MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) gesloten met Zuid-Afrikaanse universiteiten, namelijk met de University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), de University of Johannesburg (UJ) en de University of South Africa (UNISA). De bestaande MoUs met de University of Pretoria, de University of Stellenbosch en North-West University (NWU) werden opnieuw bekrachtigd, om de onderlinge samenwerking te optimaliseren.

Wat doet SAVUSA?

SAVUSA's belangrijkste doel is het stimuleren van hoogwaardige academische publicaties. Dit gebeurt op twee manieren. Ten eerste beschikt SAVUSA over een Editorial and Liaison Office (ELO), dat zorgt voor de editing en layout van manuscripten, en van waaruit het gehele publicatieproces kan worden begeleid.

Momenteel lopen er drie SAVUSA boek-series bij Rozenberg Publishers in Amsterdam, en zijn er twee titels gepubliceerd in de Afrika Studie Centrum-SAVUSA serie die wordt uitgegeven door Brill in Leiden. Zo'n twintig manuscripten bevinden zich in verschillende stadia van het publicatieproces. Alle manuscripten die in aanmerking komen voor publicatie worden onderworpen aan een dubbelblind review systeem, en elke serie heeft een eigen editorial board. Een overzicht van de tot nu toe gerealiseerde publicaties is te vinden onderaan dit stukl.

In de tweede plaats probeert SAVUSA door het organiseren van Publication Oriented Expert Meetings (de zogenaamde 'POEMs'), mini-conferenties rond een bepaald thema, wetenschappers vanuit de diverse VU-faculteiten en hun Zuid-Afrikaanse tegenhangers met elkaar in gesprek te brengen. De papers die tijdens zulke POEMs gepresenteerd worden, dienen vervolgens als basis voor een nieuw 'Edited Volume'. Er zijn tot nu toe vier POEMs georganiseerd rond thema's als 'Land Claims', 'The historical relationship between the VU and South Africa' en 'African Management'.

Een SAVUSA-serie die een aparte vermelding verdient is de Student Publication Series, in samenwerking met NiZA (Nederlands Instituut voor Zuidelijk Afrika) en SANPAD (South Africa Netherlands Program Alternatives in Development). De serie is ontwikkeld voor Zuid-Afrikaanse studenten die een buitengewoon goede Master Thesis hebben geschreven. Zij krijgen de kans om hun thesis onder begeleiding van een professionele schrijfinstructeur in te korten en om te werken tot een publicatie.

In 2005 werd de eerste Student Publication gerealiseerd, geschreven door Sello Mathabatha van Wits University, die ook naar Nederland kwam voor de officiële launch van zijn boek. Op die manier is het voor de student-auteurs mogelijk zich te presenteren voor een academisch publiek, wat een stimulans kan betekenen voor een eventuele toekomstige academische carrière. Voor dit jaar staan er twee nieuwe Student Publications op het programma, over 'Coping with violence at the University of the Western Cape', en over 'The untold stories of adolescents affected by HIV/Aids'.

Samen met SANPAD en NiZA organiseert SAVUSA ook de DPRN Regional Expert Meeting on southern Africa, een jaarlijkse bijeenkomst bedoeld om wetenschappers, beleidsmakers en praktijkmensen met elkaar in contact te brengen om de samenwerking tussen deze drie soms ver van elkaar verwijderde groepen te stimuleren. In september 2005 werd de eerste meeting gehouden, met als leidraad de prikkelende slogan 'Hug or hit'. De tweede meeting, die op 20 oktober georganiseerd zal worden, heeft als thema: '(De)mediatizing southern Africa: HIV, Poverty and the State'. ASC-wetenschappers die specialist zijn op het gebied van een van deze thema's zijn van harte uitgenodigd zich aan te melden voor deze expert meeting.

Organisatie

SAVUSA bestaat uit Dr. Harry Wels (Director), Drs. Saskia Stehouwer (ELO-officer), Drs. Henk Goede (Financial officer) en Drs. Hanlie Grobbelaar (vrijwilligster). SAVUSA is ondergebracht bij de Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen van de Vrije Universiteit.

Voor meer informatie kunt u onze website bezoeken: www.savusa.nl of een e-mail sturen naar savusa@fsw.vu.nl.

NVAS-nieuws

Redactieleden nieuwsbrief gezocht

Schrijft u weleens recensies van boeken en/of proefschriften? Graag plaatsen we uw recensie in deze nieuwsbrief. Tevens zijn andere bijdragen welkom. Hierbij kunt u denken aan informatie over het Afrika-onderzoek aan uw instelling, een aankondiging van seminars, nieuw uitgekomen boeken, oproepen aan de NVAS-leden enz.

Ook is de NVAS op zoek naar mensen die willen helpen met de eindredactie van de Nieuwsbrief.

Wij verwelkomen zowel (PhD-) studenten als senior Afrika-onderzoekers en streven naar een landelijke institutionele spreiding. Kennis van het Nederlands en wetenschappelijke affiniteit met Afrika is een vereiste.

Takenpakket redactieleden:

- 3 x per jaar redactievergadering
- verantwoordelijkheid voor minimaal 2 rubrieken in de nieuwsbrief (bv. verslag conferentie/ bijeenzoeken informatie functiewijzigingen binnen Afrika studies in Nederland)
- corrigeren en meelesen inhoud nieuwsbrief (3 x jaar)

NVAS biedt:

- jaarlijkse sociale redactieleden activiteit
- boeiende contacten met mensen binnen Afrika Studies op een nationaal niveau
- volledige updates van het reilen en zeilen van Afrika studies binnen Nederland
- gratis lidmaatschap.

Meer informatie: www.afrikastudies.nl
Interesse? Mail dan z.s.m. naar:
Lpelckmans@ascleiden.nl

NVAS PR

Veel NVAS-leden publiceren regelmatig boeken of artikelen over Afrika. Niet elke publicatie krijgt de aandacht in de pers of is alleen bekend in kleine kring. Om de bekendheid van onderzoek van NVAS-leden te bevorderen wil de redactie daar aandacht aan besteden.

De ingezonden reacties zullen vermeld worden in de rubriek NVAS PR in het volgende nummer van de Nieuwsbrief. U kunt uw recente publicaties (verschenen in 2005 of 2006) sturen aan de redactie van de Nieuwsbrief via Machteld Oosterkamp: moosterkamp@ascleiden.nl

NVAS-bestuurswissel

NVAS-bestuurswissel

Op 28 juni 2006 zal tijdens de NVAS–bestuursvergadering besloten worden over de nieuwe samenstelling van het NVAS-bestuur. Dr. S.J.T.M. Evers (Amsterdam), Dr. C.D. Notermans (Nijmegen), Dr. D. Merolla (Leiden) en Dr. M.R. Doortmont (Groningen) hebben zich reeds opgegeven voor het bestuur.

Proefschriftrecensie

The struggles of urban squatters in Asmara, Eritrea

A review of:

Petros Bahta Okbazghi, 2006, *Survival on the Edge: the State, Squatters and Urban Space in Eritrea*. Tilburg, NL: University of Tilburg, 354 p. Glossary, tables, photos (Ph.D. Thesis, defended on 18 January 2005).

By Prof. J. Abbink ASC/VU

Social research in Eritrea is small-scale and has not yielded as large a number of publications as might have been expected in 1991 when this country gained its *de facto* independence from Ethiopia after decades of war and faced a host of problems. The country has one university in the capital, Asmara, which lacks sufficient staff, library resources and proper funding and is at present in dire straits, with most faculties closed during the past year. Foreign researchers have been working in the country but are subject to close scrutiny and cannot claim freedom of field research and are frequently limited in their cooperative ventures with Eritrean researchers by official regulations and interference. Eritrea has many challenges and problems, many of which are not well-explored. Among them is the country's urban sector.

The Eritrean sociologist Petros Bahta recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on urban squatters in Asmara and defended it on 18 January 2006 at the University of Tilburg. This work is one of the first of its kind: an independent, critical study of a pressing social problem in an African developing country: the marginalized position of a poor, largely illiterate urban population that has no legal title to either the land they live on or even to the dwellings they built (In addition, all land is state-owned in Eritrea). The book is based on observation, on a survey and on a number of in-depth interviews with squatters, policy makers and other people involved.

The book is a valuable and empirically well-founded discussion of the many challenges these squatters face in Asmara. His inventorization and description of the wide range of obstacles for squatters and the lack of solutions so far to their plight is very helpful, and no doubt this book will put the problems of squatters on the political and policy agenda of Eritrea. Between the lines, the book is quite critical of the failing policies of the government and of the lack of innovative thinking on how to tackle problems of housing, marginalisation and possible economic rehabilitation of squatters.

The author, who has returned to Asmara to take up his position of lecturer in public administration

at Asmara University, pleads for addressing this growing problem before it becomes unmanageable, and his analysis underlines the seriousness of the situation.

The book has five parts, divided into 14 chapters. After the Introduction (Part I) there are two historical chapters in (Part II): one on urban problems and housing policy experiences in Africa and one specifically on the problems of squatters in Africa since the 1950s. Part III has chapters on theory (pp. 51-74) and on methodology (pp. 75-88). With chapters 6 and 7 in Part IV the study explicitly focuses on Eritrea: on the state - society context, and on an empirical profile of the life of squatters in Asmara. Then there are chapters on processes of social exclusion in urban Eritrea since colonial times and in modern Asmara, as well as on the social networks and social capital among squatters. The last chapter of Part II is an analysis of the (necessarily) very limited scope for political action of the Asmara squatters, due to institutional and social-organizational constraints. Part V contains a chapter on research finding and one with a long list of policy recommendations. The work is marked by thoroughness, methodical description, theoretical ambition and the urge to give policy advice. It is certainly a pioneering work, because so far little was known about the urban population of post-war independent Eritrea, and no serious national debate exists on urban problems (nor on any other problem apart from the lingering border conflict with Ethiopia).

One of the central ideas in this work is that genuine participation of all the concerned parties is necessary in attempts to solve the problems of bad housing, economic crisis, and very vulnerable legal situation of the slum and squatter settlement inhabitants. If the state, the poor neighbourhood groups, and development partners/donors do not join efforts, they are bound to fail. The author places his work in a solid historical and theoretical perspective related to *social exclusion*, and elaborates a theory of social capital to analyse the importance of squatters' social networks as a resource which helps them survive - perhaps the only resource. His theoretical chapters address a relevant problematic of 'social exclusion', viewed multi-dimensionally, but they are heavy going because of the abstract style and the aim for exhaustiveness. Sometimes the chapters lack a specific elaboration of the author's own perspective or choices and thus the account tends to become an enumeration of views from the literature. Questions emerge as to the exact linkages are between processes of social exclusion, which figure prominently in the account, and the role of social networks, which the author sees as central part of the resources, the 'social capital' of the squatters. This is a point well attested in studies elsewhere. I wondered to what extent the social capital that the squatters have is a pre-existing resource, founded in religious identity, kinship and associational life, or a resulting effect of long-term social exclusion processes

Proefschriftrecensie

at work in the urban economy in Asmara. One can recognize that squatters develop defensive 'survival mechanisms' via their own locally oriented social networks a response to effects of social exclusion, thus enhancing their social capital and creating more opportunities. But perhaps there is some idealization going on here of these local 'networks', which are viewed in a classical functionalist sense. One might also expect the squatters to be *competitors* as well, because networks are built and used to some extent in a rational, instrumental way by individuals.

People's interests may conflict and compete. For many squatters the associational life, the social networks in which they (have to) move, will also be felt as heavy social control that might inhibit individual trajectories. In other words, social capital may in some cases be subverted by competition. What is the role of individual agency? The account gives us only few concrete case examples that might allow us insight into the relative importance of these factors. In general, the voices of the squatters themselves are not well presented in the thesis, except for a few descriptions of their difficult and in many ways desperate lives. Their views on the future, on desired improvements, or on better representation of their interests could have been given more place.

Following the important work of sociologist R. Putnam on social capital, the author makes an interesting remark (on p. 232) on the dual nature of social capital: next to a bridging aspect, it also has a bonding effect. Connected to what what said above, a question that emerges is how this bonding effect works in the case of the squatters, and how they themselves view it, e.g., in terms of ethnicity, kinship, or religion. Do these 'bonding effects' work to keep people down in the squatter areas, thus inhibiting social mobility, however limited to chances to this are? The author might have 'tested' Putnam's hypothesis about the possibly disadvantageous aspects of bonding social capital.

The book also describes the Eritrean government's continued onslaught on squatters' social capital – because they are systematically discouraged to use it and denied autonomy of action and initiative – and the question might be asked if it will it not gradually *disappear* as a resource and means of self-identification. In addition, there is also a *cultural* onslaught going on, with the squatters largely seen as poor, ignorant, uneducated or undeveloped and their life style being disparaged.

It is also possible that the government would come to see them as a security risk – in several African countries social protest movements have arisen in slum/squatter areas (such as, for instance, the Mungiki in Nairobi, Kenya).

The lack of state policy and interest would normally generate the emergence of self-interest groups, civil society organisations or NGO activity. But in Eritrea there is very little space for such local initiatives to emerge – they are hardly tolerated. International NGOs were all forbidden by the government, and it seems that local NGOs are discouraged as well. The author even notes that "... any socio-political and economic transformations cannot be contemplated when the whole society is suffering under authoritarianism." (p. 207).

Petros Bahta is interested in finding solutions to the appalling conditions of squatters and in offering advice on how new policies by state and NGOs could be developed. In the last chapter he gives a list of 18 relevant policy recommendations. Most of them, while often somewhat abstract, make sense, and are based on a careful analysis of the problems at hand. One of the recommendations, however, is highly doubtful. On pp. 309-10 he pleads to "... recognize and stimulate social networks" and says they need to be "... formalized, scaled up and captured by more formal institutions". But this will erode the little freedom and agency that squatters still have in Asmara's urban space, and will also facilitate government cooptation of the squatter networks and spokesmen, with the likely effect of immobilizing their dynamics and eroding their social capital.

Furthermore, on the basis of his sketch of the socio-political processes of social exclusion and policy-making in Eritrea (cf. e.g., p. 293), it is unlikely that any of the recommendations will have a chance of being implemented, at least not in the near future. The author notes (p. 13) that the squatters are perhaps 'beyond redemption' (unless drastic measures are taken). This may be too pessimistic, but it is certain that things will have to change significantly in the policy environment and in the political culture of Eritrea to fulfil the promises of national liberation, freedom and social justice for all that were announced and expected at the time of independence in 1991. ■

Boekrecensie

From modern myths to global encounters

A Review of *From modern myths to global encounters. Belonging and the dynamics of change in postcolonial Africa*: By Anke van der Kwaak, Rachel Sponk & Karin Willemse (eds.) A Liber Discipilorum in honour of Peter Geschiere, CNWS Publications, Leiden.

Review by *Annemarie Bouman*

Written in honour of Peter Geschiere this volume is exemplary of how different lines of research can unite to form a powerful thesis: to demonstrate that modernity and globalisation are indeed African themes that deconstruct the myth of Africa as static and traditional. Though the influence of Geschiere's work and thoughts form the unifying thread of this volume, the different articles form a good overview of the richness of research taking part in different parts of Africa today.

To unite the different themes this volume has been divided into three parts: politics and the nation-state (with contributions of Michiel Baud, Gerhard Seibert, Fissaha and Yesheanu Gheneti and Antoine Socpa), witchcraft and modernity (with contributions of Marja Spierenburg, Erik Bähre and Barbara Oomen) and fixing identities (with contributions of Ferdinand de Jong, Sabine Luning, Jan Jansen, Berend Timmer, Ed van Hoven, Jan-Bart Gewalt, Margaret Niger-Thomas, Marloes Janson, Rachel Sponk, Karin Willemse and Anke van der Kwaak). Peter Geschiere opens the volume with an interesting article on belonging and autochthony that applies not only to postcolonial Africa, but links back to recent developments in the Dutch multicultural society. Defining the own position through belonging, whether it be in a political discourse, with the use of witchcraft, or in terms of autochthony, is very important in the African context. Belonging secures survival, not only physically, but also socio-culturally, as has also been demonstrated by authors such as George de Vos and Lola Romanucci-Ross. The discourse on autochthony versus allochthony is also not new (and to my opinion no alternative, but rather a broadening of the concept ethnicity). It has received modern labels, but reminds us of the insider-outsider discourse of Suzanne Miers and Igor Kopytoff, a discourse that highlights the same struggle over belonging and exclusion.

Though the themes might not be new, this volume adds a very important component to them: the dynamics that make globalisation and modernity an African issue, and show that (ethnic) identity is indeed flexible and changing, despite attempts to fix its boundaries. The chapters covering 'politics and the»

nation-state' show clearly that clientelism and patronage, disorder and corruption underlie African politics from the Horn of Africa to Ghana, Cameroun and São Tomé e Príncipe.

Dissimilar to Latin America, where the state is 'a generally accepted institutional basis', in Africa the state is, in the words of Michel Baud 'continuously cannibalised upon by different social actors and interest groups' that co-exist alongside the organisations created by the state. A focus upon formal political processes does not suffice to understand African politics; here we need an ethnographic approach that includes elements such as (local level) resource management, kinship based and clientelism solidarity networks, and, for instance, external pressures resulting from processes of globalisation. In 'witchcraft and modernity' the ambiguous nature of witchcraft surfaces in all three articles. It shows how witchcraft has at the same time both levelling and accumulative tendencies, that it is about political power as well as about economic performance, about the accused as well as about the accusing. And, that the approach of witchcraft by for instance the government of South Africa oscillates between dialogue (a dialogical or universalist approach, that seeks to alter power relations based on the notion of universalist human rights) and dichotomy (a dichotomising or particularistic approach that considers witchcraft as locked up in the realm of culture).

The last chapter, deceptively called 'fixing identities' is about much more than the fixing of boundaries; it shows that identities are in fact constantly being renegotiated. With themes as diverse as sexuality in an urban context, food, praise singing, local musea, kinship and gender, a demonstration is given of the production of discourses of belonging in the light of globalisation. While Jan-Barth Gewalt shows how ethnic identity is defined and established by referring to cultural traits and reinventing a communal past, Anke van der Kwaak and Karin Willemse demonstrate that all depends on context, which makes the notion of strangerhood necessarily multiple, shifting and layered. Strangers are indispensable to construct 'belonging', but it must remain possible to incorporate them in order to survive economically and politically.

This volume is much more than a Liber Discipilorum in honour of Peter Geschiere; it coalesces notions of belonging and identity stemming from research all over Africa, presenting us with fresh thoughts on the effects of globalisation in Africa. Or indeed, as Peter Geschiere quoted Aristotle: 'Ex Africa semper aliquid novi' (There is always something new coming from Africa). ■

Prikbord

Call for Papers Conference “Informalizing Economies and new organizing Strategies in Africa”

Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden, 20-22 April 2007

Informal economies in Africa have been experiencing a rapid expansion in the last few decades. This trend is taking place in the context of neoliberal models of development, whereby international financial institutions advocate policies of privatization, economic liberalisation and deregulation. These policies have had far-reaching consequences. The conference will focus on the collectively organised responses of popular groups to drastically changed conditions for earning a living in Africa. In particular, the aim is to concentrate on attempts to organise informal workers and to defend their interests. The term ‘informal workers’ is to be interpreted here in its widest sense, to include both casual labour and self-employed people. Some of the key issues to be debated are:

- What organizing strategies are emerging around the interests of informal workers
- What are the agendas of these civic groups and whom do they try to influence? What kind of relations do they entertain with the powerful actors that influence the conditions in which they live and work (such as international financial institutions, private companies, the national and local state)? What alternative practices and discourses, if any, are these civic groups promoting?
- What new alliances and constellations are emerging in this changing landscape of organised popular initiatives?
- Where is an oppositional politics taking place - at the local/national level and/or at the international level?
- What are the gender dynamics at work in the various organising strategies presented above?

Papers and schedule

Abstracts (not more than 500 words) of papers to be presented must be sent by mail, e-mail or fax not later than 23 June 2006 to Ilda Lindell or Anna Eriksson-Trenter, using the contact details below. Abstracts must be written in English, French or Portuguese and include a title, the author's name and institutional affiliation. Authors of accepted abstracts will be notified by airmail and e-mail by the end of August. Completed papers should be received no later than 28 February 2007.

The Nordic Africa Institute, possibly in cooperation with an international publishing house, will seek to publish a selection of revised papers.

Venue and financial arrangements

The conference will take place in Uppsala, Sweden. The organizers will provide free board and lodging for all paper presenters. No per diems will be paid. Participants are encouraged to finance their own travel costs but if unable to do so, they may apply to the Nordic Africa Institute for return airfare (economy fare) from their place of residence to Uppsala.

Contact details

Ilda Lourenço-Lindell
Research Fellow
The Nordic Africa Institute
P.O. Box 1703
SE-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden
Tel.: +46-18 56 22 02 (direct)
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Vaste rubriek

Wilt u in de volgende nieuwsbrief uw evenement hier ook vermeld zien? Uw informatie is welkom bij:

lpelckmans@ascleiden.nl

Informatie over events kunt u ook vinden op:

www.connecting-africa.net

Op de Wissel en Promoties

Op de Wissel

Op vrijdag 24 november 2006 zal Gerti Hesseling een oratie geven bij het aanvaarden van de Koningsberger chair in het studie en informatiecentrum voor mensenrechten (SIM) aan de Universiteit van Utrecht. Zij zal lesgeven en onderzoek doen in het kader van "Peace Building and the Rule of Law".
Oratie: Vrijdag 24 november 2006, 16.00 uur, Universiteit Utrecht: Verdere details volgen later per e-mail.

Dr. S. Mansoob Murshed is aangewezen als professor voor de "Chair of economics and conflict and peace" bij de Stichting Vredeswetenschappen. Inaugurale rede is op 22 Juni 2006, om 16.00 u in het auditorium van ISS, Kortenaerkade 12, Den Haag.

Promoties

Universiteit Wageningen

Op 9 mei promoveerde Jan Gerrit van Uffelen op het proefschrift "Return after flight. Exploring the decision making process of Sudanese war-displaced people by employing an extended version of the theory of reasoned action".

Promotor: prof. dr. ir. G.E. Frerks (Rampenstudies).

Op 26 mei promoveerde Shamie Zingore op het proefschrift "Exploring diversity within smallholder farming systems in Zimbabwe".

Promotor: prof. Dr. K. Giller (Plantaardige productiesystemen).

Op 30 mei promoveerde K. Peters op het proefschrift "Footpaths to Reintegration. Armed Conflict, Youth and the Rural Crisis in Sierra Leone".

Promotor: Prof. dr. P. Richards (Technologie en agrarische ontwikkeling).

Op 31 mei promoveerde mw. N. Hagenah op het proefschrift "Among rodents and rhinos: Interplay between small mammals and large herbivores in a South African savanna".

Promotor is prof. H.H.T. Prins (Resource ecology).

Op 9 juni promoveerde mw. F.S. Wouterse op het proefschrift "Migration: survival or accumulation. Evidence from Burkina Faso. Promotor: prof. A. Kuyvenhoven (ontwikkelingseconomie).

Promotor: prof. A. Kuyvenhoven (ontwikkelingseconomie).

Op 27 oktober promoveerde Doortje Wartena aan de Wageningse universiteit, Leerstoelgroep Rurale Ontwikkelingssociologie, op het proefschrift "Styles of making a living and ecological change on the Fon and Adja plateaus in southern Benin since 1600".

Promotor: N. Long en L. Visser.

Universiteit Leiden

Op juni promoveerde Gitte Postel aan de Universiteit Leiden op het proefschrift: "Unheimlich moederland. (Anti-) pastorale letteren in Zuid-Afrika".

Promotor: prof. Dr. W.J. Schippers-de Leeuw (Letteren).

Universiteit Utrecht

Op 9 juni promoveerde Solomon Negussie aan de Universiteit Utrecht op het proefschrift: "Fiscal federalism in the Ethiopian ethnic-based federal system".

Promotor: Prof. Henk R.B.M. Hummeling (Rechtsgeleerdheid).

Universiteit van Tilburg

Op 10 mei promoveerde Gebremichael Kibreab Habtom aan de Universiteit van Tilburg met het proefschrift "Health care governance in developing countries: the case of Eritrea".

Promotoren: Prof. dr. P.H.M. Ruys en prof.dr. T.W.A. Camps

Universiteit van Amsterdam

Op 7 juni promoveerde Rachel Sprong cum laude aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam, Antropologie, met het proefschrift "Ambiguous pleasures. Sexuality and new self-definitions in Nairobi".

Promotoren: prof. dr. P.L. Geschiere, mw. prof. dr. B. Meyer

Op 8 juni promoveerde B. Ndjio aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam, Antropologie, met het proefschrift "Feymania: New Wealth, Magic Money and Power in Contemporary Cameroon".

Promotoren: prof. dr. P.L. Geschiere, prof. dr. P.N. Nkwi

Op het web

African Diaspora Policy Centre online

The African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC) is founded with the [mission](#) to contribute to better development in Africa by providing a platform that enables African diaspora in Europe to connect more closely with the continent as a collective force, pool their resources and proactively undertake initiatives for the promotion of peace, better governance and brain gain in Africa. to contribute to better development in Africa by facilitating African diaspora in Europe to pool their resources for the benefit of Africa. For more contextual and conceptual insight please visit the website; www.diaspora-centre.org

SAHAN consultancy

SAHAN research & advice bureau is an independent research and advice bureau which was established in Amsterdam in 2002. SAHAN is founded to foster research which responds to the societal needs in the areas of development cooperation, conflict transformation, post-conflict reconstruction, migration and Diaspora, empowering civil society and capacity building regarding Africa. SAHAN conducts practice-oriented research and fact finding missions abroad, mainly in Africa, organises expert meetings and public debates, undertakes evaluation and monitoring activities, provides training workshops and offers advisory services on development cooperation, knowledge networking, migration and diaspora related issues. For more information please go to the website www.xs4all.nl/~sahan

Afrika op TV

Vanaf mei 2006 kunt u een wekelijks overzicht vinden van alle programma's over Afrika die uitgezonden worden op de televisie. Het overzicht is te vinden op de homepage van de bibliotheek van het Afrika-studiecentrum en bevat o.a. programma's uitgezonden door Nederlandse, Belgische, Franse, Engelse en Duitse zenders. Zie voor het wekelijkse overzicht: <http://www.ascleiden.nl/Library/AfricanStudiesLinks/AfrikaOpTV.aspx>

The African Executive

The African Executive is a weekly online opinion magazine published by the Inter Region Economic Network (IREN), an independent, non-profit, non partisan research and educational organization which analyzes and promotes policies that will further the creation of a free society in Kenya and Africa. For more information please go to <http://www.africanexecutive.com>

Schatkist

Research Posts, University of Bristol

Below are details of two research posts on 'Muslims, Multiculturalism and Citizenship' at the University of Bristol, which will start in Sept/Oct.

-Research Assistant/Fellow - National Identity, Citizenship, and,
-Religious 'Difference' (vacancy ref. 12193)

This Leverhulme Programproject will contribute to an under-researched area within the study of national identity by focusing on minority religion in the theorizing and study of 'difference', citizenship and national identity. The focus will be on ethno-religious minorities in Britain, especially Muslims.
Grade: Grade 1A - Grade 2 Salary: £20,044 - £36,959

Further details and an application form can be found at: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/boris/jobs/ads?ID=50755>

And full details at:

<https://www.bris.ac.uk/boris/jobs/staff/particulars/partfiles/fff50755/12193fds.doc>

Alternatively you can telephone (0117) 954 6947, (0117) 928 8894 or E-Mail Recruitment@bris.ac.uk (stating postal address ONLY), quoting reference number 12193.

The Rhodes University prestigious scholarships

Applications are invited from suitably qualified students to study full-time at Rhodes University in 2007. TWO awards are offered subject to the following criteria:

Doctoral (R60 000)

Eligibility

-The overriding criterion for the award of the Scholarship is academic merit (70%), although other factors such as service to the community, intra- or extra-murally, could be taken into account.

-Applicants must pursue the PhD Program on Citizenship, Nation and Identity.

-Since these are Scholarships, financial need is not a criterion for these awards.

-Applicants must be younger than 36 years of age at the time of applying.

-Open to all citizens. »

Schatkist

Period

Initially for one year but renewable depending on satisfactory progress for a further two years upon re-application each year.

Conditions

Full-time attendance and registration at Rhodes University. Tutoring Assistance of not more than 6 hours a week, without remuneration, will be required.

Application Procedure

First Time Applicants: There is no application form until the short-listing stage. Please submit the following documents:

- A covering letter indicating intended degree and subject
- Detailed ACADEMIC Curriculum Vitae
- Contact details of three academic referees (including email addresses)
- Certified full academic transcript
- Certified copy of your ID.

Closing Date

Send applications for scholarships by 3 July 2006 to: The Dean of Research's Office, Rhodes University, Box 94, Grahamstown, 6140 Tel (046) 603 8055 Email: pgfinaid-admin@ru.ac.za

African Studies Centre, Oxford

There are IUCN internships available in Burkino Faso and in East Africa For 6-12 months. Please contact afrenv@ouce.ox.ac.uk for further information Administrator, African Studies Centre St Antony's College Oxford OX2 6JF, +44(0)1865 284996 <http://www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk/>

EU-Funding- Intercultural Dialogue

EU-Funding: Call for Tender: Study on national approaches and practices in the European Union in relation to intercultural dialogue- During the preparation of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008, the need was felt for a study on the approaches and experiences of the Member States in relation to intercultural dialogue.

This study will complement the process of optimising the results of the intercultural dialogue projects supported up to now under Community programmes. Follow the link for more information. <http://www.enar.eu.org/en/funding/calls/2006-07-17.shtml> »

African Economic Research Consortium, Kenya

We would like to draw your attention to the AERC/Journal of African Economies Visiting Scholars Program2006-2007 - details below. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2006. AERC/Journal of African Economies Visiting Scholars Program2006-2007

Objectives

The AERC/Journal of African Economies Visiting Scholars Programprovides for short-term visiting fellowships to the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford. The programwill enable network members who have recently completed an AERC supported research project to visit Oxford and distil a publishable journal article from their research reports.

Visiting fellows will interact with scholars and participate in the intellectual life of the Centre and the Department of Economics. They are expected to attend all CSAE seminars and to present at least one seminar on their own research while in Oxford. Each visit would normally last for a period of two months, coinciding with one academic term at Oxford.

Eligibility

Applicants should meet the following requirements:
-Holders of a post-graduate degree (Masters or PhD) in economics
-Be affiliated with an academic institution or research centre located in sub-Saharan Africa
-Recently completed an AERC supported project and wish to prepare an article(s) for publication.

Application Procedure

Applications should include the following:
-A letter stating what the applicant wishes to do while at Oxford including tentative title(s) of paper(s) they intend to write.
-Copy of the completed project report
-Copy of their updated curriculum vitae

Visiting fellows will be provided with a desk and computer in shared office space, and with access to internet and university libraries. A stipend will be provided to cover the cost of a plane ticket and the cost of living while in Oxford. The stipend is not meant to constitute a salary since recipients are expected to continue receiving a salary from their home university or research centre while in Oxford. »

Schatkist

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2006.
All applications should be addressed to:
Director of Research African Economic Research
Consortium Mebank Tower, Milimani Road
P.O. Box 62882 City Square, 00200 Nairobi, Tel: (254 - 20) 2734150/3/7; 2734163/6, Fax: (254 - 20) 2734170/3,
E-mail: research@aercafrica.org

IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften, Vienna

The IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften was founded in Vienna in 1993. It is an independent institute for advanced study that aims to support and develop the intellectual enterprise of transdisciplinary cultural analysis and the study of culture.

Senior Fellowships are designed to support excellent scholars, who are well advanced in their academic careers. Qualified scholars are eligible without regard to nationality, institutional, or departmental affiliation; although preference is given to applicants of international repute who have published significant papers in recognized refereed journals and books that establish the author as a leading expert in his/her academic field.

Duration and funding: Senior Fellowships will be granted for one academic semester (1 October - 31 January or 1 March - 30 June). Fellowships entail a monthly stipend of EUR 2.325,- (EUR 75,- per day), office space at the IFK equipped with electronic facilities including internet access as well as one-time travel costs to and from Vienna and free accommodation in a studio apartment (35 m²). The IFK will not contribute to retirement or health benefits. *Research Fellowships* are designed to support post-doctoral scholars early in their careers.

Internship Announcement, Ghana

The Center for the Study of Human Rights seeks an intern to support an annual human rights training institute in Accra.

Access Project Advisor: The Access Project at Columbia University is seeking a Project Advisor to help support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Rwanda as it decentralizes health management to the local level. »

Applicants must have a Doctorate or a Ph.D. at the time of application. Qualified scholars are eligible without regard to nationality, institutional, or departmental affiliation; although preference is given to qualified Austrian applicants.

Duration and funding: Research Fellowships will be granted for one academic semester (1 October 2007 - 31 January or 1 March - 30 June). Fellowships entail a monthly stipend of max. EUR 2.325,- (EUR 75,- per day), office space at the IFK equipped with electronic facilities including internet access as well as one-time travel costs to and from Vienna and free accommodation in a studio apartment (35 m²). The IFK will not contribute to retirement or health benefits.

General Criteria of Evaluation for Senior and *Research Fellowships*:

A thematic link to the IFK's current research foci on "The politics of looking - visual cultures in conflict" and "The cultural paradoxes of globalization" is desired but not a prerequisite for application. The IFK will also accept "independent" projects within the realm of culture studies and humanities unrelated to the present research foci. Applications may be submitted either in English or German.

Applications will be peer-reviewed by the IFK's International Academic advisory Board. A final decision will be taken in regard to the requirements of the yearly scholarly program. The Board looks for four essential features in fellowship proposals:

- a well-defined and innovative research question
- a clear definition of the uniqueness of the work and/or the significance of the research to important theoretical and methodological issues in interdisciplinary culture studies and humanities
- a discussion of the work in the context of appropriate research done by international scholars
- clear methodological provisions that guarantee an interdisciplinary research focus

The IFK discourages proposals that are either exclusively theoretical or exclusively empirical in character. It supports projects that combine empirical investigation with thoughtful theoretical work. Research proposals that present a clearly formulated problem, demonstrate familiarity with the scholarly field(s), and develop and interdisciplinary methodological framework stand the best chance of approval by the International Academic Advisory Board.»

Schatkist

Application Deadline and Decision Notification

Application deadline: 1 July 2006

Decision notification: 1 December 2006

<http://www.ifk.ac.at/fellowships-en.html>

Graduate Research Intern

Internship places, such as a Graduate Research Intern in History and Reconciliation, are being offered at the institute of History and reconciliation. For more information please go to their website; www.historyandreconciliation.org

International Peace Academy

The International Peace Academy, a congressional Research Service where Members of Congress turn to for nonpartisan research, analysis, and information is seeking the following posts;

-Editor/Publications Officer

-Special Assistant to the Vice President

-Analyst in African Affairs

For more information please go to their website;

<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo>

Departmental Lectureship in African Studies, University of Oxford

Departmental Lectureship in African Studies (part time, fixed term) The African Studies Centre seeks applications for a half-time, fixed term Departmental Lecturer in African Studies. The Lectureship is tenable from 1 October 2006 until 30 June 2007. The lecturer will assist in teaching, supervision, and marking on the MSc in African Studies, at the discretion of the Director of the African Studies Centre. Teaching will focus on the core courses in the MSc.

Candidates will be considered on the basis of the selection criteria outline in the further particulars which can be obtained by emailing vacancies@area.ox.ac.uk, by visiting www.admin.ox.ac.uk/fp/, or by telephoning 01865 284991.

Candidates are asked to submit postal applications (five copies, except for candidates applying from overseas, who need send only one) in the form of a letter which addresses the selection criteria, a full curriculum vitae, and an outline of research interests in African Studies, and to ask two referees to write in support of their application, to address mentioned on website. »

MA in Contemporary Migration and Diaspora Studies, University College Cork

The MA in Contemporary Migration and Diaspora Studies is an exciting new, inter-disciplinary taught program addressing all aspects of migration, integration and diaspora studies in Ireland.

The program will aim to:

-equip students with a thorough knowledge of the major theoretical and empirical issues in migration and diaspora studies today

-equip students with an understanding of the significance of migration and diaspora debates for Irish and European society today, with reference to policy and legal perspectives, geographical and social science debates, diaspora and Irish identity, new communities, and a range of specific applied issues in connection with rights, identities, citizenship, status and welfare

-train students in a range of specific skills-based social science research methodologies

enable students to deploy these skills by means of a dissertation using a range of theoretical, empirical, policy and action research perspectives

Multi-disciplinary Teaching Staff

Piara Mac Éinrí (Program Co-ordinator) Dr. Jim Mac Laughlin, Dr. Cairíona Ní Laoire, Dr. Naomi Bushin, Dr. Allen White, Prof. Patrick O'Flanagan, Prof. W. Smyth, Dr. Denis Linehan (Department of Geography) Dr. Siobhán Mullally (Faculty of Law) Dr. Angela Veale (Dept. of Applied Psychology) Visiting academic, NGO and Government speakers

Course Content

Core Modules:

Introduction to Migration and Diaspora Studies
Research Methods and Sources in Migration and Diaspora Studies
Case Studies and Current Issues in Migration and Diaspora Studies
Dissertation (15,000 words). Electives Modules (2 to be taken):

Immigration and Asylum Law

Historical Geographies and Sociologies of Irish Migration
Work Placement in NGO or other migration-related agency

Duration: 1 year full-time

Applications and further information

Eligibility: A 2H2 degree in a relevant discipline (Applied Social Studies, Applied Psychology, History)»

Schatkist

New study programs, Institute of African Studies, Leipzig

MA & BA programs

The Master African Studies is a two-year course which starts in October of 2006. It is fully modularised and based on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The languages of instruction are both English and German. The Master is interdisciplinary. Successful students will be qualified for employment in academic life, culture and the media, but also for professional occupations in the field of development co-operation, administration, politics and economics. For more information on both the MA and BA programs offered, please write to;

Institute of African Studies
Universität Leipzig
Institut für Afrikanistik
Postfach 100 920
D-04009 Leipzig · Germany
e-mail: maafrika@uni-leipzig.de
www.uni-leipzig.de/~afrika

Visiting Fellowships , Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Cambridge

The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities CRASSH is offering a number of Research Fellowships during the academic years 2007-08 and 2008-09. Applicants may seek support for periods of nine weeks during term time and successful applicants will be expected to reside in Cambridge for the duration of the their Fellowships.

The Fellowships are open to scholars not normally resident in Cambridge and willing to contribute to the thematic activities of the Centre.

Details of the scheme and of the theme for 2007-2009, Cultural Transmission and Disciplinary Change can be found on the Centre's website www.crassh.cam.ac.uk or from the Administrator, CRASSH, 17 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1RX,

administrator@crassh.cam.ac.uk

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2006**

Click here for [Employer Profile](#) ■

Colofon

De NVAS Nieuwsbrief wordt uitgegeven door de Nederlandse Vereniging voor Afrika Studies.

De digitale versie van de nieuwsbrief kunt u nalezen op <http://www.afrikastudies.nl>

Heeft u een bijdrage voor de nieuwsbrief? Mail of stuur uw kopij naar: moosterkamp@ascleiden.nl of onderstaand redactie-adres:

Redactie-adres:

Secretariaat NVAS
p/a Afrika-Studiecentrum
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fax: 071- 527.33.44
website: www.afrikastudies.nl

N.B. De redactie besluit of een stuk uiteindelijk geplaatst wordt en behoudt zich het recht voor om kopij in te korten en/of te bewerken.

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Reproductie en verzending:

Met dank aan het secretariaat van het Afrika-Studiecentrum voor de geboden ondersteuning.

Contributie:

De contributie bedraagt € 11,50 per jaar, voor student-leden en 65-plussers € 4,50 per jaar. Dit bedrag kan worden overgemaakt naar rekening nr. 781 90 46 van de Postbank o.v.v. uw adresgegevens inclusief e-mailadres en geboortedatum.

Let op!

Voor toezending van de nieuwsbrief, e-mail enz. hebben wij uw adresgegevens nodig. Deze kunt u mailen naar: Marieke van Winden, Afrika-Studiecentrum (winden@ascleiden.nl)

De NVAS Nieuwsbrief verschijnt drie maal per kalenderjaar (februari, juni en november) ■