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Leiden  
The Netherlands

## Annual report African Studies Centre Leiden 2020

Jongenelen, R.G.L.; Veldkamp, F.; Yeadell-Moore, A.

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# Annual Report 2020

African Studies Centre  
Afrika-Studiecentrum  
Leiden



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Country Portal: <http://countryportal.ascleiden.nl>

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### In Memoriam: BERNARD BERENDSEN (1942-2021)

The ASCL is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr Bernard Berendsen on 11 February 2021. Bernard has been very important to the African Studies Centre Leiden, for a very long time.

Bernard was an economist who graduated with a PhD in international trade from Erasmus University Rotterdam ('Regional models of trade and development', 1978). He joined the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs where, among diverse roles, he was Head of the Africa Desk and Dutch Ambassador to Tanzania. During a turbulent period for the African Studies Centre in the 1990s he was a member of our Advisory Council, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was crucial to the changes necessary in the Centre's management. This resulted in Gerti Hesselting becoming the new director under a Curatorium that was more distanced from the Centre than the previous Board.

In the early 2010s, Bernard chaired the Tracking Development project board (a collaboration between KITLV and ASCL, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and helped the project deal with its many challenges. He also became an editor of the African Dynamics volume that was one of the results of the project ('Asian Tigers, African Lions') and that won a Choice Outstanding Academic Title Award.

In 2012, Bernard again became a member of the ASC's Curatorium, and in that role he supported the integration of the African Studies Centre in Leiden University in 2016. He became the Chair of the new Advisory Board of the African Studies Centre Foundation, responsible

for stimulating the societal linkages of the Centre and for its library treasures. He performed that role until 2019.

The African Studies Centre will remember Bernard's commitment, his wise counsel, his kindness, and his foresight. The Centre would have been a different institution without Bernard's long and valuable involvement.



## PREFACE

2020 was a strange but simultaneously rewarding year for the ASCL. Strange because the global COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing health and travel restrictions have had a profound and ongoing impact on the way we conduct our work and interact with students and colleagues at the Centre and beyond. As researchers, we were unable to travel to Africa, or other places, to do fieldwork or engage in academic exchanges. Although we could build on strong collaborative relations with colleagues in Africa that allow for remote work, such opportunities were not always suitable, or, indeed, desirable. Opportunities to meet students face to face were extremely limited and most of our teaching was online. This was challenging for students and teachers alike, but also offered unique opportunities to involve a more diverse range of lecturers and students in our curriculum. The same was visible in our seminar series that went virtual and attracted a much more diverse range of participants and speakers from across the globe and, notably, from Africa. This positive development will be carried through in our future work. It was also the year that 17 countries on the African continent celebrated 60 years of independence. To mark this celebration, LeidenASA organised 'Africa 2020', a year full of workshops, film screenings, peer coaching for PhD candidates, and conferences. Most events took place in hybrid or virtual forms and others were rescheduled to 2021.

Flexibility and adaptation were key in 2020 and the ASCL has shown its resilience. The ASCL's core business, conducting and publishing research on developments in and providing information on Africa, has continued. This annual report demonstrates that the ASCL has stayed true to its mission, and we highlight a number of issues here.

- The ASCL welcomed new staff members, in particular post-doctoral researcher Duncan Money, student assistant Yasmin Noor, and our PhD candidates Mandipa Ndlovu and Kershan Vikram Panoram. Together with One Pusemane and Brindley Fortuin, they form the first cohort in the fully funded joint PhD programme with CAS in Edinburgh.
- Members of staff and from the ASCL Community shared their experiences with and observations on COVID-19 in Africa in a lively blog series on the ASCL website, covering e.g. how COVID-19 affected academic life in Ghana, how African Pentecostals make sense of COVID-19, how COVID-19 affected students in higher education in Ethiopia, and what frugal innovations developed in response to the pandemic.
- The ASCL Library remained accessible during the stricter lockdown periods, which meant that students, staff, visiting scholars, and guests could continue to enjoy the wealth of resources available, and they visibly did!
- The LeidenASA 'Africa 2020' year concluded with the virtual 'Africa Knows!' conference. Kicked off by a three-day opening event in December, the conference was spread over three months and covered over 50 panels and round tables dedicated to changing and decolonising knowledge, networking, and collaboration practices! The conference [website](#) is an inspirational resource with country knowledge profiles, podcasts, panel reports, and video recordings.

I wish you all reading pleasure and good health!  
Marleen Dekker

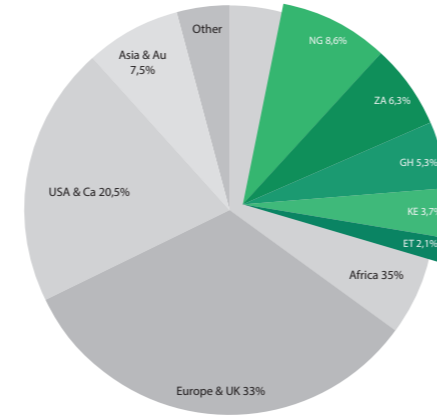
Prof. Marleen Dekker



## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

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In 2020, the ASCL had:



Among the best visited web pages were the library web dossiers, the research staff, the Africa Thesis Award, the visiting fellowship programme, news items, and the library catalogue. One interesting fact is that ASCL website was visited more often by users from African countries (35%) than by European (33%) or North American users (20,5%).

## The ASCL Africanist Blog

While the 'blog year' started off relatively calmly, with posts focusing on cultural heritage – one by Klaas van Walraven about a *cemetery for Dutch traders in colonial Congo*, and one about the private library of *Kenyan imam and poet Ustadh Mahmoud Mau*, written by Annachiara Raia – from March, the posts shifted to current affairs as the coronavirus started to spread around the world, with a special series about the impact of COVID-19 in Africa. As part of this series, ASCL Community members and PhD candidates across Africa were invited to share their views and experiences.

Mayke Kaag, convenor of the Collaborative Research Group 'Africa in the world: Rethinking Africa's global connections', kicked off with a post about *why Africa was so little affected compared to other parts of the world*, explaining that it was due to Africa being less interconnected with the rest of the world, including China, especially in terms of flows of people.

Samuel Aniegye Ntewusu from the University of Ghana blogged about the *virus' impact on society and academic life in Ghana*, while PhD candidate Tinashe Chimbidzikai focused on how *African Pentecostals made sense of the COVID-19 pandemic*.

Harrison Esam Awuh offered sharp insights into the *situation in Cameroon*, where separatists fighting for the independence of the two Anglophone regions of Cameroon had already imposed lockdowns years ago. Likewise, PhD candidate Crépin Marius Mougua showed how the

pandemic impacted on the *Central African Republic: A country dealing with multiple crises*.

In two posts, Lungisile Ntsebeza (University of Cape Town) wrote about the *implications of COVID-19 for South Africa's democracy* and shared his worries about the ability of the Eastern Cape province to deal effectively with the pandemic against a backdrop of corruption allegations.

The ASCL asked Bruno Parmentier, French engineer and economist specialising in agriculture and food security, to share his views on how to *better secure Africa's food supply after COVID-19*. Community member Charmaine Williamson took the discussion further and analysed the survival of human and natural ecologies during and beyond COVID-19, wondering whether *enough lessons will be learned to re-balance this unbalanced universe*.

From a more practical perspective, Tycho van der Hoog, PhD candidate at the ASCL who was forced to return home from his fieldwork in Namibia, discussed *three ways to conduct historical research on Africa in times of corona*.

Finally, Simone Reinders wrote a blog that focuses on inequalities in higher education in Africa. She asked two experts on higher education in Ethiopia: *How have COVID-19 and the consequent shutdown of universities affected equity and inclusivity?* All blogs can be found [here](#).

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## RESEARCH

As a multidisciplinary, interfaculty institute at Leiden University, the African Studies Centre Leiden (ASCL) specialises in research, information, and documentation services on Africa. It is the only knowledge centre on African affairs in the Netherlands. The ASCL fulfils a key educational role: in running a Research Master's programme in African Studies and a one-year Master's in African Studies together with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities. The ASCL, in addition, coordinates two Leiden-Delft-Erasmus (LDE) minors in African Studies. In all three programmes, students have an opportunity to gain field research experience in Africa.

The ASCL has maintained its prominence among European (and global) African Studies institutions and as a global hub of expertise and advice on matters relating to Africa for a variety of actors in the field of policymaking, news media, the business community, and NGOs. The ASCL's library and documentation resources played a pivotal role in this regard, with its extensive collections, research-oriented services, and expanding (digital) information services and web-based platforms.

The ASCL research activities were dented this year by the unforeseen COVID-19 pandemic, which severely restricted field research projects and forced people to mostly work remotely (with research partners and collaborators on location) and to concentrate more on writing and secondary sources research.

A by-product of this was a number of successful online webinars and conferences that achieved extensive participation by scholars from across the globe: notably, in the large international conference 'Africa

Knows!' organised under the auspices of the Leiden African Studies Assembly (LeidenASA) and conducted in an interesting format, mostly with online sessions and panels. This virtual event enabled the participation of a large number of African scholars. The activities of LeidenASA, as both an institutional expression of, and tool for, integrating African Studies throughout Leiden University via networking, inviting visiting scholars, and academic events, entered their last year. LeidenASA has achieved its aim of bringing together and synergising African Studies scholars of all kinds at Leiden University and beyond, and has developed into an effective exchange forum. LeidenASA will continue as a knowledge network and will hold a few final events in 2021.

The COVID-19 situation was not only beginning to be addressed in research and published work – on its political, social, and economic effects – but also resulted in new discussions on the nature, ethics,



and methodology of field research in/on Africa in pandemic times, with reflections on the changing nature of research partnerships, ‘remote’ research, and related questions. This discussion will continue next year, under the auspices of the Researchers’ Assembly.

Research and publishing on Africa remained central to the ASCL’s mission, predominantly in the social sciences and the humanities. The research programme ‘*Strident Africa*’ remained the overall framework, with four general domains of research:

- Politics and Security
- Society and Culture
- Economy
- Historical Context

All actual projects in progress related to these fields and also had clear interdisciplinary aspects.

Most ASCL research was carried out by individual researchers, but always within a collective frame, e.g. the seven Collaborative Research Groups (CRGs) that the ASCL had during the year, linked to, or derived from the four domains above, and, in addition, international partnerships remained in place. Within the CRG groups, scientific exchanges and (foreign) guest lectures took place, and collaborative papers/chapters were written for publication in journals or collective volumes. A list of CRGs and a summary of their activities is given below. In addition, the six ASCL professorial Chairs (two of them also located within the Leiden University History Department) continued as focal

points of the Centre’s research endeavours. These six Chairs were on: Governance and Politics in Africa; African History; Inclusive Development in Africa; Citizenship and Identities in Africa; Religion in Contemporary Africa and its Diaspora; and Governance of Finance and Integrity in Africa. Via its crucial role in the *Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa*, the ASCL had an important research and teaching linkage with TU Delft and Erasmus University, who co-managed it. As in previous years, a number of ASCL research and advisory activities were externally funded on the basis of submitted research proposal applications, with an important link to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs for funding two major programmes, with both scientific and more direct policy-oriented components. Writing and submission of new applications by staff continued, facing the same conditions of intense international competition.

To our deep regret, in January 2020 we saw the premature death of *Marcel Rutten*, one of our senior researchers and a noted expert on Kenya and East African pastoralism and land issues. The ASCL also faced a change of director: J.B. Gewald stepped down after three years of



devoted service, and, by year’s end, the job search procedure was in full swing among a field of (inter)national applicants.<sup>1</sup>

The chief forum for institution-wide exchanges on ongoing work, ideas, and project proposal drafts among ASCL researchers continued



to be the Researchers’ Assembly (RA), which facilitated free discussion on issues of institutional and financial regulations, practical matters, and research content. The RA was chaired by J. Abbink, and regularly featured other ASCL staff, such as J. Damen, vice-director and head of the ASCL Library, and communications officer F. Veldkamp.

The ASCL’s research and exchange partnership with the Centre for African Studies of The University of Edinburgh, UK, was continued, with

<sup>1</sup> ASCL senior researcher Prof. Marleen Dekker was finally selected and started as director in April 2021.

the four Leiden-Edinburgh Research Groups (LERGs) formed in 2018 continuing their activities as much as possible under the COVID-19 regime. Several ASCL researchers also spent a ‘sabbatical’ period of 2-3 months in Edinburgh. After the appointment of the first two PhD candidates in 2019 under a joint scheme with The University of Edinburgh’s Centre of African Studies and two others in 2020, it is hoped that two additional candidates can be appointed in 2021.

During the year, ASCL researchers published dozens of papers and chapters in journals and books and also regularly wrote policy reports and briefing papers for various organisations and ministries, as well as *blog pieces* related to their research projects, some available on the ASCL site and on other websites (see list of publications, below).

The ASCL continued to host a number of (*visiting*) *scholars* from Africa and elsewhere, but this year only three: less than the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. They were attached to a CRG and to a senior ASCL researcher. There are also external PhD researchers affiliated to the ASCL’s Graduate Programme of African Studies.

Below is a summary of the main themes, insights, and products of the research conducted under the four general headings of the research programme 2019-2024. Each section also mentions three representative publications.



## 1. Politics and Security

Political systems and developments in Africa were in flux in 2020, with more pressure on governance due to COVID-19 impacts on public life and politics and conflicts being tenacious. ‘Politics’ and ‘security’ being concerned with political order, institutions, governance, public services, and elections, in our research we interpreted political processes in the broader societal sense, i.e. following what local societies and political actors see as such, and relating them to ongoing discussions on human security as a general index of social stability and economic processes. Africa saw a mix of stable, peaceful countries, disorderly states with regular conflicts and several ‘ungoverned spaces’, and arenas of competition where international actors remained influential. Demographic growth continued unabated in Africa, and combined with severe environmental challenges and climate change this proceeded to strain the political order, contributing to often antagonistic competition and rivalry between religious communities, classes, youth movements, powerholders, and (ethno-) regional movements.

Both senior researchers and PhD candidates carried out projects related to the above themes, examining the enduring challenges of instability as well as political changes.

Several publications came out on issues of politics and religion, youth in conflict, political upheaval, and identity politics. J. Abbink wrote on links between religion and violent conflict in the Horn of Africa and on ‘good governance’ efforts in rural Ethiopia, as well as contributing various blog pieces on current affairs on the Horn of Africa. M. de Bruijn (co)published work on conflict and popular political mobilisation in Chad and the CAR, and on processes of youth radicalisation in the Sa-

hel as fuelled by ICTs and social media. M. Kaag co-published a paper on ‘trust and trust making’ of Muslim charity organisations in Africa. R. Idrissa’s work focused on the historical-societal roots of continuing religious extremism in Muslim West Africa (Mali, Niger). He also published a co-edited volume on democratisation processes, the state and political reform in the Sahel region. W. van Beek co-published a historical-contextual study on backgrounds of the ‘Boko Haram’ Islamist-terrorist movement in north-east Nigeria, echoing early twentieth-century violent depredations by the then Fulbe chief Hamman Yaji. K. van Walraven and J. Abbink contributed chapters to volume 16 of the *Africa Yearbook* (Brill Publishers) on socio-economic and political events in Niger, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Within the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform, various papers and briefings relevant to the themes of politics and security were published. Also, the StRA project on public policy and governance reforms in Ethiopia was continued by J. Abbink, assisted by Y.N. Tessema. It had clear policy-relevant aspects and involved a number of local partners in two large regional states in Ethiopia.

### Key publications

Abbink, J. (2020). ‘*Religion and violence in the Horn of Africa: Trajectories of mimetic rivalry and escalation between ‘political Islam’ and the state*’. *Politics, Religion and Ideology* 21(2): 194-215.

Idrissa, R. and L. Villalón, eds (2020). ‘*Democratic Struggle, Institutional Reform, and State Resilience in the Africa Sahel*’. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Van Beek, W. and M. Chétima (2020). ‘*Une répétition de l’histoire ? Boko Haram et Hamman Yaji*’. In: E. Chavin *et al.*, (eds), *Conflits et Violences dans le Bassin du Lac Tchad*, pp. 37-56. Marseille: IRD Editions.

Dr Mayke Kaag



## Africa’s Global Connections under COVID-19 and Beyond

In a *blog* that I wrote in March 2020, I focused on the question of why, at that time, Africa seemed to be little affected by the pandemic compared to other regions of the globe. In

the early days of the virus’ journey, when it was still largely restricted to China, observers forecast that the spread would hit Africa hard due to its close relations with China in combination with its weak health-care systems. Yet, the predictions did not materialise. An insightful article by *The Africa Report* offered an explanation; specifically, that Africa’s global connections should be investigated beyond superficial assumptions: Africa is simply less connected to the rest of the world, including China, than other regions, especially in terms of flows of people. Contrary to received ideas, even the proportion of Chinese workers going to Africa is relatively low: of the Chinese workers going abroad in 2017, only 16 per cent were employed in Africa. To this, I would like to add that African migration out of the continent is also largely *restricted*, in contrast to what certain media and politicians want us to believe.

As the pandemic is still evolving and field research has been complicated, it is currently difficult to investigate what COVID-19 has meant to, for instance, actual global economic activity in Africa. Among other important questions are: What are the consequences of the reduced flow of remittances back home now that many Africans in the diaspora have lost their jobs as a consequence of anti-COVID-19 measures? Are new and/or intensified long-distance connections between Africans in Africa and the rest of the world evolving now that personal encounters have become difficult?

In our academic environment, the increased use of virtual meeting platforms for teaching, workshops, and conferences has made it easier to create a ‘global classroom’ and to have African colleagues at the conference table; however, it is also clear that many Africans have difficulties accessing affordable and high-quality internet connections, and thus they risk remaining isolated from, and invisible in, such new forms of global encounter. Interestingly, as Abdourahmane Seck of University Gaston Berger pointed out, in Africa, the global COVID-19 outbreak has contributed to the further demystification of, in particular, the former colonising powers, which appear to be unable to deal effectively with the pandemic in their own countries. This supports ongoing calls among Africans to further delink from Europe and to turn instead to Asia. So-called vaccine diplomacy, currently being deployed by China, Russia, and India, is an interesting endeavour in this respect; its results will, of course, depend on whether these global powers are able to live up to their promises – a challenge that is also faced by the World Health Organisation’s COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) programme.

The foregoing points to the fact that developments related to the pandemic are currently profoundly shaping and re-shaping connections between Africa(ns) and the rest of the world and will continue to do so beyond the acute COVID-19 period. The year 2021 promises to be another fascinating year of research, exchange, and further reflection. Our CRG has planned a seminar series on Africa’s global connections under COVID-19 and beyond, as well as a seminar series on questions of trust and trust-making in Africa’s global connections, which is also particularly relevant in these times of extra surveillance, the rolling out of vaccination programmes, etc. In addition, the *Destination Africa* volume will be published, offering food for thought on global mobilities towards Africa in corona and post-corona times. Stay tuned!

## 2. Society and Culture

The broad field of society and culture studies comprises work on the cultural textures of African societies that was done in various research projects, addressing religious life, the interface of language and culture, psycho-social effects of conflict and crisis, and intra-continental and global flows in literature, music, and other cultural representations in both directions: to and from the African continent, including its diasporas. The study of society and culture also comprises educational issues, medical history, and healthcare issues, e.g. in the work of L. Berckmoes, who co-published a chapter on context and culture in mental health pathways of youth in (post-)conflict situations, and one on Burundian diasporas in Europe and the way they addressed or managed the emotionally charged (digital) information flows on political and violent crisis in their home country. M. de Bruijn co-authored two papers on the phenomenon of child recruitment by armed groups in Central Africa.

Health issues were addressed in the work of L. Berckmoes and colleagues on conflict-induced mental health issues among child and adolescent refugees, and by A. Akinyoade on COVID-19 transmission patterns and economic impact in Nigeria. In the CRG 'Pioneering futures of health', several researchers worked on m-health projects and publications on migrants, youth, and religious identity.

Artistic performance and activist verbal and material art were major venues of political and cultural critique in Africa, widely distributed and appealing via social media and internet use. Several staff worked on this. PhD candidate L. Oudenhuijsen continued (although hindered by COVID-19 restrictions) her PhD project 'Islam, everyday ethics, and

its gendered contestations: 'wicked' women in Senegal from 1950 to the present', on historical transformations and continuations of gender norms in Senegal. Inequalities, transcontinental migration flows, and displacement movements as they relate to cultural and socio-political manifestations were also studied, for instance in M. Kaag's studies on transnational migration, land, and investment in African cities, and on contexts of 'trust and trustmaking' in Africa.

R. van Dijk pursued his studies of varying aspects of Pentecostal religious communities, migrant diasporas, and their activism, and on religious expressions in worldview and identity construction.

Aspects of language use, literature, and linguistic variety were seen in the work by A. Raia (on Swahili literature and culture), who published her PhD thesis-based monograph and various papers on Swahili literature, while A. Amha worked on South Ethiopian (Omoti) languages and cultures, finalising the building of a large data repository in the framework of an ELDP (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) project, and yielding a public digital database on the linguistic and material culture of the Zargula people (Southern Ethiopia). She also continued work as managing editor of the *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*. The externally funded project *DigiDogon* coordinated by W. van Beek, on recording and digitally safeguarding parts of the Malian Dogon people's intangible cultural heritage in the face of religious-extremist and other threats, proceeded, with the publication of the book *Chanter le Baja Ni: Abirè le Voyant Dogon*. Research in the Dogon area in Mali, by four junior researchers, also continued.

## Key publications

- Dijk, R. van (2020). *Religious sophistication in African Pentecostalism. An urban spirit?*. In: Hansjorg Dilger, Astrid Bochow, Marian Burchardt and Matthew Wilhelm-Solomon (eds.), *Affective Trajectories. Religion and Emotion in African City-Scapes*, pp. 98-116. Durham, NC - London: Duke University Press.
- Reis, R., Crone, M. & Berckmoes, L.H. (2020). 'Unpacking context and culture in mental health pathways of child and adolescent refugees'. In: S. Song and P. Ventevogel (eds.) *Child, Adolescent and Family Refugee Mental Health*, pp. 37-51. Cham: Springer.
- Raia, A. 2020. 'Rewriting Yusuf. A Philological and Intertextual Study of a Swahili Islamic Manuscript Poem'. Cologne: Rüdiger Köppe Verlag (*Archiv Afrika-wissenschaftlicher Manuskripte* Band 12).



Dr Azeb Amha

## Digitising linguistic and cultural heritage in Southwest Ethiopia

Since September 2016, I have been engaged in an in-depth study of the Zargula people and their language. This has entailed a thorough audio-visual documentation effort in the framework of the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) based at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. The Zargula are a mixed cultivator people living in a fertile but densely populated area of southwestern Ethiopia, whose language and cultural



survival are under pressure. They live in an area inhabited by multiple linguistic and cultural groups and intense cultural interactions, whereby dominant group languages tend to overshadow the languages of smaller groups like the Zargula. Nevertheless, in a comparative sense, the study and documentation of the linguistic and cultural heritage of such groups is of vital importance. Local people appreciated my documentation efforts and several of them actively contributed to the work through recording, transcribing, and translating. The result of our collaborative work shows that the Zargula cultural patterns and linguistic expressions are closely aligned with their agricultural and ecological practices. Such interrelationships and alignments can be seen and heard in the recordings of their work activities, life histories of several men and women, in songs, and verbal art that are included in my archive. The narratives and discourses I have archived also document the ambivalent attitude of some Zargula people towards their cultural heritage: sandwiched between a growing number of Protestant-Evangelical and traditional believers, educated Zargula reflect on the changes that are taking place in their area and their own contributions to these changes. I aim at the digital documentation of Zargula linguistic and cultural expression as it is today, with a view to preserving it for future consultation and research. This entailed making numerous transcriptions of interviews and storing audio and video recordings on a range of practices, objects, work situations, and music in the ELDP's digital repository, named the *ELAR archive*. This time-consuming and technically challenging work of this project is nearing its end and I have been able to archive information on a

substantial number of topics. Starting from the core concepts of house construction and terrace farming, I went on to document discourses on agricultural crops and production techniques, land use, terracing and construction techniques and material, burial customs (linked to land use and changes in culture), marketed products, crafts and skills, work & praise songs and inter-species communication as manifested in living with and using domesticated animals. Several of the recorded narratives and conversations on these topics are transcribed and annotated using a time-aligned technique, which will be an important resource for linguistic research. In doing so, I have constructed an extensive primary database to be used for research and publication not only by myself, but also by others.

The work was arduous, but it has fulfilled its dual purpose of archiving valuable cultural material in the Zargula people's own words and opening these up for further studies. I look back on an experience that connected me to the people, and taught me much about their skills and way of life.

**‘Our focus was on how foreign business activities impact on sustainable and inclusive development in their host territory’**

### 3. Economy

Work on economics in Africa at the ASCL was done mainly by C. Uche, A. Akinyoade, M. Dekker, A. Leliveld, A. Kazimierczuk, and T. Dietz. The INCLUDE Knowledge Platform pursued its multiple activities and projects focused on economic development, (youth) employment, social protection and basic service delivery, entrepreneurship, and investment in Africa. The publication of briefing papers, synthesis papers, opinion pieces was coordinated, and regular webinars were

held, both in the Netherlands and in Africa, with the African platform partners. Several synthesis reports and papers were edited or co-authored by M. Dekker, M. Turolla, A. Kazimierczuk, and others; e.g. on productive employment and inclusive development, with added attention to the impact of COVID-19, for example on (youth) employment challenges in Africa.

Research under the economics cluster also comprised work on business history, markets, and value chains (by C. Uche, A. Akinyoade) with the aim to better understand the nature of Africa's entrepreneurship, local resource use potential, urban services, labour markets, state developmental projects, and its global linkages via ongoing donor country programmes and investors' activities. As productive conditions of African economies remained precarious due to rapid environmental transformations, population growth and climate change, a focus on durable dependencies and historical contexts as well as on local African entrepreneurship, inventiveness, and competitive dynamics, proved to be valuable. Development economist A. Leliveld pursued his work and teaching on 'frugal innovations and technologies' in Africa's economic transformation and development, with a focus on Eastern Africa. A. Kazimierczuk successfully defended her PhD thesis, 'Tracing inclusivity: Contribution of the Dutch private sector to inclusive development in Kenya', with case studies of Unilever Tea Kenya Ltd., the flower sector, and the Lake Turkana Wind Power project (see elsewhere in this report). In work by D. Money, attention was paid to the role of trade unions in Southern Africa, and to natural resource governance in Africa in relation to EU policies of recent decades.

Several ASCL researchers produced consultancy and technical reports for companies (for instance, on the sorghum value chain in Nigeria, for Heineken), for the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and embassies of the Netherlands, and also contributed to policy reports for other external agencies.

#### Key publications

- Akinyoade, A., Y.T. Agbaje, O.O. Olasanmi and I.E. Olubodun (2020). 'Home ownership, social costs, and wellbeing in self residence: The case of employees of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria'. *European Journal of Business and Management* 12(17): 41-51.
- Awuh, E.H. & M. Dekker (2020). 'Entrepreneurship in micro-franchising: an emerging market perspective'. *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*.
- Uche, C., A. Ezeoha & A. Ujunwa (2020). 'Crossing the borderline in strategic corporate philanthropy: Dangote and the construction of cement roads in Nigeria'. *Business Ethics: A European Review* 29(1): 70-81.



### Motorcycle transport in Nigeria during COVID-19

The examination of the economic effect of Nigeria's COVID-19

lockdown on commercial motorcycle transport (*okada*) operators was performed in Ile-Ife, Osun State, in 2020. This was done by eliciting information from the *okada* drivers' own-assessment of economic (income and spending) standing during the stay-at-home order, relative to what it was before the lockdown. Public opinion on *okada* drivers is divided: on the one hand, they are infamous for being notoriously reckless on the roads; on the other hand, they are renowned for the fast service they provide to passengers, especially on roads impassable for cars, and the good income it generates for the operators of this largely informal occupation. Indeed, it has remained the main breadwinning venture for many in Nigeria's large informal sector, and a popular choice for commuters in Osun State's university town of Ile-Ife. Ile-Ife hosts the 35,000-strong, dynamic, and mobile student population of the Obafemi Awolowo University, many of whom live off-campus and therefore need to commute to and from accommodation and lecture spaces.

Information obtained from the survey indicated that the income of *okada* drivers plunged to zero during the strict lockdown. The longer the lockdown continued, the further the drivers financial and social indebtedness and poverty stretched. Prior to the COVID-19 era, income generation by *okada* drivers depended on the number of hours the drivers spent on the streets. Despite the opportunities to earn a decent sum of money, savings were low and opportunities for expanding the scope of individual operations was limited due to, among other



factors, the increasing volume of okada operators working in the same economic space. In April 2020, privately held social safety nets were quickly used up; what little savings people had evaporated overnight; by the time May came around, borrowing and bartering became the norm. And the government/public safety net was absent – none of the drivers were on the government’s N5000,- monthly stipend, throwing up questions about the extent of coverage of the government’s much-touted programme. The unexpected and unplanned dramatic reduction in earnings for thousands of okada drivers, which exacerbated issues of debt and poverty in Ile-Ife, signposts the problems now associated with Nigeria’s notorious informal economic sector. Earlier, in 2013, Nigeria’s Finance Minister (now the new Head of the WTO, 2021) rebased Nigeria’s economy by factoring in the effect of sectors of the economy that had not previously been captured or were underreported. Thus, Nigeria became Africa’s largest economy. Despite this seemingly overnight achievement, poverty levels worsened in Nigeria and, by 2019, the country had the world’s largest concentration of poor people (overtaking India). COVID-19, and the national lockdown measures that ensued all over the globe, has made matters worse, not least for Ile-Ife’s commercial motorcycle transport operators and their dependents. The lockdown has exposed that Nigeria needs more than GDP rebasing to stimulate its economy. Up-to-date sectoral and incremental statistics are needed and the relentless pandemic waves with its lockdown responses, presents an opportunity to expand the scope of the government’s safety net programme, to stop the cycle of poverty.

#### 4. Historical Context

Research at the ASCL continued to direct attention to the historical contexts of African society, politics, and economic life, and within a perspective on long-term trends. A historicising approach permeates much of our research, also within the other three parts of ASCL’s research programme. Among the historians at the Centre, both thematic and country foci were visible according to their specialisations, with a special research focus on Southern Africa and West & Central Africa. A new historically oriented CRG was installed this year under the title ‘Patterns of Living in Southern Africa, 1780s to the present’. Various researchers worked on precolonial and (post)colonial history, both via book projects and research proposal writing, and a good number of PhD candidates working on African historical themes was supervised by ASCL staff. K. van Walraven published a collective work on biographical research in African history (Brill Publishers), with his thorough introductory chapter to the subject followed by original chapters by international scholars. C. Uche continued research on the economic history of West Africa and of Uganda (partly archival). Post-doc researcher D. Money published a co-edited volume on ‘*Rethinking White Societies in Southern Africa: 1930s–1990s*’, and in addition, papers on Southern African labour history and trade unions; he also completed the digitisation of the archive of the Mineworkers’ Union of Zambia (hosted at the IISG in Amsterdam). The PhD project by T. van der Hoog (started in 2019 and entitled ‘*Brothers in Arms: National Liberation Movements in the Frontline States, 1950-1990*’) was to investigate how southern African liberation movements cooperated in the Frontline States during 1950 until 1990.

#### Key Publications

- Idrissa, R. (2020). ‘*Historical Dictionary of Niger*’. Fifth Edition. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2020.
- Money, D. & Van Zyl-Hermann, D. (eds) (2020). ‘*Rethinking White Societies in Southern Africa, 1930s-1990s*’. London: Routledge.
- Walraven, K. van (ed.) (2020). ‘*The Individual in African History: The Importance of Biography in African Historical Studies*’. Leiden & Boston: Brill Publishers.



Dr Duncan Money

#### Preserving the Past in Zambia

Over the past two years, I have been working with the Mineworkers’ Union of Zambia to preserve, digitise, and make accessible their historical records. As the name suggests, the union organises workers in Zambia’s mining industry and has played an important role in the region’s history, as well as in the lives of the tens of thousands of people who have worked in the mines. The union was at the centre of tumultuous protests and strikes in the final decade of colonial rule and participated in the successful struggle to overturn one-party rule and restore multi-party democracy in the 1980s (as Zambia became a one-party state after independence). The Mineworkers’ Union, like many trade unions, has shrunk in recent decades. It was hit hard by the privatisation of Zambia’s mines in the late 1990s and has faced severe and persistent financial problems. The union no longer has the resources to preserve its own records and, consequently, in recent years the union’s archive had deteriorated

significantly and its substantial collection of historical documents was at risk of disappearing. This was the motivation for the project to digitise the union’s archive and preserve the physical documents. Together with the International Institute of Social History, which provided funding and training, this project has catalogued and stored the physical archive at the union’s head office in Kitwe, Zambia and produced a digital copy of the entire archive. This latter task involved scanning almost 140,000 pages and was primarily carried out by three research assistants recruited from the University of Zambia. Collecting the union’s documents to scan and preserve proved challenging. There was no cohesive archive; indeed, it is difficult to convey how dispersed and disorganised these documents were. Documents were stored throughout the union’s large head office, some in storerooms and the offices of union staff, others underneath piles of broken furniture, in a disused toilet, and even above the lift mechanism. I am reasonably confident that we did not find everything. ‘Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this archive is that it is primarily composed of documents by Africans about the world as they saw it during a period of great crisis.’ Nonetheless, the material gathered by this project was substantial and provides an invaluable



**‘Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this archive is that it is primarily composed of documents by Africans about the world as they saw it during a period of great crisis.’**

resource on the region's past. Perhaps the most precious aspect of this archive is that it is primarily composed of documents by Africans about the world as they saw it during a period of great crisis. Many of the documents are about efforts by African trade unionists and mineworkers to navigate, both collectively and individually, a period of disorientating and disruptive social and economic dislocation. These are not records produced by external powers, colonial officials, or scholars studying African peoples.

Two copies of the digital material were made. One remains with the Mineworkers' Union in Kitwe and the other will be made available to researchers through the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. The Institute is one of the largest repositories of social and labour history in the world and its collection already holds some records from a predecessor of the Mineworkers' Union. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting prolonged travel restrictions have delayed the final stage of the project, but I remain hopeful that the digitised archive will be made accessible in 2021.

Ongoing ASCL research activities were partly carried out on the basis of individual research projects, but also in close cooperation with colleagues in- and outside the ASCL and in concert with various partner institutions and networks in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere. As sketched below, within the ASCL, research was done via well-established collaborative research groups (CRGs) bringing



together several ASCL researchers discussing and working on related issues and themes as well as preparing joint publications.

### Collaborative Research Groups

In 2020, seven collaborative research groups were active under the ASCL research programme. The groups include active participation of information researchers working at the ASCL Library. Also, associate members from other institutions in the Netherlands and from abroad are part of the CRGs. In 2020 most activities went online due to the COVID-19 restrictions, and physical meetings were mostly cancelled. Research and exchanges, however, continued among the members and associates. The active CRGs were:

#### **Africa in the world: Rethinking Africa's global connections** (Convener: M. Kaag)

This group's subject matter concerns Africa's rapidly changing global context and linkages in a multipolar world, based on investigating the current dynamics of intensified global engagement in a sociological and historical context as well as considering African perspectives on, and agency in, these processes.

Evidently, COVID-19 as a global pandemic has been a harsh but also interesting phenomenon from the perspective of Africa's global connections, and, in this sense, it has stimulated the CRG's reflections, opening up new avenues of research while closing others (especially in terms of on-site empirical fieldwork beyond one's own country). The CRG met twice to discuss ongoing research. Much time was spent on the finalisation of the edited volume *'Destination Africa: Contemporary Africa as a Centre of Global Encounter'* (Brill Publishers). Due to

COVID-19 measures, the international workshop 'Travelling Islam' organised in collaboration with LUCIS, which had been planned to take place in June 2020, was postponed until 2021.

#### **Collaboration and contestation in words: Dialogues and disputes in African social realities** (Convener: R. van Dijk)

Discursive competition, polemics, and exchanges are prominent in global media and political area, including in Africa. This CRG is an organisational framework for studying collective expressions of the written or the spoken word in patterns of 'collaboration' and/or 'contestation' in African discursive contexts – influenced and indeed constrained by religious, ethnic, socio-economic, and age-group differences. The discursive repertoires were studied from different disciplinary perspectives. While members consulted each other and were in contact online, the CRG did not convene due to COVID-19 restrictions and a planned workshop for this year (a three-session Masterclass) was postponed until 2021.

#### **Governance, entrepreneurship and inclusive development** (Convener: M. Dekker)

The central concern of this CRG is the study of the nature of Africa's gradual economic emergence – as an area of natural resources, labour and capital goods, locally tailored technological innovations, and as an emerging producer and potential market in relation to the rest of the world. The prime focus is on entrepreneurship and interlinkages to economic governance and inclusive development, and the CRG's work is aimed at better understandings of the challenges and strategies of different economic actors and businesses operating on the continent. In 2020, the CRG organised three webinars on entrepre-

neurship in micro-franchising (Fan Milk Ghana), smallholder farmers and other actors in the sorghum value chain (Heineken, Nigeria, see elsewhere in this report), and on informal authorities and access to public services in Nigeria. Throughout the year, the CRG members also jointly contributed to the development of a proposal for a special journal issue on the theme of the CRG.

#### **Pioneering futures of health and well-being: Actors, technologies, and social engineering** (Convener: M. de Bruijn)

This CRG aims to be a pioneer in research on topics like m-health, health insurance, and other emerging fields that combine new technologies and actors in the domain of healthcare and well-being. This year, the theme of the CRG was generally based on a humanities approach to m-Health, with a special focus on schistosomiasis (bilharzia), as representative of 'forgotten diseases' in the Sahel and parts of East Africa. The core group of ASCL researchers and students that share common interest in this theme expanded, with new members from Chad, Mali, Uganda, and the UK. These connections allow for the adoption of multi-modal research methods, as well as multi-sectoral considerations, and perspectives that signal different entry points of evaluation.

Meetings were conducted mostly online (due to COVID-19 rules on gatherings) at periodic intervals (March, April, September, November, and December). Decisions were made to build on existing strengths for the acquisition of additional data and information especially in Chad and Mali, where there was already an existing field research effort conducted by M. de Bruijn. For comparative purposes, the networks of A. Leliveld and Alma Ionescu in Uganda were used to facilitate the CRG's expansion. Internal research funds were sought for

potential qualitative activities in Chad and Uganda. The aim is to hold a seminar by mid-2021 where initial field observations and results will be presented and debated. In the last quarter of 2020, a student intern was recruited from recent MA students: Janina Hubmann made use of the position to fulfil part of the requirements of the MA programme to undertake a research internship exercise in the Netherlands (due to the COVID-19 rules that restricted travel to Africa) as well as situate her MA research based on data and connections to Africa-based stakeholders that are already existing in the CRG.

#### Rethinking contemporary African history and historiography

(Convener: Klaas van Walraven)

In this CRG, the focus is African history and historiography in Africa, in a more monodisciplinary sense. Due to the corona pandemic, no meetings of the CRG took place, but its members, from the Netherlands and abroad, exchanged ideas on ongoing research, regarding historical, historiographical, and methodological questions in the widest sense of the term: work on archival source collections; new research questions; and in general the use of historicising approaches in other disciplines. The AEGIS history conference, which was scheduled to take place in Leiden in June 2020 and in which this CRG played a role, was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions at Leiden University. No new conference date was planned (although a first, non-virtual CRG seminar was planned for early 2021).

#### Trans-species perspectives on African Studies

(Convener: H. Wels)

The research focus of this CRG is on relations between humans–animals and other species in Africa, both as conceptualised in local Afri-

can societies and cultures and in academic research and policy. This CRG's research aims at a paradigm shift in the study of humans and other species in African society and history – away from a 'humans only' approach.

Dr William Ellis from the University of the Western Cape (UWC), South Africa, gave a well-attended webinar on 10 September, entitled '*Walking with herders: Animal and plant ontologies in Namaqualand*', enriched with beautiful photographs from Clement Cupido of the Agricultural Research Council (seen throughout this report). The New Year's blog from this CRG, entitled '*The year of civil disobedience in order to decenter humans (also in African Studies)?*' continued to argue for a less anthropocentric approach in African Studies. Following Prof. Charles Foster's successful seminar in Leiden in 2019, J.B. Gewald and H. Wels were invited to argue for this approach in the context of the Animal Law Discussion Group in Oxford on 18 November. Their presentation was entitled '*Beyond sentience: Towards a void*', and focused on exploring a multispecies research project around the Big Hole in Kimberley, South Africa. Furthermore, the CRG was represented at the 'Africa Knows!' conference of the ASCL with a panel entitled '*Towards a multispecies approach to African Studies*'.

#### Patterns of living in Southern Africa, 1780s to the present

(Convener D. Money)

This new CRG started in 2020 and was engaged in study and debate on the social history of Southern Africa, with a primary focus on the broad overlapping historical themes of urbanisation, industrialisation, and consumption. The time frame will range from the period before the imposition of colonial rule, during the decades of colonialism and in the period after the collapse of colonial and white minority

states in the region to the present. The group aimed to encompass the study of this region beyond the nation state (of less relevance for much of the period studied), i.e. into modern-day South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and the southern DRC. The approach of the group's members was to promote awareness and utilise archival and other research collections in the Netherlands as well as to strengthen links with scholars from Southern Africa and encourage collaborative work between researchers at Dutch and African universities.

#### Cooperation ASCL and Edinburgh's CAS

The academic collaboration of the ASCL with the Centre for African Studies at Edinburgh University, which started in 2018, took further shape, with exchanges of research and library staff and PhD candidates. In 2020, four new PhD candidates were appointed, two at the ASCL and two at the Centre of African Studies in Edinburgh. They will be supervised by promoters in Leiden and Edinburgh. They will work on issues of urbanisation, urbanity, and urban diversity in relation to African Studies. Four 'Leiden-Edinburgh Research Groups' remained operative but with reduced activities due to COVID-19 (on 1. 'Questions of trust and accountability: moralising discourses across the secular-religious divide'; 2. 'Inequalities on the move: Student inequality and career aspirations in biomedical education'; 3. 'African history in the context of thirty centuries'; and 4. 'Nature and numbers in climate change in Africa').

#### The ASCL and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

While driven by independent and original research themes and approaches in line with global academic discussions in African Studies

and relevant disciplines, ASCL researchers are also committed to dissemination and impact or research results on evidence-based policy discussions 'to improve the world'. We relate to policy work and are inspired by questions posed by societal partners and organisations, so as to contribute towards societal and developmental relevance. This implies a serious interest in the seventeen SDGs declared in 2015 by the UN. We see the value of independent, basic Africanist research as clarifying and uncovering underlying causes and correlations of observed societal phenomena in Africa, cognisance of which may improve policymaking.

In this respect, the ASCL retained a knowledge hub function regarding Dutch contributions to several of the SDGs respective to Africa. A



search on the [ASCL website](#) yields the activities, information sheets, publications, etc. on the SDGs produced under the aegis of the ASCL and its partners. We briefly list ASCL contributions in the past year

to the debate on the thematics and underlying assumptions of the SDGs, including mentioning some examples of published and ongoing work, but not claiming completeness.<sup>2</sup> While the work of many ASCL researchers has linkages with the SDGs, below we only highlight our involvement in the domain of the most important ones – where researchers make visible contributions via network activity, ongoing research, and publications.

### 1. No poverty

The *INCLUDE Knowledge Platform* remained an important focus of research and dissemination efforts regarding the problematics of poverty in Africa. On its website, several ASCL staff, ASCL-associated PhD candidates and other researchers made contributions to webinars (replacing live seminars due to COVID-19), blogs, and briefing papers or collaborated on discussion issues regarding economic growth, poverty, employment, and policies of inclusiveness. A programme funded by the Netherlands Embassy in Ethiopia and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed issues of poverty reduction and economic development in a couple of research groups on youth employment, public service delivery, and investment initiatives. On 16 April, an EADI webinar was held with the participation of M. Dekker and N. Pouw on ‘How to reach the extreme poor’.



### 2. Zero hunger

Issues of food security and agrarian production in Africa were also addressed in work of the INCLUDE

Knowledge Platform, in various commissioned papers, briefings, virtual workshops, and conference gatherings. Research on food and water security issues was done by ASCL staff member A. Akinyoade.

### 3. Good health and well-being

‘Good health and well-being’ topics (physically and mentally) were treated in published work and ongoing research by A. Akinyoade, R. van Dijk, L. Berckmoes, M. de Bruijn, and various ASCL-affiliated PhD research projects. Work on health insurance and resilience studies remained on the research agenda of A. Leliveld and M. Dekker, and were also present in the collaborative research group ‘Pioneering Health’. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a spate of new research ideas, draft papers, and blogs, and the subject will be further explored in empirical research during the following year. R. van Dijk co-published a paper on care approaches to victims of human trafficking, and ASCL-affiliated Ethiopian researcher L. Wako defended a PhD thesis this year on the nature of and policy approaches to human trafficking in Ethiopia.



### 4. Quality education

While some research was done by ASCL staff on education in Africa, the topic of education and knowledge infrastructures in Africa stood central in the big ‘Africa Knows!’ conference (mostly online) in December, with substantial participation by scholars in Africa. It was organised by the ASCL-based LeidenASA consortium at Leiden University. The ASCL also maintained its two-year Research Master’s Programme in African



<sup>2</sup> For a listing of pre-2020 contributions of ASCL research on the SDGs, we refer to the 2017 Annual Report (<https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/64704>), the 2018 Report (<https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/74150>), and the 2019 Report (<https://scholarlypublications.universiteitleiden.nl/handle/1887/135905>).

Studies and is a major partner in Leiden University’s one-year MA African Studies. Staff supervised many MA students, producing high-quality, field-research-based theses. The ASCL was still a partner of the consortium for ‘Enhancing Postgraduate Environments’, an EU-funded project coordinated by the VU University Amsterdam and Rhodes University in South Africa.

### 5. Gender equality

Research at the ASCL about gender relations in households continued, e.g. in work by M. Dekker, on gender in youth studies by M. de Bruijn, and by L. Berckmoes on conflict conditions and gender, and on sexual and reproductive health education in Burundi. In the ASCL-coordinated INCLUDE Knowledge Platform, gender equality issues were a regular feature. In the StRA project (coordinated by J. Abbink, see above), two policy-relevant research groups were active on women’s empowerment in public administration in the two largest regional states in Ethiopia, with two workshops held and briefing papers in progress. Attention for gender issues remained an integrated part of many research projects at the ASCL.



### 6. Clean water and sanitation

The ASCL did not focus on this SDG in 2020.



### 7. Affordable and clean energy

The Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa of the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus universities ‘consortium’ was the main location where this theme was addressed in various projects and receiving a prominent place in



teaching, e.g. in the minors ‘Frugal Innovation in Africa’ and ‘African Dynamics’. A. Leliveld published a book chapter on ‘whether frugal innovations in Africa could be responsible innovations’. Connections were also maintained by some ASCL staff to the Gender and Energy Group at the University of Twente.

### 8. Decent work and economic growth

The themes of employment creation, labour markets and labour unions, and inclusive economic growth were frequently discussed in work by A. Akinyoade, C. Uche, and under the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform. The Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa (co-directed by A. Leliveld) also addressed issues of balanced economic growth adapted to local conditions.



The ongoing StRA project on Ethiopia (coordinated by J. Abbink and Y. Nigatu, with components of academic training, workshops, and research input from local partners) continued to address this theme, focusing on policy options for creating more youth employment and on fostering foreign direct investment.

### 9. Industry, innovation, and infrastructure

The Leiden-Delft-Erasmus (LDE) Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa was a hub for teaching and research on these issues, with A. Leliveld as co-director and key researcher. These themes are popular, and draw many students under the minors on Frugal Innovation in Africa, and on African Dynamics. A. Leliveld and colleagues worked on an edited ‘*Handbook for Frugal Innovation*’. The themes further remained a



focus in the framework of the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform as well. C. Uche, together with some colleagues, published a paper on the role of multinational corporations in local dairy chain development in Nigeria.

### 10. Reduced inequalities

As hosts of the INCLUDE Secretariat already mentioned, the ASCL saw M. Dekker, M. Heuvels, and A. Kazimierczuk coordinate and support various research and policy engagement endeavours on inequality and inclusiveness in both the Netherlands and Africa.

Issues of inequality in access to new innovations and entrepreneurial activities are also central in the CRG on Governance, Entrepreneurship, and Inclusive Development.



### 11. Sustainable cities and communities

Many ASCL researchers devoted increased attention to working in urban settings and on youth populations in urban context. The ASCL remained connected to LandAC (the knowledge platform on land governance issues, of which it is a partner) that also devotes attention to this SDG (contact person: M. Kaag). Moreover, the PhD projects of the four Leiden-Edinburgh PhDs have a specific focus on urbanity and urbanisation and also touch on urban governance and development and well-being in urban spaces.



### 12. Responsible consumption and production

What 'responsible consumption and production' means is still a moot point – for whom, when, and how – but some work done at the ASCL contributed



to this global discussion. 'Changing lifestyles in Africa' (and among African communities overseas) is a major topic of research, e.g. in the work of D. Money on south-central Africa and by R. van Dijk in Southern Africa, with an emphasis on 'consumerism', conspicuous consumption, the forming of a middle class, and lifestyle issues in discussions about religion and morality.

### 13. Climate action

Environmental studies on drylands and (agro-)pastoralism have been a long-standing research theme at the ASCL, and the increasingly dramatic impact of climate change in Africa is still drawing attention, e.g. as it relates to conflict production. In this year's research products, climate action as such was not addressed, but underlying issues regarding environmental challenges featured in the research work of staff members A. Akinyoade, T. Dietz, M. de Bruijn, J. Abbink, and in A. Kazimierczuk's 2020 PhD thesis. These issues were also discussed in the activities of the Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa and its teaching modules.



### 14. Life below water

All ASCL research in 2020 took place above water.



### 15. Life on land

'Life on land' is a comprehensive and multifaceted domain, and research on wildlife and conservation and related land conflicts were visible mainly in the work of members of the Trans-Species Perspectives CRG, and in H. Wels' publication on 'lion conservation



and the lion bone trade in South Africa'. There was also a link with the work of LandAC (see SDG 11) which M. Kaag was involved in via lectures and with a co-authored paper published on the urban land question in Beira, Mozambique.

### 16. Peace and justice, strong institutions

Political change, conflict, radical ideologies, and security feature in the work of R. Idrissa, J. Abbink, M. de Bruijn, and a good number of PhD candidates (co)supervised at the ASCL and/or by ASCL staff. The CRGs 'Rethinking contemporary African history and historiography' and 'Africa in the World' also had members doing work related to these issues, and they hosted a number of (inter)national speakers on these themes via webinars. This SDG 16 was also addressed in a major way in several ongoing externally funded projects (e.g. the StRA Ethiopia project, and in many INCLUDE Knowledge Platform activities and working papers).

Some papers were published on political life, (in)security, and institutions, e.g. in academic journals (R. Idrissa, M. de Bruijn, L. Berckmoes, J. Abbink), in reports, and in the four country chapters by J. Abbink, K. van Walraven and former ASCL PhD candidate J. Mangarella written for the 'Africa Yearbook 16' (Brill Publishers).

### 17. Partnerships for the goals

The ASCL maintained its network hub function, via existing research projects as well as connecting the Netherlands and Africa and the knowledge sector with diplomacy/policy, business, and civil society in countries in the Global North and South. The *ASCL Community* is



also a valuable feature of contacts and resource persons working in/on Africa. ASCL continues a linkage with *ECDPM* (Maastricht), *SAIL* and *EADI*, and is a partner and a prominent (founding) member of the European *AEGIS* network, under the auspices of which a shortened online version of the PhD candidates' Summer School in African Studies was held in June 2020 (J. Abbink).

In Leiden, the ASCL is partner of *LeidenGlobal*. ASCL also continued its activities in the *LeidenASA* programme, the partnership for African Studies within Leiden University: this was the large 'Africa Knows!' conference (which started in December and would run into February 2021), which brought the year to a successful conclusion. In the framework of this conference in the 'Africa 2020' year (sixty years of independence), T. Dietz and colleagues also produced a series of country knowledge profile and *infosheets* on African countries. With various blogs, podcasts, profiles, and other resources, the *conference website* will remain an important source of information on the knowledge infrastructure development in Africa. In various externally funded research projects, ASCL staff sustained their collaboration with local counterparts in Africa, both in academia and the policy world. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASCL researchers and PhD candidates were not able to go to Africa for field research, and instead concentrated much more on writing, on webinar presentations, as well as on (Res)MA teaching, inspired by the research programme 'Strident Africa' 2019-2024.



## Graduate Programme African Studies

The year started well for the GPAS PhD candidates with a successful writing retreat in February. Soon after, the programme was disrupted by COVID-19, in the sense that some meetings were cancelled, and PhD candidates had to return from fieldwork earlier than planned. In June, the GPAS programme re-started with online meetings in which students discuss African Studies literature and present their own work for discussion by the group. The number of PhD candidates that has joined the GPAS programme has steadily increased in the course of the year.

A jointly funded PhD programme with the Centre of African Studies (CAS) at The University of Edinburgh resulted in four PhD candidates being appointed in 2020, two at the ASCL, and two at CAS.

An overview of GPAS candidates can be found at the end of this report.

### PhD theses defended in 2020

ASCL staff (co-) supervised about 45 PhD candidates based both at the ASCL and at different universities in the Netherlands and Africa in 2020.

The following PhD candidates with an ASCL promotor defended their thesis in 2020:

### Mienke van der Brug

*Childhood grief in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in northern Namibia: An anthropological study*  
17 April 2020 at the VU University Amsterdam  
Promotor: Jan Abbink

### Inge Butter

*Navigations of a globalizing Chad: Nomadic Walad Djifir grounded in connectivity*  
2 July 2020 at Leiden University  
Promotor: Mirjam de Bruijn

### Agnieszka Kazimierczuk

*Tracing Inclusivity. Contribution of the Dutch private sector to inclusive development in Kenya. Case study of Unilever Tea Kenya Ltd., the flower sector, and Lake Turkana Wind Power project*  
22 October 2020 at Leiden University  
Promotors: Ton Dietz & Chibuike Uche



Agnieszka Kazimierczuk defended her PhD dissertation on 22 October 2020

### L.M. Wako

*Women trafficking in Ethiopia and its mitigation: The case of Arsi Zone, Oromiya*  
8 December 2020 at Leiden University  
Promotor: Jan Abbink

## Meet the PhD candidates

Mandipa Ndlovu



Mandipa Ndlovu holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Justice and Transformation (with Distinction) from the University of Cape Town. Her first MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development (with

Merit) was obtained from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), where she was a Mo Ibrahim Scholar under the Governance for Development in Africa Initiative. Mandipa also holds a Bachelor of Social Science Honours (BSocSci Hons) in Justice and Transformation from the University of Cape Town, and a Bachelor of Social Science (BSocSci) in International Relations, Business French, and Gender Studies (with Distinction) from the University of Cape Town. Prior to pursuing her PhD at the African Studies Centre Leiden, Mandipa taught at the University of Cape Town. She has previously worked with organisations such as the African Union’s African Peer Review Mechanism, the Institute for Futures Research at Stellenbosch University, as well as the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation in Cape Town.

‘As a PhD candidate at the African Studies Centre Leiden, under the collaborative initiative with the Centre of African Studies at The University of Edinburgh, I am focused on the political economy of urban governance as it affects contested realities of development. The working title of my PhD is ‘Urban Governance and Bulawayo’s Political Economy in Independent Zimbabwe’. In unpacking the contested realities of development in Zimbabwe’s former industrial hub, I hope to

gain insights into the legacies of the governmentality of urban space and violence that fuel informalisation in the country. This remains important for the future of infrastructure development, governance, and urban futures in growing urban spaces – especially for the country’s young working-age population. Though I note that urbanisation is outside of my comfort zone, the deliberate investigation into its nuances underscores my belief that good urban governance remains key to understanding the future of Africa’s development.’

## Privilege and precarity: PhD as a process and as an outcome

‘For me, Agnieszka Kazimierczuk, the idea of doing a PhD emerged in 2010, from my future supervisor Prof. Ton Dietz, during the second round of fieldwork I was conducting in Northern Ghana and Southern Burkina Faso within the frame of the *PADEV project*. Unfortunately, the timing was not right – in the midst of the global financial crisis, funding for any research was scarce. It was in 2012, when we were back in West Africa with the PADEV team that, together with Prof. Ton Dietz and Dr Nicky Pouw (University of Amsterdam), we agreed to work together to search for potential funding. Finally, in 2014, one of the grant proposals submitted by Prof. Chibuike Uche from the African Studies Centre Leiden went through and I was selected as a junior researcher to work on the project entitled ‘*Dutch Multinational Businesses, Dutch Government and the Promotion of Productive Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Study of Kenya and Nigeria*’, as part of the INCLUDE research programme.

In the framework of this NWO-WOTRO funded project, I had a chance to investigate the potential contribution of the Dutch private sector, and supportive Dutch Private Sector Development (PSD) policies, to inclusive development (in terms of outcomes and processes) in Kenya in three sectors: tea, flowers, and renewable energy. My thesis concludes that support given to the private sector in developing countries by the Dutch government is important, but PSD policies need to be more realistic about what the private sector, in the specific context, can actually do to contribute to a particular dimension of inclusive development in a country.

But writing a thesis is only one element of a broader PhD journey. During my time as a junior researcher at the African Studies Centre

Leiden, I had the great pleasure to be a part of a department that is home to so many kind and inspiring people. When I decided to follow my heart and move to Brussels, both Marieke van Winden (press and communication's officer) and Trudi Blomsma (executive secretary to the Director) offered me a place to stay in their homes when I was in Leiden, for which I am forever grateful. It was also wonderful to be a part of a larger research community that included a small but very vibrant group of fellow PhD candidates. At the ASCL, candidates share an open space, which allows for interactions, exchanges, and mutual support during long hours of writing and informal interactions after hours. I have particularly great memories of my time in our 'PhD Cave,' as we tend to call it, and I am completely indebted to all my peers for their advice and support during the whole process. I finally submitted my thesis in January 2020, and it was approved in March. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the defence date was set for 22 October. Unfortunately, a long-anticipated PhD defence and all associated festivities had to be scaled down and took a hybrid form. The overall experience was better than initially expected but it was a pity that my family from Poland could not attend in person. My amazing paranymphs, supported by my husband, organised a fantastic virtual event with a lovely video mix from my family and friends from all over the world. It was a great day, but such an occasion also deserves a proper, big celebration with all the people who were involved.'



Agnieszka on fieldwork with the PADEV team, 2012



## GUESTS AT THE ASCL

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### Visiting fellows in 2020

The visiting fellowship programme for 2020 was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Setargew Kenaw Fantaw** is an associate professor of Philosophy and Cultural Anthropology at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He has published two books, a considerable number of journal articles, and book chapters. His research interests include epistemology, STS (science, technology and society), existentialism, and classical Ethiopian philosophy. During his visiting research fellowship at the African Studies Centre Leiden, Setargew undertook a philosophical inquiry into selected Ethiopian biographies and religious commentaries, including the biography of the seventeenth-century Ethiopian saint Walatta Petros.

**Justice Richard Kwabena Owusu Kyei** holds a PhD in Sociology from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Work in Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana. During this three months fellowship at the African Studies Centre Leiden, he was dedicated to converting his fieldwork data on political vigilantism into publishable articles.

**Ute Röschenthaler** is an anthropologist. Her research fields include cultural mobility, economic anthropology, and trade networks in the Global South. Since 2014, she has been an extracurricular professor at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. As a visiting research fellow at the ASCL, she worked on a book project on Malian tea importers and their brands, and she will start another book project on African trade networks.



## TEACHING AT THE ASCL

### Research Master African Studies 2019-2020

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The Research Master in African Studies is a two-year MA programme of the ASCL at Leiden University. In September 2020, the following students of the programme obtained their diploma: Oumaima Derfoufi, Hannah Schild, Mariam de Haan, Eleonora Minelli, Ka Hyoun Moon, and Felix Kram.

Hannah Schild deserves a special mention as she obtained her degree with distinction. Her and other ResMA African Studies theses are accessible via the [Leiden Repository](#).



A corona proof graduation ceremony was held on 14 October 2020

#### Research Master's Theses Completed in 2020

##### Oumaima Derfoufi

*'Nio far, ça veut dire on est ensemble'. African Identity through a popular culture lens: A journey into football, fashion, and music from Morocco to Senegal.*

##### Hannah Schild

*'I am a woman. But in addition, I am a mother': Women navigating politics, conflict, and uncertainty in Zanzibar.*

##### Mariam de Haan

*'Employees of the sea? Fisher identity formation in Mafia Island.'*

##### Eleonora Minelli

*'Female genital cutting on two continents: Continuity and change of sexual cultures between Ethiopia and Italy.'*

##### Ka Hyoun Moon

*'Internalising' development: The impact of the Korean-inspired Sae-maul Model Villages (ESMV) project in Uganda on 'local' village identities and sense of community belonging.*

##### Felix Kram

*'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might': S.H.A. Case and J.T. Ojukutu-Macauley and artisan trade unions in Sierra Leone, 1875-1900.*

#### ResMA Alumni 2019-2020: Hannah Schild



My name is Hannah Schild and I am a former student of the Research Master in African Studies, currently living in Germany and working on a PhD proposal at the chair of Social Anthropology at Bayreuth University. →

Hannah Schild

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After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Area Studies Asia/Africa at Humboldt University Berlin, I came to Leiden in 2017, mostly drawn by the opportunity to conduct independent fieldwork as part of the Research Master programme. My research in the Zanzibar archipelago was indeed one of the most memorable (and challenging) experiences during the Master's, but, thinking back, I am also full of appreciation for the stimulating and positive atmosphere at the ASCL, both within our group of students and in terms of interaction with the staff. The opportunity to engage with all of the different events, conferences, and talks organised at and around the centre and being taken seriously and feeling welcomed in these contexts, was incredibly motivating and inspiring to me. As for my plans for the future, I hope to be able to start a PhD within the framework of the Bayreuth International Graduate School for African Studies (BIGSAS) by the end of this year, building on some of the ideas and open questions following from my thesis on the impact of motherhood and mothering on the navigational practices of Zanzibari women in conditions of political and economic uncertainty. The skills that I gained during the Research Master in Leiden will certainly be a great asset to me going forward.

#### ResMA Alumni 2019-2020: Anissa Sidhoum Hassaïne



Anissa Sidhoum Hassaïne

My name is Anissa Sidhoum Hassaïne. I am French and Algerian, and I currently live in Paris, France. I am passionate about energy and sustainability; from a very early age, I have known that I wanted my professional career to actively deal with these issues. I completed a dual bachelor's degree in Social Sciences and

French literature at Sciences Po. Paris and Sorbonne Paris IV. After completing an exchange programme at Emory University in the US, I engaged in a two-year MSc in Economics & Business at Sciences Po. Paris. In between the two years of this MSc, I took a gap year to complete an MA in African Studies at Leiden University.

My field research focused on corporate risks related to the social acceptability of energy infrastructure projects in South Africa. Practically, I joined a solar project development company in Cape Town for three months and studied two solar parks under construction in the North West province. I studied the different local communities that lived with the construction site and how the company dealt with these communities. Despite how technical it might sound, this topic fascinated me. When studying renewables, social aspects are often neglected, in favour of the positive environmental impacts. Through initial bibliographic research, followed by fieldwork, I was able to shine some light on a topic that is often overlooked.

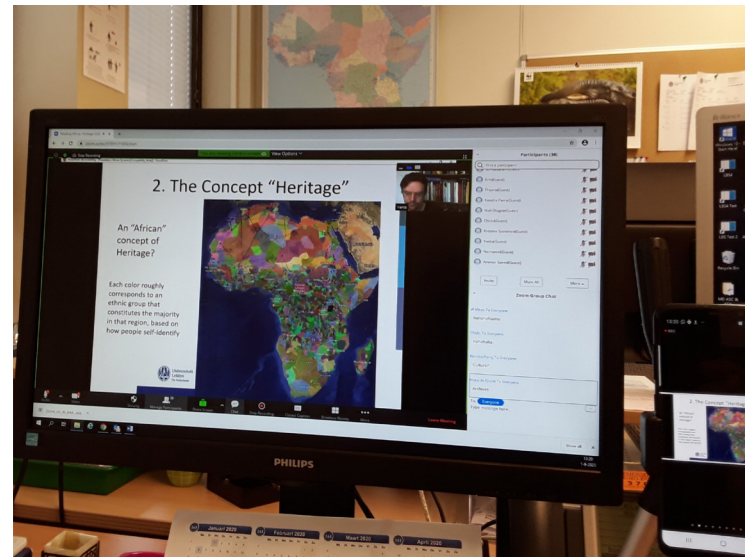
I am currently finishing my MSc in Economics & Business at Sciences Po. with a six-month internship at STOA Infra & Energy, a subsidiary of the French development agency, as an Environment, Social & Climate Analyst. My gap year at Leiden and my current internship profoundly helped with gaining much-needed knowledge on the precise fields and positions I am interested in. I am now in the process of looking for my first job and aiming for CSR and ESG-related positions, preferably at an energy infrastructure developer or operator.

## Minor African dynamics 2020-2021

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African Dynamics is a joint Leiden, Delft, Erasmus (LDE) multidisciplinary minor offered to third-year bachelor's students from the LDE universities for the first time in September 2019.

Africa has undergone significant transformations in recent decades and this is likely to accelerate. Current projections indicate that the continent's population will double in the next 30 years, with more than half of its people living in urbanised environments. The subsequent growing demand for food, water, energy, land, infrastructure, health services, education, jobs, etc. can be powerful drivers of growth, but may also present severe social, economic, and environmental threats. The way in which Africa unfolds will greatly impact the course of the world's shared future in the twenty-first century.



*'Speaking of distance learning, we may be led to think of boring and non-interactive Zoom sessions. The LDE Minor African Dynamics was exactly the opposite. Most of the COVID-19 challenges were turned into opportunities, with new and innovative strategies for conveying information, stimulating co-creation, and assessing the learning outcomes. We became multimedia editors when we produced video clips about our favourite African country, storytellers when we developed our own narrations about the cycle of natural resources, and even graphic designers when we were asked to design a poster illustrating business opportunities in Africa. Finally, our involvement in the Africa Knows! conference was a unique opportunity to interview scholars from all over the world and make short podcasts. In short, anything but boring!'*

Sebastian Cincelli, International Business Administration, Erasmus University Rotterdam.



*'Taking the African Dynamics minor truly gave me something to look forward to during lockdown. Despite not always being able to see each other, we were able to create a community in which we recognised each other's academic and personal struggles and supported each other. I am also grateful that the minor gave us the freedom to focus on our own interests within the framework of Africa. Having a variety of assignments kept me on my toes, because I was able to channel my creativity and personal voice, especially through the blog and podcasts. I already miss my colleagues and professors and that shows just how enjoyable and memorable the experience was for me.'*

Rumbidzo Dangarembizi, Governance, Economics, and Development, Leiden University College.

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## Minor Frugal Innovation for Sustainable Global Development 2020-2021

In 2018, the ASCL – on behalf of the Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa – became responsible for the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Minor ‘Frugal Innovation for Sustainable Global Development’. Dr André Leliveld is the academic coordinator of this minor, supported by Maaïke Westra of the ASCL and support staff at CFIA. In the minor, lecturers from the three LDE universities contribute expertise on frugal innovation from their respective disciplines. Participating students have the opportunity to work with students from other universities and disciplines, allowing them to step outside of their mono-disciplinary frame of reference. Apart from gaining theoretical knowledge during academic modules, students have a unique opportunity to go abroad for an internship. The minor thus combines theory, practice, and societal engagement.

*‘In November, the twelve-week field assignments started, and each student group went on their own adventure, even though this year most of it took place online. However, the experiences were still amazing as we got to meet fascinating people fostering great initiatives. Most striking about the field assignments were the detailed insights, networking, and autonomous working on practical assignments. There were ten different projects that varied in tasks. All student teams made an effort to represent the providers of each assignment, as well as to explain each project in short blog posts. In addition, in continuous meetings of the minor, we had the opportunity to discuss and share our experiences, and keep each other updated about the progress of all our field assignments.’*

Student Ambassadors Lisa, Vivian, Rafa, and Mariëlle.



## INCLUDE Knowledge Platform

### Engaging policy with research in the context of COVID-19: INCLUDE in 2020



For INCLUDE, the knowledge platform on inclusive development in Africa, the activity year 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing global health and economic crisis. The onset of the pandemic in the first quarter of 2020 affected our activity calendar and demanded a response in terms of thematic focus. In response to (inter)national mitigation measures, the INCLUDE Secretariat started operating remotely, including organising online platform meetings (in April and November). Similarly, several African Policy Dialogues adjusted their activities to online meetings and included COVID-19 responses in their thematic dialogues.

Across the globe, social protection measures have become an integral part of the COVID-19 response, and INCLUDE's work has been proactively used in policy exchanges in the Netherlands and elsewhere.

INCLUDE continuously provides perspective for action to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), building on the Research for Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (RIDSSA) synthesis paper on social protection, new and curated blogs and articles, and our network of experts. For example, the session at the Platform Meeting (PM) in November led to expert meetings with the social protection working group and at least five expert contributions to the Advisory Council on International Affairs-Development Cooperation (AIV-COS) report on this topic. INCLUDE also actively promoted the collaboration between three Dutch knowledge platforms, under *The Broker*, on the nexus between cash transfers, food security, and fragility, focusing on modalities for implementation. These dialogue activities have contributed to a clear shift in the debate on social protection in the Netherlands from 'why should we support social protection?' (i.e. is it a productive investment to reduce poverty and inequality?) to 'how best to do so'.

INCLUDE's collaborative research on equity in COVID-19 advances its inclusive development themes (work and income, access to basic services, and political participation) and lenses (spatial, social, governance, and political economy) on national level policies for COVID-19 mitigation and response through a series of comparative case studies on Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tunisia. The fieldwork for these country cases was completed in 2020. With the commissioning of (mostly) African-based researchers to carry out the case studies, INCLUDE facilitated new networks, providing opportunities for exchange, influence, and collaboration and promoting local perspectives on COVID-19 policy responses, especially in the newly included countries, Tunisia, Niger, and Mali.

### 'One of the lessons was to connect interventions to where most youth are working now, and will continue to work in the long term, which is in informal settings.'

Knowledge generated and disseminated by INCLUDE on work and income for youth and women clearly resonates in the MFA policy circles, specifically the emphasis on (the challenges of) inclusion and implementation. The results feature prominently in the INCLUDE synthesis report on Local Employment in Africa for Development (LEAD) programme evaluations – 'To get to work' – which calls for greater coordination and more context-specific and long-term connection of supply-side and demand-side interventions. One of the lessons was to connect interventions to where most youth are working now, and will continue to work in the long term, which, in most African countries, is in informal settings. In 2020, the INCLUDE Secretariat actively contributed (with curated knowledge and expertise, among other things) to the formulation of the Theory of Change and underlying assumptions for the general programme of the MFA's Economic Development Department (DDE), as well as specifically on youth employment (including the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment [CFYE]),<sup>3</sup> with a focus on decent work in small and informal units.

The partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), under the umbrella of the Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for African Youth working on the research initiative 'Boosting decent employment for Africa's youth', continued throughout 2020. During the year under review, the partnership has matured and solidified. A number of new

initiatives took place, while, at the same time, INCLUDE capitalised on the work started in 2019. For instance, the first series of evidence synthesis papers were finalised with *four quality papers* being published and disseminated through a series of webinars, blogs, policy briefs, and an internal MFA communiqué. The MFA organised a plenary session based on the paper 'Promoting Decent Employment for African Youth as a Peacebuilding Strategy' by Valeria Izzi. Some of the evidence synthesis papers have already informed a number of important publications, such as 'Africa's 'youth employment' crisis is actually a 'missing jobs' crisis' by the Brookings Institute (Louise Fox, Philip Mader, James Sumberg, Justin Flynn, and Marjoke Oosterom) and the AIV-COS report on '*Digitalisation and youth employment in Africa*'. A new call for evidence synthesis papers was launched in the course of 2020 and six new papers commissioned. The partnership continues to bring greater visibility to INCLUDE in global networks (including the sharing of knowledge products on social media, in newsletters of our partners, or in the referencing of our work in flagship global publications, for instance, the ILO report '*World employment and social outlook trends 2020*').

<sup>3</sup> INCLUDE's specific role as knowledge partner in this initiative remains to be precisely defined.

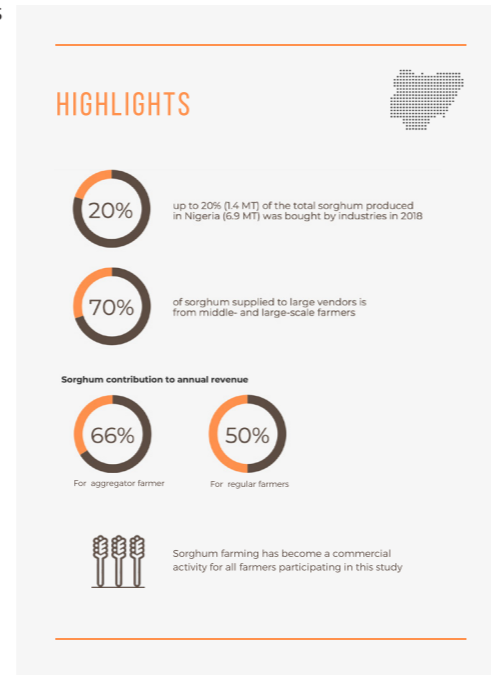
### Sorghum value chain in Nigeria

Sorghum has become a major element in the production of beer and malt by companies like Nigeria Breweries (NB), partly owned by Heineken. Thus, our study had two clear objectives: firstly, to obtain NB's diverse sourcing modalities and sourcing practices; and secondly, to examine farm-level issues. For achieving the stated objectives, a four-stage fieldwork was undertaken in 2018 and early 2019 in six sorghum-producing states: Gombe; Kaduna; Katsina; Niger; Yobe; and Zamfara States. Researchers from the ASCL and Nigerian academic institutions interviewed six vendors from Kaduna and Kano state, administered a questionnaire survey among 433 farmers, and focus group discussions (FGD) with sorghum farmers in the six sorghum-producing states. This culminated in a report on research findings on the key social, economic, and agronomic dynamics in communities whose livelihoods depend predominantly on the farming of sorghum in northern Nigeria. Two main farmer-actors are active in the sorghum supply chain: 'regular farmers' and 'aggregator-farmers'. The former group, based on size of farmland, are smallholder farmers I (< 5 ha), smallholder II (6-10 ha), smallholder III (11-20 ha), middle-range (21-200 ha), and large-scale farmers with land over 201 ha. The 'aggregator-farmer' group consists of vendors and aggregators who combine other commercial activities with sorghum farming.

Sorghum farming has become a commercial activity for all aggregator-farmers and regular farmers; over 80 per cent of their harvest is for sale, while the rest is reserved for household consumption. Capacity to deliver expected volumes to industrial buyers was boosted. Aggregator-farmers were motivated to expand their hectareage because of 'easier agricultural practice,' while the catalysts for regular farmers include better prices and a ready market for their produce. However,

survey data indicates an inverse relationship between productivity and farm size. Yields on big farms are lower due to less intensive farming methods adopted for sorghum cultivation.

Contrary to expectation that smallholders dominate the field, quantitative data obtained from the farmers and vendors show that middle- and large-scale farmers were responsible for over 70 per cent of sorghum sold to NB during the 2017-2018 season. These bigger-scale farms provided spaces for temporary job creation for land clearing (May), sorghum seeds planting (June), and harvesting (December-January), and this potentially has two major consequences. Firstly, the deepening of a new labour-market structure, where smallholder farmers are increasingly engaged as farm hands in these emerging larger farms; and secondly, a gradual loss of industrial market opportunities for smallholder farmers. It should be noted though that smallholder farmers still contribute substan-



Highlights of the sorghum value chain research in Nigeria

tially to the non-industrial sorghum market, which constitutes 80 per cent of the overall production.

In terms of sales, there is a clear preference for market price over supply contract price. Farmers notice that contract price is sometimes lower than the prevailing price of sorghum bags in Dawanu market (major regional-grains market located in Kano State). The need for money to meet expenses in periods intervening harvests arise, and such expenses cannot be met by waiting for supply contracts that are honoured only after annual harvests.

Yet, all farmer categories were positive that sorghum farming is very important to their well-being, as revenue obtained from sorghum farming constitutes about half of all revenues generated by regular farmers and 66 per cent of annual revenue generated by aggregator-farmers. Although larger farms create employment opportunities for subsistence farmers to earn money, they also raise questions about potential labour rights risks.

Based on this finding, Nigerian Breweries, in conjunction with Heineken, embarked on an appraisal of labour conditions in large farms in the northern States in 2020, with a view to developing mechanisms to understand potential labour rights risks and, in the medium term, put policies in place with the vendors to mitigating these risks.

**'Based on this finding, Nigerian Breweries, in conjunction with Heineken, embarked on an appraisal of labour conditions in large farms in the northern States in 2020'**

### Financial Decision Making in Zambia

In 2020, the *Financial decision-making, gender and social norms in Zambia* project organised focus group discussions with 30 men and 30 women to discuss and further elaborate two main findings from data collected on norms and financial decision-making across 22 villages in Zambia's Eastern Province in 2019.

#### Husbands and wives often sacrifice household-level income in order to maintain individual control over income

In general, both wives and husbands consider it inappropriate for husbands to sacrifice household income in order to maintain individual control. However, while husbands also consider it inappropriate for wives to sacrifice household income in order to maintain individual



Conducting fieldwork in Zambia



control, wives do not agree, indicating that they see advantages to a wife maintaining individual control over income.

When exploring reasons why individuals prefer smaller amounts of money in their own hands rather than larger amounts in their spouses' hands, the participants consistently invoked a spouse's wastefulness and individual desires to have full control over finances. The nature of this wastefulness varies. Women worry that their husbands would spend additional money on alcohol and other women. Moreover, they view themselves as being more responsible when it comes to managing household expenses. On the other hand, men recognise that their wives may have such concerns, but believe that wives are wasteful in other ways, such as spending money on gifts for themselves (clothes and hairdos) and sending money to or helping their relatives. Women added that husbands were reluctant to give them any money for discretionary spending. Consequently, they have no choice but to hold onto whatever is available when they get the chance.

Financial control is associated with power in the household. There was little indication that savings belonged to the household as a whole; whoever controls a sum of money tends to believe that they will do a better job of storing, saving, and spending the money than their spouse.

**Saving is good, saving in secret is bad and, for wives, may lead to a backlash**

In situations where spouses are aware of the existence of savings, participants agree it is very appropriate for both wives and husbands to save; indeed, there is a social norm forbidding saving in secret and hiding savings from one's spouse. Wives are especially intolerant of husbands violating this norm, while both wives and husbands tend to be more tolerant of violations by wives. The relative tolerance of secret saving by wives notwithstanding, just under one in three wives and one in six husbands think that a man is justified in beating his wife if he discovers that she is saving secretly in an e-wallet or does not mention joining a savings group. Thus, as grounds for wife beating, saving in secret is on a par with neglecting the children.

#### Relevance for the design of financial services

These findings indicate that when spouses face decisions involving trade-offs between what is best for the household and what is best for themselves as individuals, distrust and disagreements between spouses about who is responsible for what loom large.

Within this context, financial services that are attractive to individuals may not be beneficial to their households and/or may not be viewed as beneficial by their spouses. One consequence of this is that individuals, especially wives, who use such services secretly may experience a backlash from their spouses if discovered. This is particularly concerning, given the expectation in many households that wives are responsible for household food and water, emergencies, and the costs of children's education, and many women experience challenges when meeting these needs.

## LIBRARY, DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

### Figures and Trends in 2020

	2019	2020
Number of visitors	3323	ca. 1900
Loans	5782	3537
New acquisitions	4180	3279
Items catalogued (including gifts)	4380	4121
Titles in ASCL collection	208,616	212,289
Titles in Connecting-Africa	75,646	79,433
Connecting-Africa (unique visitors)	46,491	49,631
AfricaBib (unique visitors)	227,482	397,320
ASCL Repository (downloads ASCL publications)	578,026	312,707

The ASCL Library was open to the public during nine months in 2020, even during the national lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The library was closed from 16 March to 15 June, with ongoing book delivery services and online availability of information. From 15 June, the library was reopened, with compulsory reservation, and observation of a minimum distance of 1.5 metres.

#### Cataloguing and acquisition

In 2020, 3279 books were processed via the acquisition module in the ALMA library system. In total, 4121 library materials were catalogued,

including films, e-docs, novels, and poetry books. In 2020, ASCL Library staff were unable to make any book acquisition trips to Africa, due to the COVID pandemic. To remedy this, book supplier Hogarth Representation was able to send the ASCL Library more books from Africa than usual.

#### Gifts

Gifts are a welcome addition to the collection of the ASCL Library. In 2020, the library received book donations from:

- Frans Verstraelen & Gerdien Gilhorst (books and archival material, Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa)
- Nicolaas Vergunst & Ellen Berends (books on art, history, and literature, South Africa)
- Tirza Schipper (books on African languages)
- Thilo Schadeberg (books on African society, history, and culture)
- Several books donated by Jan Jansen, Madi Ditmars, Daryl Swane-poel, Marisca Bruinooge, Martha Lammen and others.

#### Two fascinating donations: Verstraelen & Vergunst



Nicolaas Vergunst

In September 2020, the ASCL Library received two fascinating donations: one from art historian Nicolaas Vergunst, and one from theologian Frans Verstraelen.

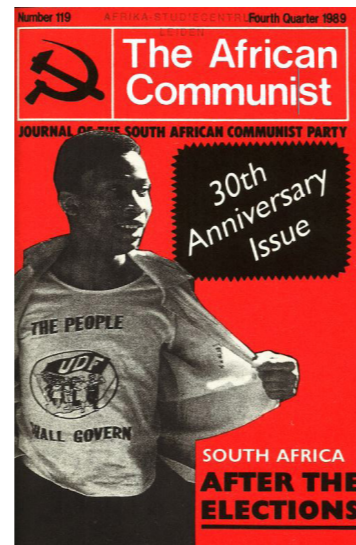
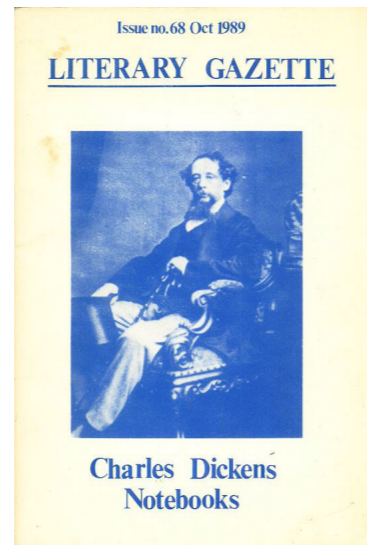
Nicolaas Vergunst (1968), author of *Knot of Stone*, donated four boxes of books and some art works. Born in Cape Town to emigrant Dutch parents, Nicolaas Vergunst

has worked as an artist, art teacher, designer, curator, and journalist. After a career with the National Museums of South Africa, he lived in several other parts of the world.

His donation contained materials on art, history, and literature. Catalogues of art exhibitions, magazines, and ephemera complement the already sizeable African art documentation based in Leiden (both at the Museum Volkenkunde and the ASCL). This donation did not just complement, but also increases the depth of the existing collections. Some examples: A 'skooluitgawe' of F.A. Venter's *Swart Pelgrim* gives

us more insight into the educational contexts of a classic work. And a 1972 textbook of *Die Vroeë Kaap*, part of the Skool project, offers an interesting visual presentation of South Africa's history from an Apartheid regime's perspective.

A final example: the ASCL already had an almost complete set of *The African Communist*, journal of the South African Communist Party, published in London. What we did not know was that a South African edition of the same journal existed, published with 'innocent' covers and meant for an audience living under the Apartheid government during the Cold War. Compare for example, the London and South African editions of no. 119, 1989. The content is similar but the covers are not.



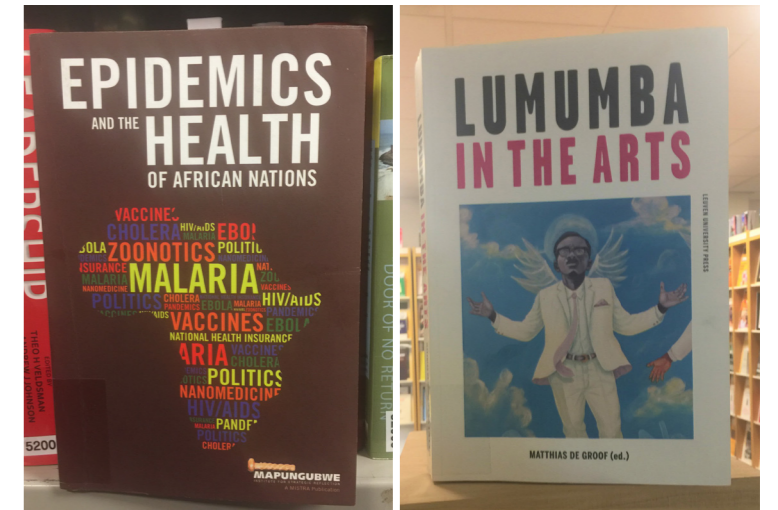
The Roman Catholic theologian Frans Verstraelen (1927) lived and worked in Ghana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. His book donation consisted of several hundred books on religion and politics in Africa.

An important element of this donation is the archival part. Extensive notes on several subjects, photographs, reports of students' field trips, and diaries reflect the long and prolific life he lived in Africa. It also contains material from his first wife Gerdien Verstraelen-Gilhuis (1942-1989), who wrote her thesis on the Reformed Church in Zambia and lectured on (African) Church history at the University of Zimbabwe.

#### Highlights of the collection

In the course of 2020, several Library Highlights on the ASCL website drew attention to new books and films in the library. Some examples:

- A trilogy by Tsitsi Dangarembga
- *Development as rebellion: A biography of Julius Nyerere*
- *Germanin*: Nazi perspectives on an aspect of Central African colonial history
- *Graffiti to save lives (Le Graffiti pour sauver des vies)*
- *Lumumba in the arts*
- New from CERDOTOLA, Cameroon: *On languages and identity*
- *Epidemics and the health of African nations*
- Documentary film: *Omulaule heißt schwarz* (Omulaule means black)



#### More visibility for the Somali Collection in Leiden

Having special collections is one thing, but bringing these collections to the attention of potential readers is quite a task for librarians. The ASCL Library tries to reach beyond catalogues by giving book descriptions and metadata different platforms and using web dossiers and similar. In the case of the Somali Collection, approx. 500 books bought by Gerard van de Bruinhorst at the 12th International Hargeisa Book Fair in Somaliland in 2019, the ASCL Library followed several tracks.

1. *Web dossier Somali Literature*, with an introduction by Leiden researcher Annachiara Raia.
2. Cataloguing, including abstracts made by library assistant Yasmin Noor, a native speaker.



3. Bringing books to Wikidata.org, linking them to other databases and to the full text.
4. Being part of the organisation committee of a Leiden Somali Day, originally scheduled in July 2020 (Somalia at 60!), rescheduled for 29 June 2021 due to COVID-19.

### Information services, indexing, and abstracting

The Leiden Alert Service on African Studies (LASA) had 354 subscribers by the end of 2020. Subscribers to the alert service receive updates whenever new publications on a country or topic are published.

### Web dossiers

ASCL web dossiers group the information on a current topic and make the information available in context. Every web dossier made by the library staff of the ASCL has an introduction written by a specialist, links to the descriptions of books and journal articles in the catalogue, and a list of annotated links to *electronic resources and relevant websites*.

In 2020, four web dossiers were produced:

- **The Nile.** 22 February has been declared Nile Day by the countries that share the Nile River Basin. Nile Day commemorates the signing of the 1999 agreement, called the Nile Basin Initiative, to collabora-

tively manage the river basin. The introduction to this web dossier was written by Abeer R.Y. Abazeed.

- **Somali Literature.** In preparation for the Somali Day in Leiden (postponed until 29 June 2021), the ASCL Library compiled a web dossier on Somali literature. The introduction was written by Leiden researcher Annachiara Raia.
- **Africa Knows.** A web dossier on Africa's role in knowledge and innovation, on the occasion of the online conference *Africa Knows* from December 2020 to February 2021. The dossier was introduced by Ton Dietz and David Ehrhardt.
- **COVID-19 in Africa.** The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on all aspects of life in Africa, as elsewhere. A vast body of literature is developing on the COVID-19 outbreak in Africa and its social, economic, and political consequences. This 'growing' web dossier keeps track of new scientific publications on the subject, and was compiled by Germa Seuren.
- The web dossier **African Leaders of Independence**, initiated in 2019, was extensively expanded and updated by Germa Seuren.

### ASCL Library in education and outreach

ASCL Library staff was involved in:

- a guest lecture as part of the course African History & International Studies (Leiden University)
- a 'safari tour' in Leiden for new students, visiting places of interest relating to Africa
- a video presentation *Samen kennis delen in een digitale wereld*, produced by OCLC for a Library Meeting, 6 October 2020
- Heleen Smits was seminar leader of the Thesis Seminar African Culture within International Studies. She supervised students with

the area specialisation 'Africa' writing their BA thesis from a Cultural Studies perspective.

- In 2020, one of the 23 WikiCite Awards to improve open citations was awarded to Ursula Oberst. 'The ASCL library adds journal articles via Zotero and QuickStatements and books via OpenRefine and QuickStatements. The ASCL workflow is applicable and replicable by other institutions as its constituents (e.g. bibliographic records in MARC 21) are used in many libraries.' This workflow is instrumental in improving the visibility of (African) publications.

# AFRICA 2020

The Leiden University  
Africanist network  
'LeidenASA' invites you to  
a year full of Africa-related  
events!

#### CONFERENCES

30 January: Africa, 60 years of Independence  
2-4 December: Africa Knows!

#### WORKSHOPS

21-22 February: The Nile: Inclusion and Exclusion  
2 April: Somalia Day

and much more...



## EVENTS



### LeidenASA

2020 was supposed to be the closing year of the first phase of LeidenASA, with an array of activities under the auspices of 'Africa 2020'. The year started well with two successful workshops: *Law, rights, and governance in Africa. A look to the future* and *The Nile. Inclusion and Exclusion over a trans-boundary resource*, and a successful conference: *Africa, sixty years of independence* (more on this conference elsewhere in this report).

After the COVID-19 outbreak in March, it became clear that nearly all 'Africa 2020' activities would have to be rescheduled to 2021, apart from the PhD Peer Coaching sessions (held online) and the Africa Knows! conference. By holding the PhD Peer Coaching online it became accessible to PhD candidates worldwide. These sessions will be held more often in the future. Africa Knows! was also held online and lasted from the first week of December until the end of February 2021.

'Africa 2020' allowed LeidenASA to strengthen Africanist connections between Leiden and other universities, in particular the other LDE universities but also Edinburgh, Humboldt University in Berlin, and Tilburg. Africa Knows! then expanded that network of collaboration considerably. Looking beyond 2020, we aim to consolidate these net-

works, for example by expanding LeidenASA into 'LDE-ASA'. Further opportunities to build on the momentum generated by 'Africa 2020' and Africa Knows!, such as an online ASA seminar series and maintenance of the Africa Knows! Blog, will be explored.

### Africa: 60 Years of Independence

On 30 January 2020, *LeidenASA* and the ASCL organised the conference '*Africa: 60 Years of Independence*' in Leiden. It was the kick-off for '*Africa 2020*', the year in which seventeen countries on the African continent celebrated 60 years of independence. This conference brought together some of today's most influential thinkers on African affairs to reflect on the current social, political, religious, economic, and environmental dynamics that characterise the continent. To many, independence from colonial rule (around 1960) was a turning point in African history, but what has changed, and what has persisted? What have been the drivers of stability and transformation? And how do we interpret the outcomes of these processes, for example in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals or the continent's relationship with climate change? Speakers were challenged to reflect on Africa's recent past and current state of affairs through the lens of their own discipline and expertise.

Keynotes were given by Lungisile Ntsebeza (University of Cape Town), Birgit Meyer (Utrecht University), Carolyn Hamilton (UCT), and Jan Abbink (ASCL/Leiden University), who gave their views on current and past affairs in Africa, in the field of decolonising the academy, religion, the use of oral archives, and changes of leadership in Ethiopia and Sudan. Their discussants, respectively Ton Dietz, Rijk van Dijk, Jan-Bart Gewald (all ASCL), and Mohamed Salih (International Institute of Social Studies), as well as the questions from the audience, made for vibrant discussions.



Dr David Ehrhardt during the conference 'Africa: 60 Years of Independence' in January 2020

### Africa Knows!

The Africa Knows! conference straddled many boundaries: It connected Africa and Europe; within Africa it connected the North, the South, the West, and the East; and within Europe participants came from Ireland to Russia and from Sweden to Portugal. We also had a few Americans, Asians, and Australians. The conference connected teaching, training, research, applications, and innovations. It aimed to be truly multi-disciplinary and explore interdisciplinarity. It connected knowledge about primary, secondary, and tertiary education, both historically and with an eye to current and future demands. And it tried to connect all of this to contextual issues and trends in Africa and in the world. It incorporated lessons learned in using virtual teaching, learning, and co-creation. Beyond multi- and interdisciplinarity, the conference took transdisciplinarity seriously, with panels convened by civil society and the business sector, and with inputs from beyond academia, including civil servants from various backgrounds, among whom representatives of the African Union. The conference also straddled the boundaries of 'academic knowledge' with what is called indigenous knowledge, and with 'other forms of knowledges', including debates about religion, African spirituality, and art. Material and non-material heritage and their conceptualisation, as well as the deeply political issues of acknowledgment,



'ownership', and restitution also got a prominent place. Many of the documentaries shown, as well as the kora music, and the examples shown of 'visuals' about Africa's museums and universities added an artistic twist to the conference. At the same time, much of this is also deeply political and challenging.

The financial organisation of the conference was achieved through a financial and organisational foundation from Leiden University and the ASCL, together with crowd funding from twenty sponsors from Africa and Europe (including the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus connection that will continue in the form of the LDE African Studies Assembly), and with many conference participants paying fees. The conference organisation gave panel ownership to convenors, who were supported by staff from Leiden and from NomadIT. Convenors, authors, and participants came from all over Africa and Europe. Students from both Europe and Africa played a prominent role, and there was a noticeable presence of students from the African diaspora in Europe. The podcasts included on the website, the panel reports, and the country knowledge profiles are all a result of major, and innovative, student involvement. The fact that most papers and almost all panel video recordings have become an online resource for the global classroom and for individual learning can be seen as a major side-effect of being forced to make this a virtual conference as a result of COVID-19. The conference organisers acknowledge that holding a conference online is also a burden on the environment and therefore transferred some of the revenue from the conference fees to the 'Trees for All' movement, offsetting a proportion of the electricity impact on the climate.

The conference aimed to become multi-vocal: going beyond a classical academic conference limited to keynotes, panels, and papers. Blogs, podcasts, video recordings, profiles on a clickable map, an online magazine, artwork, music, and documentary films were all part of the rich knowledge dish served up by Africa Knows!. The impressive results will be available as an online resource for many years to come.

#### Honorary doctorate Prof. Lungisile Ntsebeza



Prof. Lungisile Ntsebeza

South African professor *Lungisile Ntsebeza* received an honorary doctorate on the Foundation Day of Leiden University on Friday 7 February 2020. Ntsebeza is an authority on the democratisation of rural South Africa and poverty reduction. Ntsebeza has been Pro-

fessor of Sociology and African Studies at the University of Cape Town since 2008, where he is also Director of the Centre of African Studies. He studies the democratisation of rural South Africa, where many traditional and unelected rulers still hold sway. He also conducts research into land rights, poverty reduction, and the pre-colonial history of South Africa.

Ntsebeza was imprisoned for five years during apartheid. He was arrested for participation in underground study groups and membership of student movements that demonstrated against the apartheid regime. While imprisoned, he obtained, by correspondence, his degree in Political Science and Philosophy. After his release from prison, he

was banished in 1981 to the rural village of Cala in the Eastern Cape. He obtained his PhD at Rhodes University in 2002.

Ntsebeza was nominated for the honorary doctorate by *Jan-Bart Gewald*, Professor of History of Africa and Director of the ASCL. 'During his career, Professor Lungisile Ntsebeza has consistently endeavoured to propagate academic values, such as the fundamental right to freedom of opinion, freedom of association and freedom of speech,' Gewald wrote in his speech. 'With his contribution to the anti-apartheid movement, Ntsebeza would undoubtedly have been able to live a life of luxury within government or business, but he chose instead to remain true to his role of educator and academic for all, irrespective of race or faith.'

#### The Many Hidden Faces of Extreme Poverty



On 9 January 2020, Dr Anika Altaf presented her book, *The Many Hidden Faces of Extreme Poverty*, followed by a panel discussion with Prof. Jan Pronk, former Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, David Lawson, senior researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, and Marleen Dekker, Professor of Inclusive Development in Africa at Leiden University.

*The Many Hidden Faces of Extreme Poverty* addresses the challenge of including the poorest people. It provides deeper understanding of the mechanisms of in- and exclusion of extremely poor people, the structural causes of extreme poverty, and the desirability of a

Prof. Jan Pronk and Dr Anika Altaf

univocal definition of extreme poverty. The book, based on Altaf's PhD research, contributes to such an understanding through an analysis of extremely poor and marginalised people and their multiple dimensions of well-being. Furthermore, this book sheds light on the discourses and practices applied by development agencies in order to draw lessons about how the extremely poor can be sustainably included in development interventions. This is based on original field research carried out in Bangladesh, Benin, and (rural and urban) Ethiopia, using a participatory approach.

#### Webinar 'Walking with Herders'

On 10 September, Dr William Ellis (University of the Western Cape, South Africa) gave an intriguing webinar, entitled '*Walking with herders: Animal and plant ontologies in Namaqualand*'. Dr Ellis talked about his project with Nama pastoralists in the dry arid regions of the Northern Cape, where he and his research group have been walking with herders and learning from them, literally on the hoof. As part



One of the pastoralists in Namaqualand, South Africa

of the webinar, Dr Ellis showed a number of photos of herders and animals in their environment, taken by Clement Cupido, which can be found throughout this report.

Walking ethnographies have recently been added to the list of participatory methods used to study pastoralists. The walking ethnography or go-along method provides data that the usual sit-down-interview is unable to bring to the fore. The pastoralist's or herder's practice takes place outside and it is further a mobile activity that is thus best understood or learnt in action.

The case study has set up a pedagogy in the research that purposefully re-frames the learning and research experience. Instead of the sit-down-interview where the researcher often leads discussions and drives the interaction, walking ethnographies with herders attempts to shift this power dynamic between researcher and researched. The researchers were led by their interactions with the herders, who follow the animals. The animals, in turn, seek out and engage with the plants. The form has produced novel research data and has begun a recasting of the expertise and experience of the herders. Watching them in practice reveals a series of unique perspectival shifts that position herders as the developers of unique knowledge of the ecology, the animals, and the management of these resources in challenging environments. The webinar highlighted the novelty of this method and explored the walking ethnography as a multispecies and multisensorial classroom where anthropologists learn from ecologists, who, in turn, learn from herders, who again learn from animals who are then taught by plants. Dr Ellis explained that, when following herders, we are led into a world of entangled learning and a co-min-

gling of ecologies, animals, matter and mythologies both ‘scientific’ (ecological models) and ‘indigenous’ (giant water snakes and God’s dog).

### Webinar ‘Africa and the Global Middle Ages’

This *webinar* by Prof. Jean-Francois Fauvelle (Collège de France, Paris) proved that online events can definitely be successful. With over one hundred virtual attendees, the historian and archaeologist of ancient Africa and author of the successful book, *The Golden Rhinoceros* took the audience through vivid and detailed examples from Christian and Islamic medieval Ethiopia, and discussed comparisons with Ghana and Mali in West Africa, and Kilwa and Mapungubwe in East and South Africa. The webinar also dealt with hypotheses about why so many once-famous capital cities of African polities remain elusive in the



The Catalan Atlas (1375) in the Bibliothèque nationale de France

field. Or, to put it differently: one must count these regions of Africa among the interconnected provinces of a global medieval world.

### Sudanese Women and their Constant Struggle

This Country Meeting aimed to open a discussion about the women’s struggle in Sudan since the revolution started and during its aftermath. Additionally, the event shed a light on women’s strategies and activities to create and consolidate their rights. The active and promising participation of women in the 2018 revolution faced serious challenges. On 3 June 2019, the armed forces attacked a peaceful sit-in, endangering women. Then, during the political negotiations between the Transnational Military Council and Forces of Freedom and Change, women were underrepresented. Moreover, following the establishment of a transnational government, women occupied fewer places in the cabinet and local governments. And violence against

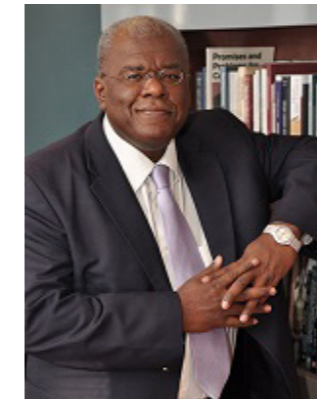


Female protester during the 2018 Sudanese revolution

women in refugee and displacement camps is ongoing. This *webinar*, moderated by PhD candidate Abeer Abazeed, included interesting presentations by Dr Katarzyna Grabska (independent researcher), Dr Azza Ahmed (University of Khartoum), and Sudan-based musician/psychologist Alaa Sharif, who performed an emotional virtual musical tribute to all Sudanese women.

### Stephen Ellis Annual Lecture 2020

Stephen Ellis (1953-2015) was a renowned senior researcher at the African Studies Centre Leiden. He combined a great interest in how ‘real politics’ work and have an impact on people’s lives, with a fascination for the role of religion and morality. With the Stephen Ellis Annual Lecture, the ASCL wants to honour his memory and encourage work in his spirit. Every year, the guest of honour is Prof. Gerrie ter Haar, Stephen Ellis’ widow.



Prof. Jonathan Jansen

In the first ever online Stephen Ellis *Annual Lecture*, Prof. Jonathan Jansen (Stellenbosch University) shed light on the relationship between the post-apartheid government in South Africa, the life-changing pandemic, and, in particular, on the unequal education impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In his presentation, Prof. Jansen stated that the pandemic will have devastating consequences for generations to come. How did this happen? What are the roots of these inequalities? What can we learn from past political actions that explain unequal education outcomes in the present? All

of this was brilliantly related to the earlier works of Stephen Ellis, who argued that one of the tasks of the historians of contemporary Africa is ‘throwing new light on Africa’s more remote past and as a way of understanding the present.’

To mark this event, the ASCL Library created a web dossier ‘*COVID-19 in Africa*’.





## SEMINAR OVERVIEW

### **09 January 2020**

Book launch: The Many Hidden Faces of Extreme Poverty

*Dr Anika Altaf*

### **16 January 2020**

ASCL Seminar Series: A history that did not happen: Global peace movements and decolonization in Africa, 1959-1962

*Dr Robert Skinner*

### **28 + 29 January 2020**

Africa 2020 Workshop: Law, rights, and governance in Africa. A Look to the Future.

### **20 February 2020**

CRG Seminar: "My illness is my Power": A philosophical reflection on 'divine madness' within the context of Ethiopian spirit mediumship

*Dr Setargew Kenaw Fantaw*

### **20 + 21 February 2020**

Africa 2020 workshop: The Nile: Inclusion and exclusion over a trans-boundary resource (water and land acquisition)

### **05 March 2020**

CRG Seminar: Political vigilante groups and democracy in Ghana: Tensions and opportunities

*Dr Justice Richard Kwabena Owusu Kyei*

### **06 March 2020**

CRG Seminar: Healing in the wake of mass violence: Grassroots realities of intergenerational continuity and transformation in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

### **12 March 2020**

CRG Seminar: From war to peace in Eastern DRC

*Delphin Rukumbuzi Ntanyoma, Dr Carolien Jacobs*

### **10 September 2020**

CRG Webinar: Walking with herders: Animal and plant ontologies in Namaqualand

*Dr William Ellis*

### **01 October 2020**

Kick-off iAfrica Film Festival: Screening 'Stop Filming Us'

### **08 October 2020**

Webinar: Working-class homosexuality in South African history

*Dr Iain Edwards, Prof. Marc Epprecht*

### **15 October 2020**

ASCL Seminar Series: Africa and the Global Middle Ages

*Prof. François-Xavier Fauvelle*

### **08 November 2020**

Africa 2020: ASCL & Leiden International Film Festival screenings

### **26 November 2020**

Stephen Ellis Annual Lecture by Jonathan Jansen: The unmasking of South African politics and education in the wake of COVID-19

*Prof. Jonathan D. Jansen*

### **17 December 2020**

Online Country Meeting: Sudanese women and their constant struggle

*Dr Azza Ahmed, Dr Katarzyna Grabska, Alaa Sharif*

## ASCL IN THE MEDIA

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Once again, researchers were regularly approached this year to give interviews on Dutch and foreign radio and television and in the (international) press, confirming the ASCL's reputation in the media landscape.

A few examples:

Abdourahmane Idrissa is a political historian and received several media requests regarding his research activities and experiences in Niger. Idrissa found himself stuck during fieldwork in the Nigerien capital of Niamey and wrote a blog for *The New York Review of Books* (29 March) on the pandemic and the consequences of COVID-19 in Niger. He also participated in a podcast on the relationship between France and Africa (*Into Africa*, 6 August) and the political economy and public debate in West Africa (*Voertaal*, 30 April).

Jon Abbink was often asked to present his expertise on the political situation in Ethiopia, which was characterised by the violent confrontation in the Tigray region. International media including *Radio Canada* (13 November), *Trouw* (19 November), *Kristeligt Dagblad* (20 November), and *NOS.nl* (18 November) were interested in Abbink's point of view on this complex situation.

### Radio and podcasts

Mirjam de Bruijn was approached multiple times about the deteriorating security situation in Mali, especially after the military coup. She was interviewed by the *NU.nl* podcast (7 September) and Dutch radio stations of *Radio 1* (19 August) and *NOS.nl* (15 April).

Other interviews were given by Ton Dietz on the 'Africa Knows!' conference and 60 years of independence (*Radio 1*, 2 December), Tycho

van der Hoog on North Korea's presence in Africa (the *Korea Now* podcast, 22 November), and Madi Ditmars on Mandela Day (*Groot Nieuws Radio*, 17 July). Jan-Bart Gewald was interviewed about 'The Zambian Afonaut' Edward Mukuka Nkoloso on *Radio 1*.

### Daily Newspapers

There was an increased number of interviews with ASCL researchers in the written media. Marleen Dekker was interviewed about tourism in African nature reserves (*Nederlands Dagblad*, 14 November), Lidewyde Berckmoes was interviewed by *Voice of America* about the new Burundian president Ndayishimiye (14 June), and Jan-Bart Gewald on *PM News Nigeria* on Spanish influenza in Africa (1 April). A complete list of interviews with different media can be found on the [ASCL website](#).



## GOVERNING BODIES & PERSONNEL ON 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### Members of the ASCL Board

Prof. M.R. Rutgers	Leiden University, Humanities (chair)
Prof. P.F. Wouters	Leiden University, Social and Behavioural Sciences
Prof. J.P. van der Leun	Leiden University, Law School

### Members of the board of the 'Stichting Afrika Studiecentrum'

Prof. J.B. Opschoor	Former dean of the International Institute of Social Studies (chair)
M. Diboma	Netherlands African Business Council
A.C.A. van der Wiel	Former Netherlands ambassador to Nigeria

### Members of the Academic Advisory Council

Prof. M.J. Spierenburg	Leiden University (chair)
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Dr E.H. Bähre	Leiden University
K.F.K. de Belder	Leiden University
Prof. E. Bulte	Wageningen University & Research
Prof. B. Büscher	Wageningen University & Research
Prof. J.S. Clancy	University of Twente
J.C.M. Damen	African Studies Centre Leiden
Dr J. Fransen	Health Innovation School Rotterdam

Prof. P. Knorringa	International Institute of Social Studies
Dr Y.P.B. van Leynseele	University of Amsterdam
Prof. V. Mazzucato	Maastricht University
Dr L.J. Smith	Radboud University Nijmegen
Prof. R. van Tulder	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Dr A.C.M. van Westen	Utrecht University
Prof. P. van der Zaag	UNESCO-IHE

### Director

Prof. J.B. Gewald

### Research staff (and their areas of specialisation)

Prof. G.J. Abbink	Ethnicity, conflict management, religion, politics, ethnography, culture, Horn of Africa
Dr A. Akinyoade	Demography, healthcare, education, media, Ghana, Nigeria
Dr A. Amha	Afro-Asiatic languages, linguistics, Horn of Africa
Prof. M.E. de Bruijn	Mobility, social hierarchies, communication technology, Sahel
Prof. W.E.A. van Beek (retired)	Religion, tourism, Cameroon, Mali, Southern Africa
Dr L.H. Berckmoes	Conflict, children and youth, intergenerational transmission, resilience, cyclical violence, regional conflict, Burundi, Rwanda



Prof. M. Dekker	Inclusive development, social networks, (micro) insurance, land reform, economic development, poverty reduction, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe	Dr D.J. Money	History of Central and Southern Africa during the 19th and 20th century, labour, mining, migration, race, Zambia
Prof. A.J. Dietz (retired)	LeidenASA, African development, human geography	M.B. Ndlovu	PhD candidate, urbanisation, militarisation, civil-military relations, youth empowerment, gender justice, political economy, sustainable African governance, African development, trauma and memory, transitional justice
Prof. R.A. van Dijk	New religious movements, HIV/AIDS, globalisation, Botswana, Ghana, Malawi	L.W. Oudenhuijsen	PhD candidate, sexuality, gender norms, agency, political economy, Islam, secularity, Senegal
Dr M.R. Doortmont	Political history, social economic history, development, conflict, conflict resolution, Islam, Christianity, Ghana, Northern Ghana, Togo, Ivory Coast	K.V. Pancham	PhD candidate, sociology, anthropology and history; postcolonial, African, queer, Dalit Studies; diversity, differences that matter (race, gender, caste, sexuality, age); narrative and performance, creative arts practice (film, theatre, drama, live performance); critical pedagogy and educationalism
Prof. J.B. Gewald	Social and political history, interaction between people and technology, Southern Africa	Dr A. Raia	African languages, comparative studies, Islamic poetry in Africa, orality and literacy, Swahili literature and intellectual practices, Kenya, Somalia
T.A. van der Hoog	PhD candidate, African history, liberation struggle, liberation movements, frontline states, international relations, nationalism	C.E. Swinkels	PhD candidate INCLUDE, entrepreneurship, youth employment
Dr A. Idrissa	States and institutions, political Islam and political secularism, modern and pre-modern history, Niger, Sahel	Prof. C.U. Uche	Political economy, business and financial history, financial institutions regulation and regional integration
Dr M.M.A. Kaag	Africa in the world, political anthropology, religion and development, migration, land issues, informal workers, West Africa		
Dr A.H.M. Leliveld	Frugality, innovation, community based health insurance, labour movements, trade unions, East Africa		

Dr K. van Walraven  
Decolonisation, biography, French Empire, French Africa

#### Support staff

J. Binnendijk  
Controller/institute manager  
T. Blomsma-Peters  
Executive secretary to the director  
R.G.L. Jongenelen  
Seminars, communications, press  
W. Veerman  
Programmer, ICT specialist  
F. Veldkamp  
Web editor, social media, communications, press

M.A. Westra  
Policy officer, PhD coordinator  
H.K. Westra  
Programmer, webmaster  
M.C.A. van Winden  
Temporary conference organiser  
A.L. Yeadell-Moore  
English language editor  
W.J. Zwart  
Publications assistant

#### Library, Documentation and Information

J.C.M. Damen  
head of LDI  
M. Boter  
Assistant librarian  
Dr G.C. van de Bruinhorst  
Collection development  
E.M. Eijkman  
Information specialist  
M. Härnqvist  
Cataloguer  
M.B. van der Lee  
Assistant librarian  
H. Muller  
Wikipedian-in-residence  
Y.S.B. Noor  
Student assistant  
U. Oberst, MA  
Information specialist  
M. Oosterkamp  
Assistant librarian, publications assistant  
A.E.I. Robson  
Information specialist  
E.M. de Roos  
Assistant librarian  
G.M.M. Seuren  
Information specialist

Dr H.J. Smits  
Information specialist  
P.G. Verkaik-Steenvoorden  
Assistant librarian

#### Educational staff

R.A.O. Baugh  
Student assistant  
M.D. Ditmars  
Coordinator of minors' education and student affairs  
Dr Mr C.T. Nijenhuis  
Lecturer, trainer, coordinator Research Master

#### ASCL Publications

Dr Harry Wels  
Publications manager

#### INCLUDE staff

M.C.H. Heuvels  
Knowledge manager  
Dr A.H. Kazimierczuk  
Knowledge manager  
J. Tuyisabe  
Student assistant

#### Staff who left the ASCL in 2020

Dr H.E. Awuh  
Project researcher  
D. Boyco Orams  
Breaking Down Barriers project  
S.V. van Dam  
Student assistant  
E. Das  
Project manager  
A.K. van Gent  
Student assistant  
C.L.M. Krier  
Junior researcher

N.L. Luning Junior researcher  
 G. Petit Project manager  
 T. Pulleman Student assistant  
 Dr M.M.E.M. Rutten † Senior researcher  
 L.H.E.M. de Winter Project manager  
 Dr Y.N. Tessema Project researcher

#### GPAS PhD candidates

Gaddafi Abubakar  
*Radio in Northern Nigeria: A history of propaganda, 1944-1979*

Rashida Adum-Atta  
*Food and interreligious coexistence in Madina*

Kassim Assouma  
*Increasing political leverage of informal and formal workers' organizations for inclusive development: The case of Benin*

Jeleel Balyaminu  
*Natural resource governance and socio-cultural conditions in Africa: From policy to practice*

Nilza César  
*Participatory assessment of development of the Eduardo Mondlane University (1976-2013)*

Rishuai Chen  
*Digital practices and transnational connectivity among African merchant migrants in China*

Tinashe Chimbidzikai  
*(Re-)production and imagination of urban social space by Pentecostal Christian migrants in South Africa: A narrative ethnography (Cotutelle with the Georg-August University of Gottingen)*

Modibo Galy Cissé  
*Le conflit (terrorisme-djihadisme) dans le Delta Central du fleuve Niger au Mali*

Martin Luther Darko  
*The quest for health in Madina: Health-seeking across religious boundaries*

Paul Deutschmann  
*Data-driven political campaigns in West Africa: The use of political micro-targeting strategies in elections in Senegal and Ivory Coast (2018-2022)*

Joseph Fosu-Ankrah  
*Common grounds: Urban spaces, religious encounters, and intercommunality in Accra's Madina, ca 1800-2020*

Antonio Frank  
*Interactions between the police and non-state policing actors in the townships of Luanda*

Michael Glover  
*Cattle and colonialism: An animal-centred history of southern Africa 1652 to 1960s (Cotutelle with The University of the Free State)*

Tycho van der Hoog  
*Brothers in arms: National liberation movements in the frontline states, 1950-1990*

Gerda Hooghordel  
*Reeds in the wind of change. Zulu sangomas in transition*

Kauthar Khamis  
*Beauty Practices: A modality of religious co-existence amongst Christian and Muslim women in Madina*

Alice Mapenzi Kubo  
*Developments in the Shea sector in Ghana and their implications for livelihoods*

Peter Lindhoud  
*Ecumenical concern about racial differences and rapid social change in Northern Rhodesia 1924-1964*

Koundja Mayoubila  
*Entrepreneuriat social et connectivité au Tchad: des frictions, aux fractures numériques et sociales, à la rupture*

Kim Molenaar  
*Godly Gays? Sexuality and a Pentecostal morality in Gaborone*

Crépin Marius Mougua  
*L'enfance et la jeunesse en période de conflit de longue durée en Centrafrique*  
 Mpalang'a-Maruv Liévain Mwangal  
*Musumb and its emperors (17th-21st century). Laboratory History of cities in Central Africa*

Mandipa Ndlovu  
*Urban governance and Bulawayo's political economy in independent Zimbabwe*

Belindah Okello  
*The coastal Luo: Migration labour and empire expansion in East Africa, 1902-2015*

Loes Oudenhuijsen  
*Islam, everyday ethics, and its gendered contestations: 'Wicked' women in Senegal from 1950 to the present*

Kershan Vikram Pancham  
*Performing bodies across gender, race, and spirit borders in South Africa*

Gitty Petit  
*Hidden knowledge in Dodoma, Tanzania: Middle-class young adults and healers in relation to objects used for health purposes*

Ibrahima Poudiougou  
*Territories of violence: Ethnography of land conflicts and cultural and socio-political dynamics at Mopti (Djenné and Pays Dogon), Mali (Cotutelle with the University of Turin)*

Francesca Pugliese  
*Working experience in the Congolese mining sector (Cotutelle with the University of Liège)*

Reinder Schoonhoven  
*Exploring continuities and contestations of ancestral worship in Igede, Benue State, Nigeria*

Caspar Swinkels  
*Grounded theory of change: Opening the black box of policy implementation using qualitative process tracing*

Konstantin Valkov  
*How skateboarding is influencing the social transformation and the construction of identity of South Africa's youth*

Martin van Vliet  
*Beyond institutional blueprints: Hybrid security provision and democratic practice in Mali*

Jacqueline de Vries  
*'Your custom was bad. It has been changed by Government': Control over women in colonial Kom (Cameroon)*



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

(in €'000)

	2020	2019
<b>Income</b>		
Total contribution Leiden University	2,832	3,289
Of which 2,803 from the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Sciences		
Projects for third parties	1,694	1,868
Other income (publications, etc.)	352	313
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,878</b>	<b>5,470</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Personnel	3,853	4,020
Institutional costs	1,222	1,212
Inventory depreciation	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,075</b>	<b>5,232</b>

**Peer-reviewed journal articles and book publications**

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## ASCL PUBLICATIONS

### African Dynamics series

*African Dynamics* is an annual publication that presents the results of current research at the ASCL. The contents of each volume consist of a selection of papers that were presented at an ASCL conference by ASCL staff members or researchers from elsewhere. *African Dynamics* is published by Brill Academic Publishers.

#### *The individual in African history: The importance of biography in African historical studies*

Editor: K. van Walraven (vol. 17)

### Afrika-Studiecentrum Series

This series aims to present the best of African studies in the field of social sciences in the Netherlands. Publication in the series is open to all Dutch Africanists and also to African scholars who are affiliated to a Dutch academic institution. The series is published by Brill Academic Publishers. Within this Afrika-Studiecentrum Series there is a special series focusing on South Africa in collaboration with SAVUSA (South-Africa – VU University Amsterdam – Strategic Alliances).

#### *Nationalism and territoriality in Barue and Mozambique*

A. van Dokkum (vol. 39)

### African Studies Collection

This series is open to all Dutch Africanist authors as well as African scholars affiliated to Dutch academic institutions. The collection includes PhD dissertations, monographs, and edited volumes, and also publishes high-quality Master theses. Books in this series are not

externally reviewed and volumes other than PhD theses are usually assessed internally for quality.

#### *Common threads: Fabrics made-in-India for Africa*

M. Venkatachalam, R. Modi & J. Salazar (vol. 76)

#### *Oath-taking and the transnationalism of silence among Edo female sex workers in Italy*

C.A. Olufade (vol. 77)

### ASCL Working Papers

Working papers can be considered as 'work in progress'. The series is open to all Dutch Africanists as well as African scholars affiliated to a Dutch academic institution.

#### *Financial decision-making, gender, and social norms in Zambia: Preliminary report on the quantitative data generation, analysis, and results*

A Barr, M. Dekker, F. Mwansa & T.L. Zuze (vol. 147)

#### *Slaves, virgin concubines, eunuchs, gun-boys, community defenders, child soldiers: The historical enlistment and use of children by armed groups in the Central African Republic*

J. Both, C.M. Mouguia & M.E. de Bruijn (vol. 148)

#### *'Ceux qui combattent beaucoup sans peur, qui tuent sans pitié': Effets de recrutement d'enfants de moins de 15 ans par les Anti-Bakala (2013-2014)*

J. Both, C.M. Mouguia & M.E. de Bruijn (vol. 149)

### ASCL Occasional Publications

These publications are what the title promises them to be: publications for a special occasion. This can be a festschrift, particular books for a wider audience than the academic community, books in Dutch, but also shorter or different types of books such as research summaries, brochures, and e-books.

#### *Chanter le baja ni. Abirè le Voyant Dogo*

W.E.A van Beek, A.D. Saye & O.S. Ongoiba (vol. 37)

#### *Strijd om Angola (1975-1978). Mijn leven als dokter in tijden van Koude Oorlog*

J. Chabot (vol. 39)

#### *Philosophers beyond borders: An illustrated guide to 30 thinkers from the world*

S. Pfaeltzer & M. van Enkevort (vol. 40)

#### *Essays on African languages and linguistics: In honour of Maarten Mous*

J. van der Wal, H. Smits, S. Petrollino, V. Nyst & M. Kosman (eds.) (vol. 41)

### African Postal Heritage papers

Postage stamps, postcards, and other forms of postal heritage are miniature communication tools and tell stories about places, routes, and times. Also for Africa they are part of material heritage, that can be made visible online, thanks to the improving open access possibilities of auction houses, collectors' pages, stamp dealers, and oth-

ers. The ASCL African Postal Heritage papers connect to the focus of LeidenGlobal: 'material heritage'. In 2020, a total of 10 APH papers has been published.

The APH papers currently have two editors: Jan Jansen (Leiden Anthropology) and Ton Dietz (African Studies Centre Leiden).

### ASCL Thematic Maps

On the occasion of the 'Africa 2020' year, the African Studies Centre Leiden has compiled a thematic map showing a number of developments in African countries during the last sixty years, relating to: year of independence; population growth; social indicators, e.g. literacy rates, agglomerations, agriculture, and state stability-fragility.

#### *Thematic map 'Africa at 60'*

A.J. Dietz & N. de Vink

#### *Thematic map: 'Subnational Human Development Index (SHDI) of Africa'*

J. Smits, I. Permanyer, J. Wildeman & A.J. Dietz

The thematic map 'Subnational Human Development Index (SHDI) of Africa' is based on the collaboration between the Global Data Lab of Radboud University (Jeroen Smits and Jet Wildeman), the Center for Demographic Studies of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Iñaki Permanyer), and the African Studies Centre Leiden of Leiden University (Ton Dietz).



**ASCL Infosheets**

On the occasion of 'Africa 2020', the African Studies Centre Leiden produced a number of infosheets about the 17 African countries that gained independence in 1960.

*Infosheets on Cameroon, Somalia, Togo, Mali, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Senegal, Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, and Mauritania*

A.J. Dietz, D.W.L. Ehrhardt & F. Veldkamp

**COLOPHON****Annual Report 2020, African Studies Centre Leiden****Editing**

Rik Jongenelen  
Fenneken Veldkamp  
Anna Yeadell-Moore

**Design**

Hart voor de Zaak, Leiden

**Photographs**

Ola A. Alsheikh (p. 54).  
Daniel Attah (p. 40).  
Eelkje Colmjon (p. 50).  
Clement Cupido (p. 8, 31, 33, 39, 53, 56).  
Johnny Greig (p. 18).  
Sandra Hazenberg (photo Marleen Dekker, p. 5).  
Koos Kingma (p. 10).  
Simone Kortbeek (p. 9, 11).  
Anthon Kustner (p. 55).  
Monique Pietermaat (p. 4).  
Leisa Tyler (p. 55).  
Fenneken Veldkamp (p. 13, 19).  
Maaïke Westra (p. 15, 28).  
Lida Zuidberg (p. 20, 64, 73).

Bibliothèque nationale de France (p. 54).

Johns Hopkins University (p. 3).

Zambian Financial Sector Deepening Ltd. (p. 43).

**Cover photo**

'Walking with Herders' – Namaqualand, South Africa  
Clement Cupido





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