Further information
For more information or queries regarding the submission of a thesis, please contact Ms Trudi Blomsma:
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Previous winners
2013: Esther Bergstra and Roxanne Hornman Cyclone Resilient Landscape: the Case of Vatomandry, Madagascar
2012: Nkululeko Mabandla Lahlalandu Ngubu The Continuities and Discontinuities of a Black South African Middle Class
2011: Michael Stasik DISCOnnections. Popular Music Audiences in Freetown, Sierra Leone
2009: Miranda Poeze Boot-migrants from Senegal to the Canary Islands
2008: Janneke Barten Families in movement in Mali
2007: Janneke van Gog Young women and reintegration in Sierra Leone
2006: Mienke van der Brug AIDS orphans in Namibia
2005: Leslie Francis Zubiate Calvert Girls’ initiation rock art in Malawi
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Are you interested in Sub-Saharan Africa and is your Masters thesis on a related subject? If so, the African Studies Centre (ASC) in Leiden offers you the chance to win €1000!
The deadline is 11 July 2014.

www.ascleiden.nl/?q=content/africa-thesis-award
The award aims to encourage student research and writing on Sub-Saharan Africa and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose Masters thesis has been completed on the basis of research conducted on Africa. The award consists of a prize of € 1000 and publication of the winning thesis in the ASC’s African Studies Collection, see www.ascleiden.nl/publications, and all theses submitted will be made available online via the ASC’s library catalogue.

Who can apply
Any final-year student who has completed his/her Masters thesis with distinction (80% or higher or a Dutch rating of at least an 8) at a university in Africa or the Netherlands may apply.

The thesis
The thesis has to be based on independent empirical research related to Sub-Saharan Africa in one of the subjects listed in the following section and must have been examined in the twelve months prior to the deadline for submitting manuscripts. The thesis can be submitted if it is written in English, French or Dutch. If the thesis is in Dutch, a five-page English or French summary should also be attached.

Subject of the thesis
Any thesis thematically related to socio-geographical, economic, political, juridical or anthropological issues or focusing on the humanities, such as history, religion and literature, but with the exception of language and/or semiotic studies, can be submitted. Its geographical focus should be Sub-Saharan Africa or its migrant communities elsewhere in the world. The thesis must be socially relevant.

Quality of the thesis
The ASC seeks to attract theses that stand out in terms of subject matter and demonstrate a sound methodological approach. The jury attaches importance to an original approach and insight, and to the relevance of the research to a scientific understanding of the issues covered. In addition, the jury will consider the significance of the thesis in relation to development-related issues, its style and readability and its interest for the general public.

Where to submit a thesis
If a student or his/her supervisor feels that his/her Masters thesis merits an award because of its quality and originality, the thesis may be submitted to the ASC. Every submission must include:
• an electronic version of the thesis (to be sent by email)
• a summary of the thesis (max 500 words)
• a signed letter of recommendation from the student’s supervisor containing the grade and details of the quality of the thesis and the educational institution from which the student has graduated

Applications that are not complete will not be processed.

The thesis can be sent to the ASC, of which the address is mentioned at the back of this flyer.

Award winners 2013:
Esther Bergstra and Roxanne Hornman
Cyclone Resilient Landscape: the Case of Vatomandry, Madagascar

Time schedule
The deadline for the submission of theses this year is 11 July 2014. A shortlist of three will be drawn up from which the jury will select the winning thesis. The prize will be presented to the winner at an ASC seminar when she/he will present his/her research.

The jury
The following experts are on the jury of the 2014 Africa Thesis Award:
• Dr. Nicky Pauw (University of Amsterdam) (chair)
• Drs. Wim Bossema (de Volkskrant)
• Dr. Akinyinka Akinyoade (African Studies Centre)
• Prof. dr. Jan-Bart Gewald (African Studies Centre)
• Dr. Ineke van Kessel (African Studies Centre)

Ms Trudi Blomsma (African Studies Centre), secretary
Ms Marjolein de Leeuw (African Studies Centre), assistant

The jury’s decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.