

**Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology  
VU University Amsterdam**

# **Annual Report 2007**

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## Foreword

2007 was the year of the *visitatie* – the five-yearly audit every university department and faculty in the Netherlands has to undergo. This time, it was a faculty audit involving all departments. The primary aim was to assess the fruits of the investments in research the faculty had made in recent years. The official verdict had come in by the time this report was finalized. All departments have done a good job, and our own department has a lot to be proud of:

*There is a commendable balance between maintaining programme coherence and developing a framework that encompasses all the individual projects within the department ... There has also been admirable attention on the part of the members of this department to publish in a variety of languages and in regional and national journals produced in the societies under study ... [O]verall, the quality of this group is evaluated as very good....*

The optimistic tone we voiced in our earlier annual reports was thus confirmed. In addition, our insistence upon the importance of publishing not only in English-language outlets and our decision to also focus on local debate platforms was officially acknowledged.

Three PhD graduations took place at the department in 2007. One (in March) was on the intricacies of ‘parish politics’ in the overwhelmingly Catholic southern province of Limburg, the Netherlands. This dissertation was by Kim Knibbe (titled *Faith in the Familiar. Continuity and Change in Religious Practices and Moral Orientations in the South of Limburg, the Netherlands*, awarded *cum laude*; supervisor Prof. André Droogers). Another one (in September) was on rebellions in southern Mexico (*Repressions and Rebellions in Southern Mexico – The Search for a Political Economy of Dignity*, by Luis Matias; guest supervisors were De Gaay Fortman and Goudzwaard). A third graduation took place in December: Froukje Krijtenburg successfully defended her thesis *Cultural ideologies of peace and conflict: a socio-cognitive analysis of Giryama discourse (Kenya)*. Her supervisor was Jan Abbink.

In 2007, we had to say farewell to our secretaries Selma van Laake and old-hand Anouk Nieuwland. We thank them both for their great help. However, we found excellent successors in Annet Bakker and Marleen Stieger. We also welcomed Patcharin Lapanun and

Donya Alinejad as new PhD candidates, and Henk Schulte Nordholt as new special professor.

As usual, we published extensively – in refereed journals (both in English and, just as worthwhile, in other languages), in books, in reports requested by policy makers, and in professional and popularizing outlets. Our courses were, once again, assessed by our students as attractive, instructive and relevant. We were invited to present papers and give guest lectures all over the globe. And, of course, we deliberated a lot, sometimes diverging, often converging. We honour Robert Heinlein's dictum: *Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it.*

Ton Salman  
Research coordinator

# 1

*The purpose of anthropology is to make  
the world safe for human differences*  
Ruth Benedict

## Introduction

Anthropologists often insist that ‘cultures’ don’t talk or act, nor can they be held accountable – only people can. We of course hasten to add that people are, by definition, ‘cultured’: they can only talk, act or be held accountable because they have been socialized in and derive meaning, judgements structures, inspiration and the very vehicle of reason and emotions from culture. Today, however, people more than ever tend to speak ‘on behalf of their culture’, giving those cultural features and configurations almost the status of entities with agent-like qualities. Although anthropologists never tire of stating that cultures are not *deities* but *modes*, people who feel that their culture is under threat tend to suggest the opposite. It is our task to unravel the cultural codes underlying this trope. After all, as we stated last year, our *métier* is constituted not only by the facts, but also by what people *make* of the facts and consequently act upon. But as Marcel Proust put it, ‘the stellar universe is not so difficult of comprehension as the real actions of other people’.

In 2007, we dedicated two of our departmental research seminars to a rethinking of the concept of ‘human security’, the central term in our research programme. We decided to slightly alter the formulation of the mission and circumscription of CONSEC, and consequentially also our guiding question (see also <http://english.fsw.vu.nl/Research/index.cfm/home.cfm/>), which now reads: *How is human security – understood as a situated, multilayered concept – used in social, cultural and discursive repertoires of individuals, communities, nations and states, in a*

*globalizing world?* In our research on human security, we thus now include even more explicitly the discursive and practical uses of the term. Additionally, we took the decision to organize a conference in 2008 in order to take stock of our advances and reflections, now that CONSEC has been underway for 5 years.

On 1 October 2007, the department welcomed Henk Schulte Nordholt as its new special professor. Henk will be researching and lecturing on the history and society of Southeast Asia. Lorraine Nencel and Joost Beuving – both formerly part of the Department of Social Research Methodology – have consolidated their places in CONSEC. Both trained as anthropologists, working on Latin America and Africa, respectively. They have participated in and presented their work at our research seminars, to the joy of all CONSEC members. Their very appealing research projects made them most welcome in CONSEC. Of course, the department considers itself very lucky to have over 20 PhD candidates in its midst.

In 2007 we organized seminars with such prestigious scholars as Webb Keane (January) and Joel Robbins (May), and we invited Rose Boswell to give a public lecture on heritage management in Zanzibar (September). In December, Carlos Fausto gave a lecture at the Master's seminars, on studying indigeneity today (titled 'Art, Image and Memory among the Kuikuro of Upper Xingu') and presented a paper in the framework of the SCA research seminar on indigenous peoples in the Amazon (titled 'Indigenous Transformations- Amazonian Subjectivizing and History'). In November, Marsha Henry gave a lecture titled 'Colonial Exploits: Prostitution and Peacekeeping'. Maurice Bloch gave a masterclass for our PhD students in December. An international GLOPENT (European Research Network on Global Pentecostalism; <http://www.glopent.net/>) meeting took place on 27-28 April. In June, two of our PhD candidates, Tam Ngo and Scott Dalby, organized – with support from their supervisors Prof. Oscar Salemink and Prof. Peter van der Veer – a successful two-day international conference on 'Religion, Ethnicity and Nation-states in a Globalizing World'; participants included such scholars as Arjun Appadurai, Peggy Levitt, Thomas Blom Hansen and Louisa Schein.

On 20-21 April 2007, the faculties of Social Sciences and Law of the VU University Amsterdam hosted a conference titled 'Shaking up citizenship'. Saskia Sassen gave the public keynote speech, which also served as the 18<sup>th</sup> national *Globaliseringslezing*.

She conveyed her vision – a concise summary of her latest work *Territory, Authority, Rights* – from the pulpit of the Singelkerk in Amsterdam. Sassen argues that globalization is best understood as ‘denationalization’. While the nature and role of state institutions are changing, the nation-state itself is not a disappearing project – unlike other scholars claim and popular opinion often has it. On the 21st, the event proceeded with three keynote speeches, all followed by discussants from Dutch universities. US lawyer Peter Spiro is among the scholars who believe that, in the long run, the state will be lost. Nicolas De Genova, an anthropologist at Columbia University, presented the mirror image of Spiro’s scenario: the politics of migration and citizenship in the aftermath of 9-11 show that more rather than less state is produced in the USA. His is a gloomy picture of ‘enemy aliens’ and ‘preventative detentions’ in the so-called Homeland Security State. Martin Lodge, a political scientist at LSE, complemented the panorama by addressing the issue of state responsibilities for ‘essential infrastructures’ (utilities). Drawing on research in the English-speaking Caribbean, he attempted to discover the key regulatory issues, namely the issues a state ought to keep in its own hands. The event was a success: the *Globaliseringslezing* was very well attended, and although the Saturday conference was less well attended, it had a loyal and committed audience.

On 27 November, a symposium (‘Beyond Relativism’) was held to mark Thomas Hylland Eriksen’s farewell. The event was jointly organized by the COM and SCA departments, and took up the challenge to explore the possibility (and even the necessity, if anthropologists really want to be ‘engaged’, committed scientists in a globalizing world) to radically say farewell to the relativist doctrine. Based on a scheme of brief statement-like lectures, round-table debates and workshops, it was a tremendous success: hundreds of students, as well as Mario Rutten, Heidi Dahles, Oscar Salemink, Lorraine Nencel and many others, participated enthusiastically.

Further good news was the decision by Pluto Press to publish a collection of papers presented at a 2005 conference on the anthropology of human security. This edited volume will represent our contribution as a research programme to anthropological reflections on human security as a prism through which to interpret local and global process; it will also reflect the ‘unity in diversity’ practice of the involvement of our staff (and some PhD candidates) with the theme. The volume is due to appear in 2008 or 2009.

In 2007, the collaboration between the departments of BCO and SCA on the theme of human security materialized in the appointment of Marieke van Vliet, a former anthropology student at SCA, to work on a pre-research project on neighbourhood security feelings in Amsterdam. She was supervised by Hans Boutellier and Ronald van Steden (BCO) and Ton Salman (SCA). The appointment resulted in an article (to be published in 2008) and will hopefully lead to a NWO research proposal.

In the department's management team, Dr Freek Colombijn took over as coordinator of the teaching programme from Ms Ina Keuper (September 2007).

The annual assessment of university programmes and university careers published by the Dutch magazine *Elsevier* concluded that the anthropology programme at the VU University Amsterdam was the second best in the country, after the University of Amsterdam. Our department obtained the highest score in terms of both lecturers and the Master's programme.

In September, Prof. Birgit Meyer was admitted to the prestigious Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), thereby distinguishing her as one of the top 220 scholars in this country. It is worth mentioning that various staff members have been involved in designing new NWO/WOTRO subsidy programmes. Prof. Meyer, for instance, is in the writing group of 'Religion, Conflict and Security', while Prof. Oscar Salemink is chair of the assessment committee for the NWO 'Cultural Dynamics' programme.

The department is closely involved in university-wide initiatives to rearrange and concentrate research efforts through multidisciplinary research institutes, such as the VU University Amsterdam Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society (VISOR), Conflict and Governance, Migration and Diversity, and Maatschappelijke Veiligheid (Societal Security). VISOR embodies our intention to focus upon the changing role of religion in societies, while Conflict and Governance touches upon our focus upon power relations, citizenship and security. Maatschappelijke Veiligheid connects up with our effort to introduce a critical understanding of human security into anthropology, while Migration and Diversity might serve as institutional home for our critical research on ethnicity, migration and integration. The department is awaiting further policy announcements by the faculty to determine its stand

vis-à-vis the links it will establish with regard to these and other research institutes.

The department continued its efforts to obtain funding from NWO for its research plans. Prof. Meyer (in collaboration with Prof. Ghorashi, department of COM) was successful in gaining a MOZAIK grant (designed for promising students with an immigrant background) for Donya Alinejad, and Oscar Salemink obtained a PhD grant from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NUFFIC) for Ms Patcharin Lapanun. Dr Edien Bartels obtained '3<sup>rd</sup> flow' funding from the municipality of Amsterdam and is negotiating other projects with third parties. A number of major NWO/WOTRO programme proposals (Prof. Meyer, Prof. Anton van Harskamp, Dr Ton Salman, Prof Jan Abbink) and individual PhD proposals (Prof. Salman, Prof. Jan Abbink/Dr Sandra Evers) are currently under review. The proposals of Profs. Meyer and van Harskamp in the framework of the NWO Cultural Dynamics programme made it to the last round (22 out of 83); Prof. Salman's project on democracy and citizenship in Latin America is still under consideration at WOTRO. We are aware that competition is tough and that only frequent and incessant submissions can bring success. However, we do bear in mind that 'a person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it'. A recent relaunch by the Ministry of Development Cooperation of the IS Academie (International Cooperation Academy) programme is followed closely (J. Abbink has two of his PhD candidates are competing in the last round).

# 2

## **The SCA research programme: Constructing Human Security in a Globalizing World (CONSEC)**

*Where there is no difference, there is only indifference*  
Louis Nizer

In August 2007 we agreed on a new version of the text on the CONSEC programme. It precedes the internal conference we hope to organize in 2008 in order to ‘take stock’ of our progress by inviting all department members to write a paper. This is the new text:

Human security has in recent years evolved from a mere policy term used by states, international bodies and NGOs into a subject of scholarly reflection. The SCA research programme – Constructing Human Security in a Globalizing World (CONSEC) – addresses this development in its core research question: ‘How is human security – understood as a situated, multilayered concept – used in social, cultural and discursive repertoires of individuals, communities, nations and states, in a globalizing world?’

Globalization has irrevocably altered our physical, political, institutional, moral and legal landscapes. It is fair to say that it has shattered existing perceptions and realities of security, destabilizing notions and experiences of physical and spiritual security, certainty and certitude regarding livelihood, health, environment, war and terror, and cultural identities. In this situation, the perceived loss of security has become one of the key terms through which globalization’s malcontents express themselves. National and global politics are increasingly framed in terms of the need to identify threats to, and to

restore, human security. State discourses proclaim a paternalistic 'state of security', while global policies, on the level of UN and UNESCO, are also increasingly motivated by the evolving human security paradigm. However, globalization does not simply imply experiences of rupture from earlier securities, but also entails an exponential multiplication of the pools of information resources and meanings from which people can draw in order to cope with their current local challenges. Next to a search for security, peoples' decisions and actions include deliberate risk-taking, preparedness to engage in 'unrest' and decisions to step out of well-trodden routines. Alongside the struggles to protect family and kin, many hope to escape forms of community and security that they experience as stifling or oppressive. The shifting sands of change push the oppressed to take disproportionate risks to put an end to their sense of injustice or exclusion.

Far from understanding human security as a never-withering, universal motive behind all human endeavours, the CONSEC programme focuses on the dynamic relation between security and insecurity as it unfolds in our globalizing world. In this sense, a focus on human security (and by implication, insecurity and risk) serves as an analytical tool that can help us highlight vital issues in our contemporary world that are of such great importance that not only scholars should be informed about them. Our programme is actively engaged in tracing connections and contestations between various security discourses on the level of individuals, local communities, states and global policy networks. CONSEC critically reflects upon the place, status and contents of human security and insecurity in people's perceptions and experiences, in national and global policy designs, and in scholarly research. The programme is designed to develop critical models of analysis that are effective, transferable and practical for professionals in fields well beyond social and cultural anthropology.

The programme's mission is threefold:

- a) To explore the added value of human security as an analytical tool to enhance our understanding of the processes of identity formation, politics of inclusion and exclusion, and violent clashes that characterize our contemporary world, and to show that the anthropological study of such processes has much to

gain from an analysis inspired by the notion of human security.

- b) To make a substantial contribution to the evolving yet still often quite limited and policy-oriented, multidisciplinary field of human security that tends to neglect the cultural and existential dimension. One of CONSEC's key aims is to illustrate how people's 'material needs' are embedded in processes of cultural signification. This is important not only for scholarly debates, but also with regard to politics and policies, for instance with regard to the cultural dimension of violent conflicts and struggles about national identity in the Netherlands.
- c) To operationalize human security in broader terms, encompassing particular policy interventions associated with the 'freedom from want' (livelihood) and 'freedom from fear' (peace-keeping and post-conflict reconstruction) as well as the existential dimension that refers to human attempts to make sense of this world and find a place in it, and to create some measure of certainty and predictability. Taking into account different agents' own perceptions and constructions of human security, CONSEC moves beyond enumerating threats and dangers and calculating risks, and seeks to reveal the complex interactions between such conditions and people's own – often complex and contradictory – perceptions and responses.

Much anthropological research is necessarily local in nature. Therein lies the power of human security as an analytical tool. The ubiquity of human security in current international, political and developmental discourses has increased the relevance of anthropology's role, and entails an increasing reliance on anthropological paradigms in transnational interventions. Against the backdrop of the fluid 'glocalizing' and 'transnationalizing' environment, we seek to gain insights that are transferable between disciplines, as well as between scholars and policy makers. In this sense, the CONSEC programme partakes in constructing our understanding of human security. In this endeavour, we engage in critical reflection on state discourses that promise human security (What fears do they exploit? What view on threats and safety do they highlight? Etc.); upon the marketing strategies of institutions

that attempt to ‘sell security’;] upon the advocacy of ‘peace interventionism’, and the like. In doing so, we seek to demystify simple, one-dimensional, top-down images of human security and to highlight that any image and goal revolving around human security is saturated with ambiguities, contradictions and risks and may well entail a no-win situation. At the same time, we use ethnographic methods in order to understand the struggles of especially the vulnerable and the subaltern to improve their living conditions – and to escape situations of threat and anxiety.

# 3

*In a hierarchy, every employee  
tends to rise to his level of incompetence*  
Laurence J. Peter

## Department staff & PhD candidates 2007

<b>Staff</b>	<b>PhD candidates</b>
Abbink, Prof. Jan (special professor)	Alinejad, <i>drs.</i> Donya (since November)
Bal, Dr Ellen	Büscher, <i>drs.</i> Bram
Bartels, Dr Edien	Dalby, MSc, Scott
Brouwer, Dr Lenie	Grassiani, <i>drs.</i> Erella
Colombijn, Dr Freek	Kamp, <i>drs.</i> Linda van de
Evers, Dr Sandra	Hummel, <i>drs.</i> Rhea
Harskamp, Prof. Anton van (special professor)	Klaver, <i>drs.</i> Miranda
Keuper, <i>drs.</i> Ina	Koh, MSc Priscilla
Knibbe, Dr Kim (postdoc)	Koning, <i>drs.</i> Martijn de (temporary contract)
Meyer, Prof. Birgit	Lapanun, MSc, Patcharin (since March)
Salemink, Prof. Oscar	Leegwater, <i>drs.</i> Margot
Salman, Dr Ton	Minkjan, <i>drs.</i> Janneke
Schulte Nordholt, Prof. Henk (special professor, since 1-10)	Ngo, MSc Tam
Sutherland, Prof. Heather (part time)	Nguyen, MSc Tuan Ahn
Theije, Dr Marjo de	Noguchi, MSc Ikuya
Uyl, Dr Marion den	Rickli, MSc João
	Roeland, <i>drs.</i> Johan
	Ruigrok, <i>drs.</i> Inge
	Salverda, <i>drs.</i> Tijo
	Smit, <i>drs.</i> Regien
	Stokhof, <i>drs.</i> Malte
	Wijk, <i>drs.</i> Joan van
	Woets, <i>drs.</i> Rhoda
<b>CONSEC members, staff of Methodology Department</b>	<b>Former PhD candidates, whose graduation is awaited</b>
Beuving, Dr Joost	Cil, MSc Aysegül
Nencel, Dr Lorraine	Schwerzel, <i>drs.</i> Jeffrey

**Management team (MT):**

Prof. Oscar Salemink, head of department

*drs.* Ina Keuper (until September), education coordinator

Dr Freek Colombijn (from September), education coordinator

Dr Ton Salman, research coordinator

**Secretariat:**

Ms Anouk Nieuwland (until September)

Ms Selma van Laake (until August)

Ms Annet Bakker (from September)

Ms Marleen Stieger (from October)

**Individual research projects undertaken by staff in 2007<sup>1</sup>****Abbink, Jan**

Project title: *Political Culture in the Horn of Africa: Local and National Narratives of Ethnicity and Conflict*

Politics and power formation in the Horn of Africa are shaped by conflicting narratives on historical, religious and ethnic identity. Governance, group relations and the exercise of power are reinterpreted and enacted in specific local forms in settings where different legal traditions and cultural commitments are at play. These local forms, being entry points for national policy and interventions supported by foreign donors, need continuous study to assess people's scope and forms of agency in the context of wider socio-political processes. This research project is looking at developments on the national level as well as at changing patterns of conflict and sociocultural transformation in societies on the margins of the state, notably in Ethiopia. On the national level, the project addresses problems of political culture and the fledgling 'democratization' of the Ethiopian political system and its possible conflict-generating aspects; on the local level it looks at the shaping/reshaping and transformation of ethnic group relations and their articulation in new, more politicized forms. The impact of

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<sup>1</sup> This overview does not include the PhD projects or the research project carried out by the department's fellow Maurice Bloch.

growing ecological-economic and political problems is considered in relation to the decline of human security profiles and specifically to developments in the sphere of communal relations. The empirical research is focused on two regions in northern and south-central Ethiopia.

### **Bal, Ellen**

Project titles: *Searching Roots and Constructing Homeland(s): the Importance of India for Hindustanis in Suriname and the Netherlands*; and (in preparation) *Of dreams and Nightmares: Youth and Human Security in Bangladesh and India*

The first project investigates notions of ‘roots’, ‘homeland’ and/or ‘belonging’ held by people of Indian origin in Suriname and the Netherlands, and explores their emotional and practical attachments to India. The study is closely linked with a larger research project entitled ‘A Diaspora Coming Home? Overseas Indians re-establishing links with India’, which is being carried out by Dr Kathinka Sinha-Kerkhoff (Sept. 2001 – Sept. 2005) and concentrates on PIOs (people of Indian origin) in Mauritius, the Netherlands and Suriname.

The second project (which is in preparation) focuses on the views and experiences of young people in poor and conflict-ridden regions in South Asia (Bangladesh and India), on what it means to be young, and on their dreams and nightmares, their hopes, desires and ambitions, as well as their fears, uncertainties and insecurities. The project will attempt to broaden the social scientific understanding of young people’s perceptions of and role in constructing (and/or risking) human securities and insecurities, in their present lives and anticipated futures.

### **Bartels, Edien**

Project title: *Religious Identity Formation among Moroccan Immigrants in the Netherlands*

Most immigrants from the southern shore of the Mediterranean in Western European countries are Muslims. We perceive a revival of Islam in the context of political discussions in Europe (in part around the notion of ‘integration’), and development problems in the countries of origin. Some speak of the emergence of a ‘Dutch Islam’, which would imply a process in which Muslims reorganize and reinterpret their religious heritage in the light of the new social

context in which they find themselves as immigrants. These ‘redefinitions’ include the selection or reselection and adaptation of sources of meaning triggered by the new context in which they live, and by changes in the country of origin. Other research themes, which are addressed in other research projects, include arranged marriages, female circumcision and women who are abandoned in their country of origin after making ‘home trips’.

### **Joost Beuving**

Project title: *African Traders and European Cars. Economic and Social Considerations in the Construction of a Transnational Market*

Every year since the mid 1980s, large numbers of second-hand cars have been exported from Europe to West Africa. Coinciding with the widespread adoption of economic liberalization policies by West African governments, the rapid expansion of this market – in terms of volume traded and traders involved – seems to confirm neoliberal policy thinking of market development. A major question remains, however: how do traders succeed in bridging the sociocultural and institutional differences between European and African car markets? Preliminary study by the researcher has indicated the crucial importance of social networks in this respect. Yet, it is clear that very different strategies are followed, not only in the Euro-African car trade, but also in different African settings. The aim of this research is to analyse the different articulations of economic considerations and sociocultural possibilities for the creation of social networks in the construction of a transnational market. In particular, the sociogenesis of the Cotonou car market in Benin will be studied, with a specific focus on the embedding of entrepreneurial behaviour into complex sets of social relations. The research will be carried out using ethnographic research techniques (including social network analysis) and the study of archives, export statistics and official documents.

### **Brouwer, Lenie**

Project title: *New Media and Second-generation Immigrants in the Netherlands*

Although rapid global transformations often create insecurity and uncertainty for migrants, they also provide a challenge and an opportunity for new social and cultural forms. Especially second-

generation Muslim immigrants derive their concepts of meaning more and more from various sources of signification, for example the Internet. Quests for, in particular, existential security materialize in issues of ethnic, gender and religious identity, as bearers of people's attempts to create shared meaning and collective distinction. An example of these expressions of identity can be seen on Moroccan websites set up by second-generation immigrants, as well as in the way immigrant youth appropriates technology in computer centres in multi-ethnic urban areas, by for example composing rap songs on a computer. The project includes online and offline research.

**Colombijn, Freek**

Project title: *Urban Space and Housing in Indonesian Cities during the long Decolonization (1930-1960)*

This research project deals with the social effects of decolonization in Indonesia. The main focus is on housing in a number of cities, because shelter is a basic need, as has been underscored at two UN Habitat Conferences. Adequate housing, or shelter, gives people a degree of physical security; however, the feeling of being secure is just as important. The existential importance of housing is expressed in such sayings as 'Home is where the heart is' and 'An Englishman's home is his castle'. On the ground, feelings of security and insecurity become visible in the organization of urban space: ethnic residential segregation, gated communities and symbolic markers of territory. The changes in urban space and housing shed light on the social dynamics, namely processes of ethnicity and class formation, and the emergence of the state bureaucracy, the army, corporate enterprises, and landlords as important, albeit very different interest groups.

**Evers , Sandra**

Project title 1): *The Malagasy State and Parallel Systems of Justice and Administration in Natural Resource Management*

Land registration is one of the cornerstones of the Malagasy government's plan to decentralize and accelerate the economic development of Madagascar. Acting under strong pressure exerted by the IMF, the Malagasy government launched the PNF (Plan National Foncier) in 2004 to implement a national land registration system. From the outset, land registration has proven to be complex

and problematic, due in no small part to the difficulties in reconciling the dictates of positive law (*lex fori*) and customary law (*lex loci*).

Project title 2): *The Ancestral Looking-glass: Perceptions of Family History held by Migrant Children in Mauritius*

This new line of study was developed in 2007 and the fieldwork was realized. It concerns a cognitive anthropological research combining methodologies from the cognitive sciences and anthropology. Examples include participant observation and reflexive drawing techniques in which children creatively express their perceptions. Drawing sessions were followed up by detailed discussions with the children. The objective is to gain insight into how children construct conceptions of themselves, their kinship and the origins of their family through interaction with the social world around them.

**Harskamp, Anton van**

Project title: *Civil Society and Religion* (with a special emphasis on American Christian fundamentalism)

The concept of civil society is among the most significant developments within the contemporary human sciences (John Keane, *Global Civil Society*, Cambridge UP 2003). The concept is not a purely descriptive one. When scholars, politicians, policy makers and journalists write about civil society, often normative dimensions are conveyed within the concept. Apparently, ‘civil society’ refers not only to a certain kind of society and to specific kinds of associations and organizations, but also to the ‘good society’. At the same time, civil society can symbolize the collective desire to live in safe, secure and reliable societal settings. This project studies what role religion plays in the building of civil societies. Special attention is paid to the social, political and cultural instruments and symbols that are used by Christian fundamentalists to build their very own civil societies in the USA.

**Meyer, Birgit**

Project title: *Modern Mass Media, Religion and the Imagination of Communities*

Birgit Meyer concentrated on the above-mentioned project until she started to work full time at the department in September 2006. The project was a NWO/PIONIER research programme at ASSR/University of Amsterdam, from 09/2000 - 09/2006. This multidisciplinary research programme addressed the role of electronic mass media in the shift from the nation-state as the privileged space for the imagination of community, to the articulation of alternative, religious imaginations. Special emphasis is put on the question how the rise of religious organizations and their outspoken manifestation in the public sphere are related to the legitimacy crisis of the post-colonial state and the increasing global accessibility of electronic mass media at the dawn of the information age.

At the SCA, Birgit Meyer will continue to work on the dynamics of 'flow and closure' and the role of religion and media in the establishment of new communities and identities in our globalizing world.

**Nencel, Lorraine**

Project title: *Identity Construction: Dimensions of Profession, Income, Ethnicity and Exclusion.*

Lorraine Nencel works on issues of identity. Her regional specialization is Latin America, and most particularly the urban area of Lima, Peru. She has recently got involved in research in South Africa through the SANPAD organization, on new teachers' identities in Johannesburg. At the moment she is working on a small research project with Kathy Davis (UU) on exclusion and inclusion in Dutch society. In addition, she is finishing a project on secretaries and identity, and initiating a new project on money, class, ethnicity and identity.

**Salemink, Oscar**

Project title: *Human Security and Religious Certainty in Southeast Asia*

Southeast Asia is undergoing rapid economic growth, and is also extremely rich in religious repertoires. Throughout the region, there is a proliferation of novel forms of devotion linked to movements of religious change that might evolve towards religious purity or towards syncretistic recombinations and bricolage. In a glocalizing and eclectic religious market, these religious transformations draw from both local and transnational religious and ritual repertoires to imagine and/or enact alternative modernities in line with globalizing lifestyles. The region offers a plethora of religious networks and movements that cross national borders and religious and ethnic boundaries, and that are characterized by a renewed emphasis on ritual, using both old and new forms and pervading other fields (e.g. state ritual). By looking at ways in which boundaries are symbolically and ritually constructed and/or transgressed/transcended, this research project seeks to establish how religious leaders and their followers use a variety of religious and ritual repertoires to construct religious certainty and human security – often through religious purity or syncretistic recombination – against the backdrop of increased individual choice, flux and national and transnational reconfigurations

**Salman, Ton**

Project title: *Citizenship in Latin America*

In Latin America, the debate on democracy and citizenship has evolved from one in which the transition was central, to one in which the consolidation, as well as the nature and (deficient) quality of democratic regimes and citizenship rights, takes centre stage. A crucial aspect of the debate is how ‘ordinary’ Latin Americans look at their democracies, their parties, their politicians and their rights. This research project addresses the question how people, particularly poor people, in Latin America perceive their rights and how they approach the institutions that are supposed to deliver these rights, taking into account the varying political cultures and state attitudes with regard to these civil, political and social (and ethnic/collective) rights. The central issues are such dimensions as the internalizations of existing deficiencies in the realization of rights, and learning

processes in the present era of demands for deepening democracy accompanied by struggles over the meaning of rights and citizenship triggered by the neoliberal onslaught.

**Schulte Nordholt, Henk**

Project title: *In Search of Middle Indonesia*

The research focuses on political and economic developments in the Indonesian provinces rather than those in Jakarta. One of these developments is democratization; decentralization is another. Ethnic and religious identities have emerged from under the blanket of the New Order's modernizing ideology. Unfamiliar, sometimes violent forms of political competition and of rent-seeking have come to light. Decentralization was often connected with the neoliberal desire to reduce state powers and make room for free trade and democracy. To what extent have the goals of good governance and a stronger civil society been achieved? How much of the process was 'captured' by regional elites to increase their own powers? Amidst the new identity politics, what has happened to citizenship? These are among the central questions addressed in this research.

**Theije, Marjo de**

Project title: *Gold in Surinam*

A gold rush is taking place in the Surinamese forest, involving thousands of Brazilians, local indigenous and maroon people, and Surinamese entrepreneurs from the city. Until recently, all these actors were in one way or another engaged in small-scale gold mining, but now foreign and large capital-owning companies are also entering. In this research project the dynamics of the interplay between all the actors engaged in the gold prospecting and extraction will be analysed from several perspectives, such as (1) the construction of prosperity, fortune, opportunity and security; (2) the localization of riches and land rights in the context of migration and seasonal migration, national borders and regional integration; and (3) notions of individuality and community in the organization of life in the gold fields (basic stability, trust, absence of state power, minimal features of the temporal society).

**Uyl, Marion den**

Project title: *Urban Renewal and Identities*

This project is taking place in the Bijlmermeer – a multicultural neighbourhood in Amsterdam. The research is focused on urban renewal and on the identity formation of immigrant girls and mothers, in the context of the availability of different, sometimes contrasting cultural messages. These messages are related to different cultural and religious traditions, to the reinvention of these traditions, to images and prejudices with regard to the neighbourhood, and to the large-scale process of urban renewal that are aimed at establishing socially-controlled rather than anonymous housing.

# 4

## Educational activities

*Listen or thy tongue will keep thee deaf*  
American Indian proverb

*The specialist is a man who fears the other subjects*  
Martin H. Fisher

SCA offers both a Bachelor's (BSc) and a Master's (MSc) programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology. The **Bachelor's** programme offers a broad introduction to the field, emphasizing the interconnections between cultural dimensions (existential, symbolic, meaning-focused) and social dimensions (social and economic relations, stratifications and transformations, policies and politics). Students learn to apply their awareness of social and cultural differences and varieties in current societal and global problematiques. This provides them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that are crucial in contemporary societies, and prepares them for the department's Master's programme.

The Bachelor's programme offers a range of courses on development questions, political anthropology, ethnicity and identity, symbols and rituals, history and theories of anthropology, gender and sexuality, and ICT. Various research training courses are also provided. In addition, the programme includes introductions to the social sciences in general, methodological courses, global history, and writing and presentation skills. In 2006/2007, several innovations were implemented. The first-year students are now in a semester schedule, and the Bachelor students can choose between two trajectories: Social and Cultural Anthropology and Organizational Anthropology. In 2008, the Historical Anthropology trajectory will start.

In the English-language **Master's** programme in Social and Cultural Anthropology, the quest for human security (our main

research topic) takes central stage. As in the Bachelor's, the intertwinedness of social and cultural dimensions plays an important role. Thus, both physical and existential dimensions are included, as they are in the departmental research. Physical security concerns aspects of economic, ecological, social and physical well-being, which are generally associated with the fields of development, livelihood and governance – the traditional domain of social anthropology. The cultural, cognitive, emotional, religious and symbolic dimensions of human security are subsumed under the concept of 'existential' security. They refer to processes of signification, which are traditionally the realm of cultural anthropology.

The department also provides a one-year **pre-Master's** course (PMC) for students who apply for our Master's but have thematic, disciplinary or methodological deficiencies. Like the Master's, the PMC is in English.

Nearly all courses in 2007 were evaluated as 'good' or 'very good'. In total, 18 students were awarded their BSc in 2006/2007. The year 2006/2007 was the last year in which a student's study could culminate in a *doctoraal* diploma. Many students (49) succeeded in finishing their often long overdue studies. Furthermore, 18 Bachelor's degrees and 30 Master's degrees were awarded. Sandra Evers received the annual 'teacher's award'.

**Table: SCA Bachelor's students 2006-2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of students per 1/11/2006</b>	<b>Number of diplomas</b>
BSc 1	27	
BSc 2	20	
BSc 3	18	6
BSc >3 years	16	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>18</b>

The Master's programme was again a success: 30 students obtained their Master's diploma. Evening classes were no longer given, although it is still possible to study part time.

**Table: Diplomas awarded to full-time students 2004-2007**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Starters</b>	<b>After one year</b>	<b>After two years</b>	<b>After four years</b>
2004	23	20 (87%)	21 (91%)	22 (95%)
2005	30	25 (83%)	27 (90%)	28 (93%)
2006	29	23 (79%)	expected: 27 (93%)	
2007	29			

# 5

## Publications by staff and PhD candidates

*Hell – is sitting on a hot stone  
reading your own scientific publications*  
Erik Ursin, fish biologist

The department was pleased to find in the audit committee's final report support for its long-standing critical stance towards the often monomaniac, quantity-obsessed and English-language-biased criteria for measuring people's success as researchers. 'The quality standards should not be lowered, but they should always be formulated in such a way that they are in line with the quality standards that are appropriate for the specific field'. And on SCA, the committee stated: 'There has [...] been admirable attention on the part of the members of this department to publish in a variety of languages and in regional and national journals produced in the societies under study'. We could not have said it better – and we hope this appraisal will resonate in the faculty's future mechanisms to evaluate researcher's performance.

The department will continue to aim to conduct high-quality, socially relevant, theoretically innovative and empirically rich research. This, we hope, materializes first and foremost in the contents of the research outcomes, as well as in the fact that staff members comply with the faculty's minimum norm for output. No room will be given to Don Marquis' craving remark that 'Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday'.

Additionally, the department will continue to value (but will not make compulsory) staff participation in national research schools as a vehicle for cross-disciplinary and cross-university collaboration and exchange. Most programme members/department staff are members of CERES (KNAW-accredited national Research School for Resource Studies for Development; <http://ceres.fss.uu.nl/>) or the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR,

<http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/assr/news/index.html>), which is also KNAW accredited. Also most PhD students are members of and participate in CERES, ASSR or other research school courses.

But now, let's turn to the 2007 publications.

### **Books/edited books, refereed**

*Every man is a volume if you know how to read him.*  
William Ellery Channing

Ellen Bal

*They ask if we eat frogs: Garo ethnicity in Bangladesh* (IIAS/ISEAS Series on Asia), Singapore: ISEAS Publishing.

Oscar Salemink & DiGregorio, M. (eds.)

*Living with the dead: The politics of ritual and remembrance in contemporary Vietnam.* Symposium section in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 38 (3). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Henk Schulte Nordholt

*Bali an Open Fortress 1995-2005. Regional autonomy, electoral democracy and entrenched identities*, Singapore: National University of Singapore Press.

Henk Schulte Nordholt, & Klinken, G. J. van (eds.)

*Renegotiating Boundaries. Local politics in post-Suharto Indonesia* (Verhandelingen KITLV, 238), Leiden: KITLV Press.

### **Books/edited books, non-refereed**

Bram Büscher, Steenkamp, C., & Wolmer, W. (eds.)

*The politics of engagement between biodiversity conservation and the social sciences* Special section of *Conservation and Society*, 5(1)

André Droogers, Cornelis van der Laan and Wout van Laar (eds.)  
*Fruitful in this Land: Pluralism, Dialogue and Healing in Migrant Pentecostalism*, Zoetermeer and Geneva: Boekencentrum and WCC.

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*Your manuscript is both good and original,  
but the part that is good is not original,  
and the part that is original is not good.*  
Samuel Johnson

Jan Abbink

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Ellen Bal

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Dubbele emancipatie: in en door islam. Emancipatie, religie en publiek domein, in: *Historica* 30(2), pp. 19-23.

Bram Büscher & Dressler, W

Linking Neoprotectionism and Environmental Governance: on the Rapidly Increasing Tensions between Actors in the Environment-Development Nexus, in: *Conservation and Society* 5 (4), pp. 586-611

Bram Büscher & Mutimukuru, T.

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Bram Büscher & Wolmer, W.

Introduction: The politics of engagement between biodiversity conservation and the social sciences, in: *Conservation and society* 5(1), pp. 1-21.

Bram Büscher & Whande, W.

Whims of the winds of time? Contestations in biodiversity conservation and protected areas management, in: *Conservation and Society* 5(1), pp. 22-43.

Freek Colombijn

The search for an extinct volcano in the Dutch polder: Pilgrimage to memorial sites of Pim Fortuyn, in: *Anthropos* 102(1), pp. 71-90.

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André Droogers & Versteeg, P. G. A.

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Heuvel, M. van den & Sandra Evers

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Kim Knibbe

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Ton Salman

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Marjo de Theije

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## Articles, non-refereed

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Edien Bartels  
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Anton van Harskamp

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Linda van de Kamp

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Miranda Klaver & Peter Versteeg  
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*Praktische Theologie* 34(2), pp. 169-182.

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Ellen Bal & Sinha-Kerkhoff, K.

When Muslims leave...: Muslims in British India and their migration to and settlement in Mauritius and Surinam, in: G. Oonk (ed.): *Global Indian Diasporas: Exploring Trajectories of Migration and Theory*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, pp. 75-97.

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André Droogers

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Birgit Meyer

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Oscar Salemink

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Anthropology, in: J. Marchbank & G. Letherby (eds.), *Introduction to Gender. Social Science Perspective*, Essex, England: Pearson Education, pp. 89-110.

## Dissertations

On 22 March, Kim Knibbe successfully defended her thesis *Faith in the Familiar. Continuity and Change in Religious Practices and Moral Orientations in the South of Limburg, the Netherlands* (VU University Amsterdam). Supervisor (*promotor*): Dr A. F. Droogers.

On 11 September, L. Matias Cruz successfully defended his thesis *Repressions and rebellions in Southern Mexico: The search for a political economy of dignity* (San José / Utrecht: FLASCO / CLACS). Supervisors (*promotors*): B. de Gaay Fortman and Prof. B. Goudzwaard.

On 13 December, Froukje Krijtenburg successfully defended her thesis *Cultural ideologies of peace and conflict: a socio-cognitive analysis of Giryama discourse (Kenya)* (VU University Amsterdam). Supervisor (*promotor*): Prof. J. Abbink.

## Internal and external reports

Edien Bartels, Kim Knibbe, Martijn de Koning & Oscar Salemink  
Cultural identity, in: P. J. Burgess, A. Amicelle, E. Barteld, R. Bellanova, A. Cerami, E. Eggum, G. Hoogensen, S. Kittelsen, Kim Knibbe, Martijn de Koning, K. Khoser, K. Krause & Oscar Salemink (eds.), *Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in Western Europe*, Paris: UNESCO, pp. 67-77.

Ikuya Noguchi

*Korean Pentecostalism in Japan: A Case of Proselytization to the Local Japanese by a Church in Shinjuku* (written in Japanese). Annual Review of Religious Studies, Department of Religious Studies, The University of Tokyo.

Quist, S., & Edien Bartels

*Jongeren, schulden en schooluitval*. Amsterdam: Stadsdeel Amsterdam Zuider Amstel.

Henk Schulte Nordholt & Fridu Steijlen  
*'Don't forget to remember me': An audiovisual archive of everyday life in Indonesia in the 21st century.* Indonesian Studies Working Paper Series 1, University of Sydney

## Book reviews

*This is the best book ever written by any man on the wrong side of a question of which he is profoundly ignorant.*  
Thomas B. Macaulay

Jan Abbink

Review of A. de Waal (ed.): *Islamism and its Enemies in the Horn of Africa* (London: C. Hurst & Co., 2005), in: *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 25(3), 451-453.

Jan Abbink

Review of Dominique Jacquin-Berdal & Martin Plaut (eds.): *Unfinished Business: Ethiopia and Eritrea at War* (Lawrenceville, NJ – Asmara : Red Sea Press, 2006), in: *African Affairs*, 106 (1), pp. 731-733.

Jan Abbink

Review of Ivo Strecker & Alula Pankhurst (directors): *'Bury the Spear!'* (Watertown, MA, USA, Documentary Educational Resources, 2004), in: *Visual Anthropology Review* 23 (2), pp. 165-166.

Joost Beuving

Review of Bryceson, D. and Potts, D.: *African urban economies. Viability, vitality or vitiation?* (Hampshire & New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2006), in: *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 45(3), pp. 476-477.

Bram Büscher

Review of Kirkpatrick Sale: *After Eden. The Evolution of Human Domination* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), in: *Electronic Green Journal*, issue 25.

(available online:

<http://egj.lib.uidaho.edu/index.php/egj/article/view/3177/3141>)

Bram Büscher

Review of Janice Love: *Southern Africa in World Politics. Local Aspirations and Global Entanglements* (Cambridge, Westview Press, 2005), in: *African Studies Quarterly* (online), 9(3).

(available online: <http://www.africa.ufl.edu/asq/v9/v9i3a7.htm>)

André Droogers

Review of Paul Heelas and Linda Woodhead (with Benjamin Steel, Bronislaw Szerszynski and Karin Tusting): *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion is Giving Way to Spirituality* (Malden: Blackwell, 2005), in: *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 21(3), pp. 116-118.

Anton van Harskamp

Review of S. M. Hoover: *Religion in the Media Age* (London/ New York: Routledge, 2006), in: *Tijdschrift voor theologie*, 47(2), pp. 228.

Anton van Harskamp

Review of B. M. Haese: *Hinter den Spiegeln: Kirche im virtuellen Zeitalter des Internet* (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2006), in: *Tijdschrift voor theologie*, 47(2), pp. 228.

Birgit Meyer

Review of Adam Ashforth & Harry West: *Witchcraft, Violence, and Democracy in South Africa Kupilikula & Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique* (Chicago/London: The University of Chicago Press, 2005), in: *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 33(2), pp. 452-455.

Johan Roeland

Review of José Baars-Blom: *De onschuld voorbij. Over reformatorische cultuur en wereldbestormende meisjes* (Kampen: Kok, 2006), in: *Tijdschrift voor theologie*, 47(1), pp. 110.

Oscar Salemink

Review of Andrew Hardy: *Red Hills: Migrants and the State in the Highlands of Vietnam* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003), in: *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, 2(1), pp. 200-202.

Ton Salman

Review of Benjamin Kohl and Linda Farthing: *Impasse in Bolivia: Neoliberal Hegemony and Popular Resistance* (London/New York: ZED Books, 2006), in: *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 83, pp. 137-140.

Ton Salman

Review of Elizabeth Dore: *Myths of Modernity - Peonage and Patriarchy in Nicaragua* (Durham/London: Duke University Press, 2006), in: *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*, 82, pp. 155-156.

Henk Schulte Nordholt

Review of A. Ananta, E. Nurvidya Arifin and L. Suryadinata: *Emerging Democracy in Indonesia* (Singapore: ISEAS, 2005), in: *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*, 163(4), pp. 607-608.

# 6

## Other research-related activities

Anthropologists, besides publishing and teaching, also express and demonstrate their professionalism by performing in other ways. They present their work at conferences and workshop, they give guest lectures, they supervise PhD projects or are involved in reading and graduation committees, they are requested by policy makers, practitioners and others to write reports on specific issues, they have press contacts and they organize or co-organize national and international events. At the same time, they try to remember Henry David Thoreau, recalling that ‘it is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about?’ The following is a selection of complementary activities performed by our staff and PhD candidates.



One of the activities performed by the SCA staff in order to foster research is the **organization or co-organization of national and international congresses, conferences, seminars and workshops**, both within and outside our faculty and our department. In 2007, various staff members were involved in such activities. The following is an overview.

**Jan Abbink** was chief organizer of a DRPN study day on ‘Security and the Development Agenda in Africa’, 2 November 2007, Leiden, at the African Studies Centre.

**Ellen Bal** co-organized the farewell symposium for Dr Dick Kooiman, which had the title ‘Waarom zijn rijke landen rijk en arme landen arm?’. It took place on 1 February at the VU University

Amsterdam. She also co-organized the anthropology symposium 'Beyond Relativism', on 27 November, VU University Amsterdam.

**Joost Beuving** co-organized the international conference 'African entrepreneurs and/in emerging markets: towards a situational understanding of entrepreneurial behaviour?', with Dr J. A. Andersson. It was held in Leiden in July.

**Lenie Brouwer, Marion den Uyl** and José van Santen co-organized the panel 'De verlokkingen van de stad: meisjes als cultuurvernieuwers' at the national congress of the Dutch Antropologen Beroepsvereniging (ABv) *Tijd voor antropologie! Versnelling- jeugd – toekomst* in Arnhem on 1-2 November.

**Scott Dalby** organized the international conference 'Religion, Ethnicity, and Nation-States in a Globalising World' (with **Tam Ngo** and **Oscar Salemink**), at VU University Amsterdam, June 7-8.

**Sandra Evers** co-organized the international congress 'Contemporary Madagascar and the Millennium Development Goals / Madagascar Contemporain et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement; she also chaired the scientific committee of the conference. It was supported by the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology (VU University Amsterdam) and the *Institut de Civilisations/Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie, Université d'Antananarivo (ICMAA)*. It took place in Antsirabe, Madagascar, 20-22 September.

**Anton van Harskamp** co-organized the international conference 'Religion and Development: Crisis or New Opportunities?' supported by the Faculty of Theology, the Blaise Pascal Institute, and the Centre for International Cooperation of VU University Amsterdam. It was held at VU University Amsterdam, 14-15 June.

**Rhea Hummel** co-organized the 'VU-podium Zappers en zieners', with **Martijn de Koning, Kim Knibbe, Hanneke Minkjan, Johan Roeland, Anton van Harskamp, André Droogers** and Peter Versteeg. It took place in Amsterdam on March 30.

**Margot Leegwater** co-organized with Thérèse Onderdenwijngaard, **Ton Salman** and **Tijo Salverda** the anthropology symposium ‘Beyond relativism’, VU University Amsterdam, 27 November.

**Birgit Meyer** co-organized with Dick Houtman the international conference *Things: Material Religion and Topography of Divine Spaces*, on behalf of the NWO programme ‘The Future of the Religious Past’, Amsterdam, 11-12 June.

**Ikuya Noguchi** co-organized ‘The Interdisciplinary Study of Global Pentecostalism’, an international conference of The European Research Network on Global Pentecostalism (GloPent), with André Droogers, **Kim Knibbe** and **Miranda Klaver**. It took place at VU University Amsterdam, 27-28 April.

**Johan Roeland** co-organized the international conference ‘Party Formations’, with **Anton van Harskamp** and Irene Stengs, at the Meertens Institute, Amsterdam, September 28.

**Oscar Salemink** organized or co-organized:

– a plenary session ‘Ethiek en de antropologische praktijk - een antropologische respons op de vooronderstellingen in de gedragscode van de VSNU’ (co-organized with Peter Pels and **Lenie Brouwer**), at the Netherlands Anthropological Association (ABv) biennial meeting ‘Tijd voor antropologie: versnelling – jeugd – toekomst’, Arnhem, 1-2 November.

– with the Netherlands Anthropological Association (ABv) a meeting about the Netherlands Universities Association VSNU ‘code of conduct’ rule and anthropological research ethics; VU University Amsterdam, 15 May.

– the conference ‘Shaking Up Citizenship: Nation, state and transnational actors’, a conference around Saskia Sassen’s new book, at VU University Amsterdam, 20-21 April, co-organized with **Ton Salman**, Remco Nehmelman and Sarah van Walsum.

**Ton Salman** co-organized the lecture and conference around Saskia Sassen, 20-21 April, Amsterdam. On 27 November, he co-organized the anthropology symposium ‘Beyond Relativism’, at VU University Amsterdam, to mark Thomas Eriksen’s farewell.

**Henk Schulte Nordholt** organized the international workshop ‘An audiovisual archive of everyday life in Indonesia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century’, KITLV Leiden, 31 January - 2 February.

**Marion den Uyl** co-organized at the LOVA studiedag , ‘De verlokkingen van de stad: meiden als cultuurvernieuwers’, with Marina de Regt (University of Amsterdam), Amsterdam, June 8.



Another activity performed by staff members in 2007 was the **presentation of papers at national or international conferences, congresses and workshops**. Presentations at conferences and workshops are crucial to share with others the results or provisional results of ongoing research, and to obtain comments and suggestions to improve the presentation of these outcomes.

**Jan Abbink** was discussant and presented a paper titled ‘Contextualizing the Ethio-Eritrean conflict – comments on F. Guazzini’, at the international conference ‘The Armed Conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia in International Legal Perspective’, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy, 18-20 October. He also gave a talk titled ‘Reality and dramatization in ethno-documentary films on southern Ethiopia’, at the ‘Film Seminar Horn von Afrika’, Asian-Afrika Institut, Universität Hamburg, 5 July 2007.

**Ellen Bal** gave a lecture at the VU Alumni-dag, on 9 June, with the title ‘Over etnische en nationale verbondenheid van Hindostanen.’

**Edien Bartels** and **Lenie Brouwer** presented the paper ‘Dynamisme inattendu aux Pays-Bas. Des changements dans la Mudawwanah (le droit de famille) au Maroc’, at the ‘Colloque international sous le thème Muddawanah’, 15-16 March, Oujda, Morocco.

**Edien Bartels** and **Martijn de Koning** presented the paper ‘Claiming the researcher. Inclusion and exclusion in the research process’, at ‘Religion, Media and Culture - Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age’, a conference jointly organized by the

British Sociological Association Sociology of Religion Study Group and the UK Research Network for Theology, Religion and Popular Culture. It took place at St Catherine's College, Oxford, 2-4 April.

**Edien Bartels** and Vanessa Vroon-Najem presented 'Dubbele emancipatie: in en door islam', at the 'Congres Baas in eigen kerk – Vrouwen, feminisme en religie vroeger en nu', Historica (Amsterdam), 20 April.

**Edien Bartels** and **Martijn de Koning** presented 'Dual Citizenship', at the conference 'Shaking up Citizenship', VU University Amsterdam, 20-21 April.

**Joost Beuving** presented 'Migrants, mobile phones and *Mputa*: dynamics of change in the Euro-African Nile perch market', at the European Conference on African Studies, Leiden, July.

**Lenie Brouwer** presented:

– 'Dynamisme inattendu - Des changements dans la Mudawwanah (le droit de famille) au Maroc' (with **Edien Bartels**), at the International Conference '*Droit de la Famille, trois ans d'application*' at the Université Mohammed I, Faculté de Droit, Groupe de Recherche: Droit et Famille, Oujda (Morocco), 15/16 March.

– 'Super-diversity in an Amsterdam Disadvantaged Area: Voices of Immigrant Girls' (with **Marion den Uyl**), at the COMPAS Annual Conference 2007 titled 'Between "Parallel lives" and "Community Cohesion". Towards new models of immigration, integration and multiculturalism'. Workshop theme: Local experiences of 'super-diversity', 5-6 July, University of Oxford.

– 'De betekenis van internet gebruik bij Marokkaanse-Nederlandse jongeren. Een antropologisch perspectief', at 'De Bascule' (Academisch Centrum voor kinder en jeugdpsychiatrie), Amsterdam, 9 October.

– 'De verlokkingen van de stad: meiden als cultuurvernieuwers' (with **Marion den Uyl**), at the national congress of the Antropologen Beroepsvereniging 'Tijd voor antropologie! Versnelling- jeugd – toekomst'; panel: 'de verlokkingen van de stad: meisjes als cultuurvernieuwers'. Arnhem, 1-2 November.

– 'Islam as symbol of protest. Reactions of Dutch Moroccan youths to the debate on Islam', at the UCSIA International Workshop

(invited speaker) ‘Christian and Muslim Minorities in Transition in Europe and the Middle East’, University of Antwerp, 5-7 December.

**Bram Büscher** presented:

- (with Michael Schoon) ‘Competition over Conservation: Governance, the State and Negotiating Transfrontier Conservation’, Society for Conservation Biology conference, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 1-5 July.
- ‘Disciplining Biodiversity? The political ecology of Academic Enterprise in South African Biodiversity Conservation’, a keynote address at ‘Biodiversity, agriculture and environmental justice: a meeting to discuss and debate issues in interdisciplinary research’, Cape Town, 5-6 November.
- ‘Anti-Politics as Political Strategy: Neoliberalism and Transfrontier Conservation and Development in Southern Africa’, a seminar given as part of the Seminar Series of the Political Science Department of the University of Pretoria, 10 August, Pretoria, South Africa.

**Freek Colombijn**

- gave the lecture ‘Stadsgezichten’ (with Bambang Purwanto), at ‘Winternachten, internationaal literatuurfestival Den Haag’, The Hague, 11 January.
- presented ‘Medan, Padang en Palembang in de laat-koloniale periode’, at Kumpulan Bronbeek, Arnhem, 18 February, which was broadcast by *radio Optimaal FM* on 16 April.
- presented ‘The social and environmental impact of new roads in Sumatra’, Universität Bayreuth, 31 May.
- presented ‘Local identity, the purification of urban space, and the contest between kampong dwellers and urban administrators in Indonesia in historical perspective’, at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 5), Kuala Lumpur, 2-5 August.
- presented ‘Urban space and housing during the decolonization of Indonesia’ at the above convention.

**Scott Dalby** presented ‘De-demonizing and De-ethnicising Falun Gong at the Religion, Ethnicity, and Nation-States in a Globalising World Conference, VU University Amsterdam, 7-8 June.

**Sandra Evers** presented:

- ‘The challenges of Integrating Customary Law in National Land Legislation in Madagascar’, at the conference ‘Society, Natural Resources & Development in Madagascar, Recent Contributions by the Research Community’, which was hosted by the Sainsbury Research Unit and the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich (UK), 30-31 March.
- ‘Lure of the Impure: Sexuality, Gender and Agency of ‘Slave’ Girls in Contemporary Madagascar’, at the conference ‘Sex, Power and Slavery: The Dynamics of Carnal Relations under Enslavement’, McGill University, Montreal, 19-21 April.
- ‘To the Manner Born? The Perpetuation of the Ideology and Terminology of Slavery in Madagascar’, at the conference ‘African Trajectories of Slavery’, SOAS, University of London, 25-26 May.
- ‘Lex Loci meets Lex Fori: Merging Customary Law and National Land Legislation in Madagascar’, at the AEGIS Conference, Leiden, 12-14 July.
- ‘Cognitive issues and the role of memory in the examination of identity construction and social anchoring in migrant societies’ at the conference ‘Voyages, Space & Encounters in the South West Region of the Indian Ocean’, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Centre for Mauritius Studies, Moka, Mauritius, 23-24 August.
- ‘Vestiges coloniaux dans la législation nationale? Un regard sur le nouveau Plan National Foncier face au droit coutumier en Madagascar’ at the conference ‘Idées et représentations coloniales dans l’océan Indien du XVIIIe au XXe siècles’, Université de la Réunion & Université Paris/Sorbonne, 2-5 October.

**Erella Grassiani** presented:

- ‘The phenomenon of breaking the silence in Israel: witnessing as consciousness raising strategy of Israeli ex-combatants’, at the ‘War and Peace and Military in Asia’ workshop, Kyoto University, Japan, 6-7 April.
- ‘Moral strategies of Israeli soldiers in the Occupied Palestinian Territories’ at PACSA Conference, Halle, Germany, 5 October.

**Anton van Harskamp** presented ‘Betwixt and between secularisation and sacralisation’ at the conference ‘Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age’, St Catherine’s College, Oxford, 2-4 April.

**Rhea Hummel** presented:

- ‘Kiezen kunstenaars a la carte?’, at the VU-podium ‘Zappers en zieners’, Amsterdam, 30 March.
- “I wanted to be Tristan, Superman or an *Übermensch*”: The influence of literature on worldview construction among writers and artists’, at the conference ‘Media and Culture: Exploring Religion and the Sacred in a Media Age’, Oxford, 2-4 April.

**Linda van de Kamp** presented:

- ‘Spirits and Spouses: Women’s Agency and Kinship in Brazilian Pentecostal Churches in Mozambique’ at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR) ‘Changing Religious Forms and Connections’, Tampa, Florida, 1-4 November.
- ‘Procurar um marido na igreja. Percursos das Mulheres nas Igrejas Pentecostais Brasileiras na cidade de Maputo’, at the Seminar of the Department of Archeology and Anthropology of the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, Mozambique, 1 June.
- ‘Procurar o marido ideal na igreja. Percursos das Mulheres nas Igrejas Pentecostais Brasileiras na cidade de Maputo’, at the Seminar of WLSA (Women and Law in Southern Africa), Maputo, Mozambique, 28 June.
- ‘Therapy of Love as a technique of relatedness in Brazilian Pentecostal Churches in Mozambique’, at the Workshop on New-Kinship Studies, African Studies Centre Leiden, the Netherlands, 26 November.

**Kim Knibbe** presented:

- ‘Zappen en zien in zuid Limburg’, at the VU podium ‘Zappers en zieners’, Amsterdam, 30 March.
- ‘Studying the logic of moral orientation’, Oxford, 2-3 April.
- ‘Geloof in het vertrouwde’, Studium Generale Zuyd, Glaspaleis, Heerlen, the Netherlands, 21 November.

**Margot Leegwater** presented ‘Ethnic antagonism and land competition. A comparative study of Burundian and Rwandan national land policies and local practices’ at the seminar ‘Political Economy of the Great Lakes Region’, Antwerp, 13 December.

**Birgit Meyer** presented:

- ‘Pentecostalism, Media and the emergence of a Christian environment in Southern Ghana’, African Studies Centre, Copenhagen, 2 February.

- ‘African Popular Cinema, Pentecostalism and the ‘Powers of Darkness’: Contested Discourses about Tradition in Ghana. Keynote’, Africa Film Conference, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 7-10 November.
- ‘There is a Spirit in that Image.’ Protestantism and Mass-produced Pictures of Jesus in Ghana’, University of Chicago and Northwestern University, Chicago, Red Lion Seminar, 13 November.
- ‘There is a Spirit in that Image: Protestantism and Mass-produced Pictures of Jesus in Ghana’, Emory University, Atlanta, 15 November.
- ‘Sensational Forms. Media and the senses in the making of religious experience. University of California’, San Diego, Department of Anthropology, 19 November.
- ‘Pentecostal Christianity, Audio-Visual Media and the Question of Community in Ghana’, Central European University, Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 26 November.

Birgit Meyer also participated in an extended discussion by the ‘Street Culture’ panel, ‘Street Life’ conference, Toronto, 18-22 April.

**Hanneke Minkjan** presented:

- ‘Geleid door de hulpgeesten en de voorouders - Daan van Kampenhout: Een visionair binnen het neo-sjamanisme’, VU Podium - Publieksdag ‘Zappers en Zieners’, 30 March.
- ‘The Oracle has spoken.... Studying Divination rituals in Dutch neo-paganism’, British Sociological Association Group, Sociology of Religion Study Group, Oxford, 2-4 April.
- ‘Being called by the Spirits: Trance practices in Dutch neo-shamanic rituals’, Spring Meeting of the Society for The Anthropology of Religion, Phoenix, 13-16 April.
- “‘She of Many Names’’: The Goddess as re-enchantress of the Modern World?’, SAR Phoenix, 13-16 April.
- ‘Nehalennia Anna: The Invention of a Goddess in the Quest for authenticity in the Dutch Goddess Movement’, at ‘Forging Folklore: Witch-craft, Paganism and Tribal Cultures’, Harvard University, 3-5 May.
- ‘The Goddess in the Landscape’, at the Inaugural Conference of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): ‘Means and Myths of Transmission in Western Esotericism’, Tübingen, 19-22 July.

- ‘The Construction of a new Goddess Movement. The Dutch case of Nehalennia-Anna’ at the joint conference of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) and the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), titled ‘Plurality and Representation’, Bremen, 23-27 September.
- ‘Nehalennia-Anna: De creatie van een Nederlandse godin. Religieuze ervaring en processen van constructie binnen de nieuwe godinnenbeweging’, at the ‘Tijd voor Antropologie’ conference, organized by the Antropologen Beroepsvereniging (ABv) en het Nederlandse Openluchtmuseum, Arnhem, 1-2 November.

**Lorraine Nencel** presented:

- “‘Where are you from?’” An auto-ethnographical account of everyday practices of exclusion in multicultural society’ (with Kathy Davis), Qualitative Inquiry Conference, Urbana Ill, May.
- ‘Situated Methodologies: Is there a Recipe for doing Critical Reflexive Research?’, Qualitative Inquiry Conference, Urbana Ill, May.
- “‘Where are you from?’” An auto-ethnographical account of everyday practices of exclusion in multicultural society’ (with Kathy Davis), at the international conference ‘Ethnicity, Belonging, Biography and Ethnography’, Goettingen, Germany, 7-9 December.

**Ikuya Noguchi** presented:

- ‘Mechanism of Control: Architectural and Organizational Structure of Yonggi Cho’s Church in Japan’, at the international conference ‘The Interdisciplinary Study of Global Pentecostalism’, organized by The European Research Network on Global Pentecostalism(GloPent), VU University Amsterdam, 27-28 April.
- ‘Establishing the Central Leadership Overseas’, at the international conference ‘Things: Material Religion and the Topography of Divine Spaces’, VU University Amsterdam, 11-12 June.

**Johan Roeland** presented ‘Signification between concept and experience’ (with Peter Versteeg), at the conference ‘Religion, Media and Culture’, organized by the British Sociological Association, Sociology of Religion Study Group, Oxford, 3 April.

**Inge Ruigrok** gave the paper ‘Governança na transição: a dinâmica local e as reformas políticas em Angola’, at an international conference at CEA/ISCTE, Lisbon, November.

**Oscar Salemink** gave the special lectures:

- ‘Socialist, Capitalist and Protestant Conversions and Enclosures in Vietnam’s Central Highlands’, an invited lecture at the University of Toronto, 14 November.
- ‘Faith-Based Development Initiatives as ‘Prosperity Religions’? Reflections on religion and development’, a keynote lecture at the conference ‘Religion and Development: Crisis or New Opportunities?’, VU University Amsterdam, 14-15 June (see <http://www.religionanddevelopment.nl/>).

Oscar Salemink also presented:

- ‘Seeking spiritual security in contemporary Vietnam’ for the conference ‘The Anthropology of Vietnam’, HCM City, 15-18 December.
- ‘A View From the Mountains: A critical history of Lowlander - Highlander relations in Vietnam’, at the workshop ‘Revisiting the Frontier in the Southeast Asian Massif’, National University of Singapore, 12-13 December.
- ‘Turning Weber upside down: Capitalist development as a quasi-religious project of conversion and discipline’, at the conference ‘Religion, Ethnicity, and Modernity: Identity and Social Practice in Asia’, University of Washington, Seattle, 5-6 October.
- ‘Socialist, Capitalist and Protestant Conversions of Vietnam’s Central Highlanders’, at the conference ‘Religion, Ethnicity and Nation-States in a Globalizing world’, VU University Amsterdam, 7-8 June.
- ‘Research ethics and professional ethics in anthropology’, at the Netherlands Anthropological Association (ABv) meeting about the Netherlands Universities Association VSNU ‘code of conduct’ rule and anthropological research ethics, VU University Amsterdam, 15 May.
- ‘Is Protestant Conversion a Form of Protest? Urban and Upland Protestants in Southeast Asia’, at the international conference ‘Christianity and the State in Asia: Complicity and Conflict’, National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, 10-12 January.
- ‘Lowlander - Highlander relations in Vietnam: a critical history’, at the conference ‘Montane Choices and Outcomes: Contemporary transformations of Vietnam’s uplands’, Hanoi, 4-6 January.

**Ton Salman** presented the paper ‘The Crisis of Representation in Bolivia’ at the Society for Latin American Studies Conference 2007, Newcastle, April 13-15. He also gave a talk on ‘Bolivian Political Developments’ at the Dutch Embassy, La Paz, 1 August.

**Tijo Salverda** presented:

- ‘Remembering Colonialism: the Silence of the White Mauritians in Today’s Political Discourse’, at the conference ‘From the cradle to the grave: Identity, violence exclusion and memory politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century’, CERES Summer school, Utrecht, 27 June.
- ‘Adrien d’Epinay, son héritage et la communauté franco-mauricienne’, at the conference ‘Idées et représentations coloniales dans l’océan Indien du XVIIIe au XXe siècles’, La Réunion, France, 3-5 October.

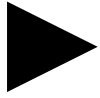
**Regien Smit** presented:

- ‘Words as Things’, NWO Conference ‘Future of the Religious Past’, Amsterdam, June 11-12.
- ‘The Power of the Word. How Angolan Pentecostal Migrants experience power in an uncertain world’, at the congress ‘International Migration, Multi-local Livelihoods and Human Security: Perspectives from Europe, Asia and Africa’, ISS, The Hague, 30-31 August.
- ‘The Power of the Word. How Angolan Pentecostal Migrants experience power in an uncertain world’, SSSR Annual Meeting, Tampa, Florida, 1-4 November.

**Marjo de Theije** presented the paper ‘Goud en migranten. Over Surinaamse bodemschatten en Brazilianen’, for the Vereniging Ons Suriname (Veronsur), Amsterdam, 16 September.

**Marion den Uyl** presented:

- ‘Local experiences of youth in a super-diverse quarter of Amsterdam’, at the COMPAS conference ‘Between Parallel Lives and Community Cohesion’, University of Oxford, 4 July.
- (with **Lenie Brouwer**) ‘Meisjes in een superdiverse wijk in Amsterdam’, at the congress of the Antropologische beroepsvereniging ‘Tijd voor Antropologie! Versnelling, jeugd, toekomst’, Arnhem, 1-2 November.



Our staff members also acted as **guest lecturers** outside the faculty.

**Jan Abbink** gave a guest lecture on ‘Ideologies of power and hegemony in Africa: historical contexts, modern transformations’ as part of the African Studies Research Master’s at ASC-Leiden University, 5 March 2007. He also gave a lecture on ‘Politics and culture in the Horn of Africa’ as part of the same Research Master’s, 26 April 2007.

**Ellen Bal** gave a guest lecture on ‘Partition in India’ as part of the Contemporary Asian Studies Master’s programme (a course organized by Oscar Salemink at the University of Amsterdam, 12 March.

**Joost Beuving** gave a guest lecture on ‘Market makers, market breakers? A socio-cultural analysis of intermediaries in the Euro-West African second-hand car business’, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden, September.

**Freek Colombijn** gave a guest lecture on ‘Urban social movements in Indonesia’ as part of the International Development Studies Master’s, University of Amsterdam, 27 April.

**Scott Dalby** gave the lecture ‘Falun Gong: violence, secularization, and transnationalism’ as part of the course ‘Ethnic and Political/Religious Violence in Asia’, ISHSS/University van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, 14 February.

**Sandra Evers** gave a guest lecture on ‘Slave trade and slavery in the South West Indian Ocean, with a particular focus on slavery in Madagascar and its legacies in contemporary Malagasy society’, as part of Research Master’s of the African Studies Centre, Leiden, 3 May.

**Kim Knibbe** gave the lecture ‘Migranten kerken - Het Nederlandse Religieuze Landschap’, as part of the course ‘Religiewetenschappen’, Tilburg, 9 November.

**Birgit Meyer** gave the lecture ‘Pentecostal Christianity, Audio-Visual Media and the Question of Community in Ghana’ at the Hendrik Muller Seminar, KNAW, 2 April. She also lectured on ‘Born Again. De attractie van religie in een post-seculiere wereld’, University of Amsterdam lecture series *Religie Nu*, 19 and 26 September.

**Lorraine Nencel** gave the following guest lectures:

- ‘Gender and Sexuality in Latin America’, CEDLA, Amsterdam, February.
- ‘Qualitative methodology’, SANPAD RCI (Research Capacity Initiative), April 2007, Durban, South Africa.
- ‘Gender and Culture’ as part of the Medical Anthropology Master’s programme, International Masters AMMA, University of Amsterdam, December.

Lorraine Nencel also taught at the ‘Qualitative methodology’ seminar for CERES PhD students, June and September.

**Oscar Salemink** lectured on:

- ‘Culturele identiteit als bron van (on)zekerheid’, for the course ‘Interfacultair keuzevak ontwikkelingsvraagstukken Zorg om Zekerheid: Armoedebestrijding in een kwetsbare wereld’, VU University Amsterdam, 22 November.
- ‘Domestic and transnational migration interlinked: Vietnamese highlands’, a MACAS lecture in the ‘Asia on the Move’ series, University of Amsterdam, 11 October.

**Ton Salman** gave lectures on:

- ‘Identity formation’ as part of the CERES PhD course, Utrecht, 3 April.
- ‘Alasitas: aymara or Bolivian?’, CEDLA, Amsterdam, 5 December.

**Henk Schulte Nordholt** gave lectures at:

- Department of History, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, 26 April.
- Department of Public Administration, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, 27 April.



Another activity of staff members was their **involvement as supervisors / co-supervisors of PhD projects**, either within or outside the SCA department.

### **Jan Abbink**

- supervisor of Dr Froukje Krijtenburg, at VU University Amsterdam, PhD awarded on 13 December 2007 (co-supervisor: Dr F. Ameka, Univ. Leiden): *Cultural Ideologies of Peace and Conflict: a Socio-Cognitive Analysis of Giryama Discourse (Kenya)*.
- supervisor (since 2003) of Bayleyegn Tasew, MA, Addis Ababa University (WOTRO funded): *Metaphors of Peace and Violence in the Folklore Discourse of Southwest Ethiopian Peoples: a Comparative Study*.
- supervisor (since March 2000) of Hénoké Courte: *The Social Organization of Begging: A Study of Street Life in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*.
- supervisor (since 2004) of Inge M. Ruigrok (VU University Amsterdam; WOTRO funded): *Negotiating Governance: Culture, and Decentralization in post-war Angola*
- supervisor (since 2004) of Tijo S. Salverda (VU University Amsterdam): *Transnational networks linking Mauritius, South Africa and France: an anthropological study of Franco-Mauritian trading networks*.
- supervisor (since early 2005) of Erella Grassiani (VU University Amsterdam): *Reasoning on Moral Issues in Non-Conventional Conflict: Israeli Soldiers' Views on Moral Dilemmas*.
- supervisor (since early 2005) of Jeffrey Schwerzel (VU University Amsterdam): *NATO security culture: An anthropological analysis of institutional (dis)trust*.

### **Ellen Bal** is co-supervisor of:

- Priscilla Koh, *Vietnam's Familiar Strangers- Narratives of returning Overseas Vietnamese and the symbolic construction of homeland and nation* (supervision with Prof. Oscar Salemink, VU University Amsterdam).
- Jantine Messing, *Migration and Material Culture. The Domestic Interiors of Surinamese Hindustanis and Their Descendants in the*

*Netherlands* (with Prof. Mario Rutten, University of Amsterdam, and Dr Hester Dibbits, Meertens Instituut Amsterdam).

**Edien Bartels** is co-supervisor:

- (with Fatima Sadiqi) of Rachid Touhtou, *Debating Civil Society in Morocco: Dynamics of Gender, Development and Social Change*, at the Sidi Mohammed Ben Abdellah University, Fez, Morocco.
- (with Prof. André Droogers) of Martijn de Koning: *Zoeken naar een ‘zuivere’ islam. Geloofsbeleving en identiteitsvorming van jonge Marokkaanse moslims*.

**Sandra Evers** is co-supervisor of:

- (with Prof. Jan Abbink, VU University Amsterdam) of drs. Margot Leegwater: *Ethnic antagonism as development constraint: the heritage of conflict in the socio-economic policies of Rwanda and Burundi*. The research proposal was finalized this year and was granted a four-year PhD track by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. Leegwater will graduate at VU University Amsterdam.
- (with Prof. Jan Abbink, VU University Amsterdam) of drs. Tijo Salverda: *Transnational networks linking Mauritius, South-Africa and France: an anthropological study of Franco-Mauritian Trading Groups*.
- (with Prof. Jan Abbink, VU University Amsterdam) of drs. Jeffrey Schwerzel: *Trust at NATO HQ Brussels*.

**Anton van Harskamp** supervises:

- Johan Roeland: *From salvation to ‘selfation’: Subjectivization among Dutch Evangelical Youngsters*.
- Cors Visser: *Evangelicalen en civil society: Een vergelijkende studie naar de habitus van evangelicalen ten opzichte van de civil society*.
- Janine Verdonk: *Religieuze individualisering en maatschappelijke participatie: Een bijdrage aan de cultureel-antropologische en sociologische studie naar de antroposofische beweging in Nederland (vanaf 1950)*.

**Birgit Meyer** is co-supervisor of

- Maria José de Abreu (ASSR, with Peter van der Veer): *Charismatic renewal and media in Brazil*.

- Lotte Hoek (ASSR, with Willem van Schendel): *Islam and Film in Bangladesh.*
- Marleen de Witte (ASSR, with Peter Geschiere): *Religion and media in Ghana.*
- Nienke Muurling (ASSR, with Peter Geschiere): *Mande global family networks.*
- Caco Verhees (ISIM, with Annelies Moors): *Women and Islam in Senegal and Paris.*

Birgit Meyer is the supervisor of Rhoda Woets (VU University Amsterdam): *Palette of power relations and the boundaries of globalisation: contemporary artists in Ghana.*

**Lorraine Nencel** is co-supervisor of:

- Martha Cecilia Ruiz: *Social representations and self-perceptions of Colombian and Peruvian migrant sex workers in Ecuador.* Supervisor: T. Eriksen; co-supervisors (daily supervisors): L. Nencel, V. Mazzucato (VU University Amsterdam), D. Meertens (Colombia).
- Anna Maria Goetschel (FLASCO Ecuador, CEDLA): *Education, discourse and gender identity in Quito Ecuador.* Supervisor: Prof. M. Baud. Completed on 9 October.
- Anja Rudnick (AGIDS, University of Amsterdam): *Female foreign workers in Malaysian industry.* Supervisors: Prof. A. de Bruijne, Prof. I Baud.
- Joan van Wijk: *Masculinity, Identity and Violence in a Mexican tourist area. A project researching men's reactions to gender transformations.* Other co-supervisor: Ton Salman; supervisor: Prof. O. Salemink.
- Patacharin Lapanun : *Transnational Marriage: Negotiation of Local Women and Men in the Rural Northeastern Thai Village.* Supervisor: Prof. Oscar Salemink.

**Oscar Salemink** is supervisor of:

- Scott Dalby: *Cosmopolitanising and Politicising Falun Gong Membership and Practices: Processes of incorporation and discipline of non-Chinese in the transnational Falun Gong society.*
- Priscilla Koh Siew Im: *Vietnam's Familiar Strangers – Narratives of returning Overseas Vietnamese and the symbolic construction of homeland and nation.*

- Patcharin Lapanun (VU University Amsterdam / Chiang Mai University): *Transnational Marriage: Negotiation of Local Women and Men in the Rural Northeastern Thai Village*.
- Stokhof, Malte: *Transforming Local Identities in a Transnational Muslim Context: Descendants of Javanese Immigrants in Communist Vietnam*.
- Tam, Ngo Thi Thanh: *Transnational Religious Networks and Protestant Conversion among the Hmong in Northern Vietnam*.
- Tuan Anh, Nguyen (VU University Amsterdam / Vietnam National University): *The role of kinship in a village community: A case study in Quynh Doi village, Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province, Vietnam*.
- Vorpahl, Markus (VU University Amsterdam – external): *Doi Moi in the Village – Continuous Creation of the Village and Social Organisation in Times of National Reform and Transformation in Vietnam. The Example of a Village in the Red River Delta*

Oscar Salemink is co-supervisor of:

- Hai, Tran Sy (Wageningen Agricultural University): *Adapting participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) method to Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in soil-plant management at field and landscape levels*.
- Horst, John ter: *Khmer Diaspora Ties and Processes of Ethnicization in Cross-Border Silk Trade in the Greater Mekong Region*.
- Huong, Nguyen Thi Thu (University of Amsterdam): *Rape and Gender in the Transitional Context of Vietnam*.
- Lam, Nguyen Tran (University of Amsterdam): *Rural Change and Emerging Epidemics in the Vietnam's Northern Mountain Region*.
- Wijk, Joan van: *Domestic violence in a Mexican tourist area*.

**Ton Salman** is:

- co-supervisor of PhD candidate Lorena Nuñez: *Illness and Health: Peruvian Migrants in Chile*. Supervisor Prof. Annemiek Richters, RUL.
- co-supervisor of Joan van Wijk: *Violence in a Mexican Tourist Area*. Supervisors: Prof. Oscar Salemink and Prof. Annemiek Richters (UL). Other co-supervisor: Lorraine Nencel.
- supervisor of María Luisa Talavera, MSc (CIDES, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, La Paz, Bolivia): *Educación pública y formación de las culturas magistrales en Bolivia, 1955-2005*.

**Henk Schulte Nordholt** supervises:

- Deasy Simanjuntak (University of Amsterdam): *Decentralisation in North Sumatra*.
- Sylvia Tiday (University of Amsterdam): *Ethnicity and the local state in Kupang East Indonesia*.
- Najib Asca (University of Amsterdam): *Islamic radicals after the jihad*.
- Un Leang: *Education and development in Cambodia and Uganda*.
- Eveline Buchheim (University of Amsterdam): *Huwelijk en koloniale staat in Ned. Indie*.

**Marjo de Theije** co-supervises João Rickli: *Symbolic, Material and Personal Exchanges between Dutch and Brazilian Actors through Kerkinactie's Network*. Supervisor: André Droogers.



Yet another activity performed by staff members was **participation in graduation and reading committees** of publicly defended PhD theses.

**Jan Abbink** was a member of the reading and graduation committee of Mr Fenta Mandefro Abate (ISS): *Beyond the Public Realm: Local Governance Network and Service Development in the Amhara and Tigray Regions, Ethiopia*. Defended on 18 April 2007, ISS, The Hague; and of Mr Paulos Chanie (ISS): *What One Hand Giveth, the Other Hand Taketh Away': Ethiopia's Post-1991 Decentralization Reform under Neo-Patrimonialism*. Defended 18 December 2007.

**Lenie Brouwer** was on the reading committee of Martijn de Koning (VU University Amsterdam): *Zoeken naar de 'zuivere' islam. Geloofsbeleving, identiteitsvorming en radicalisering van jonge Marokkaanse moslims*. Graduation: 17 April 2008.

**Freek Colombijn** was on the graduation committee of Robbie Peters, La Trobe University, Australia; and Nawiyanto, Australian National University, Australia.

**Sandra Evers** was on the graduation committee of Froukje Krijtenburg: *Cultural ideologies of peace and conflict: a socio-*

*cognitive analysis of Giriama discourse (Kenya)*, VU University Amsterdam, 13 December.

**Lorraine Nencel** was on the graduation committee of Luis Matias Cruz (VU University Amsterdam, 11 September): *Alternatives to Rebellions: A Cry from Chiapas and the Political Economy of Dignity*; and on the manuscript committee of Anouka van Eerderwijk: *The ABC of unsafe Sex*, Nijmegen University, 1 May 2006.

**Oscar Salemink** was on the graduation committee of Luis Matias Cruz (VU University Amsterdam, 11 September 2007): *Alternatives to Rebellions: A Cry from Chiapas and the Political Economy of Dignity*.

**Ton Salman** is on the reading committee of Aragawi Berhe: *A Political History of the TPLF: Revolt, Ideology and Mobilization in Ethiopia, 1975-1991* (graduation: 2008); and was on the graduation committee of Ana María Goetschel, 9 October, University of Amsterdam.

**Henk Schulte Nordholt** was on the graduation committee of Sri Margana: *Java's Last Frontier*, Leiden University, 13 December.

**Marjo de Theije** was on the graduation committee of Luis Matias Cruz (VU University Amsterdam, 11 September): *Alternatives to Rebellions: A Cry from Chiapas and the Political Economy of Dignity*.

**Marion den Uyl** was in the reading and graduation committee of Pien Bos: *Once a Mother. Relinquishment and adoption from the perspective of South Indian mothers*, Radboud University Nijmegen, 10 January 2008.



One recurring activity of anthropologists is **fieldwork**.

**Jan Abbink** was in Southern Ethiopia from 16 November 2007 to 9 December 2007 (project: 'Political culture in Ethiopia')

**Edien Bartels** did fieldwork in the framework of the ‘Slotervaart project’. She visits the area every week. In March, she went to Morocco for two weeks.

**Joost Beuving** was in Uganda from 15 September to 30 November for his project: ‘Global business, economic behaviour in action and the social construction of the emerging Euro-African Nile perch market’.

**Bram Büscher** was in South Africa from 1 January to 22 August for his PhD project. He was based in Pretoria.

**Scott Dalby** did fieldwork in Taipei and New York for his PhD thesis.

**Sandra Evers** did three months of fieldwork in Mauritius and Madagascar:

Madagascar (one month): ‘Land access practices and legislation in Madagascar’;

Mauritius (two months): ‘Identity Construction, Social Anchoring and Interaction of Primary School Pupils in Port Louis (with a particular focus on Chagossian children)’.

**Hanneke Minkjan** did fieldwork from January to November in various places in the Netherlands, visiting workshops, rituals and a Goddess conference, and doing interviews, all in the framework of her PhD project *Religieuze producenten en consumenten op de neo-paganistische Markt: een antropologisch onderzoek naar individuele religieuziteit in Nederland*.

**Linda van de Kamp**, was in Mozambique from January to July for her PhD project in the framework of ‘Conversion Careers and Culture Politics in Pentecostalism’.

**Kim Knibbe** was in Nigeria from 18 June to 15 July for the Norface project on ‘Transnational Nigerian Pentecostal churches, Networks and Believers in three Northern countries’.

**Ikuya Noguchi** did supplemental fieldwork in Tokyo from late June till early August for his PhD project

**Inge Ruigrok** was in Angola from January to March for her PhD project.

**Ton Salman** went to Bolivia for an ‘update-visit’ from 4 July till 5 August.

**Tijo Salverda** went to Mauritius in October for his PhD project.

**Regien Smit** was at the *Igreja Maná* (a Portuguese-led Angolan Pentecostal church in Rotterdam) from 1 January till 19 April for her project: *An interdisciplinary comparative study of two local migrant Pentecostal churches in Rotterdam, with a focus on the role of power dynamics and prosperity theology in their member’s daily life*, which is part of the NWO-funded VU/SCA programme ‘Conversion Careers and Culture Politics in Pentecostalism’.

She was in Luanda, Angola, from 19 April till 19 May for the same project. She returned to the *Igreja Maná* to do more fieldwork for her project in the period 20 May – 31 August 31. She did fieldwork for her project at the Calvary Christian Center (a Brazilian Pentecostal church in Rotterdam) from 1 September till 31 December 31.

**Marjo de Theije** used the vacation days she had accumulated since 2002 to spend five months in Suriname. From April till August she was in Paramaribo and Antino/Benzdorp for her project on small-scale gold-mining.

**Marion den Uyl** did regular fieldwork in the Bijlmer neighbourhood (Amsterdam) for the ‘Amsterdam Global Village’ project.



Many staff members are also <b>members of the editorial boards</b> of scientific journals or do peer reviews
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**Jan Abbink** is associate editor of *Northeast African Studies* (East Lansing, USA) and a member of the editorial board of *Annales d’Ethiopie*.

**Ellen Bal** is a member of the editorial board of *International Review Social History* (Cambridge University Press).

**Edien Bartels** did peer reviews for the ‘International Pendulum Migration to Morocco: Multi-local Residential Strategies of Ageing Migrants’ for a special issue titled *Ageing and Society - Seeking Security and Care: International Mobility of Pensioners in Asia and Europe*. She did another peer review for ‘Conjugations in Modernity and Religion. Christian and Islamic female piety in the Netherlands and the challenges for secular theory’, for the journal *Theory, Culture and Society*.

**Joost Beuving** reviewed three article manuscripts for *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute*.

**Lenie Brouwer** was an external reviewer for the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

**Bram Büscher** is an external peer reviewer for *Development Southern Africa* and *Conservation and Society*.

**Sandra Evers** is a member of the editorial board of *Kabaro*, a journal on the social sciences in South-West Indian Ocean and Southern Africa, published by l’Harmattan and the University of La Réunion.

**Anton van Harskamp** is on the editorial board of *Tijdschrift voor Theologie* and *Studia Catholica*, Nijmegen.

**Birgit Meyer** is a member of the editorial board of *Postscripts* (New York), *Journal of Religion in Africa* (Brill) and *Pentecostudies* (VU), and is co-editor of *Material Religion* (published by Berg).

**Lorraine Nencel** is an international board member of *Íconos*, the academic journal of FLACSO Ecuador. She is an editorial board member of the journal *Gender, Work and Organization* and a member of the editorial committee of the journal *Critique of Anthropology*.

**Inge Ruigrok** is a member of the board of trustees of CNNR (Centre for Netherlands – Nigeria Relations), under the chairmanship of

Justice Adolphus Karibi-Whyte (former judge of the UN Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Hague). She is also member of the board of PangeiArt, a cultural association based in Portugal that initiates and implements interdisciplinary art projects in the ACP countries, especially in Latin America and southern Africa.

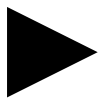
**Oscar Salemink** is co-editor of *Focaal, European Journal of Anthropology* (Berghahn Books) and a member of the international advisory board of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (Cambridge University Press).

**Ton Salman** is a member of the editorial board of *Critique of Anthropology*. He is also a member of the editorial board of *Revista de la Academia* (UAHC, Santiago).

**Henk Schulte Nordholt** is on the editorial board of Amsterdam University Press, of *Southeast Asia Research* (SOAS, London), and of *Jurnal Antar Budaya*, which is published in Yogyakarta.

**Marjo de Theije** is on the board of *AntHropológicas*, which is published in Recife by UFPE. She is also on the board of *OSO* (which is published in Leiden, the Netherlands).

**Marion den Uyl** is on the board of *Serie Feministische Antropologie*, which is published by VU University Amsterdam.



Staff members are also engaged as **members of advisory boards or juries, and members of the management or board of professional organizations.**

**Ellen Bal** was a member of the academic committee of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS, Leiden), and a board member of the Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternatives in Development (IDPAD, The Hague).

**Edien Bartels** was on the advisory board of the project ‘Active against Forced Marriages, Hamburg’, which is part of the ‘European transnational Daphne project’. She was in Hamburg from 11 to 13 June.

**Lenie Brouwer** is a member of the board of the ABV (the Dutch anthropological professional association).

**Sandra Evers** is a member of the Netherlands African Studies Association Board (since December 2006) and of the African Studies Centre, Leiden, the Netherlands (since December 2001).

**Birgit Meyer** was on the programme board of ‘The Future of the Religious Past’ (NWO); cluster director of ‘Religion’ (ASSR); vice-president of the International African Institute (London); member of the international advisory board of the Centre for Religion and Media (NYU); board member of the Culture, Religion, Media project (together with Peter Horsfield, David Morgan and Stewart Hoover); in the ‘Schrijfgroep Religion and Conflict’, NOW; on the selection committee of ‘Toptalent’, VU University Amsterdam; and co-founder and programme manager at the VU University Amsterdam Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture and Society (VISOR).

In 2007, Birgit Meyer became director of CCSS/FSW.

**Lorraine Nencel** is member of the advisory board for the Fund for the Global South, MAMA CASH; member of the general board of directors of the National Network for Women in Anthropology, the Netherlands; chair of the jury for LOVA/Marjan Rens Thesis Award; and member of the directorate of CERES (Research School for Resource Studies for Development).

**Oscar Salemink** was chair of the selection committee of the ‘Cultural Dynamics’ programme, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO); member of the programme committee, Scientific Programme Indonesia – Netherlands (SPIN) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW); member of the review committee for the Economic Innovations Incentive Fund at Oxfam America, Boston MA; member of the board of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden; member of the scientific committee of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Caribbean and Southeast Asian Studies (KITLV) in Leiden on behalf of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW); and member of the steering committee of the ‘Centrum Internationale Samenwerking’ (Center for International Cooperation), VU University Amsterdam.

**Ton Salman** was member of the directorate of CERES (Research School for Resource Studies for Development); member of the board of NALACS (Netherlands Association for Latin American and Caribbean Studies); and on the FSW/VU jury for ‘toptalent’ applications.

**Marjo de Theije** served on the jury for the NALACS scriptieprijs 2007.



Anthropologists also try to obtain **grants** to do research, to travel to their research areas, and to find time to read, analyse and write up their findings.

**Edien Bartels** was awarded a CCSS research fellowship (September 2006 – September 2007) at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the VU University Amsterdam.

The municipality of Amsterdam awarded her a grant to conduct research among women’s migrant organizations on forced marriages and the choice of partners, from December 2007 to June 2008.

**Joost Beuving** obtained a travel grant for his fieldwork from the ‘Algemeen Steunfonds van de Vrije Universiteit’.

**Freek Colombijn** won the Professor Teeuwprijs 2007 – a prize ‘for the improvement of the Dutch-Indonesian contacts in the fields of science and culture’.

**Scott Dalby** (with **Tam Ngo**) received a grant for the conference ‘Religion, Ethnicity, and Nation-States in a Globalising World’ from CCSS, from the Department of SCA, and from AsiA.

Scott Dalby is affiliated with New York University while doing his PhD project.

**Sandra Evers** received:

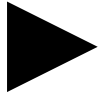
- a faculty fellowship for the research project ‘Memory and Retrieval: Construction of Self and Homeland among deported Chagossians in Mauritius’.
- financing from the Educatieve Middelen Pool (Onderwijscentrum VU University Amsterdam) for a pilot project ‘Video on teaching’, based on a proposal written together Eric Jan Bijl (ICT department of Faculty of Social Sciences).
- a grant of €20,000 for the Madagascar research project from ICCO (Interchurch organisation for development cooperation).
- an ICCO grant of €20,000 for the organization of the ‘Contemporary Madagascar and the Millennium Development Goals’ conference, 20-22 September 2007, Antsirabe, Madagascar.

**Birgit Meyer** became a member of the prestigious KNAW.

**Johan Roeland** obtained a grant of €2500 from NWO for the ‘Party Formations’ seminar.

**Oscar Salemink** and **Ton Salman** obtained grants from VU University Amsterdam (from various departments and funds) and from the Amsterdam Institute for International Development (AIIS) for the organization of ‘Shaking up Citizenship: nation, state and transnational actors’, a conference around Saskia Sassen’s new book, VU University Amsterdam, 20-21 April.

**Tijo Salverda** obtained a KNAW grant of €3000 and a CCSS grant of €3000 for a conference to be held in January 2008.



**Other activities and press contacts.** Having become an ‘expert’ as a result of doing extensive research in a certain field, a scholar often attracts press interest whenever that field is in the news. In such cases, we try to remember when Robert Benchley’s dictum applies (‘Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing’) and when it doesn’t – and therefore speak our minds. In addition, sometimes other institutions find one’s ‘expertise’ interesting enough to invite one to contribute to policy-making, media news items, documentaries, etc. At times, one is invited to be a discussant.

**Jan Abbink** gave dozens of press and radio interviews on Ethiopia and other African countries.

**Edien Bartels** and Francisca Greiner wrote an article (‘Leesachterstand is onnodig. Neem meer tijd’) that appeared in the *NRC Handelsblad* newspaper (p. 6) on 3 October 2007.

**Joost Beuving** was interviewed by the renowned Belgian journalist Chris de Stoop for an article (‘Auto’s voor Afrika’) that appeared in *Knack* magazine. His 2006 ‘African Affairs’ article is compulsory study material in the graduate course ‘Africa in comparative perspective’ at the School of International Service, American University, Washington DC.

### **Freek Colombijn**

– was interviewed by OVT, Radio 1 (14 January), ‘Hagens op de middag’ (Radio 1, 18 April) and *Ad Valvas* ‘Door het ongepland bouwen, is ‘t een zootje’ (20 September).

– was a discussant at the Development Policy Review Network, ‘Corruption: how corruption pervades social and political systems and how to cope with it?’, Leiden, 11 April; and at the international conference ‘Shaking up Citizenship: nation, state and transnational actors’, Amsterdam, 21 April.

– was a panellist at ‘Considering a comprehensive partnership’ – a conference on the bilateral relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands, The Hague, 25 April.

**Sandra Evers** was director of applied research on poverty and natural resource management in Madagascar. The project is a collaboration between the VU University Amsterdam and the Musée d'Art et d'Archéologie/Institut des Civilisations (Université d'Antananarivo), and includes a programme for capacity building of Malagasy students.

She was a discussant at the 'Religion, Ethnicity and Nation-states in a Globalizing World' conference SCA, VU University Amsterdam, 7-8 June.

**Linda van de Kamp** participated in the theme group 'Connections and Transformations: The Social Construction of Linking Technologies in Africa and Beyond' of the African Studies Center Leiden. She had press contacts during her stay in Mozambique to assist film-makers of the Dutch broadcaster VPRO, who were making the programme 'Van Dis in Afrika'.

**Kim Knibbe** was interviewed both before and after defending her PhD thesis (22 March) by several national and international papers about her research in Limburg; the interviews generated considerable debate on the relationship between the Catholic Church and society/public scrutiny in Limburg.

**Birgit Meyer** was adviser on the project *De zwarte met het witte hart* – an opera that is to be staged by Onafhankelijk Toneel. She was also adviser to the IKON programme series *De Kracht van Afrika*.

### **Lorraine Nencel**

– was a discussant at the conference 'Intersubjectivity and Research' (a medical anthropology conference), December, and at a talk by Gina Vargas, CEDLA, Amsterdam, May.

– chaired the 'Qualitative Inquiry' panel at the Urbana III conference, May.

– did an interview training for WOUW (55+ women's group) for their research project 'Vrouwen en eigen regie', on chronically sick women and care / health care, February – April.

– gave a workshop ('De diepte in: kwalitatief onderzoek om de werkelijkheid te leren kennen') to teachers' research circles of INHolland Higher School, Amsterdam, September.

### **Johan Roeland**

- had press contacts with *Trouw* (12 January), *Nederlands Dagblad* (15 November) and *Reformatorisch Dagblad* (15 November).
- wrote *Tijd voor creatieve vernieuwing*, in: *Nederlands Dagblad* (1 December 2007).
- was a discussant at the 'study day' with Paul Heelas, VU University Amsterdam, 23 March; at the meeting 'Over religieuze verveling: de keerzijde van de neoevangelicale beleving', a presentation at VU Podium, Amsterdam, 30 March; at 'Geloof en ervaring: over hoe de traditionele kerken zich verhouden tot het evangelicalisme', a presentation of the TSG Themelios student union, Meerle (Belgium), 20 October; and at 'Op zoek naar authenticiteit. De betekenis van de hedendaagse cultuur voor de (religieuze) identiteitsvorming van jongeren' at the presentation seminar 'On Speaking Terms', organized by Driestar Educatief, Gouda, 14 November.
- was a panel member at the VU-Link discussion on the book of Klaas Hendrikse, in Utrecht, 21 December.

**Oscar Salemink** was an anonymous referee for grant making organizations (NWO, WOTRO, Research Council of Norway) and universities regarding promotion to full professorship (Australian National University). He published a newspaper article titled 'Inkvllekmethode werkt niet: Strategie maakt ook veel vijanden onder burgers' (Inkspot method does not work: Strategy makes many enemies among civilians), *NRC Handelsblad*, 1 November.

**Ton Salman** was a discussant at the CERES research school 'Presentation Seminars PhD students', Hilversum, 29 May; and at the conference 'Religion, Ethnicity, and Nation-States in a Globalising World', 6-7 June, VU University Amsterdam, 'Ethnicity and Religion' panel.

He was external reviewer for submitted PhD projects at FLACSO Quito (June). He was interviewed for the PIEB website *Newspage* (La Paz), on the process of the making of the new Bolivian Constitution, 3 August; and was interviewed by journalist Agnes Krijnen ('News4all'), on Bolivia, published at <http://www.news4all.net>, 1 December 2007.

**Tijo Salverda** attended the Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Sciences Studies, and did the course ‘The Comparative Study of Elite Symbolic Superiority: Multidisciplinary Approaches’.

**Marjo de Theije** was interviewed by *Parool* journalist Patrick Meershoek for his documentary trip to Suriname.

**Marion den Uyl** and **Lenie Brouwer** participate in a *pilot-onderwijsvisie* project in the framework of the VU education programme ‘A Community of Learners’, with their course ‘Amsterdam Global Village’. In this course, they combine research and teaching, and publishing. Students thus become familiar with the whole academic cycle, from research design to the outcomes in print.

## Epilogue

*It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it.*  
Joseph Joubert

*Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd.*  
Voltaire

In the coming year, we will continue to dedicate our energy to reflecting upon human security, and we will strive to hold an internal conference on the subject. We also hope to obtain faculty recognition for our multilingual publication strategy, as suggested by the *visitatie* commission. And in our attempts to get our work published, we will, as ever, try hard, grasp our opportunities and swallow our setbacks.

In our discipline, we will continue to ruminate upon the assumptions, logical codes, paradigms and epistemological uncertainties of our inevitably reflective science, and to try to make sense of what real people, in real circumstances, do and refrain from doing, state and belie, in an ongoing flow of events, actions, efforts and sometimes dramas. We will also try to understand the exceptions and deviations rather than keep them mum. Good science is business as unusual.