

MA THESIS SUPERVISOR

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1. Present graduation assignments

- *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Conservation*

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) seems to be increasingly important for companies. In scientific literature there is quite a lot of debate about what actually constitutes CSR, and its benefits – is it mainly about ‘greening’ companies’ reputations, or can it actually contribute to social and/or sustainable development? Development NGOs and environmental organizations increasingly cooperate with the corporate sector. For instance, the World Wide Fund for Nature has recently established a partnership with the Royal Dutch Airline (KLM, see:

<http://www.klm.com/csr/en/climate/biodiversity/wwf/index.html>).

I am looking for students who are interested in studying the motivations environmental organisations may have for cooperating (or not) with the corporate sector. How do they interpret and present the chances, challenges and risks involved in partnerships with the corporate sector? What, for instance, are the impacts of these partnerships on the policies and practices of environmental organisations, or on their relations with their constituents?

Furthermore, it is interesting to study more closely the involvement of the corporate sector in the actual implementation of environmental projects. An increasing number of companies and businesspeople establish their own environmental organization or foundation which acquire land for nature conservation, or offer their services to take over the management of national parks (see e.g. the African Parks Network: <http://african-parks.org/apffoundation/index.php>). To date, very little research has been conducted on such initiatives.

Research for this project can be conducted in European or Southern African countries.

2. A – Subjects

Corporate Social Responsibility, social entrepreneurship, public-private partnerships, civil society, transnational entrepreneurship (including migrant entrepreneurship)

3. B – Subjects

Diversity

4. **Theories**

Social constructivism, a holistic approach in which contextual embeddedness (both in time and space) is important, processes of sense-making, social and elite network theories, theories relating to globalization and transnationalism, political economy/ecology.

5. **Methods**

Qualitative, mixed methods, discourse analysis.