

Photo: Gerard Pearson



**Further information**  
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Photo: Gerard Pearson



Photo: Michiel van den Berg



Photo: Trudi Blomsma



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# The Africa

## Thesis Award 2015

The African Studies Centre (ASC), a part of LeidenGlobal, is an independent scientific institute that generates and disseminates knowledge on Africa. The ASC's main aim is to promote a better understanding and insight into historical, current and future societal developments in Africa. It publishes books and articles, organizes seminars and has an extensive library that is open to the general public.

### Previous winners

- 2014: **Pedzisai Maedza** Theatre of testimony: an investigation in devising asylum
- 2013: **Esther Bergstra and Roxanne Hornman** Cyclone Resilient Landscape: the Case of Vatomandry, Madagascar
- 2012: **Nkululeko Mabandla Lahla Ngubu** The Continuities and Discontinuities of a Black South African Middle Class
- 2011: **Michael Stasik** DISCOnections. Popular Music Audiences in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- 2010: **Michal Singer** Changing conceptions of South African coal-based pollution, with special reference to the Witbank coalfield, 1906-1978
- 2009: **Miranda Poeze** Boat-migrants from Senegal to the Canary Islands
- 2008: **Janneke Barten** Families in movement in Mali
- 2007: **Janneke van Gog** Young women and reintegration in Sierra Leone
- 2006: **Mienke van der Brug** AIDS orphans in Namibia
- 2005: **Leslie Francis Zubieta** Calvert Girls' initiation rock art in Malawi

Are you interested in Sub-Saharan Africa and is **your Masters thesis** on a related subject? If so, the African Studies Centre (ASC) in Leiden offers you the chance to **win € 500!** The deadline is 12 July 2015.

[www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-thesis-award](http://www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-thesis-award)



African  
Studies  
Centre  
Leiden



The award aims to encourage student research and writing on Sub-Saharan Africa and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose Masters thesis has been completed on the basis of research conducted on Africa. The award consists of a prize of € 500 and publication of the winning thesis in the ASC's African Studies Collection, see [www.ascleiden.nl/publications](http://www.ascleiden.nl/publications). All theses submitted will be made available online via the ASC's library catalogue.

### Who can apply

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

### The thesis

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

If the thesis is in Dutch, a five-page English or French summary should also be attached.

### Subject of the thesis

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

### Quality of the thesis

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



## Award winner 2014: Pedzisai Maedza

*Theatre of testimony: an investigation in devising asylum*

Photo: Mr. Pedzisai Maedza (winner van de Africa Thesis Award 2014)

Photo: Marcel Ruiten



Photo: Gerard Persoon



### Where to submit a thesis

If a student or his/her supervisor feels that his/her Masters thesis merits an award because of its quality and originality, the thesis may be submitted. Every submission must include:

- an electronic version of the thesis (to be sent by email)
- a summary of the thesis (max 500 words)
- a signed letter of recommendation from the student's supervisor containing the grade and details of the quality of the thesis and the educational institution from which the student has graduated

**Applications that are not complete will not be processed.**

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

### Time schedule

The deadline for the submission of theses this year is 12 July 2015 at 24.00. A shortlist of three will be drawn up from which the jury will select the winning thesis. The prize will be presented

to the winner at an ASC seminar when she/he will present her/his research.

### The jury

The following experts are on the jury of the 2015 Africa Thesis Award:

- Dr. Nicky Pouw (University of Amsterdam) (chair)
- Drs. Wim Bossema (de Volkskrant)
- Dr. Akinyinka Akinyoade (African Studies Centre)
- Prof. dr. Jan-Bart Gewald (African Studies Centre)
- Mr. Toni Kofi (Ethics Committee Royal Tropical Institute)

Ms Trudi Blomsma (African Studies Centre), secretary  
Ms Rebecca Heijs (African Studies Centre), assistant

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