

Further information

For more information or queries
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Photo: Jan-Bart Gewald



Photo: Zambian Financial Sector Deepening Ltd.



Photo: Monique Shaw



Africa Thesis Award 2023

*Have you conducted Master level research on a topic relevant
to the African continent and written your thesis about it?*

*If so, the African Studies Centre Leiden is offering you the
chance to win € 500, and to get your thesis published
in the ASCL's African Studies Collection.*

www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-thesis-award

The African Studies Centre Leiden is the national knowledge centre on Africa in the Netherlands. The ASCL undertakes research and is involved in teaching about Africa and aims to promote a better understanding of and insight into historical, current and future developments in Africa. It is an interfaculty institute of Leiden University and has a world-famous library and documentation centre that is open to the general public.

Previous winners

2022: Robert Okello Rural women's legal empowerment through digital technology: a case study from Northern Uganda

2021: Tamia Botes Where have the midwives gone? Everyday histories of voetvroue in Johannesburg

2020: (no award due to COVID-19)

2019: Nsima Udo Visualizing the body: Photographic clues and the cultural fluidity of mbopo institution, 1914-2014

2018: Cynthia Olufade Oath taking and the transnationalism of silence among Edo female sex workers in Italy

2017: Adriaan Steyn A new laager for a "new" South Africa: Afrikaans film and the imagined boundaries of Afrikanerdom

2016: Tanja Hendriks "Home is always home": (Former) street youth in Blantyre, Malawi, and the fluidity of constructing home

2015: Merel van 't Wout Entrepreneurs by the grace of God: life and work of seamstresses in Bolgatanga, Ghana

2014: Pedzisi Maedza Theatre of testimony: an investigation in devising asylum

2013: Esther Bergstra and Roxanne Hornman Cyclone Resilient Landscape: the case of Vatomandry, Madagascar

The award

The award aims to encourage students to conduct research and write on African topics and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose master's thesis has been completed on the basis of empirical research. The award consists of a prize of €500,- and publication of the winning thesis in the ASCL's African Studies Collection. All theses submitted will be made available fulltext online via the ASCL's library catalogue.

For who

Master students who completed their thesis at a university on the African continent or in the Netherlands between 31 August 2022 and 31 August 2023 can apply. Students in the Netherlands must have received an 8 out of 10 or above. Students from non-Dutch universities with a grade A (or equivalent) may apply if the accompanying letter from the supervisor confirms the excellence of the thesis.

Conditions and quality

The thesis should be based on independent empirical research with a geographical focus on an African country, region, or its migrant communities elsewhere in the world. Theses in the fields of the social sciences or humanities can be submitted (geography, political science, anthropology, development studies, economics, history, religion, literature) in English, French, or Dutch. Should the thesis be in Dutch, a five-page English summary has to be attached.

The ASCL invites theses that stand out in terms of subject, theory and methodology. The jury values an original approach, new insights, and a combination of scientific and societal relevance. In addition, the jury considers the importance of the thesis in relation to development-related issues, its style and readability, and interest for the general public.

Award winner 2022: Robert Okello **Rural women's legal empowerment through digital technology: a case study from Northern Uganda**

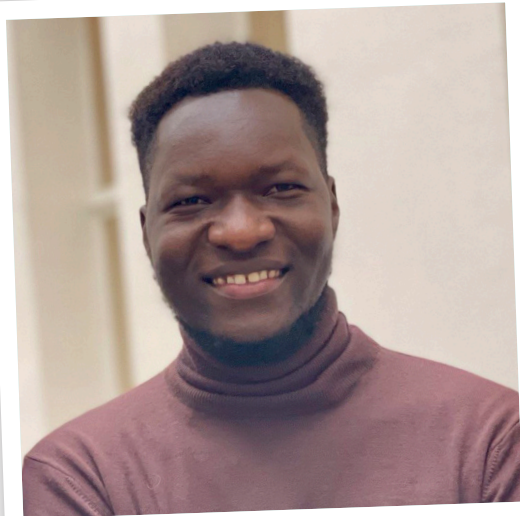


Photo: Julia Foudraïne



Photo: Johnny Greig



Photo: Jan de Ruiter

Submitting

If a student or supervisor considers the thesis to fulfill the above criteria and to merit an award, the thesis may be submitted. Every submission must include:

- a digital version of the thesis in PDF
- a summary (max. 300 words)
- a signed letter of recommendation from the student's supervisor, detailing the quality of the thesis and an explanation of the grade, and details of the educational institution from which the student has graduated.

Only full applications will be processed. All documents can be sent to asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 31 August 2023**. The prize will be presented to the winner during the Africa Thesis Award Ceremony in 2024, where the winner will present his/her/their thesis.

More information

For more information regarding the submission of a thesis, please contact Trudi Blomsma (ASCL Secretariat) through asc@asc.leidenuniv.nl. The jury's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.