Further information
For more information or queries regarding the submission of a thesis, please contact Ms Trudi Blomsma:

African Studies Centre Leiden
P.O. Box 9555
2300 RB Leiden
The Netherlands
+31 (0)71 527 33 72
www.ascleiden.nl
asc@ascleiden.nl
www.facebook.com/ASCLeiden

Previous winners
2015: Merel van 't Wout Entrepreneurs by the grace of God: life and work of seamstresses in Bolgatanga, Ghana
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 DISConnections. Popular Music Audiences in Freetown, Sierra Leone
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

Are you interested in Africa and is your Masters thesis on a related subject? If so, the African Studies Centre in Leiden offers you the chance to win € 500!
The deadline is 10 July 2016.

www.ascleiden.nl/content/africa-thesis-award
The award aims to encourage student research and writing on 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 ASCL’s African Studies Collection, see www.ascleiden.nl/publications, and all theses submitted will be made available online via the ASCL’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 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 Africa or its migrant communities elsewhere in the world. The thesis must be socially relevant.

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

Where to submit a thesis
If a student or his/her supervisor feels that his/her Masters thesis merits an award because of its quality and originality, the thesis may be submitted. 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 ASCL, of which the address is mentioned at the back of this flyer.

Time schedule
The deadline for the submission of theses this year is 10 July 2016. 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 ASCL seminar when she/he will present her/his research.

The jury
The following experts are on the jury of the 2016 Africa Thesis Award:

- Dr. Nicky Pouw (University of Amsterdam) (chair)
- Dr. Akinyinka Akinyoade (African Studies Centre Leiden)
- Drs. Wim Brummelman (journalist NRC)
- Ms. Likoko Eunice (PhD fellow, University of Amsterdam)
- Dr Karin Nijenhuis (African Studies Centre Leiden)
- Ms Trudi Blomsma (African Studies Centre Leiden), secretary
- Ms Rebecca Heijs (African Studies Centre Leiden), assistant

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

Award winner 2015:
Merel van ‘t Wout
Entrepreneurs by the grace of God: life and work of seamstresses in Bolgatanga, Ghana

Photo: Anouk Baron

Photo: Michel vd Berg