Newsletter

Department of Geography, Planning and
International Development Studies

2009/03
27 March 2009

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Agenda

Tue 7 April  Lunch lecture by Babak Rezvani 12.30-13.30 hrs in room GS28b
Fri 17 April  Inaugural speech Barbara Oomen, 14.30 hrs, Aula
Mon 20 April  AMIDSt lecture Harvey Jacobs, 15.30hrs, room A. 1.08
Fri 15 May    AMIDSt lecture Adrian Bailey, 12.00-13.00 hrs, room GS08
Fri 15 May    PhD defence Marjolein van der Klis, 14.00 hrs, Agnietenkapel
Tue 26 May    Valedictory speech Hans Knippenberg, 14.00 hrs, Aula Universiteit van Amsterdam

Monthly column from your AMIDSt director, Ton Dietz
March 2009

A brief break from multi-tasking
Multi-tasking is bread and butter for university lecturers and professors, and sometimes even for PhD candidates and postdocs as well. You try to combine teaching at various levels, supervision of master’s and PhD thesis work, preparing and doing research, publishing, reading other people’s work and giving critical comments on it, participating in social academic life (at various levels), communicating with who you regard as your domain peers (and often in more than one domain), and answering all those mails...And if, like me, you also have an administrative and ‘directive’ duty, you participate in this game called management. So when you get a chance to really get away from these multi-tasking duties, and can concentrate on just one thing, it feels good. I just did that during the early part of March. I participated in the second round of a major research project on the participatory assessment of development (led by Fred Zaal) in Northern Ghana, and that was a very rewarding experience indeed. So: it feels strange to be plunged back into multi-tasking....

The launch of our draft research programme
On March 20 many AMIDSt members, some guests and three members of our international advisory board participated in a lively and rewarding debate on the contents and ‘architecture’ of our research plans for the 2009-2013 period. In my April column I will try to evaluate some of the lessons learned. In this March column I will mainly deal with a topic about which I recently (again) had to give courses within CERES, but which I never shared with colleagues in Amsterdam: the ‘high didactics of PhD supervision’. Some highlights.

PhD supervision
I did my own PhD in 1987, supervised by two very different supervisors, Herman van der Wusten and Willem Heinemeijer. Until now I (co-)supervised 31 PhD graduates and am currently involved in ten more. As director of CERES (2002-2007) I was indirectly related to 250+ PhD projects and 150+ supervisors, and I also had to play a role as conflict mediator. And I coordinated the SANPAD PhD training in South Africa, and three ‘supervisor’s
workshops’, which were an important offspring of that activity. With close to 100 South African PhD supervisors I had in-depth discussions about styles of supervision, and about the importance to reflect about the experiences with supervision, both as a student or PhD candidate, and as a supervisor, or ‘meta-supervisor’, which I felt I often was in my CERES role. The necessity to do so comes from quite a number of sobering experiences.

The need for ‘high didactics’
Supervising PhD studies = supervising maturing professionals, who need leadership and guidance, but first and for all: who need room for their own creativity and independence. Other people have given their best thoughts to this ‘how to do it’ question, and ideas are based on a combination of theories from organisational psychology and tertiary didactics. There is quite some background literature. I still regard as a classic: Phillips E. & D.S. Pugh, 1994 (2d edit), How to get a PhD. A Handbook for Students and their Supervisors. Buckingham: Open University Press. As a result of our work in South Africa, two South African colleagues and I have written a book(let) as well: Dietz A.J. (Ton), Jonathan D. Jansen, Ahmed A Wadee, 2006, Effective PhD Supervision and Mentorship. A Workbook based on experiences from South Africa and the Netherlands. Pretoria and Amsterdam: Unisa Press and Rozenberg Publishers (133 pp). It is from this last book that I summarise a major element.

Styles of supervision
In my many lectures about these issues I have discovered that one way of looking at the relationship between supervisor and supervisee is really helpful: the matrix of styles of supervision.

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<td>Quality controller</td>
<td>Expert guide</td>
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From the perspective of the PhD candidate there are often very different wishes. Some really want a delegator as supervisor (leave me alone), others want a friend (be my buddy), still others want a quality controller (keep me sharp). There are some who really want an editor (help me write), or an expert guide (tell me what to do). And finally there are those who want a coach (steer my ambition; groom me into academics). I think it would be wise that supervisor and supervisee discuss from time to time what styles would be most effective. And be aware: supervisory styles have to do with: the personality of the supervisor(s); the personality of the PhD student, the ‘chemistry’ between supervisor(s) and student; the research (and power) culture in the department, and ‘past performance’, but also very much with the phases in the PhD project. And particularly the last point gives confusion. As a rule of thumb, I can give the following observations about the shifting styles with the unfolding of the project (but please remember: every time it can be different!)

- 1 initiation: quality controller
- 2 research design: expert guide and delegator
- 3 research proposal finalisation: editor and quality controller
- 4 fieldwork: coach (or delegator)
- 5 data analysis: expert guide
- 6 write up: editor or coach or delegator
- 7 final fieldwork: coach and quality controller
- 8 final editing: editor and quality controller
- 9 preparation for defence: coach
- 10 actual defence: delegator
- 11 follow up: expert guide and (hopefully) friend.

Managing confusion
To PhD candidates I often say: you have to manage this in-built confusion: try to strike a balance between different needs and between different phases; see the relationship as a game of negotiations; be open: talk about expectations; be flexible: steer your supervisor(s) and their crowded agendas; avoid dependence on just one person (he or she may get mad); avoid ‘open conflicts’. And: make sure you know the rules of the game. If you are interested: I can continue in later columns.

Link for submitting publications
Please submit your publications via the following link as soon as your publication has been published. This way the publication will appear in DARE as soon as possible, and the publication will be available online. http://www2.fmg.uva.nl/amidst/jaarverslag/publicaties.html
Inaugural Lecture Barbara Oomen 17 april, 14.30 hrs
Barbara Oomen will be holding her inaugural lecture on Universal rights, local fights: about the workings of legal pluralism (in Dutch) on April 17th, at 14:30 in the Aula of the UvA. She has been appointed special professor of Legal Pluralism.

Call for Abstracts - Housing Researchers Conference
We are pleased to announce the initial call for abstracts for the 2009 Housing Researchers Conference to be held at Citigate Central Hotel, Haymarket Sydney Australia, 5-7 August 2009. This conference will uniquely combine the Asia Pacific Network of Housing Research [APNHR] Conference and the 4th Australasian Housing Researchers Conference [AHRC]. With housing at the centre of the world's financial and economic crisis, the conference is an opportunity for practicing housing researchers from many countries to compare and develop perspectives. Researchers are invited to present theoretical and empirical findings based on their research into different dimensions of housing including economics, society, culture and urban environment. The conference will include keynote presentations by international experts, workshops and plenary sessions as well as field trips in the Sydney region.

The conference is jointly hosted by the City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales and Swinburne University’s Institute for Social Research, Sustainable Cities.

We invite papers from both established and early career academics and researchers from Asia, Australasia, the Pacific Region and beyond, on one of the six conference workshop [W] themes:

- W01 - Housing, Culture and Society
- W02 - Housing Markets and Finance
- W03 - Housing Policy Innovations
- W04 - Housing in a Sustainable World
- W05 - Housing and Urban Form
- W06 - Housing, Theory and Research

Authors are requested to identify on the abstract form whether they intend to submit a refereed or non-refereed paper, as well as the primary author for contact purposes.

Please follow the links below to submit an electronic abstract, [http://www.surveys.unsw.edu.au/survey/154382/162f/](http://www.surveys.unsw.edu.au/survey/154382/162f/)
Please also note the guidelines and template for submitting a paper.

The closing date for abstract submissions is Friday 17th April 2009.
Conference details will be updated regularly on the 2009 Housing Researchers Conference website.

Kind Regards,
Conference Organisers
2009 Housing Researchers Conference

ENHR conference 2009 in Prague
Dear ENHR member,
This year's conference will be held 28 June and 1 July in Prague, The Czech Republic. The theme is Changing Housing Markets: Integration and Segmentation. The deadline for submission of abstracts is approaching:

- SECOND CALL FOR ABSTRACT: updated deadline for submission of abstracts - 31 March 2009.
- Deadline for submission of papers – 1 June 2009.
- The deadline for registration is 10 June 2009


ENHR: Deadline extended for Bengt Turner Award
Dear member of the European Network for Housing Research,
The Deadline for the Bengt Turner Award for new housing researchers has been extended until the 31st of March, 2009. A notice explaining the purpose of the award and the conditions for submitting a research paper are available at [www.enhr.ibf.uu.se](http://www.enhr.ibf.uu.se). If you have any further questions, please contact the ENHR Secretariat. ENHR Secretariat: enhr@ibf.uu.se
FNA - Van Gogh Programma - Aanvraagronde 2009
Sinds 2008 voert de Frans-Nederlandse Academie het secretariaat van het Van Gogh Beurzenprogramma. Het omdel van dit programma is de uitwisseling van Nederlandse en Franse onderzoekers die binnen één onderzoeksgrond werkzaam (willen) zijn, te stimuleren en te ondersteunen.
Voorheen maakten alleen Veni, Vidi, Vici laureaten kans op een beurs. Met ingang van dit jaar is de Van Gogh-doelgroep uitgebreid en kunnen alle onderzoekers die bewezen excellent onderzoek verrichten, meedienen aan een Van Gogh-beurs.
Onderzoekers die onderzoekssamenwerking met Frankrijk willen opzetten of versterken, kunnen nu hun aanvraag indienen bij de Frans-Nederlandse Academie.
Sluitingsdatum aanvragen: 15 mei 2009.
Voor contact en informatie: http://www.frnl.eu

Announcement: International Conflict Conference, 18 May, Amsterdam, 2009
Prevention of and response to mass atrocity crimes, what did we learn?

Speakers will be: The President of the International Crisis Group: Mr. Gareth Evans. The former International Council President of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders and receiver of the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of MSF in 1999: the Canadian Doctor James Orbinski. The UN Force Commander of the peace-keeping mission before and during the 1994 Rwandan genocide: Lt-General Roméo Dallaire. Chair of the day: Former UN Secretary-General's Special Representative in Sudan: Mr. Jan Pronk. Organising groups: the Dutch United Nations Student Association Amsterdam (SIB-Amsterdam) in cooperation with the Third Chamber. Venue: Westerkerk, Amsterdam. Registration through: http://www.conflictconference.com Contact: mails@conflictconference.com

Personal webpage
For all staff members there’s a possibility to make their own personal page, which you can update yourself. It’s accessible at: https://home.medewerker.uva.nl/homepage; log in with your UvAnetID. When you’re done, click on “Activate” to publish your personal page. Inform the AMIDSt secretariat so they can link this to the AMIDSt website.

Out of office
In order to be more helpful towards our colleagues it’s important that the secretariat has a good overview of the room occupations. Therefore, we kindly ask you to report to the secretariat the days you are out of office (due to holidays, fieldwork, illness, etc.)

Common room
The common room and kitchen is communal space. We would appreciate it if everyone keeps this space tidy and does his/her own washing-up. It is not the task of the secretariat.