final programme

‘Rethinking Africa’s transcontinental continuities in pre- and protohistory’

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
African Studies Centre, Leiden University
Leiden, the Netherlands
12-13 April 2012

organising committee: Marieke van Winden, Gitty Petit & Wim van Binsbergen
funding: African Studies Centre, Leiden (ASC), the Leiden University Foundation (LUF), and the Philosophical Faculty, Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)

for ALL conference details, please contact Marieke van Winden (WINDEN@ascleiden.nl)

this conference is to mark Wim van Binsbergen’s retirement from the African Studies Centre, Leiden, after 35 years

OBSERVERS. Specialists, interested non-specialists, and all people associated with Wim van Binsbergen in the course of his career are welcome to attend the first day of the conference with observer status (attendance fee EUR25). It is important to register beforehand at www.ascleiden.nl, see Calendar.

If everything else fails: mobile numbers
Marieke van Winden: 00-31-6-40730491; Wim van Binsbergen: 00-31-6-24566685

In principle the conference language will be English. Titles and abstracts can be found at the open-access conference webpage http://www.shikanda.net/Rethinking_history_conference/rethinki.htm. This page also contains a log-in gate for access to the conference papers; participants and observers have been issued with ID and password to log in. Pre-circulated papers in French will be preferably presented in English or with English summary. Discussion will preferably be in English. However, for those expressing themselves more confidently in a different language, selective translation into English will be offered on a non-professional basis. For nearly all papers English abstracts have been circulated.

For each speaker a time slot of 40 minutes has been reserved, the first half of which should be used for presentation, the second half for discussion. Chairpersons keep time, stimulate discussion, and ensure that presentation does not eat too far into the discussion time.
DAY 1, THURSDAY 12 APRIL 2012

location: ‘Poortgebouw’, Rijnsburgerweg 10 (signposted from Leiden Central Station; also see map above)

09.00: REGISTRATION; COFFEE, OPENING

9.45: opening session; in the chair: Ton Dietz

9.45 Dietz, Ton

Opening speech by the Director of the African Studies Centre, Leiden

van Binsbergen, Wim

Key note: ‘Rethinking Africa’s transcontinental continuities in pre- and protohistory’

10.30: SESSION 1. RETHINKING; in the chair: Wouter van Beek

10.30 Coquery-Vidrovitch, Cathérine

L’idée d’Afrique dans l’histoire: De l’eurocentrisme à l’histoire mondiale

11.10 coffee

11.30 Rowlands, Mike

Civilisation and the unity of Africa

12.10 Osha, Sanya

Interrogating Afrikology

13.00 lunch

13.45: SESSION 2. LONG-RANGE APPROACHES; in the chair: Mike Rowlands

13.45 Blažek, Václav

Afroasiatic migrations: Linguistic evidence

14.25 Ehret, Christopher

Matrilineal descent and the gendering of authority: What does African history have to tell us?

15.05 tea

15.25: SESSION 2 continued; in the chair: Alain Anselin

15.25 Berezhko, Yuri

Prehistoric cultural diffusion reflected in distribution of some folklore motifs in Africa

16.05 van Binsbergen, Wim

The relevance of Buddhism and Hinduism for the study of Asian-African transcontinental continuities

16.45 Lange, Dierk

The Assyrian factor in Central West African history: The reshaping of Ancient Near Eastern traditions in sub-Saharan Africa

17.25: DRINKS, STILL IN THE POORTGEBOUW CONFERENCE VENUE

19.00: FESTIVE DINNER for participants and invited guests, in the centre of Leiden (Restaurant Prentenkabinet, Kloksteeg 25, 2311 SK LEIDEN, 00-31-71-5126666, 20 min. walk from Poortgebouw)
DAY 2, FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2012
location: ‘Bestuurskamer’ (‘Board Room’, ground floor), Pieter de la Courtgebouw, Faculty of Social Sciences, Wassenaarseweg 52

09.15: SESSION 3. THE INDIAN OCEAN AS ASIAN-AFRICAN INTERFACE; in the chair: Dierk Lange

09.15  Li Anshan  Contact between China and Africa before Da Gama: Historiography and Evidence

09.55  Dick-Read, Robert  Buddhism – and Nigeria’s Classical Arts (due to personal circumstances Robert Dick-Read will be unable to attend the conference in person, and his pre-circulated paper will be presented in absentia)

10.35  Hromník, Cyril A.  Stone Structures in the Moordenaars Karoo: Boere or “Khoisan” Schanzes or Quena Temples?

11.15  coffee

11.35: SESSION 3 continued; in the chair: Yuri Berezkin

11.35  Thornton, Robert  Glass Beads and Bungoma: The link between southern India and southern African traditional knowledge known as bungoma

12.15  Tauchmann, Kurt  Transcontinental continuities around the Indian Ocean during the last three millennia (due to serious illness Kurt Tauchmann will not be able to attend the conference; Wim van Binsbergen will use the present slot in the programme for a replacement paper entitled ‘A note on the Oppenheimer-Tauchmann thesis on extensive South and South East Asian impact on sub-Saharan Africa in pre- and protohistory’)

12.55: lunch

13.45: SESSION 4. INTRA-AFRICAN DYNAMICS; in the chair: Christopher Ehret

13.45  Anselin, Alain  A sketch of an early African pool of cultures from which pre-dynastic Egypt came to light: New data, new methods, new paradigms: Mots des étoiles, mots de la terre

14.25  Oum Ndigi, Pierre  Le dieu égyptien Aker, le dieu romain Janus et le paradoxe d’une histoire préhistorique de l’Afrique subsaharienne

15.05  tea

15.25: SESSION 4 continued; in the chair: Sanya Osha

15.25  van Beek, Walter  Smithing in Africa, the enigma

16.05  Njoku, Ndu Life  Africa’s development in the minds of her children in the diaspora: Aspects of Diaspora Social Impact on Africa

16.45: SESSION 5. CLOSING SESSION: CONCLUDING REMARKS, GENERAL DISCUSSION AND VOTES OF THANKS; in the chair: Wim van Binsbergen

17.15: drinks at African Studies Centre common room, Pieter de la Court building, third floor