

## *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](mailto:WINDEN@ascleiden.nl))**

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

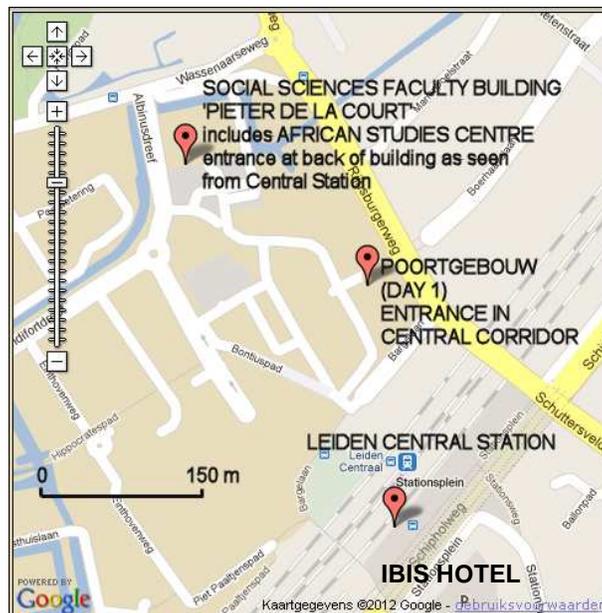
*OBSERVERS. Specialists, interested non-specialists, and all people associated with Wim van Binsbergen in the course of his career are welcome to attend the first day of the conference with observer status (attendance fee EUR25). It is important to register beforehand at [www.ascleiden.nl](http://www.ascleiden.nl), 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](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	Berezkin, 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 <i>in absentia</i> ) |
| 10.35 | Hromník, Cyril A. | Stone Structures in the Moordenaars Karoo: <i>Boere</i> or " <i>Khoisan</i> " <i>Schanzes</i> 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 <i>bungoma</i>  |
| 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: <i>Mots des étoiles, mots de la terre</i> |
| 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