

IS-Academy: Setup

Policy priorities: Fragile States and Knowledge Innovation

- Main objective is to promote substantial *thematic exchange* between academics, policymakers and practitioners through action-based PhD trajectories
 - Generating policy-relevant and academically interesting insights that can contribute to the debates surrounding the role of donors/NGOs intervening in fragile states
 - To cultivate domain-bridging working relationships, lowering some of the institutional barriers for collaboration.
- Tripartite research endeavour:
 - Academic: Wageningen UR, Disaster Studies
 - Policy: Dutch MoFA, Peacebuilding and Stabilization unit (and indirectly Sustainable Economic Development)
 - Practice/NGOs (Cordaid, ICCO, OxfamNovib, Netherlands Red Cross and ZOA Refugee Care)

IS-Academy: In Practice

9 PhD trajectories, internships at ministries and at embassies, collaboration with academic institutions in North and South

4 researchers directly on PSD in Fragile Areas:

- ⇒ *Holly Ritchie*, ISS PhD student researching the relationship between value chain development and livelihoods approach in Herat, Samangan and Parwan provinces in Afghanistan
- ⇒ *Claude Bizimana* and *Aussi Sayinzoga*, Rural Development Economics Wageningen UR - Butare National University of Rwanda, conducting comparative research on land rental markets and microfinance institutions respectively in Rwanda and Burundi
- ⇒ *Rens Twijnstra*, Disaster Studies PhD student researching the role of informal returnee entrepreneur networks in delivering 'peace dividends' in South Sudan

Returnee Entrepreneurs and Peace Dividends in South Sudan

- ⇒ Returnee entrepreneurs as ‘agents of change’, in precipitating ‘turnarounds’.
 - Interaction between *trans-local* networks of economic practice and governance of ‘perceived’ redistribution of wealth (equity)
- ⇒ Role of informal returnee entrepreneur networks (Diaspora, refugees, IDPs) in creating equitable peace/independence dividends in South Sudan
- ⇒ Interface with donor PSD interventions, NGOs, multinationals, national/local governments, etc.
- ⇒ Collaboration with EFV/DDE, Royal Dutch Embassy and SNV Netherlands