



Picture: Enda Pronat

Save the date & join us: PhD workshop

A special LANDac Annual International Conference 2019 Side-Event

Researching Land Conflicts: Taking care of the researcher in emotionally-intense settings

By Prof. dr. An Ansoms, University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

Date: Wednesday 3 July 2019

Time: 15.00 to 17.00

Location: Room 110, Janskerkhof 2-3, Utrecht University

Background

The literature increasingly engages with discussing the ethical and epistemological dimensions of doing research, looking at how to adhere to key ethical principles in doing field research (do-no-harm, continuous consent, and protection of anonymity). However, social scientists are badly trained when it comes to talking about the emotions that their research generates for themselves. And, in the scarce existing literature, the focus is mostly on the instrumental value of emotions for research. They are analysed as a way to more intensely engage with the field or blurring the relation between the researcher and the research setting. However, what these arguments ignore, is emotionality's unavoidable presence in any type of human encounter; emotionality is a reality 'as such' that interacts with researchers' well-being. So what does this mean for researchers working on emotionally-intense topics such as land grabbing and land conflicts? How to take care of oneself when listening to, and getting engaged with, people's traumatic stories? How to avoid primary and secondary traumatization of oneself in such situations?

Program

An Ansoms is professor in Development Studies at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium). She has long-term experience with engaged in-depth research on land conflicts and rural transformations in conflict settings in Africa. Over the past two years - while building upon her own experience as well as that of other researchers - she has engaged in an in-depth reflection around the emotionality of research. In this interactive session, she shares her perspectives on the challenges of emotionally-engaging research; she introduces mechanisms that can help the researcher in gaining skills for self-care and peer-support; and she reflects upon how to engage with secondary traumatising when it occurs. Together, we will reflect on how to practice our passion for research in a healthy way.

Places are limited, so please register by sending an e-mail to landac.geo@uu.nl by Friday March 31. Priority will be given to those PhD and advanced master students who have also registered for the LANDac conference. Participation is free of charge.