

Experience Day African Studies 22 November 2024



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Introduction

A student of African Studies will tell you about your first year at this programme.

Lecture + Seminar

Title

The Economy of Africa: the Past, the Present and Prospects

Short description

Imagine a field of study that takes you deep into the heart of one of the world's most culturally rich, historically significant, and rapidly changing regions – Africa. African Studies provides an essential framework for understanding Africa's past and present by offering a multidisciplinary and critical approach to studying the continent. African Studies is your gateway to exploring the vast and diverse continent through its history and cultures, politics, economies, and social dynamics. It is an interdisciplinary journey where you will uncover Africa's contributions to world civilization and its role in shaping global economies.

As a student of African Studies, you will engage with critical issues like colonial legacy, immediate post-independence attempts and outcomes of state control of economic production and industrialization, the introduction of neoliberal economic reforms (structural adjustment policies including privatization) and the era of integration and globalization.

Whether you are interested in history, economics, geography, environment or politics, African Studies opens the door to a deeper understanding of Africa's complexities and potentials.

This field will not only broaden your knowledge but equips you with valuable skills for careers in international development, diplomacy, education, cultural preservation, and more. It challenges dominant western narratives, highlights African perspectives, and explores the diversity and richness of African cultures, politics and histories.

If you are curious about the world and driven to make a global impact, African Studies offers a unique and fulfilling academic adventure.

Lecturer: Dr. Joana Vondee-Awortwi (j.vondee@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Joana Vondee-Awortwi holds a PhD in Development Studies from International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University – Rotterdam. Joana has worked as an independent researcher, engaging with organisations and practitioners in research for development, with particular focus on International Aid, politics, and the political economy of development, especially in Africa. She is currently lecturing at the University of Leiden, (Faculty of Humanities – BA International Studies, Africa).

Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

Readings:

- 1) Leander Heldring James A. Robinson (2012) 'Colonialism and Economic Development in Africa' https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w18566/w18566.pdf
- 2) Ewout Frankema (2015) How Africa's colonial history affect its development World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/07/how-africas-colonial-history-affects-its-development/>