

The International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University Rotterdam the Netherlands is seeking to fill **three full-time (100%)** vacancies for the position of **Post-Doctoral Researcher** for a two year period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

We welcome applications from prospective postdoc researchers who are interested in doing operational research on gender, governance and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The researchers will be part of the research project 'Power, Poverty and Politics (PPP) in DRC', a subproject of the [Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium](#) led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London. The project is financed by UK Aid for the UK Government. It comprises a network of partners and research under the project is set up as close collaborations between international and Congolese universities and research institutes.

This two-year research program (1 January 2017- 31 December 2018) aims to deepen existing research on governance, service delivery and economic growth in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to examine the details of policy implementation from national to local levels, to generate lessons from what works in promoting positive change and how to measure change. The PPP will do this by tackling a range of sector-specific topics that link closely to Department for International Development (DfID) programs and policies and are thus chosen for their potential to contribute practical operational knowledge.

The International Institute of social Studies will appoint three Post-doc researchers, that will work in close collaboration with the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural in Bukavu, DRC, in particular with its Centre d'Expertise et de Recherche sur le Genre et Développement. At ISS, the researchers will be part of a dynamic, international and cross-disciplinary research group under the academic leadership of Professor Thea Hilhorst, Sylvia Bergh, Wendy Harcourt and Helen Hintjens. This project comprises a network of partners (the Overseas Development Institute in London, IOB, University of Antwerp; ISS of the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Hague and others).

The working languages of the project are both English and French. Applicants are expected to participate actively in seminars and workshops in the project, liaise regularly with DFID Kinshasa country advisors and spend a substantial amount of fieldwork in DRC.

The vacancies at ISS the Hague, the Netherlands are for the following three research projects:

1. **Women, power and society.**

This project concerns the question of how the changing roles of women in DRC affect their power relations, with a particular focus on social accountability and decision making. It will be based on case studies of development programmes that incorporate social accountability mechanisms (including community score-cards and local community committees), and seek to assess the broader impact of these programmes on gender relations.

2. **Everyday politics and practices of family planning in DRC.**

Promoting and protecting women's reproductive rights and health is key to women's empowerment and gender equality. This proposal concerns current policies and practices of family planning; debates on policy and perceptions of people regarding family planning and the role of societal stakeholders. It takes a 360 degrees, mixed methods look at family planning services.

3. **Mining reforms and the changing roles of women in mining communities**

The artisanal mining sector constitutes a vital source of income for many poor women and men - a substantial part of the population in DRC. In the course of the past decade, several attempts have been made to promote good governance in the mining sector. This study will focus on the gendered implications of ongoing reforms for the women and communities involved in artisanal mining in (Eastern) DRC.

### Job description

- You will conduct research on processes of gender, governance, and development in the DRC;
- 3 to 6 months of field research per year will be conducted in the DRC;
- Research will be conducted in close collaboration with the academic and policy partners.
- A number of publications will be written on the research, both aimed at academic audiences and applied audiences in policy and practice.

### Profile and requirements

- You hold a doctorate degree (PhD) in development studies, political science, anthropology, economics or related social science disciplines.
- Exceptions for the doctoral degree can be granted to applicants who are able to demonstrate similar research experience.
- Research experience in the DRC is desirable, but similar experience in fragile states contexts is also accepted.
- You obtained outstanding academic results.
- You have a demonstrated capacity to publish in peer-reviewed academic journals.
- You are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative, social and collaborative.
- You have a demonstrated capacity to work in a multi-cultural, complex environment.
- You are fluent in French, and are able to communicate in English. Knowledge of local languages is a plus.

### We offer

- An appointment as a postdoctoral researcher for a period of two years.
- Depending on years of experience and qualifications, a full time gross monthly salary ranging from € 2.552,00 - € 4.691,00 (based on the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities scale 10 or 11).
- An 8% holiday allowance and an end-of-year payment of 8.3%.
- A dynamic and stimulating work environment.

### How to apply?

- Applicants need to clearly indicate for **which of the three research projects** they are applying. (When you apply for more than one position, please submit three different applications)
- Applications may only be submitted online to [application.appl@iss.nl](mailto:application.appl@iss.nl) / "Application PPP in DRC, ISS", and should include (1) a cover letter, (2) CV and (3) a brief description (1,000 words max.) of how the applicant aims to contribute to one of the research lines.
- Deadline for applications: 30 October 2016
- The interviews of the candidates, preselected by a selection panel, will take place in early December 2016.
- The date of appointment will 1 January 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter.

For questions about the profile and the description of duties, please contact Prof. Dr. Thea Hilhorst, [Hilhorst@ISS.nl](mailto:Hilhorst@ISS.nl)

*The International Institute of Social Studies is committed to building and sustaining a community based on inclusiveness, equity and diversity and believes this will contribute to our mission and vision of being the best institute in our field.*

*ISS (<http://www.iss.nl/>) is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from candidates of all genders, ethnicities and nationalities.*