

Dr Gezina Dina Margarethe (Gea) Wijers, MSc. MA

<http://geawijers.com>



Professional History

- 2015-now **Postdoc (parttime): Community-based research in Indonesia and Thailand for Wageningen University & Research: the LIQUID program (liquidprogram.net)**
Local and international business collaboration (a.o. Wageningen University, Agriterra, Royal FrieslandCampina) for productivity and quality improvement in dairy value chains in Vietnam, Indonesia, Tanzania and Kenya.
- 2014-now **Owner: Wijers Community-based Consulting (WCbC)**
Consultancy firm specializing in Research, Strategy & Communication.
Projects (also see website), among others.:
* Cambodian market development in the advisory and facilitation of achieving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian government for a commercial German multinational;
* Project development of the European funded (MSCA-RISE) DiasporaLink research project that aims to exchange knowledge and methods in diaspora research among 32 universities and research institutes worldwide
- 2013-4 **Tutor (parttime)**
Erasmus University College, Rotterdam
- 2009-13 **PhD candidate**, Dept. of Organization Science, VU University Amsterdam
Dissertation: *Navigating a River by its Bends. A comparison of Cambodian Returnees' contributions to the transformation of Cambodia.*
- 2006-9 **Founding member Cambodia Research Group**
Integrated Program: Competing Hegemonies. <http://cambodiaresearch.org>
Student assistant and Lecturer (Writing NWO-WOTRO proposal)
Dept. of Political Sciences, Dept. of Organization Studies, VU University Amsterdam
Dept. of Political Sciences, UvA University of Amsterdam.
- 2005-6 **Strategy and Communication advisor**
Manager of the Community Protected Area Development Office (CPADO), Ministry of Environment, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for the Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO).
Leading a 30+ office, capacity building, development of an integrated strategic plan, auditing and control.
- 2003-5 **Managing partner, Senior consultant & Trainer**
STAD Office for Urban Consultancy. Organizational advisory of Dutch city councils (Leiden, Apeldoorn, Groningen) on the integrated management of public space.
Managing an 12+ office and working, a.o on: the procurement policies of Hellevoetsluis city, mainstreaming financial cutbacks Voorburg city; guiding work on sustainable public spaces with the Knowledge Network Public Spaces (KMOR).

2000-3 **Project manager**
Boer & Croon Strategy and Management Group, Young Executives
Working a.o. on: auditing work processes at Interpolis bv, assessment of the Almere city real estate department, marketing & sales for Harmony Financial Services (GB); business case development for Pepscan Biotech (Lelystad).

1998-2000 **Planning & Control operative**
District De Baarsjes, Amsterdam, Financial Dept.

Education

2015-2016 **Course: Evaluating Philanthropic Organizations, Philanthropy & Management of a Philanthropic Organization**, VU Amsterdam
Programming for Everybody (Python), University of Michigan, Coursera, Ann Arbor (MI) USA.

2014 **Advanced Course Social network Analysis**, University of Michigan, Coursera, Ann Arbor (MI) USA.
Course Networked Life, University of Pennsylvania, Coursera, Philadelphia (PA) USA.

2013 **Certificate Problem-based Learning**, Erasmus University College, Rotterdam

2009-13 **PhD candidate**, Dept. of Organization Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, VU University Amsterdam. Multiple doctorate courses and masterclasses, including Social Network theory, VISTA documentary making for anthropologists and University Teaching Qualification (BKO).

2006-7 **International MSc. Political Science**, VU University Amsterdam
Specialization: International Relations. Thesis: *Civic culture re-evaluated. Political culture in the Philippines*

2001-3 **MBA** based program Nyenrode Business University, Breukelen
Including modules in Strategy, Marketing and Project management.

1991-8 **MA Art History**, University Leiden and VU University Amsterdam
Specialization: 20th century Architecture and City-planning. Thesis: *The history of the Wibautstraat, the ugliest street in Amsterdam.*

1992-7 **MSc. Organization Science**, VU University Amsterdam
Specialization: Intercultural Communication. Thesis: *Perspectives on the Relevance of Cross-cultural Management strategies.*

1990-1 **BA Law** University Leiden

Awarded funding and positions (among others)

2012 Visiting Researcher at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley with the support of the Graduate School, Faculty of Social Sciences,

2009 Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
PhD grant (50%), NWO-WOTRO Science for Development organization through the Cambodia Research Group & CCSS PhD grant (50%), Centre for Comparative Social Studies, VU Amsterdam.

Extracurricular activities

(2017) Trainer at the Marrakech “African Youth Leadership Summit” a.o. Social entrepreneurship, Gender and equality
(2015-17) Support of Masterstudents conducting thesis research in Cambodia
(2015) Business Committee BoHo Players, a socially engaged string orchestra
Expert/moderator at the Movies That Matter festival in The Hague, March.
(2014-16) Juror for the selection of remigrant entrepreneurs for NGO SPARK entrepreneurship
(2013) Reviewer for *Cooperation and Conflict* (ISSN: 0010-8367).
Expert discussant at the IDFA documentary festival, Amsterdam.
(2006-7) Student Assistant, Dept of Political Sciences, VU University Amsterdam.
(2003-5) Member of the National Board, Project manager, Democrats 66 political party.
(2000-3) Marketing and Communication for social rally team GUTTS, <http://gutts.nl>
(1998) Dutch champion cross-country running. Organizer of a relay benefit run Barcelona-Amsterdam for the Emma Childrens’ Hospital, The Hague.

Relevant Publications

Published

1. “Determinants of the Digital Divide: A study on IT development in Cambodia”, *Technology in Society* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.techsoc.2010.10.011.
2. “The Reception of Cambodian Refugees in France”, *Journal of Refugee Studies* (May 2011), Vol. 24, Issue 2, doi:10.1093/jrs/FER008. (5 year Impact Factor:0.956)
3. “Navigating a River by its Bends: A study on transnational networks as resources for the transformation of Cambodia”, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, (Digital Edition) April 2013, pp. 1-19. Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2013.782058>. (2012 Impact Factor: 1.169)
4. “Immigrant communities as resources for emancipation. A comparison of bounded solidarity in two Cambodian communities”, *Journal of Migration and Development*, May 2013. Available at <http://www.tandonline.com/doi/labs/10.1080/21632324.2013.773154>.
5. “Contributions to transformative change in Cambodia. A study on returnees as institutional entrepreneurs”, *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 2013, Vol.32, Issue 1, pp. 3-27.
6. “Brokering, building and bargaining for the transformation of Cambodia. A study on Cambodian French returnees as institutional entrepreneurs”, *International Journal of Institutions and Economies*, 2013, Vol.5, Issue 3, pp. 75-96.
7. “Beyond democracy..? Questioning transformative change in emerging nations: the case of Cambodia”, *Amsterdam Social Science*, 2014, Vol. 6, Issue 1.
8. “Navigating a River by its Bends: A study on transnational networks as resources for the transformation of Cambodia”, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, (Printed Edition) August 2014, Vol. 39, Issue 9.
9. Book chapter “The Opportunity Structures of Cambodian French institutional entrepreneurs. A study on returnees’ contributions to transformative change”. in: I.N. Aflaki, E. Petridou and L. Miller (eds) *Entrepreneurship in the Polis. Understanding Political Entrepreneurship*, February 2015, London: Ashgate, pp. 191-204.
10. “Geopolitics and the framing of Cambodian affairs (1975-1989)” in: Albert Tzeng (ed) *Framing ‘Asian Studies’: Geopolitics, Institutions and Networks*, Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press & ISEAS, 2016.

11. "Unsettled: Cambodian refugees in the New York City Hyperghetto" Book review in: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, June 2017, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1332381>
12. "Refugee remigrant entrepreneurship: an institutional analysis. Comparing constraints and facilitator in Cambodia and Rwanda", *MDE Workshop on Refugee Entrepreneurship Proceedings*, July 2017.
13. "Empowerment in an Indonesian dairy cooperative. An institutional exploration", *Practicing the Commons. Self-governance, cooperation and institutional change Proceedings*. XVI Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons, Utrecht July 2017.

Under review

1. "Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship in Morocco", *International Migration Review*, 2017
2. "Gender in Cooperatives: an institutional exploration, *Gender & Society*, 2017

Published articles in other media (among others)

1. "Les Khmers de France", *Cambodge Soir* (Augustus 2010), Phnom Penh.
2. "En France, une communauté khmère 'dans l'ombre' ", *Cambodge Soir* (September 2010), Phnom Penh.
3. *Standplaats Wereld*, accessible on: <http://standplaatswereld.nl/tag/gea-wijers/>
4. Contributions to www.khmerican.com (May 2012-May 2013).
5. "Cambodian returnees' contributions to transformative change", *IAS Newsletter* (September 2013)
6. "A new generation of Cambodian film makers: carefully approaching an absent center" (2014), *KITLV-IDFA newsletter*, Leiden.
7. "Coming full circle: Migrant and remigrant entrepreneurs", *The Broker online* (September 2014) contribution to expert debate on entrepreneurship and migration.
8. Blogs and comments on diversity of social media (LinkedIn, <http://geawijers.com>) (2014-present)
9. "Rise of the Cambodian Entrepreneur", *IAS Newsletter, special issue: Politics and Society in Contemporary Cambodia*, September 2017.

Published books

1. *Zwemmen in een nieuw aquarium. Berichten uit Cambodja*, Zoetermeer: Freemusketeers (2009)
2. *Swimming uncharted waters. Reports from Cambodia*, Amsterdam: ABC (2011)
2. *Navigating a River by its Bends. A Comparison of Cambodian Returnees' Contributions to the Transformation of Cambodia*. Amsterdam: VU Press (2013), ISBN: 9789 0865 96478