



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 <http://geawijers.com>), among others.:
* 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
* Agence Belge de Développement (CTB) supporting diaspora Belgian Moroccans to invest in the Moroccan Green Economy, project: "Appui à la stratégie nationale en faveur des Marocains Résidant à l'Etranger"
- 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, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.
- 2009 PhD grant (50%), NWO-WOTRO Science for Development organization through the Cambodia Research Group & CCSS PhD grant (50%), VU Amsterdam.

Extracurricular activities

(2017-8) Trainer at the Marrakech “African Youth Leadership Summit” a.o. Social entrepreneurship, Gender and equality
(2015-18) Support of Masterstudents conducting thesis research in Southeast Asia
(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. “Refugee remigrant entrepreneurship: an institutional analysis. Comparing constraints and facilitators in Cambodia and Rwanda”, *MDE Workshop on Refugee Entrepreneurship Proceedings*, July 2017.
11. “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.
12. “Chapter 6. Framing Cambodian Affairs: French and American Scholarship, Media and Geopolitics (1975-1989)” in: Albert Tzeng (ed) *Framing ‘Asian Studies’: Geopolitics, Institutions and Networks*, ISEAS Publishing, 2018, pp. 120-141.

13. "Unsettled: Cambodian refugees in the New York City Hyperghetto" Book review in: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, June 2017 and January 2018 in paper version
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1332381>

Under review

1. "Transnational Diaspora Entrepreneurship in Morocco", *International Migration Review*, 2017
2. 'Gender empowerment in Dairy Cooperatives: An institutional approach to dairy development in Indonesia', *International Journal of the Sociology of Food and Agriculture*, 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", *IIS 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", *IIS 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