

**Dr Gezina Dina Margarethe (Gea) Wijers, MSc. MA**  
Zevenaar, 19 May 1972 <http://geawijers.com>



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### 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 gender inclusive productivity and quality improvement in dairy value chains in Thailand, 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"  
\* Supervisor MSc students, Dept of Public Administration & Political Science, VU University Amsterdam
- 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 Pepsican 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

2014

**Advanced Course Social Network Analysis**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (MI) USA.

**Course Networked Life**, University of Pennsylvania, 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: 20<sup>th</sup> century Architecture and City-planning. Thesis: *The history of the Wibautstraat, the ugliest street in Amsterdam*.

1992-7

**MSc. Organization Studies**, 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

(2018-now) Certificate professional masseur, Van Leffelaar Opleidingen Amsterdam  
(2017-8) Trainer at the Marrakech "African Youth Leadership Summit" a.o. Social entrepreneurship, Gender and equality  
(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>
14. "Inequality regimes in Indonesian dairy cooperatives: understanding institutional barriers to gender equality", *Agriculture and Human Values*, 2018, 1-15. 10.1007/s10460-018-09908-9

#### Under review

1. "Supporting remigrant diaspora entrepreneurs: The Moroccan Status Quo", *Migration Studies*, 2019.
2. "Can cooperatives function as a primary model for organization in a postgrowth world?", *International Cooperative Association Conference Berlin, August 2019*.
3. "What if a degrowth economy is built on cooperative organizations?", *Organization*, 2019.
4. "A Comparison of Cooperative Ecosystems", *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 2019.
5. Bijman, Jos and Gea Wijers (2019) "Exploring the inclusiveness of the cooperative business" *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, 2019.
6. "The clash of logics in Thai agrarian change. How institutional barriers impede innovation in an emerging dairy nation", *Asian Politics and Policy*, 2019.
7. "Applying Institutional Logics in Rural Sociology", *Forum Qualitative Sociology*, 2019.
8. "Moroccan migration: the transition from emigration to immigration", *Journal of North African Studies*, 2019.
9. Wijers, Gea and Jos Bijman (2019) "Corporate Social Responsibility in Indonesia: Global Convergence or Local Practice?", *Journal of Business Ethics*.

#### 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](http://www.khmerican.com) (May 2012-May 2013).
5. "Cambodian returnees' contributions to transformative change", *IIAS 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", *IIAS 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)  
*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

#### In the process of publication

Van Kemenade, Erik and Gea Wijers, *Those who came back. Second generation children of Cambodian refugees reconnecting with Cambodia*, NIAS Press (2019).