

PAUL HEBINCK



I am a geographer cum rural development sociologist. I have been working primarily in East and Southern Africa. My interest cover critical studies about land and agrarian reforms, rural livelihood and broader processes of rural development. Thematically, I study social and material resources (like land, maize seed, manure, labour, knowledge, culture, fences and other boundaries) and how these through various interactions (e.g. interventions) are continuously reconfigured and reassembled. In addition, the question 'who feeds the city' emerges as a key theme and area of interest. This includes the various forms of food provisioning ('formal and 'informal').

My geographical area of interest and expertise is West Kenya, the Eastern Cape and Venda land in South Africa, South-East Zimbabwe and Northern Namibia. In these regions I work on various topics together with a range of partners, including social scientists, ecologists, economists and practitioners of law.

BSc: THEMES FOR THESES

I prefer BSc theses around topics related to food provisioning, land acquisition, local forms of organisation, institutional arrangements, resources. The setting usually is or will be the rural domain of social life.

Concrete examples:

- Public services and institutions in Kibera, Nairobi
- The role of the state in Land grabbing in Ethiopia
- Globalisation and resistance in horticulture: A case study of witchcraft in the Kenyan horticulture

MSC: THEMES FOR THESES AND RESEARCH

Master students with an interest in the rural domain are welcome. As my research interest, expertise and network of partners I would like to work with students with an interest in development in Africa. Land and agrarian reform, resource use, making seed, farming, food provisioning, farmer strategies and so on. Like most of my colleagues I am not so keen on statistics and huge data sets; I rather prefer research and field work that accounts for actors experiences with development; how people enact development is important to capture and understand.

Concrete examples:

- Interlocking and Distancing Processes. An analysis of farmers' interactions with introduced crop production technologies in Sauri Millennium Village, Kenya
- From Open Access to Common Property through Enclosure: An analysis of different responses to the enclosure of Aqual in Korie, Ethiopia
- A social analysis of cash transfers in Zimbabwe
- Privatization of wetlands; re-defining rural livelihoods and food. Privatization and land acquisitions in the wetlands of eastern Uganda
- Exploring the sociality of (social) entrepreneurship: a case study from Ghana
- Community Resettlement within the Context of Conservation and Development Projects: Implications on Livelihood Chances Among Rural inhabitants of Ikondokondo village in South West Cameroon.
- People, Land and Water. Irrigation? A socio-technical feasibility study for an irrigation system in Guquka, South Africa
- Producing Nature Enacting new spaces during nature conservation on private land in the Eastern Cape, South Africa and the Ooijpolder, the Netherlands
- FISH NEVER FINISHES versus SHIFTING BASELINE SYNDROM. Local knowledge contestation in Caprivi's fishery management, Namibia
- The practice of community driven development. Cases from Nepal
- Biogas as domestic energy solution? Potentials and barriers of the technology for low-income households in South Africa