

## Genomineerden FSW Dissertatieprijs 2014



**Lidewyde Berckmoes** - *Elusive Tactics: Urban Youth Navigating the Aftermath of War in Burundi*

The dissertation, based on fourteen months of ethnographic fieldwork research, explores the social genesis of war and peace in Burundi. The topic is approached through a focus on everyday practices of classification and identification among youths (16-30 years) on the northern periphery of Bujumbura. It reveals the ways in which male and female youths in marginalized circumstances grapple with insecurities and uncertain prospects concerning violence and exclusion that characterize Burundi in the aftermath of the civil war. This social relevance is one of the many reasons this dissertation was chosen by her promoters for the FSW dissertation prize. The study gives insight into purposive action in indeterminate contexts and illuminates the agency of 'ordinary people' – here, youths – in reinventing peace. Among others, it argues that some of the prevalent practices in Burundi can be termed 'elusive tactics'. Elusive tactics refer to practices that allow people to remain or become more versatile, flexible and, quite literally, difficult to pin down.



**Bianca Suanet** - *Societal dynamics and older adults' social functioning*

The central research question of the present study is to understand how societal dynamics over the last decades have impacted on the social functioning of older adults. As a result of changes in the social context, particularly the weakening of social institutions and the increasing emphasis on self-realization and productive activities in old age, the expectation was that contrary to the still often posed idea that older adults are isolated they are more likely to be involved in wide range of social relationships and activities than before. The current study examined changes in social functioning in several domains, among others the personal network composition of older adults, stepparent-stepchild relationships and volunteering. Data from the Dutch 'Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam' (LASA) and the European 'Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement' (SHARE) that representative of the population 55 years and older were employed. State-of-art statistical techniques such as multilevel-analyses that are capable of dealing adequately with longitudinal and cross-country data were used. In the study, it is found that older adults nowadays have a larger proportion of non-kin in their network than before and are more likely to volunteer. Also, stepparents are much more likely to name their stepchildren as an important and regular contact now than two decades ago. Although some older adults are less able to participate, in general the current societal structure seems to offer increased possibilities for many older adults to be socially active until high ages. Please read the [dissertation](#).



**Judith van der Veer** - *Weg uit het verleden*

Judith van der Veer bestudeerde de uitwerking van de Wet maatschappelijke ondersteuning (Wmo) in drie gemeenten. Ze concludeert dat de verzorgingsstaat via decentralisatie kan veranderen, mits gemeenten de ruimte en de tijd krijgen om nieuwe wetgeving te verbinden aan bestaande lokale praktijken.

De verzorgingsstaat gaat op de schop: burgers worden aangesproken op hun eigen verantwoordelijkheid en gemeenten nemen taken over van de rijksoverheid. De invoering van de Wmo in 2007 is hiervan een goed voorbeeld. De Wmo moet de zelfredzaamheid en de maatschappelijke participatie van mensen met een beperking vergroten. De uitwerking van de wet gebeurt door gemeenten. Van der Veer onderzocht hoe zij dat doen: welke (nieuwe) keuzes voor beleid en voorzieningen gemeenten maken. Dit helpt begrijpen hoe instituties zoals de verzorgingsstaat kunnen veranderen. Dat gaat namelijk niet vanzelf. De centrale overheid kan niet als een architect een ideale lokale Wmo-praktijk uittekenen. Verandering moet gebeuren in en door de bestaande gemeentelijke organisaties en zorg- en welzijnsinstellingen. Het object (dat veranderd moet worden) en het subject (dat verandering moet realiseren) zijn één. Deze paradox staat centraal in het proefschrift van Van der Veer. Lees de [dissertatie](#).



**Jolanda Veldhuis** - *Media Models Matter in Context: Negotiated Media Effects of Idealized Body Images*

The number of people being overweight is increasing dramatically and seems to be in stark contrast to the prevailing super slim beauty ideal in the media. These (often Photoshopped) ultrathin media models may instigate for people feeling not satisfied with their own body. This appears to be the case especially in adolescent girls and it might eventually lead to engagement in unhealthy strategies to look like these ideal media models. In her PhD research, Veldhuis proposes that the effects of such ideal media models depend on the context in which they are perceived. This context of models' pictures may consist of texts, such as 'disclaimers'. She found that the text accompanying the ideal media models makes a difference: stating that the model is too thin can counteract body dissatisfaction in adolescent girls. In this case, providing simple information rather than a warning does apply. Conversely, labeling an ultrathin model as being of normal weight, increases body dissatisfaction. Veldhuis summarizes the results in Negotiated Media Effects Model and further translates them into a prototype for a smartphone app. Her thesis indicates that mass media can be used to counteract the undesired effects of seeing ideal bodies and to promote a realistic view on a healthy body size. Please read the [dissertation](#).