

Visit Sisonke Msimang

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 14 February 2019

On Sunday, February 10 in a packed Amsterdam City Theatre South African writer and opinionista **Sisonke Msimang** delivered the **Nelson Mandela lecture**, organised by ZAM under the theme *Building a world beyond them and us*. See the ZAM-website for a one-and-a-half hour livestream of her speech and the preceding cultural programme:

<https://www.zammagazine.com/engage/events/823-sisonke-msimang-live-stream> ([externe link](#))

The next day Sisonke Msimang paid a visit to the International Institute of Social History (IISH), hosted by Afelonne Doek (director collections), Machteld Maris (communications) - both also present at the Mandela lecture - and myself. I was able to give her a presentation of the Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa collection of the institute, including our Mandela related material and the photographs etc. of the ANC community in exile in which Sisonke grew up. Besides, she also proved to be very interested in other parts of the IISH collection, as well as the research programme of the institute. A good and inspiring visit.



Myself, Afelonne Doek, Bart Luirink, Laurens Nijzink (both ZAM), Sisonke Msimang.

Photos: Pieter Boersma.

Sisonke Msimang, Laurens Nijzink, myself presenting some highlights of the collection.



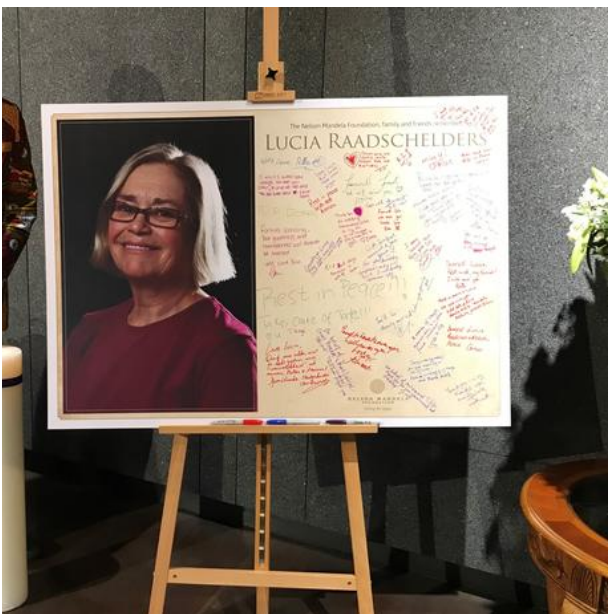
South Africa visit and passing away of Lucia Raadschelders

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 30 November 2018

In November my partner Maud Kortbeek and I paid a visit to South Africa (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban) in which I also had a number of meetings with people and organisations in relation to my work with the Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa collection of the International Institute of Social History, a.o. with the Dutch embassy, South African History Archive, South African History Online, ANC Archives and the still developing new *Museum and Archive of the Constitution at the Hill* (MARCH). I met a.o. with Lauren Segal, head curator of MARCH, who I presented at Constitution Hill a set of spare copy posters and other campaigning materials of the former Dutch anti-apartheid groups as a contribution to the MARCH collection.



Sadly, during our visit, we were confronted with the passing away of our friend **Lucia Raadschelders**, former staffmember of the Dutch AAM, Vula operative and the last 10 years colleague archivist at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. Hence, on Sunday November 25, Maud and I participated in (and contributed to) a memorial meeting for Lucia Raadschelders at the Nelson Mandela Foundation.



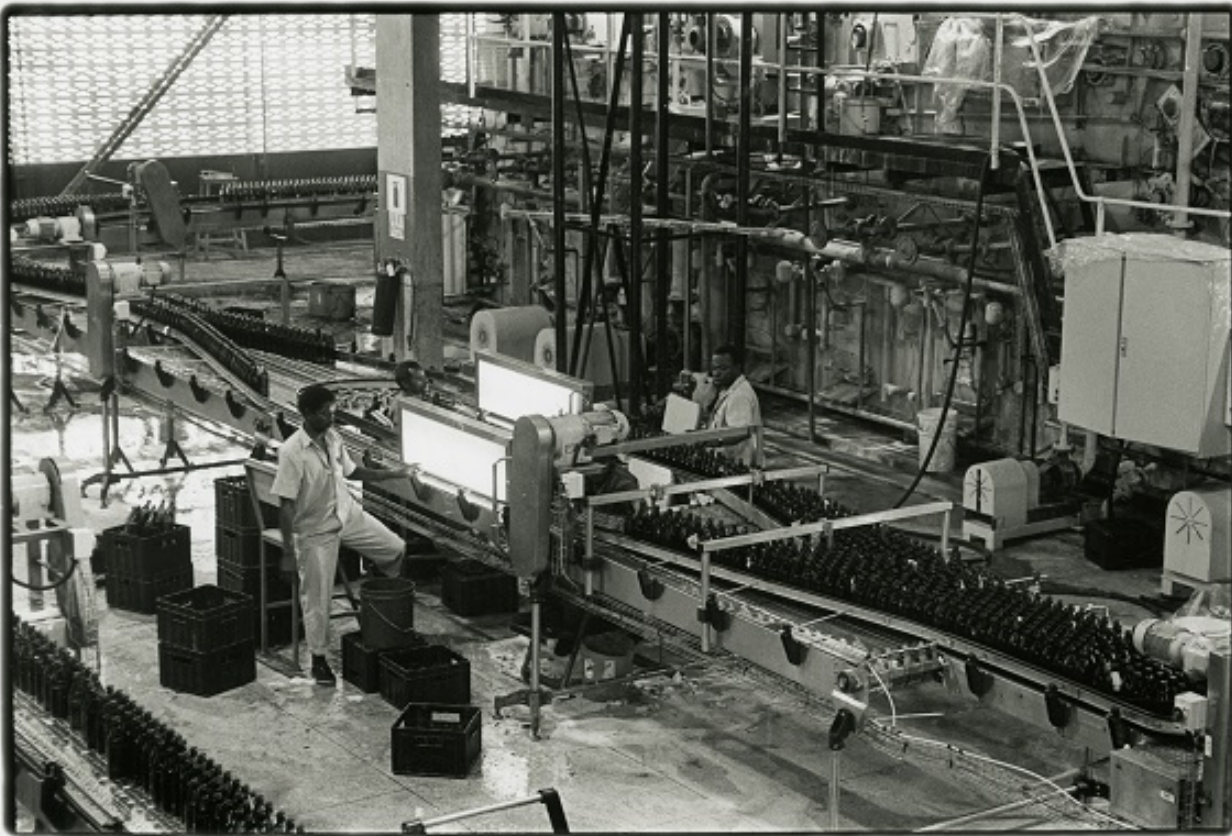
Photographs of Africa by Pieter Boersma

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 10 September 2018

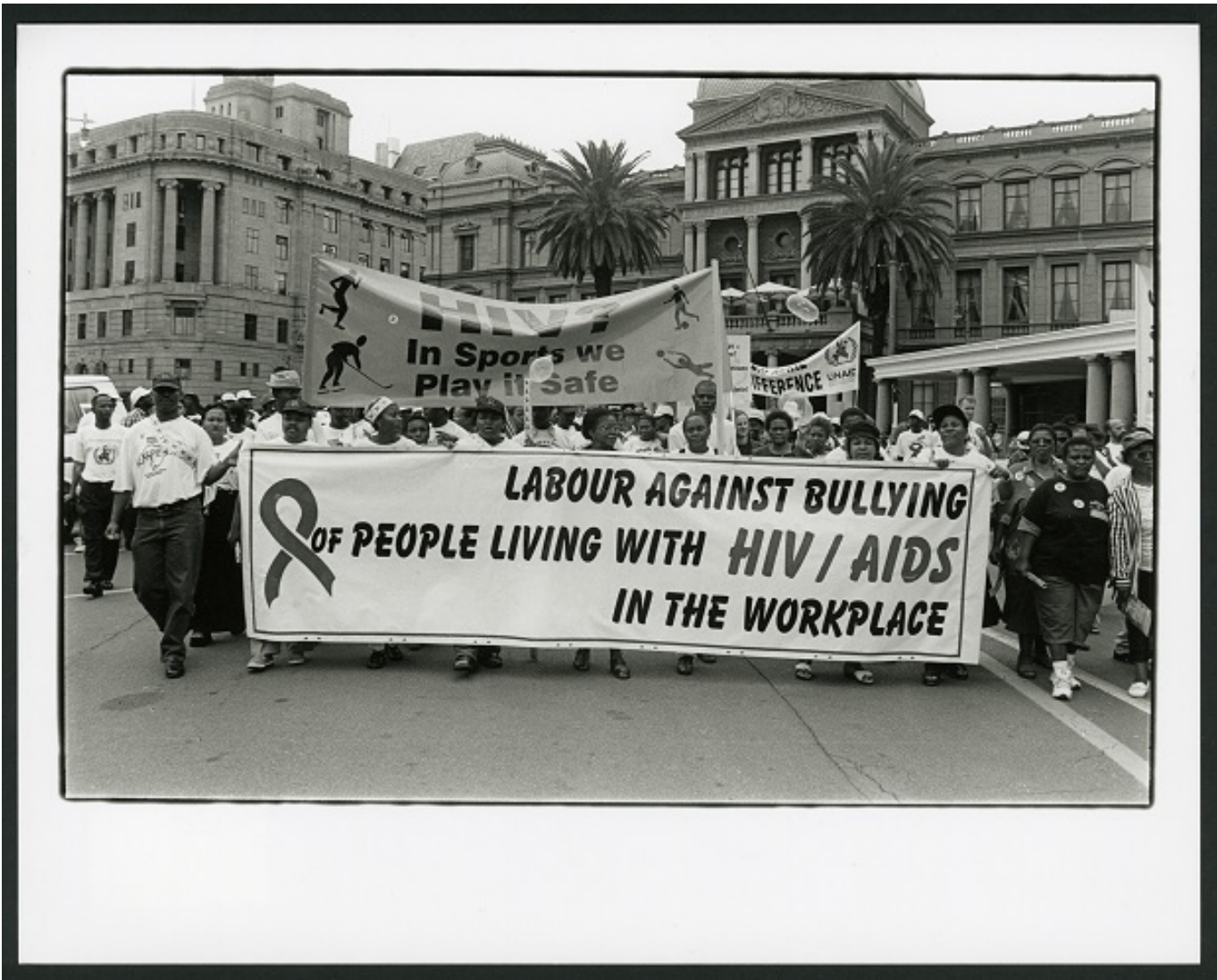
Some time ago I processed a small collection of photographs by Dutch photographer Pieter Boersma, which he made during various AWEPA-missions in Southern and East-Africa between 1992 and 2005. A nice addition to our collection and a small but fitting tribute to Pieter Boersma who photographed so much in the region and contributed significantly to the broad Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa solidarity movement.

The **Pieter Boersma Photo Collection Southern and Eastern Africa** consists of over 750 photographs of political events and social-economic conditions in a number of Southern and Eastern African countries. Topics include AWEPA election observation missions in South Africa, Namibia, Mozambique and Tanzania, AWEPA fact finding missions on living conditions and health (esp. HIV/AIDS) for refugees and people in general in these countries as well as Rwanda and Kenya, and economic activities, small business, labour and working conditions in esp. South Africa, Tanzania and Namibia. 89 of these photographs have been scanned and made visible in our online catalogue:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10622/COLL00324> (link is external)



Beer factory in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. 1996.



Trade union demonstration for workers with HIV/AIDS in South Africa. 2000.

Short movies introducing the IISH Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa Collection

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 10 August 2018

The publicity department of the International Institute of Social History recently produced two short movies (3 à 4 minutes) introducing the Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa collection of the IISH through an interview with me and accompanying images. You can view them on the Facebook-page of the IISH at <https://www.facebook.com/International.Institute.of.Social.History/videos/1960562313999872/?fref=mentions> (link is external) and <https://www.facebook.com/International.Institute.of.Social.History/videos/1960589410663829/> (link is external) Personally I think they're nice.



Nelson Mandela 100 activities

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 16 July 2018

Earlier this month I was in London, a.o. for the opening of an exhibition *Mandela and Me* in the office building of the British Council. On July 17, the day before Mandela's 100st birthday, a much bigger exhibition will be opened in the Queen Elizabeth Hall of London's Southbank Centre - the *Nelson Mandela Centenary Exhibition*, curated by the AAM Archives Committee, the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg and the Southbank Centre. For more information see: <http://www.aamarchives.org/> ([link is external](#))

In The Netherlands also activities are being organised focusing on the Nelson Mandela Centenary. Information on that can be found at the special **Mandela 100-page of ZAM**: <https://www.zammagazine.com/mandela-100> ([link is external](#)) featuring blogs, video's, photography and agenda items.



Nelson Mandela Centenary meeting in Leiden

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 4 June 2018

Friday, June 1, I was at a meeting in the Academy building in Leiden where the Africa Study Centre together with the Free University and the South African embassy in The Netherlands organised a lecture on the importance of Nelson Mandela, on occasion of his birth now 100 years ago. The keynote speech was delivered by prof. Tom Lodge, who presented an interesting analysis of the characteristics of Mandela's leadership style. I had a small selection of our archival items on Nelson Mandela with me, which I could present in the corridor. Later this year there will other events on the Nelson Mandela centenary organised in The Netherlands and abroad.



Consultations of the Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa collection in recent years

[Kier Schuringa](#) -- 15 January 2018

I made an overview of the consultations and other usages of the Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa collection of the International Institute of Social History in the last six years (2012-2017). Both of the consultations of our archives and collections through the reading room of the institute, and of the requests for sources and information material, scans of photographs and other visual items, advice for research projects, exhibitions, etc. which were handled by me personally. The overall picture is clearly positive, as far as I'm concerned, especially because the interest shown in the collection does not diminish but remains more or less stable throughout these years - some 30 to 40 substantial consultations each year. More than half of these are from Dutch students, researchers, journalists, etc., mainly consulting the archives of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, Angola Comité/Holland Committee on Southern Africa (together ca. 60%), Comité South Africa (1960s), Working Group Kairos and other groups in the collection. Also, in the last two years, increasingly the anti-apartheid and Southern Africa photo and documentation collections which became available, are consulted

through the reading room. The consultations and requests from outside The Netherlands come mainly (almost 50%) from South Africa - archives, museums, students/researchers, former ANC-members in exile, etc. From the rest of the world, especially Canada/US and England are well represented (some 25%), but they come also from countries like Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Mozambique, Namibia and Switzerland. International consultations focus on sources and documentation material and even more on photographs and other visual documents; much less on the archives. The subjects of these consultations and requests vary even more widely. Of course, the activities of the Dutch anti-apartheid and Southern Africa groups in the past feature regularly, but also a lot of other aspects (of the history) of the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa and the international solidarity movement. Next we see a lot of requests for photographs of struggle activists and specific events in history, as well as photos and other visual items for exhibitions - in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg for instance - and for the websites of various archives. Most of these subjects relate to South Africa, but also to countries like Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa - Archives

Archives from NIZA, fully processed by archivist Kier Schuringa, in alphabetical order. These archives are all freely accessible. All inventories are in Dutch only.

Angola Committee/Holland Committee on Southern Africa 1961-1997

Contents: Minutes and related documents of the committee meetings, general correspondence and organisational documents, documents concerning the political campaigns and activities of the committee like the (major) campaigns, the oil- and sportsboycot, the economic programme, activities on Namibia, Angola and Mozambique and the women's programme, documents of the material support programme (projects) of the HCSA, including the work of the Liberation Fund and the Zimbabwe cooperants programme, as well as the various cooperation networks of the committee with organisations in the Netherlands and internationally; an annex with the archives of the Foundation International Sanctions Year 1982, the Foundation Amantia and two BVD-branches (National Intelligence Service) on resp. the Holland Committee on Southern Africa and Srebte Bosniza; a collection of old documentation of the Angola Committee 1960-1976, from de documentation collections of the Angola Committee and HCSA which were already donated to the IISH around 1990 and now have been integrated in this archive. From the first 10 years of the committee only correspondence has been preserved, minutes and other archival materials almost exclusively date from 1970 onwards.

Broadcasting for Radio Freedom

Contents: The archive consists of minutes and related documents of the executive committee and board of the (Foundation) Broadcasting for Radio Freedom, general correspondence 1982-1996, organisational documents, including the minutes of the technical working groups and financial reports, documents concerning the activities, more or less in chronological order, largely relating to the Jabulani-conference and the Radio Freedom Institute, some documentation.

Annex: archival items from the National Broadcasting Foundation (NBS) from 1958 on the relations with South Africa and (Broadcasting for) Radio Freedom.

Committee South Africa

Contents: Minutes of Executive Committee 1960-1967, correspondence 1960-1967, financial and other organisational documents 1960-1971 and correspondence and other documents on various activities esp. in the first half of the 1960s; documents on the cooperation with and activities of the Student Committee South Africa (Stucco) 1960-1971; press cuttings from Dutch newspapers on the Netherlands and South Africa, mainly from 1960-1965.

Dutch AAM (Anti-Apartheids Beweging Nederland - AABN)

Contents: minutes and related documents of the plenary meetings, Executive Committee and staff meetings, annual reports, general correspondence, financial and other organisational documents 1971-1994. Followed by four series of reports, correspondence and other documents of the main working groups and long-term campaigns, other actions and activities, as much as possible in chronological order on the years 1971-1994. Consequently documents relating to the various links of cooperation of the Dutch AAM throughout the years and the various foundations the Dutch AAM established for different mainly large-scale activities (esp. CASA and Malibongwe) after 1987. Finally a separate annex with big sized notebooks with comments by visitors of the South Africa exhibition in the Anne Frank House in 1973.

Please note that the finding aid for these archives comes with a chronology of the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement (in Dutch) 1971-1994.

Library, Documentation, Image & Sound

Books and brochures

From the libraries of the Working Group Kairos and the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (NIZA) more than 3.000 books and brochures were transferred to the IISH. Most of these have been included in the IISH-catalogue and can be found by searching in the category Books and brochures for Nederlands Instituut voor Zuidoost Afrika or Werkgroep Kairos (and of course on title, author, etc.). Most of these titles relate to the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa and the international relations with the region in the second half of the 20th century. Approximately one third of these books deal with South Africa; other major selections relate to Namibia, Zimbabwe and Southern Africa as a whole.

Periodicals

The different organisations contributed some 500 periodicals, often with extensive holdings, from and on Southern Africa to the library of the IISH. They are now all integrated in the IISH holdings and can be found in the IISH-catalogue by searching in the category 'periodicals' for Nederlands Instituut voor Zuidoost Afrika or Werkgroep Kairos (or on their IISAs).

Documentation

From the Library, Information and Documentation Centre (IBDOC) of NIZA some 50 meters of documents and another 15 meters of press cuttings from the 1970s to 1990s were transferred to the IISH. In 2017 these documents were processed into the Documentation Collection Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa (1970-1998). They consist of press cuttings, articles, brochures, reports a.o. documents on the liberation struggles in Southern Africa and the international campaign against Apartheid in South Africa in the second half of the 20th century, from the documentation collection of the former Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement, with additional documents of some other former Anti-Apartheid and Southern Africa solidarity groups in The Netherlands.

Subjects: labour/trade unions, education, women, repression and resistance against apartheid in South Africa; (the liberation struggles in) Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe & o. countries in Southern Africa; the international boycott/sanctions campaign against apartheid South Africa; international and Dutch political relations with (Southern) Africa; health, churches, sports, culture and militarization in South Africa as well as the political and social-economic situation in South Africa's urban and rural areas and the country in general; history of (the struggle against apartheid in) South Africa and the relations with The Netherlands; biographical dossiers on Dutch, South African and other activists in the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in Southern Africa.

Finally, the press cuttings consist of three chronologically arranged series - mainly from the Dutch press between 1970 and 2000 - on and relating to resp. South Africa, Namibia/Angola and Zimbabwe/Mozambique. These can only be consulted through the archivist Kier Schuringa!

Photo Collections Dutch AAM, Holland Committee on Southern Africa, Mondlane Foundation and Kairos

The photo collections of these organisations were, together with a large number later collected photographs by NIZA, transferred to the IISH - in total more than 20.000 photographs. Approx. 1.000 of these were individually processed into the IISH catalogue, search in Visual documents for photo and niza or Kairos. The remaining