

Personal details

Name: Dorothea Hilhorst (Thea)
 Languages: Dutch (mother tongue), English and French (fluid), German and Portuguese (passive)
 Email:

Education

Msc, 1988 Rural development sociology, Wageningen University, *cum laude*
 PhD, 2000 'Records and Reputations. Everyday Politics of a Philippine Development NGO',
 Wageningen University, *cum laude*

Work experience

2017 Visiting professor, London School of Economics, 3 months.
 Since 2015 Special chair humanitarian aid and reconstruction, International Institute of Social
 Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam
 2006-2017 Special chair humanitarian aid and reconstruction, Wageningen University, manager
 of the chair group Disaster Studies, currently the research group humanitarian aid
 and reconstruction.
 1998 - 2006 Lecturer and senior lecturer Disaster Studies, Wageningen University
 1996-2000 PhD candidate, Wageningen University
 1993-1996 Evaluation and monitoring officer, Cordillera Women Education and Resource
 Center, Baguio, Philippines
 1992-1993 Action research for agrarian women organisations in the Netherlands,
 Communication science, Wageningen Universiteit
 1991-1992 Policy research on miners' health and safety commissioned by trade union FNV and
 International Miners Federation, Department of occupational hygiene, Wageningen
 University.
 1989-1991 Assistant project officer Cebemo

Profile

After a PhD concerning non-governmental development organisations, I have become an expert in development in areas affected by disaster, conflict or fragility, with a special focus on aid-society relations: the impact of humanitarian aid on society and the ways in which people and institutions shape the organisation of aid relations. In this work, I have mostly used ethnographic methodologies (*aidnography*). My theoretical framework on humanitarian arenas analyses aid from a sociological, empirical perspective. It brings out how humanitarian action is shaped by different actors in everyday practice and focuses on discourse, organization and power.

A recurring theme in my research concerns questions of institutional multiplicity in governance when different normative frameworks and authorities compete, for example in service delivery in the DRC and Nepal and in humanitarian aid provision in refugee camps. In multiple projects, I have analysed how this creates barriers as well as opportunities for peace and development. In the last four years I have led a research programme on disaster governance in cases where disaster collides with conflict.

I have supervised 30 PhD candidates, 7 of these are ongoing and 23 have been completed. In addition to my academic research I have always maintained a portfolio for applied assignments and advisory work, which has enhanced an intimate knowledge base of international organisational processes. My academic research is interactive, seeking dialogue with policy and practice on relevance, access and uptake of research, and I seek to incorporate my applied work in academic publications.

Academic research programmes (see annex 1 for a complete list)

My research programmes since the completion of my PhD have taken place in a large number of settings affected by disaster, conflict and fragility, including in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Nepal, North Iraq, Palestinian territories, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

My research programmes stand for qualitative inquiries into the everyday politics and practices of governance, institutions, actors and aid in crisis-affected areas, especially in Africa and Asia. They are mainly implemented by PhD candidates and I have also managed around 30 academic staff, post-docs and contract researchers.

Since 2000 I have acquired 16 grants and large research contracts with a total value of 8 million Euro. I am a laureate of a VICI grant of NWO and previously of a VIDI grant. About half of my research has been academically financed, the other half is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the British DFID and Dutch development organisations.

Policy advice, consultancies, and representation (see annex 2)

I have maintained a flow of advisory functions and contract researches. Current engagements concern the development of a research centre for gender and development in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, engaging in realising an international aid ombuds with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the organisation of the International Humanitarian Studies Association.

Since 2005, I have had many public engagements, ranging from parliamentary hearings to speeches at local Rotary clubs. I have ample media experience, with 28 TV interviews, over 100 radio appearances and numerous interviews in newspapers and contributions to op-eds and blogs. I aim to present an honest and realistic image of the wicked problems of fragility, the everyday practices of aid, and the messy realities of international relations.

Education

I have been responsible for a track in the Master of Rural Development Sociology on disasters, conflict and humanitarian aid. I have developed and taught three Master level courses on natural hazards and disasters; humanitarian aid and reconstruction and food crises. My teaching has always been evaluated highly positive by the students.

In my post-graduate supervisions, I aim to ensure a good balance between analytical development and the need for training on methodology and academic skills. Strategies to achieve research uptake are also part of the research preparation of the PhD candidates.

Academic positions

Since 2016	President of the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA)
Since 2017	International fellow of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
Since 2014	Co-founder of the Research Centre for Gender and Development at the Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural in Bukavu, DRC.
Since 2012	Chair editorial board of Routledge Humanitarian Studies (book series) Co-chair: Alex de Waal.
Since 2011	Member Advisory Board Journal of Disaster Prevention and Management.
2009-2015	Board member WOTRO, of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
2011-2014	Board member of NORGLOBAL, the research council of the NORAD, Oslo
2007-2009	Member Advisory Council Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AIV), Working Group development.
2019	Member selection committee humanities, Danish Research Council
2018	Organizer International Humanitarian Studies Conference at ISS, the Hague
2017	Member visitation committee Netherlands Institute for War and Genocide Studies (NIOD)
2015	Co-organizer fourth World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Ethiopia, collaboration with Addis Ababa University and Bahir Dar University.

2014	Member mid-term research visitation committee of the Institute of Social Studies, the Hague
2013	Co-organizer World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Istanbul
2012	Member visitation committee National University of Rwanda, Butare, Rwanda.
2011	Organizer World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Boston
2009	Director World Conference of Humanitarian Studies, Groningen.
2007	Panel organizer AEGIS Africa Conference, Leiden
2004	Panel organiser on Natural Hazards and Disasters in the Philippines, ICOPHIL International Conference on the Philippines, Leiden
2004	Organizer international workshop on 'Challenges of Complexity in Coping with Climate-related Disasters', Wageningen University
2002	Organizer international workshop on disaster vulnerability, WUR
2001	Panel organizer in European conference of Philippine Studies (Europhil) in Alcalá, Spain.

Societal positions

Since 2019	Advisory board member of the Humanity Hub, the Hague
Since 2016	Member of KUNO: centre for humanitarian knowledge exchange
Since 2013	Board member of the Humanitarian Accountability Project, Geneva, now Core Humanitarian Standard Alliance
Since 2010	Partner Humanity House, The Hague
2014-2015	Member organizing committee of the Netherlands Humanitarian Summit, held on 12 February 2015 in The Hague
2014-2017	Member Council of Ideas of the Netherlands Red Cross
2012-2014	Member advisory committee of the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies research into the role of the Netherlands Red Cross in the Second World War.
2008-2016	Co-founder and member of Netherlands Humanitarian Panel, an interagency initiative of Netherlands-based development organisations, which resulted in formation of KUNO
2012-2013	Member of the jury of the Dick Scherpenzeel award for critical journalism
2010-2013	Volunteer Catharijnehuis – homeless shelter in Utrecht
2008-2011	SNV, member supervisory board
2007- 2013	Evert Vermeer Stichting, board member
2001-2008	UNESCO Nederland, member academic committee