



# International Institute of Social Studies

## Global engagement





# **'At ISS we believe in Social Justice and Equity on a worldwide level.'**

**We strive to find solutions to today's global problems by leading in the field of development studies.**

## **How?**

Through socially relevant research and teaching. We are a research-led, teaching-based international graduate institute of policy-oriented social science. We bring people, ideas and insights together in a multi-disciplinary setting which nurtures, fosters and promotes critical thinking and conducts innovative research in response to society's needs. We pull on 65 years of vast expertise with direct actual relevance to make a positive difference in the world.

**ISS is based in The Hague, the International City of Peace and Justice and the United Nations' second hub after New York. English is used extensively as a second language. The Hague is home to the Dutch government and the royal family and is the only large Dutch city on the sea.**



# Foreword



Professor Inge Hutter, Rector ISS

Welcome to the International Institute of Social Studies, an institute that is proud to combine a long history of capacity-building through teaching and high academic research, with a vibrant, up-to-date mind-set, putting **critical science at the service of society.**

The ISS was founded in 1952. It was mentioned in Queen Juliana's United Nations Speech on the need for capacity-building institutes for administrative staff in the then so-called developing countries. ISS was founded to work towards the creation of 'one (better) world'.

The world, its issues and its needs may have changed since this post-colonial period, yet our belief in a fair world and our drive for **Social Justice and Global Equity** remain at the heart of all we do: 'Towards one world, united in our diversity'.

Whereas in the early days the focus was more on 'teaching' the Global South based on northern experience, we now nurture the concept of **co-creating excellence**, sharing knowledge and best practices. Lessons from the Global South are increasingly being applied to the North.

In 2009 we joined forces with Erasmus University Rotterdam, our fruitful collaboration greatly increasing our contribution to society. In a nutshell, we are a research-led, teaching-based institute.

Our highly valued research programme Global Development and Social Justice covers a wide variety of topics, each with an explicit component of societal relevance. Our 4 major research themes are migration and diversity, social protection and inequality, conflict and peace, and environmental and climate change. Our experienced researchers and PhD researchers are from all around the world.

In the teaching programme, especially in our MA in Development Studies, we offer top-notch education with a wide variety of courses, teaching not only theory and content but also situating that knowledge in the different social, economic and cultural contexts of countries in the Global South. Our students share their knowledge, contributing in this way to Global Citizenship.

Our staff members distinguish themselves not only by their academic excellence but also by their wide experience of the world. '**Co-creation of excellence**' is our guiding motto as we share and learn from each other, unified in our diversity, with the common goal of building a fairer world.

For our students, we strive to create a warm and stimulating second home, ensuring personal guidance as they mingle with each other, forging a network for life before returning to contribute to the development of their countries.

I am personally delighted when I travel abroad by how well-known ISS is, with alumni scattered all over the globe (116 nations), ensuring a global impact.

We are lucky to be based in The Hague, the city of Peace and Justice, a vibrant incubator home to many institutes and ministries, NGOs and embassies; providing the perfect setting for ISS to also serve as a wider platform for debate, bringing together a wider public for an exchange of ideas.

A passion for academic excellence and research which is relevant to society, a mind-set of co-creation, mutual empowerment, societal contribution and implementation of best practices, and Sustainable Development Goals for all, is what distinguishes the ISS.

We have always been a Global Institute, focussing not on ourselves but on the reality and needs of the world around us. We draw on 65 years of experience in conducting societally relevant research to make a positive difference in the world.

I encourage you to read on for more details on how we implement our mission, strive to achieve our future goals and I look forward to the next 65 years of Global Leadership for Change.

**1970** Establishment of Development and Change, a bi-monthly peer-reviewed academic journal, one of the leading international journals in the field of development studies and social change, now published by Wiley-Blackwell on behalf of ISS.

**1968** Start of a long cooperation and exchange of staff members with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. ISS helped set up the Centre for Development Studies, nowadays known as Institute for Development Studies.



**1977** Move to the former Hotel Wittebrug.

# 1952



**1952** ISS is established as an International Institute of Social Studies – a special post-graduate English-language institution bringing Dutch knowledge to bear on a distinctive brand of higher education concerned with problems of development. Launching the ISS was one of the first tasks of the new Netherlands Universities Foundation for International Cooperation (NUFFIC). Queen Juliana generously offered part of the royal Palace Noordeinde to house the Institute and NUFFIC.

**1979** Opening of an ISS-Development Studies and Research Center in Khartoum; an institutional strengthening programme of teaching and research in regional development planning. (Till 1985).

**1986**  
**1<sup>st</sup> PhD defence at ISS**

**1975** ISS takes a leading role in the creation of EADI – the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes- and remains one of the premium members.

**1983** The MA programme was restructured with more space for differentiation and the choice of 8 different themes.

**1996** Involvement in a capacity building project to strengthen the teaching and research capacity of the Addis Ababa University in the field of regional and local development. (Till 2004).

**1990** Involvement in major projects developing capacity in high quality teaching and research programmes in developing countries. From 1990 – 2004 e.g. Development of an Economics MA Programme at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka.

**2003** Collaboration with the FHR Lim A Po Institute for Social Studies in Surinam. A Master in Public Administration and a Master in International and Comparative Law were developed.

**2007** Establishment of the Mundus MAPP programme: a two year international joint Masters programme in Public Policy, offered by ISS, Central European University, Budapest (Hungary), Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (Spain) and the University of York (UK).

**1 July 2009** ISS becomes a University Institute of Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). In this structure ISS retains its mission, location in The Hague and relative autonomy whilst benefiting from the resources available from an internationally renowned university. ISS develops innovative research in cooperation with other EUR faculties and has greater access to Dutch and international research funding.

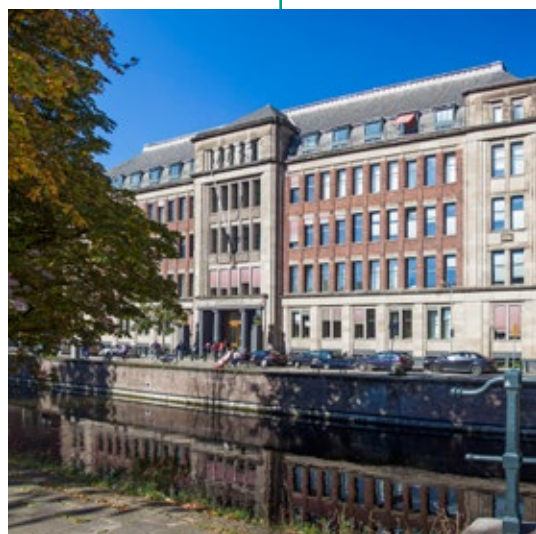
**2009** ISS is the first university to receive the Orange Carpet Award from Nuffic for best practices in internationalization.

**2009**  
**100<sup>th</sup> PhD defence at ISS**

**2012** Overhaul of the MA programme: new programme consisting of 5 majors, replacing the 15 specializations.

**2016** 150<sup>th</sup> PhD defence at ISS

**2019**



**1993** ISS moves to its present location near the city centre, the former headquarters of the Netherlands Post and Telecommunications (the PTT).





# Research at ISS

## Global Development and Social Justice

We live in a fast-changing global society characterized by instability, conflict, inequality and climate change. The nature of globalization means that all these issues are currently global issues, and are no longer limited to the Global South. During its 65+ years history, the Institute has seen a shift from an almost exclusive concern with development issues in developing countries to embracing a broad agenda of global development.

ISS aims to respond to today's global problems by being a leader in the field of development studies in the broader sense. This includes processes of social, economic and political transformation at a variety of levels, and the impact of those processes on dimensions of justice and equity.

The Institute's research programme is characterized by its explicitly critical approach to policy responses formulated in response to social, economic and political issues in our pursuit of global development and social justice. Our research activities are set up to have societal impact and are steered by a desire to contribute to the problem-solving capacity of communities, organizations and societies, in other words capacity development.

## Objectives

Global Development and Social Justice based on actual global issues. We currently focus on:

### **Four cross-cutting themes:**

- Migration and diversity
- Social protection and inequality
- Conflict and peace
- Environment and climate change

All ISS researchers contribute to the overall objectives of the research programme Global Development and Social Justice by engaging in a range of activities:

- Joint publications of researchers: among senior academic staff members as well as with PhD researchers, within and across research groups.
- Joint PhD supervisions, leading to cross-fertilization of disciplinary and methodological approaches.
- Joint research projects and project proposals to research councils and capacity-development organizations;
- Forging coherence in approaches to societal relevance.
- Joint research on the four cross-cutting themes.



These pages show a selection of research activities, carried out across the world.



## Community based health insurance

This project in Ethiopia combines research and policy-relevance to provide the data and the analysis needed to achieve social impact. Ethiopia's community based health insurance scheme has the potential to help the country achieve universal health coverage and the approach also yields lessons for other countries.



## Humanitarian responses

How do state and non-state actors and humanitarian agencies respond to disasters in different conflict-affected situations, and how does this affect the institutional power, legitimacy and relations of these actors? By focussing on the nexus between conflict and disaster, comparison of disaster response in different types of conflict and use of disasters as an entry point to study institutional change, this innovative research provides a new perspective on humanitarian responses.

### World leading, socially relevant research

Research conducted at ISS has been deemed 'Very good' and 'Excellent' in the Relevance to Society and Viability contexts. This is the conclusion of an external assessment committee which visited ISS in 2017. The committee based its findings on the Standard Evaluation Protocol for Research Assessments in the Netherlands. This Protocol is formulated and endorsed by the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU), the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW) and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).





## Frugal Innovation

The frugal thermometer is a safe and cheap medical device adapted to local realities and developed in coordination with end-users in East Africa. It is an example of frugal innovation: the development of high-quality, affordable products for emerging markets. The Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa (CFIA) focuses on a deeper understanding of frugal innovation.

What makes a technology frugal? How can frugal entrepreneurs reach potential markets? When does frugal innovation lead to sustainable development? Questions like these are answered in cooperation with African, Indian and European partners in the fields of business, research and government. Within CFIA, ISS/Erasmus University joins forces with Delft University of Technology and Leiden University.



## Climate change and conflict

Climate change mitigation strategies are based on the idea of protecting the global commons, but they can produce local conflicts when they recast access to land and resources. Fragile states where large-scale land acquisitions ('land-grabs') are occurring are particularly vulnerable to increased conflict involving new climate change mitigation activities, while post-conflict states with experience in managing resource conflicts can help explain how such conflicts could be prevented or transformed. This research investigates the interplay of climate change mitigation strategies, land grabbing and conflict or cooperation in Myanmar and Cambodia in the context of emerging trends within Southeast Asia.

## Sexual reproductive health and rights

Strengthening education and training capacity in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SET-SRHR) is a four-year project in Uganda. ISS is the lead institution in collaboration with Rutgers Foundation and the School of Public Health of Makerere University, and Nsamizi Training Institute for Social Development.

The project has a broad overall outcome of increasing access to, and improving quality of SRHR services that contribute to sustainable demographic and human capital development and inclusive economic growth. Working with a range of state and non-state stakeholders, the consortium is developing a coordinated, accredited, sustainable pre- and in-service gender and age-sensitive education and training programme supported by a research community of practice.

Key project components include enhancement of institutional capacity, SRHR curriculum development and delivery, demand-driven policy-relevant research and knowledge creation, and policy and practice engagement.



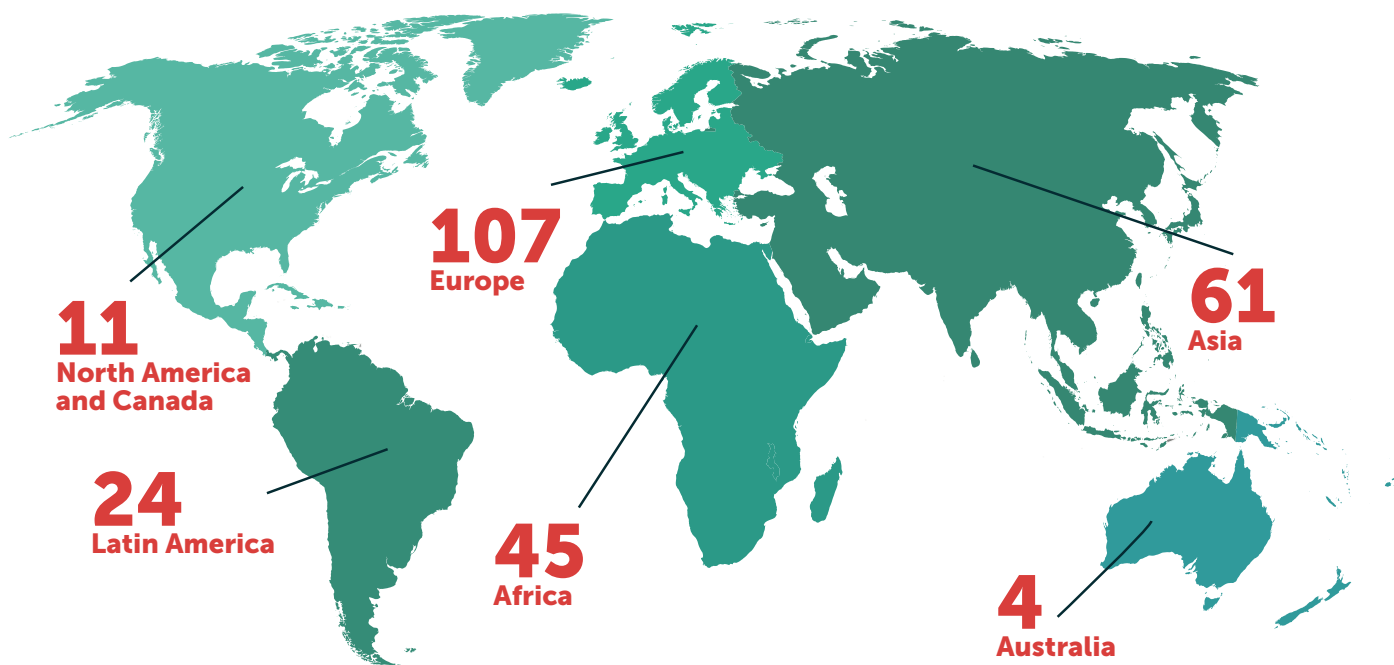
## Natural resources and environment

An Impact evaluation of community-based monitoring of socio-environmental liabilities engendered by the oil industry in the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon. An impact evaluation that studies an ongoing initiative that seeks to enhance the detection, monitoring and reporting capacity of local communities in their own territories.

**Outcomes:** To minimize socio-environmental impacts of oil extraction by building the capacity of local communities to detect, monitor and report claims using advanced but inexpensive technologies.

**Impact:** robust evidence base to hold oil companies accountable. Implementation partners are Amazon Defence Front, Indigenous People United in Defence of the Amazon and Union of Peoples Affected by Texaco.

## 250+ Research and Projects partners across the world





## Publications

ISS researchers occupy a solid number of editorial positions at leading journals in the field and as editors of book series. On average, ISS researchers have more than two editorial positions. Several staff members have been involved as editors in **Development and Change**, a leading journal in development studies co-owned by ISS. Other journals in which ISS faculty members have positions as editor-in-chief or co-editor:

- Development
- Eastern Africa Social Science Research Review
- European Journal of Women's Studies
- European Political Science Review
- Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology
- International Journal of Development and Conflict
- Journal of Community Currency Research
- Journal of Peasant Studies
- Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights
- South African Journal of Human Rights



## ISS Library

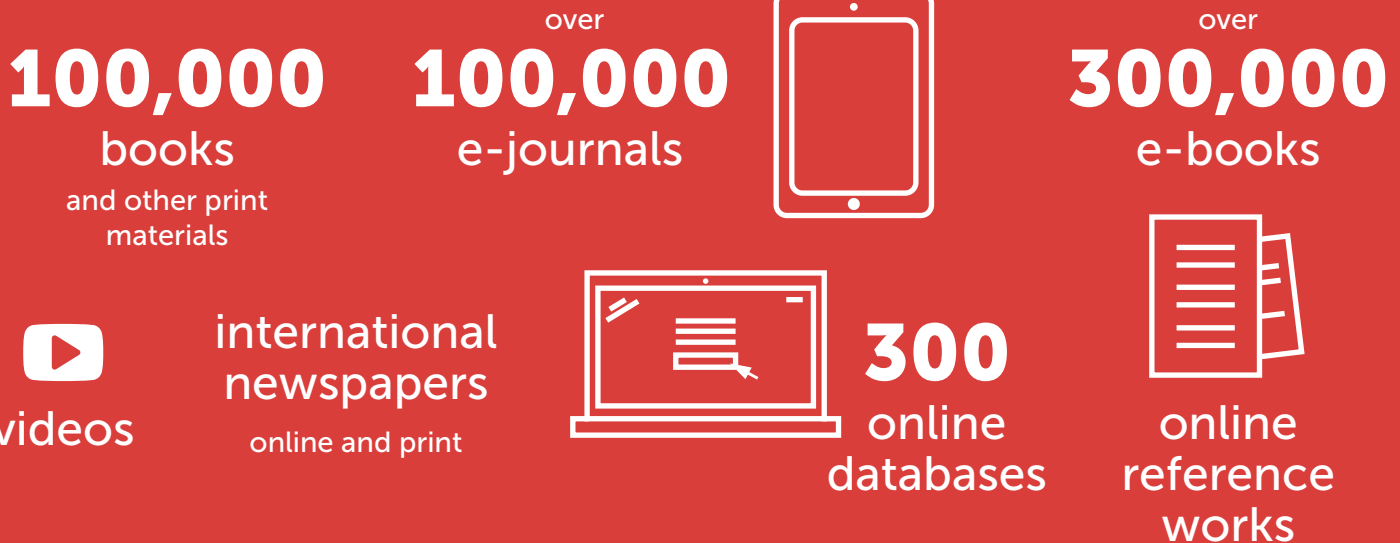
The **ISS Library** specializes in English-language research literature in the social sciences, with an emphasis on the social and **economic development of the Global South and countries in transition**.

The Library is open **95 hours** a week. There are some **115 study places**, including individual study places and places for group study. The Library strongly supports **Information Literacy skills** development by offering a broad range of workshops tailored to students, researchers and lecturers.

The ISS Library is part of the Erasmus University Library.



The ISS Library collection includes:



# The Prince Claus Chair

The Prince Claus Chair in Development and Equity was established in 2003 by Utrecht University and ISS in honour of Prince Claus of the Netherlands (1926-2002). Alternately Utrecht and ISS appoint an outstanding young academic from a developing country to the Prince Claus Chair for the advancement of research and teaching in the field of development and equity.



In 2018 the Prince Claus Chair celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. In the presence of H.M. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, Patron of the Prince Claus Chair, and Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, chair holders, post docs and other guests got together in The Hague.

## Indices of Social Development

Social development is about putting people at the centre of development. There is a growing recognition that social development is critical for broader development outcomes, including sustainable economic growth. The Indices of Social Development is hosted by ISS. It brings together 200 indicators, synthesizing them into a usable set of measures to track how different societies perform along six dimensions of social development.

## Task Team on Civil Society Organization (CSO)

The Secretariat of the Task Team on Civil Society Organization (CSO) Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment is hosted at ISS. The Task Team is an informal, multi-stakeholder network of representatives from the official donor, partner country and CSO communities. It is co-chaired by representatives from the Government of Uganda, the Government of Ireland, and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). The Task Team is dedicated to enhancing the ability of CSOs to effectively engage in development worldwide.





A photograph of a man and a woman in conversation. The man, on the left, is wearing glasses and a red shirt, looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is smiling and wearing an orange shirt and a headwrap with black and red braids. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

# ISS teaching programme

65 years of co-creating Excellence  
Empowering for Global Impact  
Providing the tools for a better world

# Development Studies in a globalizing world: combining the interconnectedness of societies with regional and local specifics

## We offer:

- Doctorate programme (PhD)
- MA in Development Studies
- Joint MA in Public Policy
- Various joint teaching programmes

At ISS, students learn to respond to our world's needs by being critical and constructive, analyzing development and translating insights into plans and concrete action.

Join our international community of:

- International students dedicated to making an impact in their country through sharing thoughts and practices, stimulating critical-thinking and forging a network for life.
- Highly qualified, diverse teaching staff with substantial academic and research backgrounds.

'The Hague, the capital of Peace and Justice is a vibrant city in which to study and live.'





## Doctorate programme (PhD)

ISS offers a four-year programme leading to the internationally recognized degree of Doctor.

### Global impact

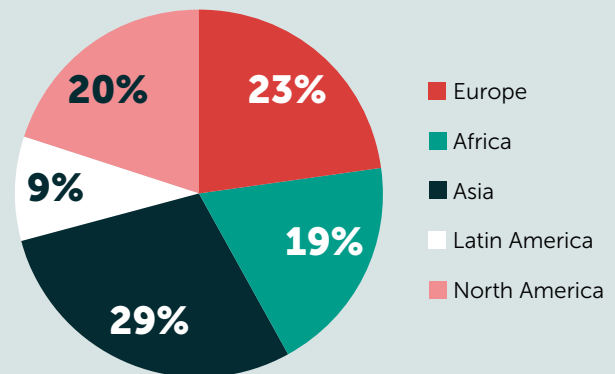
ISS has awarded over 180 PhDs while currently 150 researchers are enrolled in the PhD programme. They feel the energy and synergy as together we work on solutions to today's issues with the knowledge refined in the course of 65 years of academic excellence.

Based in The Hague, PhD researchers benefit from access to a multidisciplinary faculty working on different aspects of development problems, combined with fieldwork under local guidance with strong institutional support.

ISS participates in **CERES**, a research and PhD network of different universities in the Netherlands for studies on resource dynamics, development and social transformation at global and local levels. Together with several other faculties within Erasmus University, ISS also participates in the **Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities**.

All activities of the graduate school include a wide array of courses and aim to nurture research excellence and a vibrant academic community. These activities provide an enriching opportunity for ISS PhD researchers to interact with PhD candidates from other Erasmus University departments.

Region PhD researchers



### Together we are stronger

ISS joins forces with several other universities to further enrich the PhD programme. One example is the cooperation with the Ruhr University Bochum.

#### IEE of Ruhr University Bochum

Once the PhD candidates of ISS and the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (German acronym: IEE) of the Ruhr-University Bochum have completed their first year, they have the option to do a joint degree programme at both universities if they can demonstrate a clear added-value.

'I entered this joint PhD programme because the expertise of ISS with regard to my PhD topic (the quality of work in global production) was extremely valuable for my PhD and complements the expertise at IEE/Bochum. It gave me access to a second research institute with its unique offer of interesting colleagues, courses and research groups/programmes, hugely helpful for the progress of my PhD.'

Britta Holzberg (Germany)

# MA in Development Studies

ISS offers solid academic and professionally-relevant training in theory and methods for those wishing to start or continue their professional careers in this area. In the Master programme students examine and analyze the most recent and relevant theories of development and social change, develop crucial critical understanding, and design practical interventions to tackle these issues. The skills developed in research methodology are applied in a research paper, as a requirement for the Master's degree.

The MA Programme in Development Studies has five Majors and a special track:

- Agrarian, Food and Environmental Studies
- Economics of Development
- Governance and Development Policy
- Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies: Social Justice Perspectives
- Social Policy for Development
- MA track in Migration and Diversity

The Migration and Diversity Track is an MA in Development Studies that is offered in cooperation with various faculties and schools of the universities of Leiden, Delft and Erasmus.

**'Crucial in my study at ISS are the discussions with colleagues from all over the world leading you through a mental journey where you discover arguments from different geographic backgrounds on how to build social justice.'**

Pablo Andres (Colombia)

The MA in Development Studies and the Mundus MAPP are accredited by the Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO). The NVAO independently ensures the quality of higher education in the Netherlands and Flanders by assessing and accrediting programmes.





## Joint teaching programmes

ISS offers various joint programmes with academic partners all over the world. For some, students do the travelling, for others, staff travel. We have chosen to highlight two of our many joint programmes here.

### **Double degree University of Indonesia (UI) and ISS**

UI and ISS offer their students a double degree, taking their first year at the Faculty of Economics at the UI in Depok and the second year at ISS.

### **Master in Public Administration and International and Comparative Law**

ISS cooperates with the FHR Lim A Po Institute for Social Studies in Surinam. A jointly developed Master in Public Administration and International and Comparative Law are offered, with ISS staff teaching in both programmes.

**‘A dedicated delivery of nine intakes of the FHR-ISS Master in Public Administration and Governance programme over the past 15 years has significantly strengthened the professional core of the Surinam civil service.’**

Hans Lim A Po, Rector of the FHR Lim A Po Institute for Social Studies

## MA in Public Policy

Mundus MAPP is a two-year international joint Masters programme in Public Policy that ISS offers with three other top-ranking European institutes: Central European University (Hungary), University of York (UK) and Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (Spain).

Mundus MAPP directly responds to the educational needs created by the rapidly changing global environment and new public policy challenges. The programme equips graduates with the conceptual knowledge and hard skills that are necessary for understanding and decisively intervening in contemporary transnational policy problems, from climate change to international terrorism or financial regulatory failure. In this 2 year joint degree programme, students spend their first year either in The Hague or in Budapest and the second year either in York or in Barcelona.

**‘The UI – ISS joint education programme offers a unique, effective, and valuable opportunity for Indonesian students who have completed their one-year training in economics at UI master level, to gain international/intercultural experience supported by two institutions while studying and completing their independent studies on various issues of economic development.’**

Dr Arie Damayanti, Director of Graduate Programme in Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Indonesia



**‘I decided to do the Mundus MAPP programme to make a contribution to solving the problems of my country. To make changes, you have to start with a comprehensive understanding. In that sense, the problem-situating approach and the interaction with classmates from five continents have opened my mind to seeing and thinking about the world in a different way. The value added is that here we learn a way of thinking that never gets outdated.’**

Ana Maria Arbelaez (Colombia)



## Refresher courses and Tailor-made training

Refresher courses are tailor-made training courses in the region, offered to those who have enjoyed previous education in the Netherlands with financial support from one of the Dutch scholarship programmes. The courses contribute to the institutional development of the alumni's employing organizations and prolong the impact of the original training.

One of the refresher courses ISS has organized was in Colombia on Conflict Transformation, Peace Settlements and Social Justice in Latin America. The course offered the participants the opportunity to address questions related to the peace processes using explicit gender and intersectional perspectives, combining their existing and updated knowledge of the global, regional and national dynamics of conflicts and post-conflict transformations in Latin America.

## Modern Teaching

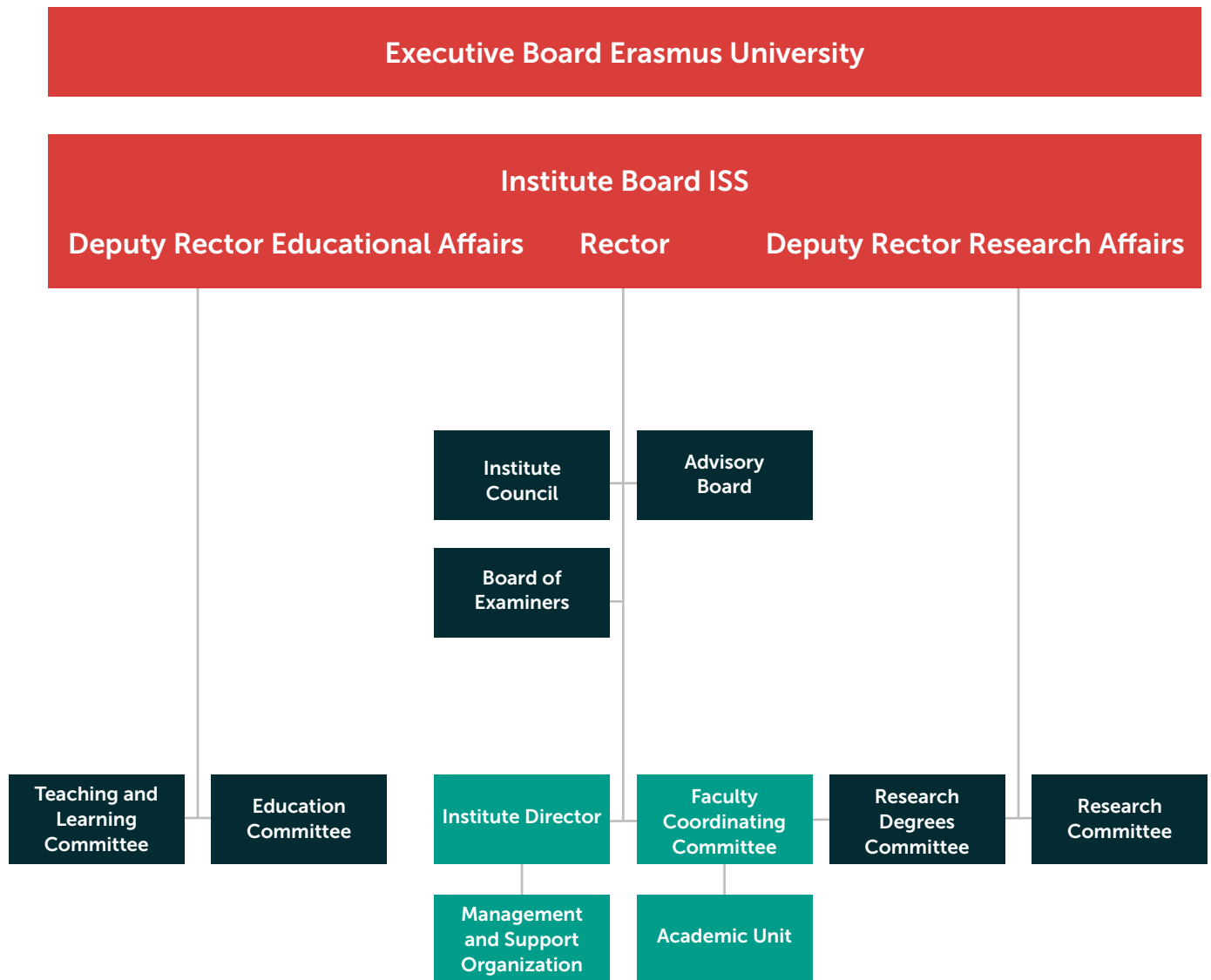
As befits an Institute in today's age, we also offer Distance Learning as a pre-taste of courses, such as the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on '**Economics from a pluralist perspective**' and '**Local Economic Development**' that we offer in co-production with other faculties of Erasmus University Rotterdam.

ISS also uses the concept of a flipped classroom, offering students' material to digest ahead of class and distance supervision for the Research component.





# Organization chart

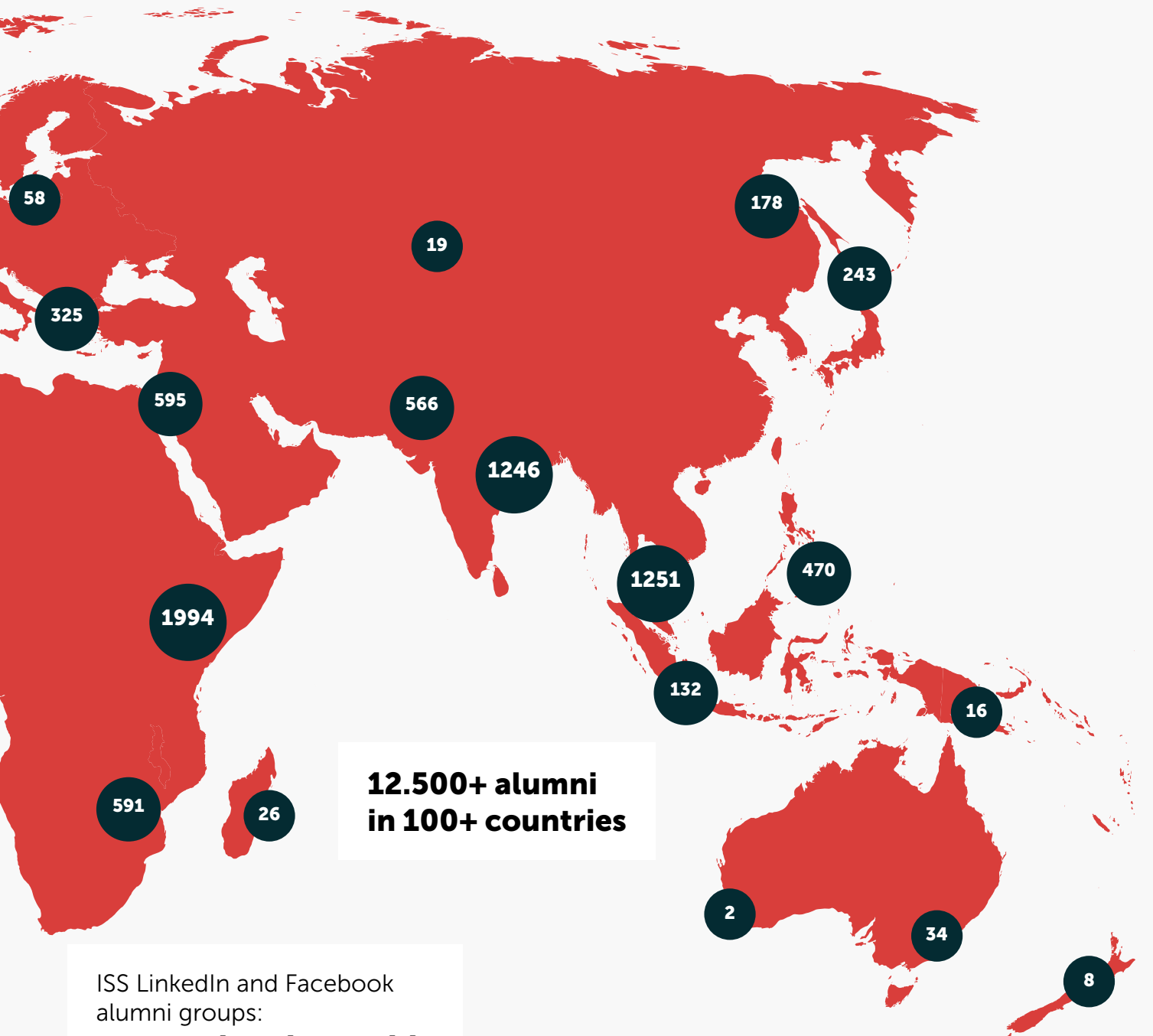


# A unique global network





# Work of ISS Alumni



ISS LinkedIn and Facebook alumni groups:  
**connecting the world, sharing vacancies and job opportunities**

Post-graduation services:  
lifelong learning and career support

# ISS faculty



Within ISS, highly trained and qualified staff deliver excellent education and research. All academic staff hold a PhD and teaching qualifications and are experienced researchers and experts in their fields. They integrate their research into their teaching, which they deliver with passion, eager to foster a critical mind-set among students, share experiences and knowledge, not only from their expertise, but also from all the combined knowledge available in the classroom.

Their research focusses on societally relevant themes, carried out in joint groups, within or outside ISS. In addition to the academic skills, one of the outstanding characteristics of our staff is the focus on our students' ability to build capacity, both at ISS and throughout the world. Our staff bring in projects, including postdocs and PhD opportunities, and further strengthen the ISS. They are supported by professionals in project management.

ISS believes that education and research flourish best when they involve scientists who represent a variety of viewpoints, cultures, knowledge and experiences.

'At ISS a **diversity policy** is in place to promote diversity, equality and inclusion within the institute'



## ISS Alumni Fund

# Contribute to future ISS students **Because we can ALL make a difference**

Join us in empowering the next generation

Established in 2012, the ISS Alumni Fund is dedicated to providing financial support to talented prospective students, ensuring a new generation of agents of change to pursue our mission.

### Why participate?

Having studied at ISS or elsewhere and having witnessed the impact of this experience on your career and on your life, would you like to enable others, less fortunate, to do the same and to give them the chance to acquire not only the knowledge and the skills but also to forge a vital network of contacts for life? We pride ourselves at ISS in being a Global Family whose links do not break at Graduation. Now is YOUR opportunity to make a difference.

### How?

- Via an online donation  
(see [www.iss.nl/alumnifund](http://www.iss.nl/alumnifund))
- Via direct bank transfer to:

Erasmus Trust Fund in Rotterdam  
IBAN: NL06ABNA0564414352  
BIC: ABNANL2A

Please state your name and ISS Alumni Fund when you make your payment.

The ISS Alumni Fund has its own board consisting of two ISS alumni and the ISS Deputy Rector for Educational Affairs.






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