

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr Thijs Bosker Dr David Ehrhardt
Title of clinic:	Governance for sustainability in Africa
Number of students:	1-3
Major (<i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i>):	Any
(Pre)requisites (<i>if applicable</i>):	A passion for understanding, and hopefully improving, environmental governance for sustainability!

Research context

All over the African continent, traditional leaders (such as queens, chiefs, or elders) are involved in environmental governance – from cleaning up city neighbourhoods to managing precious natural resources. Their long-term connection to their people and land gives them a good reason to promote sustainability; but the extent to which they manage to do so, and the conditions under which this is most likely, have not been studied systematically.

This clinic aims to assess the contribution of traditional leaders to sustainability governance in Africa through a systematic review of the literature. The role of chiefs in Africa's environmental governance is not only an important issue in its own right; it also has implications for thinking about what 'decolonised' African governance may look like. Conducting a systematic review on this subject will also help us to figure out how to do systematic reviews in the field of African Studies (where they are quite rare) in both an effective and inclusive way.

If successful, the findings will be disseminated as a review paper and, if relevant, through online channels (e.g. a website). In the longer term, the research will contribute to a research proposal.

Students' tasks and activities

Please specify the tasks and activities, timeline, the learning aims and how they are assessed, i.e. what the deliverables will be.

Students will engage in the following activities:

1. Systematically searching for and synthesizing scholarly evidence on the connection between long-term leaders and sustainability governance;
2. Writing annotated bibliographies and short review papers;
3. Contributing to writing a review paper to be submitted for publication;
4. Designing, if applicable, other creative ways of disseminating the research findings, e.g. through a website.