For over 40 years international aid programmes have been trying to eradicate illiteracy in the world. In spite of these programmes, there is a widespread global learning crisis. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the region that is lagging most behind. Poor literacy levels in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) are caused by factors of historical, social, cultural, economic, and political nature. In this course, we will address literacy and its impact on the socio-economic development in SSA from social scientific, linguistic and educational research perspectives. The course contains the following themes:

- Introduction to the social, political, and historical development of Sub-Saharan Africa since the 19th century to the state of Africa today.
- Introduction to the concept of literacy.
- Language in education policies.
- Reading literacy: models and theories in reading research.
- Measuring literacy.

We will start the day with a lecture to introduce the above mentioned theory and concepts. Then you are expected to participate in group or plenary discussions actively. To familiarise participants with the SSA context, video materials will be presented on a daily basis. In the afternoon, you will work in groups (max 3 students) to prepare a literacy case study on one of the following countries: Ghana, South-Africa, Mozambique, Rwanda or Tanzania. Upon arrival, you will receive a USB stick with links to relevant research tools, research articles and UNESCO reports to facilitate their investigation. You will have present the results of your case study on the last day of the course.

**After this course you are able to**

- Give an informed opinion about the role of literacy for the socio-economic development of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Explain the dynamics of language policies in education in multilingual developing contexts.
- Give an overview of the most commonly used instruments for testing literacy and discuss their advantages and disadvantages.
- Conduct interdisciplinary research into literacy practices in the SSA context.

**Numer of EC**

2 ECTS credits
Entry level
Master

Course leader
Dr. Lieke Stoffelsma, Researcher, Faculty of Arts, Radboud University

This course is designed for
This course is designed for students from the following disciplines: language and communication studies, linguistics, social sciences, educational psychology, and education. Students are expected to have a special interest in developing countries and/or Sub Saharan Africa.

Dates
Monday 14 August - Friday 18 August 2017

Course fee
€450

Discounts
• 10% discount if you register before April 1, 2017.
• 15% additional partner-discount for students from partners universities on all course fees! See website for complete partner list!
Want to be part of the RSS experience?

More than just a course!
Radboud Summer School is more than an academic event. It is a unique opportunity to meet other international students and researchers and to get to know Radboud University and the city of Nijmegen. Our participants come from all over the world and have different cultural and academic backgrounds. Our programme includes the following activities free of charge: welcome reception, sports activity, guest lecture and farewell drink. We offer also a BBQ, River Cruise, City Tour, Pub quiz and excursion for a small fee.

Have a look at what participants had to say about their experience!

And do not forget to register now!

Deadline application
June 1, 2017

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