

Interview Zambian students

1. What made you decide to study child psychology and child and family studies?
2. What subject within the field interest's you most and would you like to specialize in?
3. How do see your future as far as this study goes? Would you be interested in getting a PhD-degree?
4. And do you feel that your stay in Leiden has helped you to move forward?
5. What would you recommend be done different next time students from Zambia come to Leiden?

Haatembo:

Children have always been interesting to me and I have always been fascinated by the phenomenon of human development, especially child development. Also I have had a keen interest in children's rights and have been involved in this move back home. This general interest made me feel I wanted to venture in the field of child psychology and the coming of Marinus van IJzendoorn to Lusaka really presented to me an opportunity that I had been hoping for.

Having followed the courses that I followed in this programme, I have developed a keen interest in the field of attachment and would indeed love to specialize in this field. Especially, I have developed a interest in the cross cultural approach to the study of attachment, having realized that there has been little work that has been done in African and non western societies in general. In terms of how I see my future, I see myself contributing massively in the field of research in my country both to academia and policy formulation and development and to the field of attachment in general, especially from an African perspective, bridging the information gap that is existent in this field. This is perhaps the more reason why I feel that pursuing a PhD is necessary for me because I feel that I am not adequately equipped, with the level of knowledge that I have at the moment, even though I consider myself highly enlightened. Finally, indeed my stay in Leiden has been very beneficial to me and helped me to move forward.

Given

Because of some organizations that I was working with during vacation holidays which deal with children's welfare I developed an interest in children-related issues and I wanted to do a course at masters that would be beneficial to this cause. Therefore the chance to come to Leiden and do this course was a timely opportunity.

Attachment has been of interest to me especially that in my country it is not well know. In particular I would like to specialize and look at the applicability of the attachment theory in every day life problems and challenges among children and the interventions that could be applied to these problems. With

this in mind I deliberately chose to do my MSc research on caregiver - child attachment and drug adherence among HIV+ children. Further because of the dearth in knowledge that I have in prevention and intervention I wish to continue my studies to PHD level and come up with an intervention programme among caregivers who find it problematic to administer drugs to their children due to the (lack of) sensitivity surrounding their interactions.

Thus a PhD would complete what I would like to specialize in and contribute to the academic and grass root level in my country with astronomic problems with regards to children.

Tamara

Since I started studying psychology, I was fascinated and I have always wanted to further my studies in the direction of the field of psychology. I pictured myself to study clinical psychology and next to that option was child development. Other than interest is the fact that there are a few developmental psychologists in Zambia and I thought this would be a good contribution.

The package I have received from here in terms of study courses and materials is mostly novel. This would be a totally new contribution in Zambia-attachment. After having had a chance to study the course materials and the sessions I have attended I see myself being an attachment specialist! Of course, I would like to do a PhD- degree. This way, the package will be complete! My study in Leiden has been an eye opener to many different fields through the colloquia courses. Many people lack this knowledge and therefore are confined to the little knowledge they have about certain fields. Leiden has made me to be acquainted with meta-analysis for instance, a whole new drive towards empirical research!

We all feel it would be better for students to visit Leiden for a longer period of time, if possible a whole academic year. Also, we were fortunate to be able to come together and would not recommend a student coming alone as it is quite difficult to adjust, and having each other's support was very good. If students from the University of Zambia were to come to Leiden, it might be a good idea for them to be guided by us before they go to Leiden to get them prepared. Then we might also be able to assess whether they are motivated enough and are able to handle it.

Finally, we would like to have known beforehand what the grant would cover exactly and what we needed to pay for ourselves.



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