**Call for Applications**

***Archive of Solidarity: Oral Histories of Dutch Anti-Colonial and Anti-Apartheid Activists***

**CEL-Project in Cooperation with the International Institute of Social History**

**Block 4 of Academic Year 2024-25**

**7.5 EC**

**The Project**

In 2024 and 2025, we commemorate thirty years since the end of apartheid in South Africa in 1994 and fifty years since the official end of Portuguese colonialism in Africa in 1975, respectively. The global anti-colonial and anti-apartheid movements found some of their most active members in the Netherlands, led by the Angola Comité, later renamed the Komitee Zuidelijk Afrika, and the Anti-Apartheidsbeweging Nederland. These groups first primarily supported the liberation movements in Angola and Mozambique and later their counterparts in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa.

The main aim of this [Community Engaged Learning](http://www.uu.nl/en/education/community-engaged-learning) (CEL) project is for students to conduct oral history interviews with Dutch former anti-colonial and anti-apartheid activists. Recording their stories and experiences, which are not fully captured in any written accounts, is of significant importance not only for Dutch but Southern African and global history. Given the advanced age of many former activists, this is also an urgent task. The interview recordings, transcripts, and possibly other materials, such as photographs, will be archived in the anti-apartheid and Southern Africa collection of the project partner, the [International Institute of Social History](https://iisg.amsterdam/) (IISG), to make them accessible to the other historians and the wider public.

In the spirit of reciprocity, students will not only conduct and record interviews but also discuss former activists’ wishes for other project outcomes. More broadly, these interviews – conceived as a form of inter-generational dialogue – aim to be a transformative space of recollection and reflection for both former activists and students. For interviewees, they will be an opportunity for reflection and possibly new insights, such as “lessons learned”. For activists who are still politically active, these interviews will also be an opportunity to hear and learn from younger generations. Students, in turn, will gain important practical experience in the preparing, conducting, and archiving of interviews. Learning these skills will not only be useful for potential future research but also for work outside of academia, for example, in think-tanks and NGOs. In addition, students will learn about the complexities, challenges, and joys of engaging in the struggle for a more just world.

This CEL project is supervised by [Dr. Lennart Bolliger](https://www.uu.nl/staff/LBolliger) from Utrecht University and a staff member from the IISG. The project will take place during block 4 of the academic year 2024-25 and, upon completion, will be compensated with 7.5 EC (level 3). Students will take the course within the elective space (profileringsruimte). There will be mandatory weekly meetings, which will be scheduled in consultation.

**Selection Criteria**

We are looking for 4-10 BA students from the Faculty of Humanities who have obtained at least 75 EC. More specifically, we are looking for students who:

* Have an interest in the topic of (anti-colonial) activism;
* Want to work according to the principles of Community Engaged Learning;
* Work well in a team;
* Are self-motivated and actively take responsibility;
* Are fluent in both Dutch (to conduct oral history interviews) and English (to read existing literature).

**Application**

To apply for this project, please send an email with a short motivational paragraph (max. 250 words) to Dr. Lennart Bolliger ([l.bolliger@uu.nl](mailto:l.bolliger@uu.nl)) by Friday, 7 March 2025 at the latest. In case of too few or too many applications, further notice will follow as soon as possible.