

Mind the master

reflections on what students taught me

Louk Box

Adab means: enriching one's
knowledge with other's



Amateurs and professionals

- Amateurs and their contribution to the world of knowledge
- Current science: ever more closed epistemic communities or “knowledge-based communities that have a common approach to understanding, and that give common policy advice” (Haas)
- Students as amateur professionals

Conclusions

1. *Recognise that amateurs matter in science*
2. *Amateurs matter but so does social context*
3. *Professional scientists prefer to go it alone,*
4. *Use brokers to link amateurs and professionals*
5. *Link private strategy to public policy through open clusters*

Conclusions

6. *Gear government policies to knowledge exchange between amateurs and pro's.*
7. *Use international cooperation agencies as brokers in S&T*
8. *Acknowledge a novel mode of knowledge production based on professionalisation of amateurs and prepare for ...*
9. *the amateurisation of science professionals*

Step 1:

Recognize that amateurs matter

- Koen's discovery: the Pro-Am
- Pro-Ams: “a new social hybrid – amateurs that work to professional standards”
- Pro-Ams: “knowledgeable, educated, committed and networked by new technology”

Source: C Leadbeater & P Miller *The Pro-Am Revolution: How enthusiasts are changing our economy & society* Demos (November 2004)

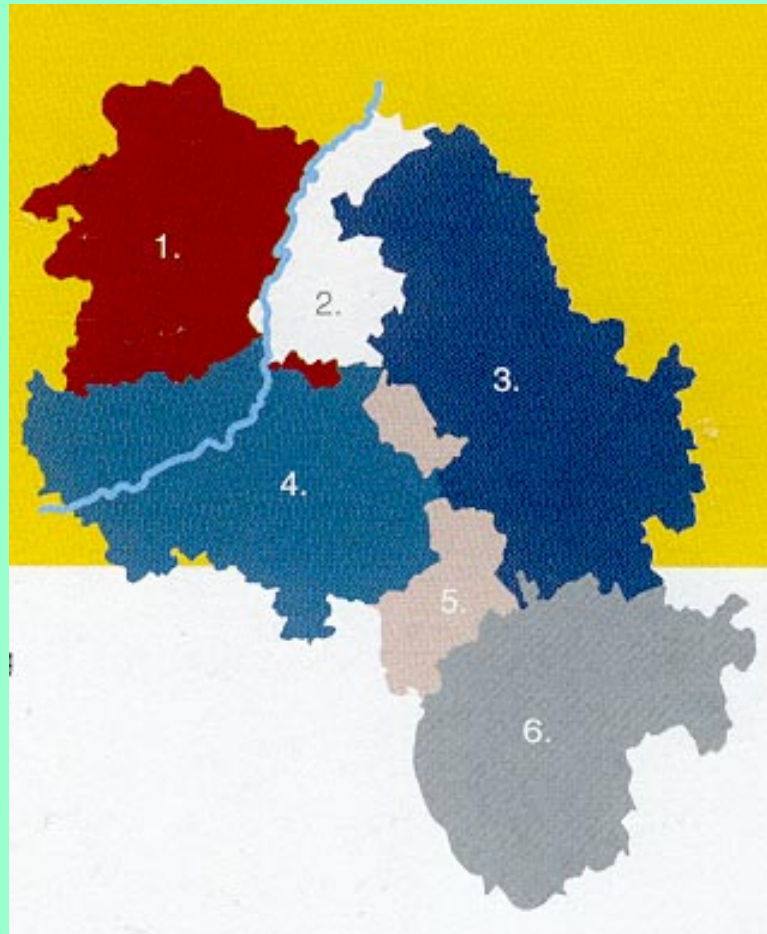
Amateur ... and Pro



2. Amateurs matter, but so does context



The two Limburgs





The two Limburgs

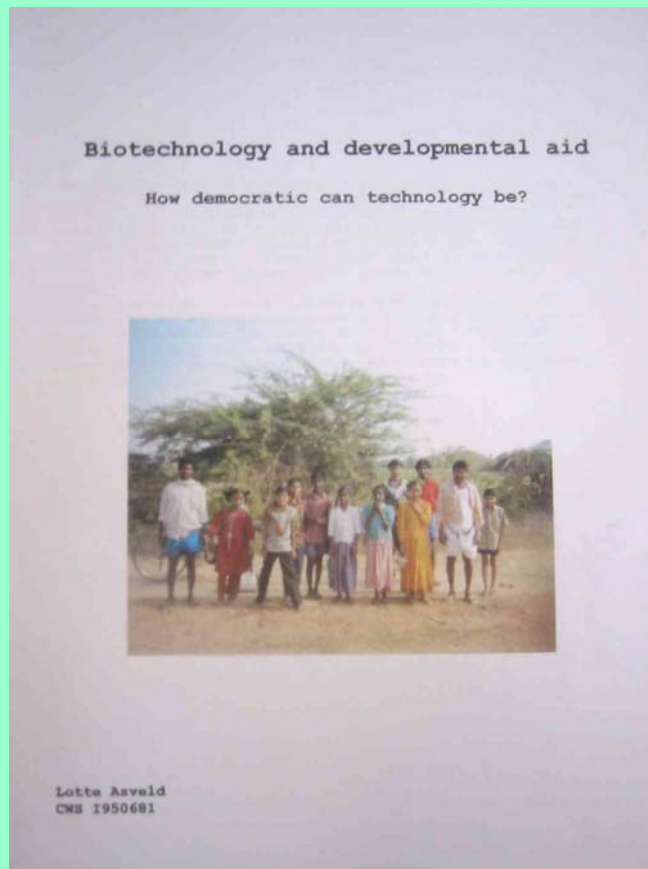
Dutch

- *Mergelland*
- Separate we go
- Commercial growers each separate
- No 'Appellation'

Belgian

- *Haspengouw*
- Together we win
- Commercial growers link with amateurs
- Appellation

3. Remember: professionals prefer to go it alone

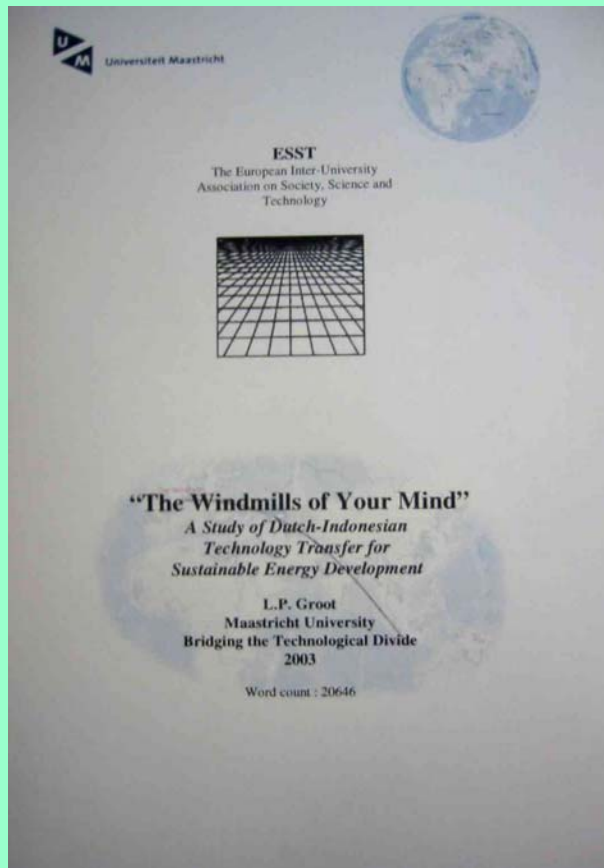


Lotte Asveld

Biotechnology & developmental aid

- India-Netherlands project – Bottom-Up?
- No real knowledge exchange
- Context: hierarchical

4. Use brokers to link amateurs and professionals



Lisette Groot

‘The Windmills of your mind...’

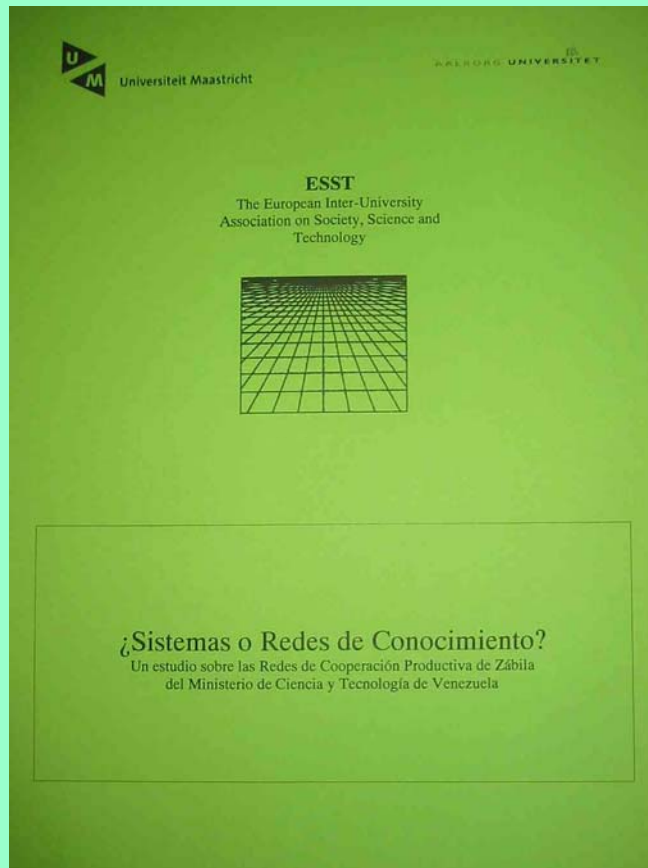
- Indonesia-Netherlands
- Sustainable energy
- ‘Public’ windmills & ‘private’ solar cells
- What failed?



What failed in the brokerage?

- *“The failure of wind-energy technology in Indonesia is not because of the technology itself. It is because the ‘sender’ (the Netherlands) did not listen and see the conditions in Indonesia”*
- Mixed approach needed

5. Link private strategy to public policy ← open clusters



Armando Bajares

*Sistemas o redes de
conocimiento?*

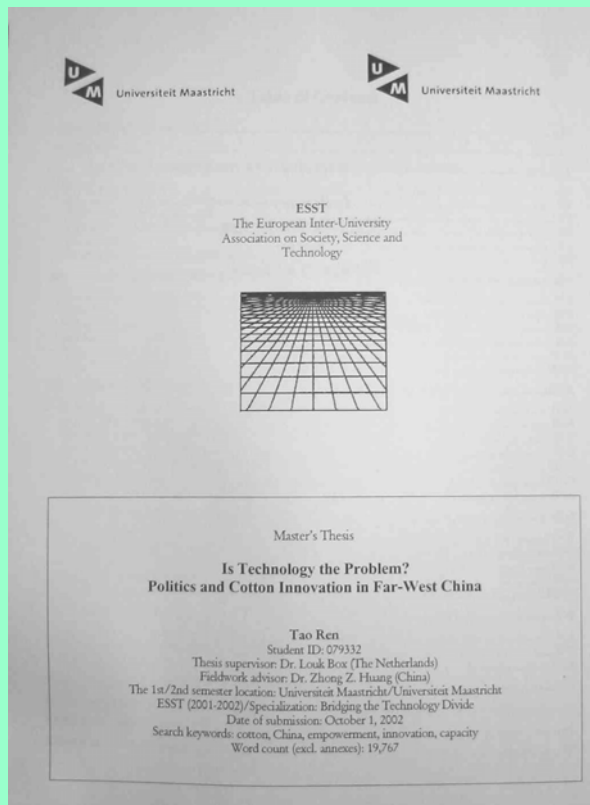
- Venezuela (Falcon)
- *Aloe* Barbadosensis
- ‘open cluster’
- Initiative: public policies & university

6. Gear Government policies to knowledge exchange between amateurs and professionals

Tao Ren

Is technology the problem? Politics and cotton innovation in Far-West China (Xianjing)

- Organic cotton vs GM
- Hierarchy & centralism
- ‘Muslim’ anxiety
- Closed networks
- No brokerage



7. Use international cooperation agencies as brokers

- Back to the notion of epistemic communities (*Knowledge based communities that have a common approach to understanding & give common policy advice*)
- Example Haas: Mediterranean Sea & UN Environment Programme
- Extend notion to Int Coop in general

Modes of knowledge production

Mode 1

- Problems set in academic context
- Discipline based
- Homogeneity
- Hierarchical
- Scientific peer review

Mode 2

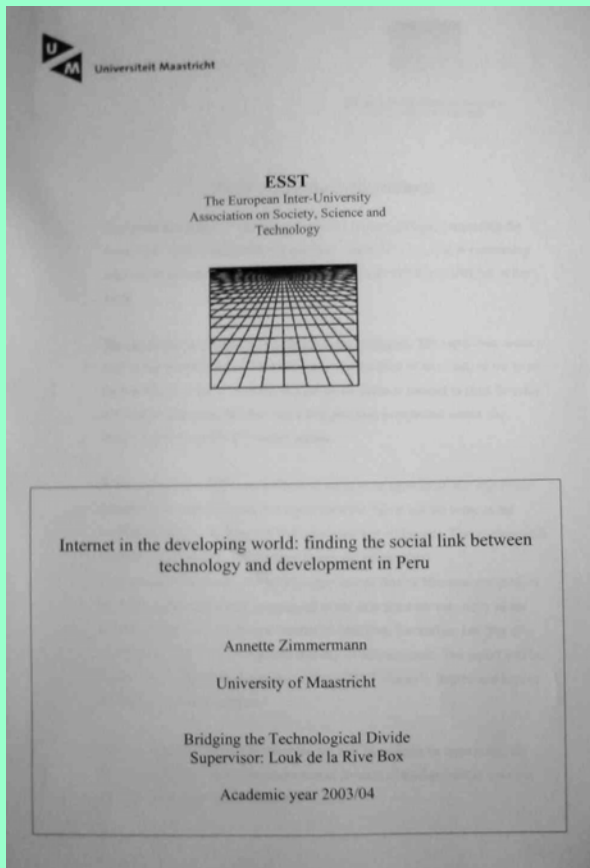
- Problems set in application context
- Transdisciplinary
- Heterogeneity
- Heterarchical
- Social accountability

**Source: based on Ulmanen, and
Johnsrud, after Gibbons et al.**

International cooperation: regard for demand?

- Just bottom-up *vs* Top-down (mode 1 *vs* 2)?
- No: because Dutch Bottom-up approach was implemented in Top-down manner
- See experience Lotte Asveld – Indian biotechnologists do not listen to peasants
- Researchers are dependent on funding and implement any biotech.

8. Acknowledge a novel mode of knowledge production



Annette Zimmermann

*Internet in the developing world:
finding the social link between
technology & development*

- Leader's on line networks
- Community integration
- Increase social capital, or trust

9. Prepare for the amateurisation of science!

- Amateurs have always had significant role in science: relation with professionals has changed
- See case of Mendel
- But also William Smith ‘The map that changed the world’ ...

William Smith

The Map that Changed the World



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