

Annelou Ypeij

Tine Davids and Marina de Regt



Already as a student, Annelou was engaged in feminist anthropology. Her activities with LOVA started in the mid-1980s, when, still a student in Utrecht, she participated in study groups discussing feminist literature and organising LOVA study days, initially under the inspiring guidance of Gerdien Steenbeek. In 1985, she co-organised a LOVA study day at Utrecht University.

In May 1989, she co-published her very first article in the LOVA newsletter about theory and practice of feminist methodology, together with Hermien Boschman, Marjonel van Hooft, Bernice de Jong Boers, and Martine de Schutter. She finished her master's degree cum laude in 1990 at Utrecht University.

Soon after, Annelou's career took off, always characterised by a passion and dedication for feminist and gender studies. For her PhD research she went to Peru where she investigated gender in relation to poverty among female micro entrepreneurs. While writing her PhD thesis *Producing against Poverty*, which also appeared in Spanish, she lived in Mexico for six years with her husband Reinoud Roscam Abbing, who was a journalist for NRC Handelsblad at the time, one of the leading newspapers in the Netherlands. She received her PhD degree in 1995. After returning to the Netherlands, she held a post-doctoral position in a project at Erasmus University Rotterdam, for which she studied gender,

motherhood and poverty in the Netherlands. The output of this research resulted in her book *Single Motherhood and Poverty: The Case of the Netherlands* and was published by Amsterdam University Press in 2009.

Since 2003 she worked at CEDLA, from where she continued to publish widely and internationally about gender, social mobility, poverty and tourism in Latin America. At CEDLA she worked on various research projects, including a project on tourism in the Cusco-Machu Picchu region and the impact of tourism on local communities. Within this project but also more generally, Annelou focused on the ethnic and gender identities, and livelihood strategies, of women and men who worked in the lowest echelons of the labour market. Another project concerned a study on gender, family relations and social mobility in the urban context. For this she collected life histories in the Cono Norte area of Lima to better understand processes of national and international migration, changing gender and ethnic identities, social mobility and other family dynamics. Furthermore, she was also involved in the making of a documentary about the Peruvian rockband Uchpa, a project of visual anthropologist Sharis Coppens.

In addition to numerous scientific articles and book chapters, she edited and co-edited several books among which *La ruta Andina: Turismo y Desarrollo sostenible en Perú y Bolivia* (2006) together with Annelies Zoomers, *Polishing the Stone: A Journey through the Promotion of Gender Equality in Development Projects* (2007) together with Rosemary Vargas, and (2009) together with Michiel Baud. Her publications were not her only contributions to Latin American studies in general, and feminist anthropology and gender studies in particular. Next to coordinating the Latin American Studies programme, she taught various courses on gender and supervised many students and PhD students. Among her last PhD students was LOVA member Irene Arends, who defended her PhD *Digital youth spaces in Chile. Young people's everyday negotiations of gender and sexuality* on 11 October 2022.

Throughout these different periods and positions, Annelou remained very active for LOVA. Already in 1998, she took a seat in the LOVA board, first representing the LOVA Study Day Committee (LOSCO). From July 2001 to October 2002, Gerdien and Annelou successively chaired LOVA due to illness of then-chair Karin Willemse. From June 2004 to June 2010, Gerdien and Annelou acted as co-chairs. Under the inspiring leadership of Annelou and with support of Gerdien, Annelou started the internationalisation of LOVA with the first international conference in 2008, entitled *Ethnographies of Gender and Globalisation*. The LOVA journal became bi-lingual and the first international summer school was organised in 2012, an idea of Reinhilde Sotiria König. Together with Reinhilde and Georg Frerks, she edited the volume *Gender and Conflict: Embodiments, Discourses and Social Practices* (Ashgate 2014, republished as an e-edition by Routledge in 2016), which was based on the second LOVA international conference on *Ethnographies of Gender and Conflict* in 2011.

Annelou proved to be multitalented. She was not only very good at organising, as the successful international conferences illustrate, but she also was very creative in accessing funds for LOVA activities, in particular in her position as treasurer from 2011 until 2014. With infinite energy, ease and optimism she executed her different and sometimes difficult tasks and responsibilities for LOVA, next to her regular job obligations. In doing so, she inspired others and convinced them that LOVA was good to go international.

Annelou's contribution to LOVA is priceless, not only because of her achievements in advancing research and teaching on feminist anthropology and gender, but because under her caring hands and spirit LOVA has grown substantially and was taken to a higher level. This is a heritage that we have to cherish and advance.

Annelou, as was to be expected, will not sit still after her retirement. As an affiliated fellow at CEDLA, per 1 November 2020, she intends to continue working on a number of publications. She also remains an

editorial board member of the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (JLACA) of the Society of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (SLACA), a section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), for which she regularly writes reviews. Recently she published her first autobiographic novel entitled: *Schudverlamming, een autobiografisch verhaal over liefde en verlies*, in which she writes about the illness and the loss of her husband Reinoud.

We admire you for the passion and strength you have displayed all those years, and we hope that you will be engaged with LOVA for many more years to come.