



LeidenGlobal



Universiteit
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New futures for (post)colonial collections and research

14–15 October 2014
Leiden

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Program and speakers

Tuesday October 14th

- Venue: National Museum of Ethnology
Steenstraat 1, Leiden
- 09:15–09:30 Introduction by Gert Oostindie (KITLV/Leiden University)
- 09:30–11:00 **Panel 1: ‘Alternative histories: co–presence, colonial collections and knowledge exchange’**
– **Charles Jeurgens** (Leiden University)
– **Patrick Effiboley** (Université Paris X–Nanterre)
– **Bambi Ceuppens** (Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren)
– **Harm Stevens** (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)
Chairs: Marieke Bloembergen (KITLV) and Wayne Modest (National Museum of Ethnology)
- 11:00–12:30 **Panel 2: ‘Where is the archive?’**
– **Dienke Hondius** (Free University, Amsterdam)
– **Wonu Veys** (National Museum of Ethnology)
– **Fridus Steijlen** (KITLV)
Chair: Patricia Spyer (Leiden University)
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch
- 13:30–15:00 **Panel 3: ‘The future of area studies and (post) colonial collections’**
– **Lungisile Ntsebeza** (Director of the African Studies Centre in Cape Town and Chair of the Association of African Studies Centres in Africa)
– **Engseng Ho** (Duke University)
– **Tsolin Nalbantian** (Leiden University)
– **Sanjukta Sunderason** (Leiden University)
Chair: Henk Schulte Nordholt (KITLV/LIAS)
- 15:00–15:30 Break
- 15:30–17:00 **Panel 4: ‘Colonial law: academic heritage and today’s relevance’**
– **Willem van der Muur** (Leiden University)
– **Sanne Ravensbergen** (Leiden University)
– **Stijn van Huis** (Leiden University)
Chair: Jan Michiel Otto (Van Vollenhoven Institute, Leiden University)
- 17:00–18:00 Drinks

Wednesday October 15th

- Venue: Leiden University Library, Heinsiuszaal
Witte Singel 27 Leiden
- 09:30–11:00 **Panel 5: ‘Colonial collections, post-colonial practices’**
– **Bareez Majid** (Leiden University, ResMA)
– **Haneen Omari** (Leiden University, PhD candidate)
– **Linda Goltsche** (Leiden University, ResMA)
Chair: Isabel Hoving (Leiden University)
- 11:30–13:00 **Guided tour** along contemporary art in and around the National Museum of Ethnology by Kitty Zijlmans
Venue: National Museum of Ethnology,
Steenstraat 1, Leiden
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Asian Library Event

N.B.: Registration required: <http://library.leiden.edu/asianlibrary>

- Venue Lipsius Building Conference Theatre 019
Cleveringaplaats 1 Leiden
- 16:00–16:30 Registration
- 16.30–16.40 Welcome by Rector Magnificus Carel Stolker
- 16.40–17.20 Lecture ‘Squeezed between Rice and Potato. Personal reflections on a Dutch (post) colonial youth’ by novelist Adriaan van Dis
- 17.20–17.50 Interview with Elizabeth Pisani, author of *Indonesia etc. Exploring the Improbable Nation* by David Henley (Leiden University) and Henk Schulte Nordholt (KITLV).
- 17.50–18.00 Closing remarks by Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Retno L.P. Marsudi

Closing session

- Venue Leiden University Library
Witte Singel 27 Leiden
- 18.15–18.20 Welcome by University Librarian Kurt De Belder
- 18.20–18.30 Introduction to the exhibition Investigating Indonesia by Fridus Steijlen (KITLV)
- 18.30–20.00 Reception (including finger food) and viewing of the exhibition

Panel information

Panel 1: 'Alternative histories: co-presence, colonial collections and knowledge exchange'

This panel takes up the concepts of *co-presence and relationality* as frameworks for rethinking the complex histories of colonial collections held within European collecting and research institutions. Tallying with recent scholarly efforts to achieve more complex and nuanced understandings of the *colonial situation*, as well as the already robust body of work that has explored collections and the politics of representation, we want to examine objects and collections as key *sites of (colonial) relations*, where different actors – collectors, mediators and 'providers', colonisers and colonised, or involved 'outsiders' – have been implicated in 'producing' objects, collections and the various forms of knowledge they have come to embody. Here we take these objects, collections and knowledge not as cultural facts but as produced through relations, in the act of collecting; and through processes of moral and material exchange (including theft and gift-giving), crossing time and space.

Focussing on *co-presence and relationality* we want to open up the possibility to pose new questions of colonial collections, exploring the instability of the ideas and identities they represent as well as the relationships that produced them. For example, beyond conceptions of the 'representability' of objects for particular cultural groups, what other meaning can we ascribe to them? Can, for example, ethnographic/colonial collections be reframed to write other histories of exchange, trade or industrialisation beyond dichotomies of traditional vs modern, or primitive vs civilised? Might we use these collections to think through, for example, a history of global design and craftsmanship? What '(co)presences' of the various actors involved in collecting can we uncover from an '(historical) ethnography' of these collections to produce more complex and multi-layered views of the past? What are the individual, scholarly, institutional or state centred agendas, and what kind of (other) engagements, hierarchies and interdependencies can we see emerge by studying these collections as forms of co-presence, relationality, and knowledge exchange?

Panellist will reflect (in max. 15 minutes) on (one or more of) these questions by a well-developed historical case study, concerning a history of collecting, or the historical trajectories of an object or a collection, during transformative periods in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

Speakers:

- Charles Jeurgens (Leiden University)
- Patrick Effiboley (Université Paris X–Nanterre)
- Bambi Ceuppens (Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren)
- Harm Stevens (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam)

Chairs: Marieke Bloembergen (KITLV)
 Wayne Modest (NMvW)

Panel 2: 'Where is the archive?'

In popular imagination, archives are often imagined as especially dusty and dull, the repository of large quantities of arcane or bureaucratic knowledge, inhabited by the 'archive rat', an obsessive, unattractive variety of the human, and relatively impervious to public interest, politics, or time – in short, with little or no purchase on anything contemporary or relevant. If even the most institutionally secured archives are inevitably shot through and inflected by public concerns – both those of the time(s) and conditions in which they emerged as those in which they continue to operate – this 'classical' archive today is increasingly turned inside out while other more vernacular forms of archive and archiving are coming into play. This panel looks at the shifting relationships between the archive and everyday contexts of practice and production within today's immense archival proliferation, fragmentation, and much celebrated if largely unexamined 'democratization'. The question 'where is the archive?' aims to draw our attention to the changing sites and enhanced publicity of the archive and explore the implications thereof.

Speakers (in the order below):

- Patricia Spyer, Institute of Cultural Anthropology, Leiden University (intro 5 min)
- Dienke Hondius, Faculty of Humanities, Free University, Amsterdam
'Return to Sender: Including Slavery, History, and Heritage in National and Local Narratives in Europe in the Mapping Slavery Project'
- Wonu Veys, Curator of Oceania, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden
'The Scattered Archive: The Return of Photographs to Numbulwar, Arnhem Land'
- Fridus Steijlen, Researcher, KITLV, Leiden
'Archive on a Tray: Connecting *Recording the Future* to World Wide Web'

Chair: Patricia Spyer (Leiden University)

Panel 3: 'The future of area studies and (post)colonial collections'

This panel is sponsored by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and the African Studies Centre (ASC).

Topics for discussion in this panel include:

- What is left of the good old areas since globalization blurred supposedly clear boundaries and areas have become more fluid as more people engage in transnational networks? How should areas be identified, conceptualized and understood in a globalized world?
- How should we respond to shrinking funds and attacks on area based institutes due to disciplinary imperialism (in particular by economists and political scientists) which tend to marginalizes local knowledge? On the other hand, for most people in for instance Southeast Asia, 'Southeast Asia' is a totally irrelevant concept, whereas their own home region becomes increasingly important as a marker of identification.
- How do colonial and postcolonial collections (archives, libraries and other repositories) feature in this respect? What can we say in this respect about shifting notions of ownership and the necessity to make established colonial collections accessible for a wider audience in the South?

Speakers:

- Lungisile Ntsebeza (Director of the African Studies Centre in Cape Town and Chair of the Association of African Studies Centres in Africa)
- Engseng Ho (Department of Anthropology of Duke University)
- Tsolin Nalbantian (LIAS Leiden University)
- Sanjukta Sunderason, (LIAS Leiden University)

Chair: Henk Schulte Nordholt (KITLV/LIAS)

Panel 4: 'Colonial law: academic heritage and today's relevance'

This panel addresses Leiden's postcolonial heritage of legal studies. It forms part of Dutch and European efforts to reinforce engagement with colonial and postcolonial legal studies, to reconsider major debates within this scholarly tradition and to locate this field of enquiry in the broader context of today's and tomorrow's academic research. These efforts are deemed relevant not just for the study of the laws of countries that once were colonies, they also call our attention to particular methodological and conceptual approaches that may be of wider import for legal studies in general, as well as for contemporary practices of international legal cooperation.

Chair **Jan Michiel Otto** will introduce the three following central issues concerning colonial law:

1. Key features of academic heritage.
2. Colonial interaction of law with government policy, social movements, business and legal practice.
3. Its relevance today.

These three issues will also be addressed by the other **speakers**:

- **Willem van der Muur** will talk about the *adatwijzer* of prof. Cornelis van Vollenhoven in relation to his ongoing research on land conflicts between adat communities and companies in Indonesia.
- **Sanne Ravensbergen** will present about her historical research on criminal justice in 19th century Java and Madura, where colonial courts aimed to incorporate several religious, customary and colonial legal traditions.
- **Stijn van Huis** will share some findings of his research on past and present of Islamic courts in South Sulawesi and West Java, and their dealings with divorce and post-divorce claims.

Chair: Jan Michiel Otto (Leiden University)

Panel 5: 'Colonial collections, post-colonial practices: how the next generation remembers (otherwise)'

This workshop is meant for students with a migrant family-background, international students, and other interested cosmopolitan students and young scholars, to discuss alternative (postcolonial?) ways of remembering one's own family history (as part of a larger immigrant community or as lived in one's country of origin). How do young people remember this past nowadays? What practices of remembering are seen as empowering? Which ways of remembering seem oppressive, or irrelevant? Are objects important? What images, photos or videos and films are meaningful to you? Are virtual tools helpful? Do you value musea at all, as places for connecting to the (recent or remote) family or communal past?

Bareez Majid (ResMa Middle Eastern Studies) and Haneen Omari (PhD-student, LIAS) will open the discussion with a presentation on their own involvement in memory practices, the tensions they observe in different (personal or collective, private or politicized) strategies of remembering, and the way in which theory can help to understand these tensions. They will discuss case studies from their own background in Iraqi Kurdistan and Palestine (such as the national torture museum in Sulaymaniyah). Linda Goltsche (ResMa Art History) will then offer a reflection on what the museum could do to negotiate these tensions. After that, everybody is invited to comment, and share their experiences. Bring your own cherished material memories!

Speakers:

- Bareez Majid (Leiden University)
- Haneen Omari (Leiden University)
- Linda Goltsche (Leiden University)

Chair: Isabel Hoving (Leiden University)

Guided Tour National Museum of Ethnology

Wednesday October 15th, 11:30–13:00

A number of contemporary artworks by artists from around the world are to be found in the museum and its garden. The artworks reflect critically or in an ironic way on cultural representation and the role of ethnographic museums in matters of representation. Kitty Zijlmans, professor of contemporary art history and theory at Leiden University, will make a tour around the works to discuss their critical stand and the role contemporary art can play to render visible underlying ideologies.

Venues

National Museum of Ethnology/Rijksmuseum Volkenkunde

Address: Steenstraat 1, Leiden
2312 BS Leiden

Lipsius Building

Address: Cleveringaplaats 1
2311 BD Leiden

Leiden University Library

Address: Witte Singel 27, Leiden
2311 BG Leiden

How to register (obligatory)

Please register for this event by sending an email to the following address:

events@leidenglobal.org

Please mention your name, organization, contact info and the day(s) you wish to attend.

Asian Library Event

Please register separately for the Asian Library Event at:

<http://library.leiden.edu/asianlibrary>