

Bio Renee Hagesteijn

Renee Hagesteijn is a political anthropologist and associated researcher at KITLV. She is interested in political dynamics, centralization processes, state formation; informal politics in formal political systems; conditions for political legitimacy and stability; consequences and limitations of scaling up political influence.

Renee conducted MA fieldwork in West Java, Indonesia and wrote her PhD thesis on political dynamics in early continental South East Asia. While pursuing a career in science management at the national research council she remained interested in theoretical developments on the verge of anthropology, political science and history. Recently she caught up with the advances in digital scholarship.

Project

She is currently preparing a comprehensive, interactive database on early Southeast Asian written sources, in order to:

- trace trends in time and place in volumes of religious and political donations and transactions
- combine the content of the inscriptions with the larger spectrum of written and archaeological remains in the region and with data on climatological and environmental conditions
- analyse blind spots, lack of sources and their methodological consequences
- enable inclusion of future findings of data
- gain new insights, study pivotal aspects, tipping points, resilience
- compare developments in Southeast Asia with interlude periods in South America, Europa and Africa
- contribute to the theoretical debate on the nature of historical socio-political structures and interactions.

Selected publications

2012 On state formation and territorial expansion – a Dialogue. With Henri J.M. Claessen. In: *Social Evolution and History – Studies in the Evolution of Human Societies*, Volume 11 (1), p. 3-19.

2009 Dynamics in political centralisation processes – the various faces of ‘decline’. *Proceedings*, p. 54-63 International Conference Early State Research, Institute of World History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Beijing November 4-5 , 2009.

2008 Thirty Years of Early State Research. Special Issue of *Social Evolution and History – Studies in the Evolution of Human Societies*, volume 7 (1). With H.J.M. Claessen and P. van de Velde.

1996 Lack of Limits. Cultural aspects of state formation in early continental Southeast Asia. In: *Ideologies and Formations of Early States*, edited by Henri J.M. Claessen and Jarich G. Oosten, p. 187-204. *Studies in Human Society*, Volume 11, Leiden: Brill.

1994 *Pivot politics. Changing cultural identities in early state formation processes*. With M. van Bakel & P. van de Velde (Eds.), Amsterdam: Het Spinhuis.

1989 *Circles of Kings. Political dynamics in early continental Southeast Asia*. *Verhandelingen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal- Land en Volkenkunde* 183. Dordrecht: Foris Publications.

1986 *Private Politics. A multidisciplinary approach to 'Big-Man' Systems.* With Martin A. van Bakel and Pieter van de Velde. *Studies in Human Society, Volume 1.* Leiden: Brill.