

Detailed Description for the PhD (AIO) project ‘Confronting Caribbean Challenges: Challenges of cultural heritage and nature conservation in the Dutch Caribbean municipalities’

The NWO program ‘Confronting Caribbean Challenges’ (CCC) will start in the Fall of 2014. The project, incorporating two post-doctoral researchers and two PhDs, grapples with how political reforms and intensive migrations affect historically grounded identities and political practices on the Dutch Caribbean islands. The two post-docs and this PhD position in the program are financed by the NWO. From its own resources, the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) will finance a second PhD position for the CCC project. The KITLV works closely with Leiden University in the CCC program.

This PhD project will focus how to reconcile tourism with both nature conservation and respect for local cultural heritage. The central purpose of this project is to analyze how metropolitan and local administrators, civil society and individual citizens, as well as the business community, on the so-called BES-islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba) deal with challenges facing these small-scale islands, including the leveraging of cultural heritage and ecological resources for tourist development. The PhD will delve into these questions about governance, history, heritage, environment, and tourism on a micro-level, studying the interaction of local government agencies, NGOs and public intellectuals as they deal with the challenge of improving the quality of governance and adding to the sustainability of the islands by improving nature conservation and heritage policies.

These topics will be addressed by two case studies centered on debates about, and policies for, cultural heritage and nature conservation. Some possible topics and questions that the PhD candidate could consider include:

- How do the complex arrangements for local administration devised for the BES islands impact tourist development?
- How does the small scale of the islands influence environmental management, and what role do the complicated post-10/10/10 governance arrangements play in how strategies for sustainable development are constructed?
- How has the restructuring of local governance impacted the quality, effectiveness and transparency of local politics with regard to (tourist) development, specifically in the realms of cultural heritage and eco-tourism?
- What is it, exactly, that the resident population, local government and tourists to the BES islands want with regard to cultural heritage and eco-tourism?
- What are the management strategies for the marine protected areas in the BES islands and how have they been established? What is the impact of these strategies on local livelihoods as well as the tourism sector? What is the role and performance of the various parties, both public and private, in the management of these areas?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to develop their own questions in addition to, or instead of,

these ones listed above.

Within the broad parameters of the project as a whole, and the more specific focus on how to reconcile tourism with both nature conservation and respect for local cultural heritage of this sub-project, the PhD will have a great deal of flexibility in determining the course of his/her research. To that end, we ask all applicants to submit a ca. 1500 word proposal in which they describe their potential project, including research questions, sub-questions, methodology, an explanation of how this proposal ties in with the overarching questions of the CCC project, and a rough schedule for completion of the work.

Job requirements

The PhD candidate should:

- Hold a (preferably Research) Master's degree in a relevant discipline within the Humanities or Social Sciences, or is due to graduate before November 2014;
- Excel academically, as shown in the transcripts and curriculum vitae;
- Have affinity with, and preferably experience in, the field of Caribbean studies;
- Have a firm basis in quantitative research, preferably both in surveys and source-based analysis; and/or in qualitative research (interviews, focus groups, framing analysis, discourse analysis, rhetorical analysis);
- Have an excellent written and spoken command of Dutch and English;
- Have excellent organizational and social skills and be a team player.

Tasks

- Conduct research, including field research in the Caribbean
- Write and complete a PhD dissertation within the allotted time (four years for 1.0 fte; five years at 0.8)
- Collaborate with supervisors and peers on research and publications;
- Participate in conferences, workshops, and other scholarly activities

Application Packet should contain:

- +/- 1500 words describing how the potential candidate will approach the topic (methodologies, project planning, major questions and sub-questions);
- Two letters of recommendation;
- Writing sample;
- CV;
- Transcripts (records of grades achieved for the BA/MA degrees);
- Cover letter detailing why the potential candidate would like to join the project.

The PhD candidate will work at the KITLV's office on the University of Leiden's campus in Leiden.

For more information please contact kitlv@kitlv.nl.

Deadline for submission of applications is 15 September 2014 to kitlv@kitlv.nl
Please put “CCC NWO AIO” in the subject line.

Full descriptions of the CCC-program and of this particular position are available at KITLV’s website
at [ConfrontingCaribbeanChallenges.pdf](#)