

Detailed description PhD (AIO) for the project ‘Media in the Dutch Antilles: Identities, Politics, and Change’

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 one PhD 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 this second PhD position for the CCC project. The KITLV works closely with Leiden University in the CCC program. For this particular PhD-project, there will be a close connection with the University’s program in Journalism and New Media.

This PhD project will focus on the role of the press and media in Antillean society over the past decades, with a specific emphasis on the ways local media have impacted the practice of politics and islanders’ understanding of their own identity on the six Antillean islands. Whereas the other subprojects in the CCC program focus exclusively either on the three Windward Antilles (Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Martin) or the so-called BES-islands (which includes Bonaire but not St. Martin), this project will include Aruba and Curaçao as well, because both television stations and much of the printed press are based in Curaçao and cover the entire ‘Dutch’ Caribbean.

The PhD will contribute to answering the project’s overarching questions about the intersections of identity, politics, and the possibilities for future development in the Dutch Antilles. The PhD student will describe the media landscape on the islands and chose some case studies on essential and promising themes concerning the development of the independent media on the islands.

These topics will be addressed by case studies to be determined jointly by the PhD student and the research team. Some possible questions that the PhD candidate could consider include:

- The coverage of the negotiations leading up to ‘10/10/10’.
- Coverage of the ongoing migrations into the six Dutch Caribbean islands since the 1980s
- How do different media outlets report on local (political) events? And does this reporting make a difference in how politics is actually practiced?
- Who are media “consumers” on the different islands? Where do they get their information?
- In what ways do the media actually influence (identity) politics?
- Has there been a shift over time in reporting about (migration, the Netherlands, number or reports on regional, including non-Dutch Caribbean, events vs. “metropolitan”?)

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

these ones listed above.

The PhD will have a great deal of flexibility in determining the course of his/her research, including the case-studies to be analyzed. To that end, we ask all applicants to submit a ca. 1500 word proposal in which they describe their potential project, including a research question, 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, and should be able to read Papiamentu or should be willing to learn this language;
- 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 Media 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](#)

