



## **KITLV Annual Report 2022**

The year 2022 was the first with Diana Suhardiman at the helm as the KITLV's director. Through her expertise in the fields of natural resources, sustainability and climate, she has provided the institute with significant fresh impetus. In July, she was appointed Professor by Special Appointment of Natural Resource Governance, Climate and Equity at Leiden University's Department of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology. Starting her tenure in January 2022 unfortunately meant doing so in an empty institute due to the lockdown still in place. She therefore had to make the acquaintance of the staff online.

Happily, 2022 also heralded the end of the coronavirus pandemic. The remaining measures in the Netherlands were lifted, allowing the KITLV to open fully once again. Over the course of the year, fieldwork in Indonesia again became a possibility, with that opportunity having already been reinstated in the Caribbean. This came as a great relief to KITLV researchers.

The pandemic brought about permanent changes where some practices are concerned. Working from home has become more normal, as have online meetings. Hybrid workshops and conferences have also become the norm. As a result, our colleagues in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean, and those elsewhere in the world, seem closer than ever in a sense.

In February, the research conducted by the KITLV, NIOD and NIMH into the War of Independence in Indonesia was presented, attracting a great deal of public and media interest. The final conclusions reached were set out in the volume co-edited by Gert Oostindie and entitled *Over de grens; Nederlands extreem geweld in de Indonesische onafhankelijkheidsoorlog 1945-1949* (Beyond the pale; Dutch Extreme Violence in the Indonesian War of Independence, 1945-1949). In response to this research, Prime Minister Mark Rutte apologized on behalf of the government for the “systematic and widespread extreme violence on the Dutch side”. Two other works were also published at the same time: Meindert van der Kaaij’s *Een kwaad geweten; De worsteling met de Indonesische onafhankelijkheidsoorlog vanaf 1950* (A Guilty Conscience; The Painful Processing of the Indonesian War of Independence in the Netherlands), and *Sporen vol betekenis; In gesprek met getuigen & tijdgenoten* (Meaningful Traces; Conversations with Witnesses and Contemporaries about the Indonesian War of Independence), co-edited by Fridus Steijlen. In June, Esther Captain and Onno Sinke presented their substudy of what is known as the ‘Bersiap Period’. This was entitled *Het geluid van geweld; Bersiap en de dynamiek van geweld tijdens de eerste fase van de Indonesische revolutie, 1945-1946* (Resonance of Violence; Bersiap and the Dynamics of Violence in the First Phase of the Indonesian Revolution, 1945-1946).

The research into *Het koloniale en slavernijverleden van Hofstad Den Haag* (The Colonial and Slavery History of The Hague), conducted by Esther Captain and former colleagues Gert Oostindie and Valika Smeulders, was presented on 20 November. Again, there were apologies, this time made by the mayor of The Hague. Starts were made on other similar studies in 2022 too. Rosemarijn Hoefte began her research into the colonial and slavery history of both Haarlem and Tilburg. In addition, *Staat en Slavernij; Een terreinverkenning van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden* (State and Slavery; An Exploration of the Kingdom of the Netherlands), funded by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, was launched, with the KITLV acting as coordinator and Esther Captain playing a pivotal role.

Other research projects were also initiated. Sony Jean made a start on his NWO-Veni research into archaeological heritage in Haiti. Esther Captain and Francio Guadeloupe began on their work package on the process of healing as part of a larger NWA project on the subject of diversity and belonging in Europe, which is mostly being carried out at Utrecht University. As part of the shared KITLV / Leiden University PhD

programme, Sander van der Horst started his doctoral research into anti-colonial movements and decolonization in Indonesia.

Under the no-longer-quite-so-new research theme of Climate Governance, two collaborative projects gained real momentum in 2022. These were the KNAW-funded pilot project entitled 'Climate Change and Governance in Marine Protected Areas in Indonesia and the Caribbean' and the large-scale NWO-Caribbean project 'Island(er)s at the helm; Co-creating sustainable and inclusive solutions for social adaptation to climate challenges in the (Dutch) Caribbean'. In addition, the KITLV participated in the national Climate Task Force set up by KNAW and NWO, with Diana Suhardiman representing the institute.

The KITLV's PhD programme is dynamic and has also continued to grow. Four young KITLV researchers obtained their doctorates in 2022, all from Leiden University. These were: Stacey MacDonald ('Life in "paradise"; A social psychological and anthropological study of nature conservation in the Caribbean Netherlands'); Taufiq Hanafi ('Writing novels under the New Order; State censorship, complicity, and literary production in Indonesia, 1977-1986'); Simone Casale ('Asyèt yo, ollas, and vasijas; Situating pottery production in the circum-Caribbean through a technological perspective'); and Gene Shev ('Indigenous animal management practices on the eve of Columbus' landfall').

An equally festive occasion was Marieke Bloembergen's inaugural lecture, on 25 May, which was entitled '*Last van koloniale dingen; Kennisvorming, Indonesische perspectieven en de zoektocht naar verlichting*' (The Burden of Colonial Things; Knowledge Production, Indonesian Perspectives and the Search for Enlightenment'), at Leiden University's Institute for History.

As usual, KITLV researchers published work in a wide range of journals. The University Press of Mississippi published the monograph *Black man in the Netherlands; An Afro-Antillean anthropology* by Francio Guadeloupe. Honorary fellows Henk Schulte Nordholt and Harry Poeze published their book *Merdeka! De strijd om de Indonesische onafhankelijkheid en de ongewisse toekomst van de Republiek, 1945-1950* (Merdeka! The Battle for Indonesian Independence and the Uncertain Rise of the Republic, 1945-1950) through Walburg Pers. Our former colleagues Gert Oostindie and Wouter Veenendaal published the book *Ongemak; Zes Caribische eilanden en Nederland* (Discomfort; Six

Caribbean Islands and The Netherlands) via Prometheus, based on joint research conducted in relation to the KITLV.

The range of workshops and events organized or co-organized by the KITLV was also very diverse, covering topics such as climate adaptation and community engagement in the Caribbean, palm oil conflicts in Indonesia, artistic and art collection practices in Indonesia, and the history of the PKI (the Indonesian Communist Party).

Also of interest is the increase in more socially oriented publications and other output from the KITLV, from articles aimed at a wide audience to podcasts, films, children's books and exhibitions. Both the partners the institute works with and the audiences it targets are becoming increasingly diverse. A highlight in this regard was PhD researcher and photographer Sharelly Emanuelson's exhibition, *Duurzaam/Sustain/Tene* at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. KITLV researchers again frequently appeared in the media to provide an interpretation of current developments and events in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and the Netherlands.

The year 2022 was also one for farewells. In December, the institute received the very sad news that former KITLV researcher Meindert van der Kaaij (1959-2022) had passed away. As already noted in an in memoriam tribute, he will be remembered as an exceptionally kind, modest and cheerful researcher and colleague with a wide range of interests.

On 7 July and following a long and varied tenure, Fridus Steijlen bid farewell as senior researcher at the KITLV and Professor by Special Appointment of 'Moluccan migration and culture in comparative perspective' at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam by delivering a speech to a large audience at a symposium entitled '*Wetenschap en engagement; Uitdaging en spanning*' (Knowledge and commitment; Challenge and tension). Steijlen had played a significant role at the institute over the years and in many different ways, both externally and internally.

