

Colonialism and the Age of Revolutions (1780-1830)



Pattimura's revolution: violent encounter on the Moluccas in 1817.

By Q.M.R. Ver Huell. Collection Museum Arnhem.



This conference is part of the NWO VIDI project:

[Institutional memory in the making of colonial culture: history, experience and ideas in Dutch colonialism in Asia, 1700 – 1870.](#)

Conference organizers:

Alicia Schrikker, Alexander van der Meer, Philip Post, Bart Verheijen

Venue: Boerhaave Museum Leiden, Lange Sint Agnietenstraat 10, 2312 WC Leiden

Rooms: welcome/lunch/breaks in the Foyer, conference in the Conference Room (Congresruimte)

When: November 22 & 23

Conference theme

The period 1780-1830 is often perceived as a one of a radical transformation of European and imperial politics. During this conference we question this approach to the so-called Age of Revolutions, by shifting the focus from discussions in the metropole to the colonial localities and from change to continuities. Bringing together researchers on both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, it explores how revolutionary concepts intersected with locally-formed colonial cultures and vice versa. What were the interactions between these deeply-rooted colonial cultures and new ideas and ideals about equality? And why could revolutionary ideas – perhaps counterintuitively - lead to new, racialized, social hierarchies and authoritarian structures? At the same time, spanning the colonial realm from Ambon to Curaçao, and from the Cape to Delaware, this conference focuses on how revolutionary ideas and ideals were taken up and reshaped by colonial subjects to rethink their position and resist colonial power.

During this two-day program, new and ongoing research will be presented on a) colonial resistance and negotiation, b) changes in colonial governance and citizenship, c) notions of colonial legitimacy, d) processes of displacement and exile, e) discussions on how theories and practices about colonial extraction and slavery changed in this period, and f) the complex relationship between religion and empire. As such, this conference analyses the experience of a broad range of colonial actors, ranging from enslaved subjects to high-ranking colonial elites, whose lives were all – in one way or another – touched by the Age of Revolutions.

If you wish to attend, please request to do so by sending an email to the organizers at p.g.post@hum.leidenuniv.nl



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

09.45 – 10.15	REGISTRATION AND RECEPTION WITH COFFEE AND TEA
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10.15 – 11.00

KEYNOTE DAMIEN TRICOIRE

“The Triumph of Theocracy. Reconsidering the Atlantic Age of Revolutions”

11.00 – 12.00	4. EXILE AND DISPLACEMENT CHAIR – ALICIA SCHRIKKER
THOMAS MAREITE	“From Hispaniola to Cuba: Exile, Imperial Relief, and Belonging in the Age of Revolutions”
SURYA SURYADI	The Malay Letters from the Island of Exile (Ceylon), 1806-1808

12.00 – 13.00

LUNCH

13.00 – 14.30	5. RELIGION AND EMPIRE CHAIR – CHIARA CANDAELE
MARTIJN STOUTJESDIJK	“Paving the Way for True Humanity”. The Spirit of Christianity as a Response to Colonial Challenges in the Age of Revolution
ALEXANDER VAN DER MEER	Redacting the missionary encounter: Maandberigten magazine in the early nineteenth century
JESSICA PATTERSON	Religion and Empire in India: British East India Company authors on Hinduism in the Age of Revolutions

14.30 – 15.00

COFFEE BREAK

15.00 – 16.00	6. EMPIRE AND EXTRACTION CHAIR – BART VERHEIJEN
JAN FOLKERTS	Who rules the colony? Caught between patria and the Indies: Herman Warner Muntinghe and the end of colonial self-rule.
RAFAEL DE BIVAR MARQUESE	Second Slavery and the Genesis of the Cultivation System: The Place of Cuba and US South in Johannes van den Bosch's 1829 <i>Advice on the System of Colonization</i>

16.00 – 16.30

CLOSING REMARKS

17.00 – 18.00

DRINKS