

## **Mission statement**

*KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies*

*KITLV aims to be a world-class research institute for the study of Southeast Asia and the Caribbean, with a focus on Indonesia and the 'Dutch' Caribbean, in an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective. Benefitting from the unrivalled collections offered on campus by Leiden University, KITLV researchers explore (dis)continuities between the (pre)colonial and postcolonial period, and articulate their research agendas empirically and theoretically in order to advance wider debates on the meandering paths of globalization. KITLV engages with the academic community across the world, as well as with (inter)national governmental organizations, NGOs, the media, and the interested general public. KITLV is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).*

Research at KITLV is interdisciplinary by nature and characterized by approaches including (1) a strong historical dimension exploring (dis)continuities from the (pre)colonial to the postcolonial period and (2) an anthropological perspective; both of which aim to bring human agency into focus and investigate questions concerning motivation and signification; while (3) a political approach focuses on broader frameworks of power that mediate between global forces and local actors. History, anthropology, and the study of politics and language all offer comparative approaches for opening windows to wider global connections. Archival research, field work and textual and visual analysis are vital to this enterprise. KITLV research is characterized by an ongoing reflection on the historical linkages between (post)colonial scholarship and collections policies. This implies methodological reflection on the uses of colonial archives, and on the meaning and impact of e-technologies in academic research and data management.

KITLV invests in two long-term research themes: *State, Violence and Citizenship* and *Mobility and Identity*. These themes, relevant to the processes of post-colonial state formation and globalisation in South East Asia and the Caribbean at large, are connected by interrelated questions concerning the dynamics of power, meaning and belonging. KITLV aims to translate these themes into agenda-setting projects conducted by research teams consisting of senior scholars, postdoctoral researchers, PhD candidates and visiting fellows.

## ***Appendix: Themes, links and staff***

### *State, Violence and Citizenship*

Research in this theme focuses on regime change, political violence and the articulation of citizenship. It is directed at various levels of governance in order to investigate the embeddedness of the state in society, with a focus on violent conflicts and reconciliation, processes of ethnic, religious and national belonging, and the articulation of forms of citizenship. Over the past years, a series of externally funded projects in this area were conducted at the KITLV. These focused on changes at the regional level in Indonesia ('Renegotiating Boundaries',

'In Search of Middle Indonesia', 'From Clients to Citizens', and 'Shifting Elite Networks') as well as on decolonization and governance in the Caribbean.

#### *Mobility and Identity*

The movement of people, ideas and goods, and processes of identification and differentiation that often transcend (former) colonial borders and imperial frameworks are central to this theme. Notions of 'religion', 'origin', 'tradition', 'authenticity' and 'modernity' and the institutional contexts in which these are framed and authorized are vital in tracing complex processes of belonging and exclusion. Recent projects that address this theme include 'Articulating Modernity' on the history of popular music in Southeast Asia, 'Postcolonial Migrations' from various former Dutch colonies to the Netherlands, 'The Javanese Diaspora', and 'Java and the Idea of Greater India'.

#### *Institutional links and networks*

For over 160 years, KITLV staff has combined scholarly research with the creation of the world's best library and special collections on the former Dutch colonies of Indonesia, Suriname and the Antilles. While collections management was transferred to Leiden University's Library in 2014, the new research institute KITLV continues to draw heavily on these world-class collections which are available on campus. In Leiden, KITLV works with both partners at Leiden University (History, Anthropology, Law, Area Studies) and within the broader framework of LeidenGlobal, a consortium of scholarly institutions and museums. KITLV brings to these partners a tradition of reflection on colonial and postcolonial themes that feeds directly into wider debates in Dutch society on colonialism and its contemporary legacies – public debates to which KITLV will continue to contribute. As an institute of the KNAW, KITLV cooperates with its sister institutes in KNAW's Amsterdam-based Humanities Center, in particular on projects with an e-humanities methodology. In the end, of course, KITLV operates and competes in a global scholarly world, hence its strong international network, including the hosting of the secretariat of the European Association of Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS).

#### *Vereniging KITLV*

The 'Vereniging' or Learned Society KITLV remains a prominent partner for KITLV-KNAW, both as a community of scholars engaged in Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies and, institutionally, as a partner connecting collections, acquisition strategies, and research interests. The KITLV staff will also continue to provide expertise to Brill Academic Publishers for the journals and book series previously put out by KITLV Press.

#### *Staff*

KITLV's staff is comprised of some 20 FTEs, six PhD positions included, plus a changing number of externally funded researchers. In addition to a core of senior staff, most researchers at the institute are either PhD candidates or postdoctoral researchers, or are attracted through KITLV's fellowship program. This allows for dynamic teams within a lively research community. KITLV's research staff has strong connections to the scholarly and collections staff at Leiden University and with researchers at other humanities institutes of the KNAW.