

(Re)mobilizing historical expeditions: Collections, fieldworkers and digital returns

Bart Barendregt, Luisa Marten, Philipp Schorch and Magnus Treiber

Leiden, June 17-18, 2024

Historical expeditions were usually underpinned by specific spatial and temporal positions and orientations. Departing from some contemporary Euro-American metropole – in the ‘here’ and ‘now’, they generally set out to study foreign worlds of humans, animals, plants etc. as remnants of distant pasts – in the ‘there’ and ‘back then’, presumably in need of salvage and alien classification. What happens, then, if the remains of such expeditions – e.g., material and visual collections, archival and linguistic records, fieldwork notes and cartographic representations, but also personal impressions of involved participants – are *(re)mobilized*, both *spatially* (from Euro-American institutions back to originating societies) and *temporally* (towards new futures of historical reconstruction, cultural revitalization and political reimagination, both ‘at home’ in the societies where these collections originated from and in their dispersed locations ‘abroad’)?

Departing from the project *Markus Mailopu and the II. Freiburg Moluccan Expedition: Reassembling, reactivating and redistributing ‘anthropology’s interlocutors’ through the archive* (<https://www.indigen.eu/projects/affiliated-projects/markus-mailopu-2-freiburg-moluccan-expedition>), this symposium seeks answers to the above question. Participants are invited to dwell on the future potentialities of historical expeditions, that is, on the ways and forms through which collections and fieldworks of the past can be remobilized along and against the grain, and how they can give rise to novel forms of fieldworks and digital interventions (e.g., open access databases, virtual reality, online citizen science) in the present and geared towards the future. We invite contributions from across the disciplinary spectrum – history, anthropology, curatorship, and the arts – and across (post)colonial boundaries, such as those between Germany, the Netherlands and Indonesia, as well as their political, cultural, linguistic, and scholarly manifestations.



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



Speakers:

Nuraini Juliastuti, Dutch Art Institute

Wim Manuhutu, VU Amsterdam

Luisa Marten, LMU Munich

Liesbeth Ouwehand, RCE

Tri Hardjanti Riedel, independent scholar

Geger Riyanto, University of Indonesia

Hermien Soselisa, University of Pattimura

Tamara Soukotta, Radboud University (ISS) & Erasmus University Rotterdam

Fridus Steijlen, University of Pattimura

Fadjar Thufail, BRIN

Magnus Treiber, LMU Munich

Marjolein van Asdonck, Wereldmuseum

Pim Westerkamp, Wereldmuseum

Workshop program: Leiden, 17 & 18 June 2024

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(Re)mobilizing historical expeditions: Collections, fieldworkers and digital returns
Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Room 3A.21 & via zoom
Bart Barendregt, Luisa Marten, Philipp Schorch and Magnus Treiber

Monday, 17.06.2024, 9:30 am – 4 pm

09:30 – 10:00 Bart Barendregt, Luisa Marten, Magnus Treiber

Introduction

Remobilizing Collections

10:00 – 10:45 **Pim Westerkamp (Wereldmuseum)**

The Kapala Saniri collection in the Wereldmuseum Amsterdam

10:45 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:00 **Marjolein van Asdonck (Wereldmuseum)**

The girl from Aru

12:00 – 12:45 **Geger Riyanto (University of Indonesia)** -via Zoom

When studied past becomes future self: Seram ethnographic projects return to communities

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 **Magnus Treiber (LMU Munich)**

Raising Knowledge: The “Il. Freiburg Moluccan Expedition” (1910-1912)

14:45 – 15:30 **Nuraini Juliastuti (Dutch Art Institute)**

Fixers of the museum collections: On repatriation and commoning knowledge production

15:30 – 16:00 Wrap up and final discussion (Bart Barendregt)

Tuesday, 18.06.2024, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome and recap (Bart Barendregt)

Historicizing encounters

09:45 – 10:30 **Fridus Steijlen & Hermien Soselisa (Univ. Pattimura)** - via Zoom

Re-mobilizing expedition collections - Re-thinking power relations

10:30 – 11:15 **Tamara Soukotta (Radboud University (ISS) & Erasmus University Rotterdam)**

Beyond (re)mobilisation: (Re)thinking research and researchers in historical expeditions

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 – 12:30 **Wim Manuhutu (VU Amsterdam)**

Doing research under colonialism: The expanding Dutch colonial rule in Seram at the beginning of the 20th century

12:30 – 13:15 **Luisa Marten & Tri Hardjanti Riedel (LMU Munich)**

"There were also hill people, but they were not cruel" - Translating Markus Mailopu

13:15 – 14:30 Lunch

"Decolonizing" (?) photography

14:30 – 15:15 **Liesbeth Ouwehand (National Cultural Heritage Agency, Netherlands)**

The circulation of atrocity: the Puputan Bali case study

15:15 – 16:00 **Fadjar Thufail (National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia)** – via Zoom

What Borobudur Wants: The Politics of Digital Photogrammetry of a World Heritage Site

16:00 – 16:30 Wrap-up and next steps (Luisa Marten & Magnus Treiber)