



Independence,
decolonization,
violence and war in
Indonesia, 1945 - 1950

**Comparing the wars of decolonization:
Extreme violence during reoccupation and counter-insurgency,
1945-1962**

Thursday June 20, 2019, Amsterdam Public Library (OBA)

During this conference, the theme group *Comparing the Wars of Decolonization* that gathered at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) over the last three months, presents its preliminary results. The theme group project engages in comparative research in order to learn more about causes, forms and nature of (extreme) violence by Dutch military forces in their attempt to re-establish colonial authority during the Indonesian struggle for independence (1945-1949). The theme group and conference are organized by Thijs Brocades Zaalberg (Leiden University / Netherlands Defence Academy) and Bart Luttikhuis (Leiden University / KITLV).

The theme group *Comparing the Wars of Decolonization* is part of the large-scale research program *Independence, decolonization, violence and war in Indonesia, 1945-1950*, carried out by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), the Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH) and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:30h Introduction

- Frank van Vree (Director, NIOD)
- Fenneke Wekker (Head of Academic Affairs, NIAS)
- Thijs Brocades Zaalberg (NIAS theme group coordinator *Comparing the Wars of Decolonization*)

10:30 – 11.30h Keynote lecture:

- Raphaëlle Branche (University of Rouen), *The political uses of decolonization history.*

11:30 – 12:00h Coffee break

12:00 – 13:00h Session 1: Accounting for violent colonial responses

- Pierre Asselin (San Diego State University) and Esther Captain (KITLV), *Cracking down on revolutionary zeal and violence: Early Dutch and French responses in the Indonesian archipelago and Indochina, 1945-1946.*
- Huw Bennett (Cardiff University) and Peter Romijn (NIOD): *Communicating excessive violence: Political awareness and levels of responsibility in Indonesia, Malaya and Kenya compared.*

13:00 – 14:00h Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30h Session 2: Exploring forms and dynamics of extreme violence

- Brian McAllister Linn (Texas A&M University) and Azarja Harmanny (NIMH), *Technological violence in colonial counter-insurgency: 'ways of war' and the role of heavy weapons in escalations of force.*
- Natalya Vince (University of Portsmouth) and Stef Scagliola (Luxembourg University/KITLV), *Sexual violence in wars of decolonization: comparing the Dutch/Indonesian and French/Algerian wars of independence.*
- Martin Thomas (Exeter University) and Roel Frakking (KITLV): *Windows onto the micro-dynamics of insurgent and counter-insurgent violence: evidence from late colonial Southeast Asia and Africa compared.*

15:30 – 16:00h Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00h Round table: Comparing the Wars of Decolonization – towards a Global Memory of the End of Empire?

- Participants: Raphaëlle Branche (University of Rouen), Bambang Purwanto (Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta), David Anderson (Warwick University) and Gert Oostindie (KITLV)

17:00h Drinks

The conference will be chaired by historian Wim Manuhutu