



## Expatriate Archive Centre

*we treasure your memories*

### Workshop I: Whose History is it Anyway?

**Moderator: Prof. Dr. Wim Willems (Director of the Centre for Modern Urban Studies at Campus The Hague, Leiden University)**

Description: History may belong to everybody, as soon as we get to the level of individuals, families or groups the struggle begins. For what happens to the legacy of a Dutch priest in South-America, an Indian engineer in South-Africa or an Russian artist in Germany? Do we collect the traces of their lives in the country of origin or in the country where the expats have spent part of their working life? Because of their double orientation the result often is that no written (or other) sources are collected, not even if it concerns the archives of self-organisations or similar associations. A way to get around this problem is to focus on the biographies of people: their letters, pictures, articles in newspapers, personal files in companies, reports from abroad – and so on. The reconstruction of the history of persons helps to avoid the trap of ownership. People have multiple identities, multiple ways of belonging, so their legacies belong to whom it concerns. In this workshop we look at the biographical perspective as a way to get a firmer grip on the settlement process, the social (and other) contributions and the lifestyle of expats – in the Netherlands and abroad.

**Speaker 1: Rick de Jong (MA History, University of Leiden)**

Rostworowski, a Polish judge in The Hague: Traces of an expat history in the local community.

The history of expats in society often stays unnoticed. They come and go and hardly seem to leave any traces in the official municipal administration or other archives. Is it nevertheless possible to get an idea of their stay? Where to look for biographical material? To illustrate my approach I will use the case of the Polish judge Michal Rostworowski, who lived and worked in The Hague in the 1930s. Although he was a typical expat, he did indeed leave several traces – in Holland as well as in Poland. By following these traces, an interesting image of his life in The Hague arose. Not only of the life of this judge, but also – by reconstructing his network - in the prewar expat community of The Hague (as an international city).

**Speaker 2: Dr. Barbara Henkes (University of Groningen)**

The female voice in expat histories. Life-writing to create a room of one's own.

Nowadays as in the past, expatriates are not only hardworking men who go about the world. At a time when very few women went abroad on behalf of their work, there were many who, together with their spouse (and children), settled in unfamiliar places. Their observations - from their position as wife and mother – may give a surprising insight into their settlement process and the lifestyles of Dutch expats abroad. Central to this contribution is the 2-weekly correspondence Mrs. Brown sent from Pretoria to her parents in Amsterdam during the years 1953-1956. Together with their one year old son she and her husband departed from the Netherlands after he was appointed as a legist at the Dutch Bank of South Africa. Besides documents that provide an insight in the efforts and activities of the Dutch in the South African banking, her private letters show another side of the expat (his)story.

### Workshop II: Forced to Move? The Role of Organisations

**Moderator: Prof. Dr. Leo Lucassen (Institute for History, Leiden University)**

Description: This workshop will address the relationship between the characteristics of organisations and the way they shape the migration process of their employees. What are the similarities and differences between commercial companies, state institutions and private organisations like churches and NGO's? And what are the ruptures and continuities in past and present? What do the sources of such organisations (personnel files, operational data) tell us about their aims and function? These questions will be addressed by looking at, among other things, the history of professional armies, police forces and colonial circuits driven by states and companies.

**Speaker 1: Inge Brinkman (University of Leiden)**

Organisational migration: the example of SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation). Inge Brinkman is attached to The African Studies Centre at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Leiden, and has been researching the studying the relations between mobile telephony and social hierarchies in Angola.

**Speaker 2: Keetie Sluyterman (Utrecht University)**

Multinational companies: the example of Shell. Keetie Sluyterman is professor of business history at Utrecht University and a specialist in Dutch business history of the nineteenth and twentieth century.

## Workshop III: Global Migrants, Local Stories: Time and Space in Expatriate History

**Moderator: Freek Colombijn (Associate Professor at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University, Amsterdam)**

Description: This workshop deals with the question of how we can write expatriate histories through the history of a specific place – be it a town or a compound. The speakers give examples from their fieldwork and archival research in specific localities. The discussant will respond to these findings and – together with the audience – address more theoretical questions about the role of time, space, and class in the research on expatriates.

**Speaker 1: Anne-Meike Fechter (University of Sussex)**

Anne-Meike Fechter, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Sussex. Fechter has studied corporate expatriates as migrants, resulting in a book, *Transnational Lives: Expatriates in Indonesia* (2007), and her current work focuses on aid workers as mobile professionals.

**Speaker 2: Aniek X. Smit (Leiden University)**

Aniek X. Smit, a PhD student with the Institute for History at Leiden University will present a paper on the settlement patterns of Dutch expats in Jakarta since the 1970s, based on archival research and interviews.

**Speaker 3: Sridevi Menon (Bowling Green State University)**

Sridevi Menon is an Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at Bowling Green State University. She is working on an ethnographic study of Indians who worked for the British Malayan Petroleum Company (later Brunei Shell) in Seria, Brunei between the 1940s-1960s.

## Workshop IV: Finding Expats in Archives

**Moderator: Dr Marijke Huisman (affiliated researcher at the Center for Historical Culture of Erasmus University Rotterdam; lecturer at Utrecht University and VU University Amsterdam)**

Description: For some decades now, historians have left their traditional suspicions and recognised 'egodocuments' as useful source materials for research. But for historians to use sources, they have to be accessible. Historians interested in different 'histories from below' have therefore pioneered in making inventories of egodocuments that were 'hidden' in existing archives and libraries, whereas others literally created new egodocuments through oral history-projects or built new archives to store previously unacknowledged source materials of 'new' historical subjects. The Expatriate Archive Centre (EAC) is an example of an institution that aims to collect expatriates' egodocuments in order to stimulate research into the lives and experiences of this specific, but under-explored, type of migrants. This workshop will deal with the question of expatriate research from the perspective of the availability and accessibility of expatriates' source materials, both in and out of the EAC.

**Speaker 1: Dr. Corien Glaudemans (senior researcher Municipal Archive of The Hague, external advisor of the EAC)**

Dr. Corien Glaudemans studied history at Leiden University and defended her thesis on solving disputes in the Middle Ages (*Om die wrake wille, eigenrichting, veten en verzoening in Laat-Middeleeuws Holland en Zeeland* (ca. 1350-ca. 1550)) in 2003 at the same university. She is senior researcher at the Municipal Archive in The Hague and worked in 2010 and 2011 as an advisor to professionalise the EAC. She continues to hold the role of external advisor to the EAC. She will introduce some very interesting examples of archives of expatriates held in the Municipal Archives.

**Speaker 2: Rosita Arnts-Boer (archivist of the Expatriate Archive Centre)**

Rosita was pivotal to the development of the collection of the EAC and led the introduction of a new registration system. She will introduce the sources and the way the collection is organised and registered for researchers.

**Speaker 3: Mara Sfountouri (international master student at the Erasmus University)**

Mara is studying the impact of new communication technologies on the expressions of national identity and nostalgia in expatriates' letters, 1979-2009. She has also been working at the Expatriate Archive Centre as an academic intern.