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I am interested in the history of European colonialism in Asia. Moments of crises give us a particular insight in the way colonial relations worked out. It is from this view that I looked at the change from Dutch to British rule on Sri Lanka at the end of the 18th century. Presently I am working on representations of and action taken after natural disasters in 19th century colonial Indonesia.

As participant in the TANAP project and coordinator of the Encompass project (now called cosmopolis, <http://hum.leiden.edu/history/cosmopolis>) I developed a general familiarity with Dutch (VOC and colonial period) sources dealing with the Indian Ocean in the period 1600 – 1900.