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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 Lankan 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.