



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

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

Friday June 21, 2019, VOC Room Oost-Indisch Huis (and NIAS Conference Room)

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.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

8:45 – 9:15h Welcome & coffee (**outside VOC Room**)

9:15 – 10:45h Panel 1 (plenary session) *Nature of colonial violence: What is specifically colonial about colonial violence?*

- Stathis Kalyvas (University of Oxford), *Civil War, Foreign Occupation, Colonial Rule: Conceptual, Theoretical, and Empirical Issues*
- Kim Wagner (Queen Mary University of London), *Weaponizing Colonial Knowledge – from Savage Warfare to Counter-Insurgency*
- Martin Thomas (Exeter University), *Decolonization's Wars: Revisiting the Violent Collapse of Empire*
- Moderator: Gert Oostindie (KITLV)

10:45 – 11:15h Coffee break (**outside VOC Room**)

11:15 – 12:45h Parallel sessions

Panel 2a: *Memory and afterlife of the wars of decolonization* (**NIAS Conference Room**)

- Tom Bentley (University of Aberdeen), *Apologies for colonial wrongdoing and the endurance of colonial speaking positions*
- Kathryn Edwards (Tulane University), *Multivalent Memories: Narratives of Violence and Victimization in the Indochina War*
- Nicole Immler (University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht), *Twisting memory and justice: Indonesia's war of independence and the Rawagede court case*
- Moderator: Stef Scagliola (Luxembourg University/KITLV)

Panel 2b: *Rebel strategies in the age of decolonization* (**VOC Room**)

- Saphia Arezki (CHERPA, IEP Aix-en-Provence), *The insurgent strategies of the ALN in Algeria (1954-1962)*
- Pierre Journoud (l'Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier), *Strategy and violence in the Indochina War (1945-1954): the Vietminh methods and their impact on the French forces*
- Muhammad Yuanda Zara (Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta), *"We Love Peace, But We Will Respond Violence with Violence": Propaganda and Justification of Indonesia's War, 1945-1947*
- Moderator: Roel Frakking (KITLV)

12:45 – 13:45h Lunch (**outside VOC Room**)

13:45 – 15:15h Parallel sessions

Panel 3a: *Causes of extreme violence in decolonization wars / counter-insurgency (structural vs. specific)* (**VOC Room**)

- David Anderson (Warwick University), *"The Yell from the Swamp": Explaining the Character of Violence in Kenya's Dirty War of Decolonization, 1952-60*
- Thijs Brocades Zaalberg (Leiden University / NLDA) and Bart Lutikhuis (Leiden University), *Apples and oranges: The importance of comparing causes of extreme violence in decolonization wars*
- Rémy Limpach (NIMH), *When ends justify the means: causes for extreme Dutch violence in the Indonesian war of Independence 1945-1949*
- Moderator: Huw Bennett (Cardiff University)

Panel 3b: *Forms of extreme violence in the wars of decolonization* (**NIAS Conference Room**)

- Gemma Clark (Exeter University), *Fire as revolution and repression: Irish independence wars in perspective*
- Moritz Feichtinger (University Bern), *Perspectives on resettlement and forced migration in wars of decolonization*
- Karl Hack (Open University UK), *When can non-physical coercion be considered “extreme violence”?*
- Moderator: Peter Romijn (NIOD)

15:15 – 15:35h Coffee Break (**outside VOC Room**)

15:35 – 17:00h Panel 4 (plenary session, round table): *Exploring blind spots in the research program* (**VOC Room**)

- Evaluation by researchers and outsiders of challenges in the research program [*Independence, Decolonization, War and Violence in Indonesia, 1945-1950*](#)
- Bart Luttikhuis (Leiden University) and Thijs Brocades Zaalberg (Netherlands Defence Academy / Leiden University), *Evaluation of results of the NIAS Theme group (conclusions on the causes, nature and forms of decolonization violence)*
- Comments on challenges and blind spots of ODGOI: Natalya Vince (Portsmouth University), Huw Bennett (Cardiff University), Esther Zwinkels (NIMH) and Martijn Eickhoff (NIOD)
- Moderator: Wim Manuhutu (independent historian)

17:00 – 17:15h Round-up, conclusions: Ben Schoenmaker (NIMH)

17:15h Drinks (**outside VOC Room**)