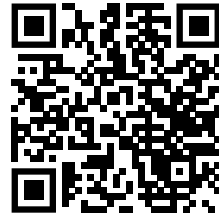


# Preface

As the editors of *Slavery & the Dutch State*, we are happy to write the preface of this book. Originally published in Dutch, on June 15, 2023, this collection is a response to MP Don Ceder's 2021 parliamentary motion calling for an independent investigation of the Dutch history of slavery. The motion's aim was to gain insight into that history, to determine who was involved in slavery, and to acquire a better understanding of its lasting effects. On July 1, 2023, King Willem-Alexander formally apologized for the Dutch role in the slave trade, saying, "I feel the weight of the words in my heart and my soul." We were pleased to see how much public debate the Dutch version of this book, *Staat & Slavernij*, sparked, and to note how well-received it was, particularly in other countries dealing with their own afterlives of slavery. This is why we decided to have the book translated into English and thus make it available to a wider international audience.

*Staat & Slavernij* resonated strongly in the islands of the Dutch Caribbean and in the former Dutch colony of Suriname. The context, realization and relevance of the book were discussed at conferences at the University of Curaçao, Willemstad, on November 10, 2023, and at Anton de Kom University, Paramaribo, on March 14, 2024.

When the original version of the book was published, a bilingual website was created to provide additional information surrounding the publication:



Following up *Staat & Slavernij*, we developed a research agenda and published it in three languages. The agenda is available via open access:

Esther Captain, Rose-Mary Allen, Matthias van Rossum, Urwin Vyent, *Het Nederlandse koloniale slavernij-verleden en zijn doorwerkingen. Kennisagenda 2025-2035*. Leiden: KITLV, 2024.  
Open access:



Esther Captain, Rose-Mary Allen, Matthias van Rossum, Urwin Vyent, *Historia di Sklabitut Kolonial Hulandes i Su Konsekuensianan: Kompilashon di Konosementu 2025-2035*. Leiden: KITLV, 2024.

Open access:



Esther Captain, Rose-Mary Allen, Matthias van Rossum, Urwin Vyent, *Dutch Colonial Slavery and Its Afterlives: Research Agenda 2025-2035*. Leiden: KITLV, 2024.

Open access:



In parallel, Suriname and the Dutch Caribbean islands followed up with these publications, respectively:

*Na So Blaka Buba Tan? An exploratory study among Afro-Surinamese people in Suriname to arrive at a research agenda on the slavery past for the period 2023-2033* (2023);

*Sailing in Salt Water: Advancing the Dutch Caribbean Reparations Agenda and Establishing an Inter-Island Knowledge and Expertise Network on the Slavery Past and Its Heritage* (2024).

PDF available at:



Rose Mary Allen  
Esther Captain  
Matthias van Rossum  
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