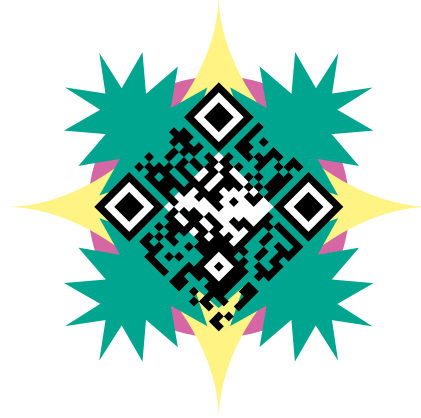


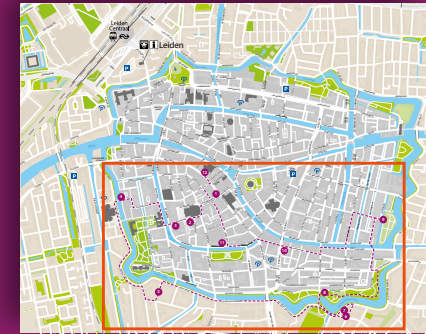
Traces of Indonesia in Leiden

From 1900 onwards, more and more Indonesian students came to the Netherlands to study in Leiden. Several of these students also played a role in their country's nationalist movement and the building of an independent Indonesia. This walk takes you to some important places in their lives and introduces a number of the students.

The guides on the tours include members of the Association of Indonesian Students, Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia (the PPI) in the Netherlands, the successor to the Indische Vereniging, which was founded in 1908.



1. Breestraat 95
2. Kloksteeg 25
3. Kloksteeg 7A
4. Reuvensbrug/UBL (KITLV/House Maria Ulfa/ Indonesian Studies/Asian Lib)
5. Hugo de Grootstraat 12
6. Wasstraat 1
7. Zoeterwoudsesingel 52
8. Plantsoen 65
9. Groenesteeg Cemetery
10. Hogewoerd 49
11. Steenschuur 25
12. Stadsgehoorzaal/City Auditorium on Breestraat



Text: Fridus Steijlen, Grace Leksana and Marieke Bloembergen / KITLV and Universiteit Leiden

Photos: Pim Rusch

This Leiden World Walk is offered to you by



Universiteit
Leiden
Geesteswetenschappen



1 Breestraat 95

In 1901, this building housed 'Ceres', a vegetarian restaurant, which was a new phenomenon at the time. Three Indonesian students – the first to come to Leiden for academic studies – rented a room above the restaurant. Studying at academic level was not possible in the Dutch East Indies and studying here was also restricted to the sons (and later a few daughters) of Indonesian elites. One of the three students was Raden Mas Pandji Sosrokartono, brother of the famous Indonesian emancipatory writer Kartini and son of the regent of Jepara. He enrolled here in October 1901. Soon after Sosrokartono moved here, Raden Mas Koesoema Joedha, son of Prince Paku Alam V of Yogyakarta (one of the four principalities in Central Java), and Raden Mas Sajogo, a son of the regent of Wonosobo, joined him. Sosrokartono studied Indology. Koesoema Joeda and Sajogo opted for 'grand officer examination' or exams for high officials. At that time, this part of Breestraat formed the heart of Leiden's student district.



2 Kloksteeg 25

This address was home to the Faculty of Indology from 1901 to 1922 and was one of the centralised places in which administrative officials for the Indies were trained. The course took on its final form in 1922 as a programme given by both the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Literature. Known as 'Indology', the course was designed to provide students with basic knowledge of Indonesian literature, along with knowledge of the political-economic aspects of the country. Hamengkubuwono



3 Kloksteeg 7A

Here lived Dorodjatun (Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono IX), the crown prince of the Sultanate of Yogyakarta, known within his circle of friends as 'Henkie'. After first studying in Haarlem, he came to Leiden in 1937 to study Indology. He was a member of LSC Minerva and led the Indology student association in 1938. Looking back on his student life in Leiden, Hamengkubuwono IX said that it was his personal decision to fully immerse himself in Dutch society. During his stay in the city, he also had contact with Maria Ulfah, Prijono and other Indonesian students who, following Indonesian independence, went on to occupy important positions in both academia and Indonesian government. An abrupt end came to his studies when 'Henkie' had to return to Indonesia to succeed his father. During the Indonesian Revolution (1945-1949), he provided hospitality in Yogyakarta to the government of the Republic of Indonesia, against which the Netherlands was fighting.



4 Reuvensbrug

On the Reuvensbrug Bridge, we find ourselves in the contemporary hotspot for Asia and Indonesia Studies, and in the midst of libraries and archives with books, manuscripts and visual materials that have been



collected since colonial times. On Reuvenplaats we find the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), founded in 1851, and on Witte Singel, the University Libraries (UBL) with the Asia Library, opened in 2017, uniting collections from former colonial institutes such as the University Library, the KITLV, and the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam. Next to the library, at Matthias de Vrieshof, is the Leiden Institute for Area Studies (LIAS), which also focuses on Asia. In the past, mansions stood here. At Witte Singel 25, Siti Soendari and Maria Ulfah once made their home. Siti Soendari (1906-1998) and her sister Sri Oemijati (1903-1989) were among the first Indonesian women to study in the Netherlands. Maria Ulfah came in 1929 and was a member of the Association of Female Students in Leiden (VVSL). From her biography we know that when she walked through Doelensteeg to Rapenburg, she would endure discriminatory taunts, such as 'Pinda, pinda, lekka, lekka' ('peanut, peanut, tasty, tasty'). Maria Ulfah later became the first female minister of Indonesia (Social Affairs).

5 Hugo de Grootstraat 12

From the late 1910s onwards, politics dominated the lives of many Indonesian students in Leiden. The meetings organised by Perhimpunan Indonesia (PI, founded in 1908 under the name Indische Vereniging) were mainly political in nature. In the 1930s, the number of Indonesian



students studying in Leiden peaked at around 100. Because of the need for a shared social space for Indonesians, Roekoen Peladjar Indonesia (Roepi, or the Indonesian Student Association) was founded in 1937, aiming to connect Indonesians from different backgrounds with each other, regardless of their political beliefs. In 1938, Roepi opened a common space, giving it the name 'Clubhouse Indonesia'. The clubhouse was not allowed to be 'owned' by any specific organisation. At the beginning of the German occupation, food stamps and other donations were provided to Indonesian students by Clubhouse Indonesia. In 1941, a year after the university was shut down by the Germans, Clubhouse Indonesia also closed its doors. In 2017, a memorial stone was placed in the Clubhouse to commemorate the Indonesian students.

6 Wasstraat 1

This is where Ali Sastroamidjojo, who was twice Prime Minister of Indonesia in the 1950s, lived with his family in the late 1920s. It was a time when the Indonesian student community was under pressure, partly because the Dutch government had arrested their leaders. Wasstraat 1 acted as a refuge for many Indonesian students and symbolised togetherness. A good example was the refuge provided to Arnold Mononutu, who was active in the PI Indonesian student association. The Dutch Political Intelligence Service did not trust Monohutu and blocked his return to the country following a trip to Paris. Eventually he was allowed back into the Netherlands and was taken in by the family of Ali Sastroamidjojomet. In 1927, Monohutu returned to Indonesia. It was common practice for students who had families to take in other students who were struggling, sharing meals with them.



7 Zoeterwoudsesingel 52

This is where the children of Ong kie hong (Ongkiehong) lived in the early part of the last century. Ong Kie Hong (1861-1914) was a prominent Chinese businessman who held an important position in the Chinese community in Ambon (Moluccas). He wanted his children to study in the Netherlands and sent them to Leiden. His daughters, Sien Everdien and Anna Lucia, were among the first Chinese girls from the Dutch East Indies to study abroad. Ong Kie Hong received much criticism from the Chinese community in Ambon for sending his unmarried daughters to Europe. As many as four of his sons and two of his daughters enrolled at Leiden University. After completing their studies, they returned to the archipelago to work. After World War II, most of them returned to the Netherlands.



themselves towards China as their 'homeland'. It was the medical student Yap Hong Tjoen who took the initiative to form the CHH. In addition to having a clubhouse, the association also managed its own library and published its own magazine. In 1913, the CHH even put up scholarships to support Chinese-Indonesian students wanting to study in the Netherlands. There were warm relationships between the Chinese association and Indonesian student associations such as PI.

9 Groenesteeg Cemetery

Along with the grave of Snouck Hurgronje, one of the most famous Dutch Islamic Studies scholars, this cemetery contains the grave of the Indonesian student Irawan Soejono (1919-1945). Like many Indonesian students, Irawan was involved in the resistance against the Germans during World War II. On 13 January 1945, he was fatally shot by the occupiers during a raid on Boommarkt. Irawan was trying to get away because he was carrying parts of a typewriter used for the illegal press. Irawan's pseudonym was 'Henk of the Liberation'. His headstone is still in the cemetery, but Irawan's body was repatriated to Indonesia in 1946.

8 Plantsoen 65

The Chinese association Chung Hwa Hui (中華會, CCH), settled here in 1912. Chinese students from Indonesia came to study in the Netherlands at more or less the same time as upper-class Indonesian students. They organised themselves according to their Chinese origins, in line with the racial segregation in colonial Indonesia. A contributing factor was that Chinese people, especially at that time, oriented



10 Hogewoerd 49

At the beginning of the last century, before it became the home of the famous Casino cinema, Indonesian students lived at this address. In 1908, fifteen of them gathered here and decided to establish an Indonesian association. It was first called the Indische Vereniging, then the Indonesian Association and later Perhimpunan Indonesia – the PI. Through the organisation, the students' aim was to promote mutual solidarity and support new students from Indonesia. The character of the association changed over time, from being one that cooperated with the Dutch government to one that was non-cooperative. Many members of the PI from the pre-war period were actively involved in the Indonesian nationalist movement. While here, they developed new international contacts, among other things. Various members became active in Indonesian diplomacy following the proclamation of independence. The PI still exists in the form of the PPI (Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia).



universities and many Indonesian students study here. The importance of this academic cooperation also lies in the fact that the current legal system in Indonesia, as well as medical science, has been grafted onto what was developed during the colonial period.

12 Stadsgehoorzaal/City Auditorium on Breestraat

We are roughly opposite the spot where the walk began – Breestraat 95 – where the first Indonesian students came to live. This part of Breestraat was important for Indonesian students, as it was the location of the student associations of which some became members. At no. 8, the 'Dubbelman' bookstore sold leftist books, such as Soekarno's Plea. In October 1945, with the German occupation over, Indonesia having declared its independence and Indonesian students having called on the Dutch population to support their fight for freedom, a special meeting took place in the Stadsgehoorzaal. The Perhimpunan Indonesia association celebrated the 37th anniversary of Budi Utomo ('the Beautiful Endeavour'), which is considered the beginning of Indonesian nationalism. The association commemorated the Sumpah Pemuda, the 'Oath of the Youth' from 1928. The Sumpah Pemuda laid the foundation for today's Indonesia: one people (Indonesian), one language (Indonesian) and one country (the former Dutch East Indies).



11 Steenschuur 25

The Kamerling Onnes building houses the Van Vollenhoven Institute (VVI). Along with the hotspot around the Reuvensbrug Bridge, this is an important site of academic cooperation between Indonesia and the Netherlands today. The VVI – named after the influential Indologist and expert on international law

Cornelis van Vollenhoven (1877-1933) – maintains a study programme on law in Indonesia, including adat (customary) law, until this day. There is great cooperation between VVI and Indonesian



Leiden World Walk by the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in cooperation with Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and LeidenGlobal (authors Fridus Steijlen, Marieke Bloembergen and Grace Leksana)