

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Rita Tjien Fooh**  
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### EDUCATION

- 2008** Masters in Public Administration degree (MPA) obtained by the Erasmus University/  
International Institute for Social Studies and FHR Lim A Po Institute for Higher Education.
- 2005** Diploma Archivistiek A  
Archiefschool/ University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
- 1998** Advance Teachers Institute for Higher Education

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2010- present** Director/ National Archivist, National Archives of Suriname
- 2015- present** Advisor to the National Archives Council
- 2013- Present** Lecturer (part-time) at the History department (Faculty Humaniora) Anton de Kom  
University of Suriname
- 2009- 2010** Lecturer Advance Teacher Institute for Higher Education
- 2003- 2010** Management National Archives of Suriname

### National Committees

- 2020- present Member Presidential Honorary Awards Committee
- 2020- present Member National Heritage Conservation Committee
- 2017- 2019 Chair of the Knowledge Institute of the Association for the Commemoration of  
Javanese Emigration

### REGIONAL POSITIONS AND INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS

#### Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA)

- 2019- present Co- Chair Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network
- 2015- 2019 President of the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives  
(CARBICA)
- 2016- 2018 CARBICA's Project coordinator of the 'Archives at Risk' multi-year project Funded by the  
International Council on Archives (ICA)
- 2010- 2015 Vice President of the Caribbean Branch of the International Council on Archives  
(CARBICA)

#### International Council on Archives

- 2019- present Member steering committee Forum of National Archivist (FAN)
- 2019- present Co- Chair Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network
- 2016-2019 Member of the Executive Board of the International Council on Archives (ICA), member  
of the Program Commission (P-COM) of the International Council on Archives (ICA)
- 2017-2019 Chair of the ICA Branch's Presidents Meeting

## UNESCO Memory of the World Programme

- 2018- 2024 Board member of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (MOW)
- 2015- 2017 President of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program for the Latin American and Caribbean Region (MOWLAC)
- 2013- 2015 Vice President of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program for the Latin- American and Caribbean Region (MOWLAC)

## ACHIEVEMENTS AS NATIONAL ARCHIVIST

### Training and infrastructure

From 2013 on the National Archives developed a Records Management training for government officials and Preservation training for heritage institutions in collaboration with the partners in the Netherlands. We also inaugurated a new Restoration Lab in close collaboration with Hoogduin Ateliers in the Netherlands.

In 2013 the National Archives inaugurated the new extended part of the Archives building (especially built for a new audiovisual unit) was inaugurated.

### Projects

From 2010 until 2017 I was the counterpart for the Project of the Repatriation of the Surinamese archives from the Netherlands.

In 2017 the National Archives received funding from the UNESCO for the project "Preservation and access of documentary heritage in a digital age".

As National Archivist, coordinating "Maak de slavenregisters Openbaar" (Access of the slave registers) in collaboration with the Radboud University in the Netherlands (2017).

In 2019 the National Archives collaborated with the Anton de Kom University of Suriname and the Radboud University on a project "Preserving Archival Heritage and Infrastructure" that was funded by the Gerda Henkel Stiftung (2019- 2023)

In 2020 the National Archives received funding from the Prince Claus Foundation to organize a training for heritage institutions to develop an Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management Plan (2020- 2022).

### International collaboration

Since my appointment I also intensified the archival collaboration with archival and heritage institutions in the Netherlands. We signed agreements with the National Archives of the Netherlands with whom we have a close working relation and we implemented various successful projects. Recently we signed an agreement with Stadsarchief Amsterdam, Groninger Archieven and the Dutch Institute for Sound and Vision. With the National Archives of Indonesia as well as the National Archives of India we also signed an agreement to collaborate in the area of exchange of archival material, training and internship.

### Conferences, workshops, trainings

I participated in numerous conferences and workshops (regional and international) as well as participated in training in the field of digitization, access of information, preservation.

### Publications

Tjien Fooh, R. (2018). The Return of the Historical Archives (1661- 1975) from the Netherlands to Suriname. In: Decolonizing the Caribbean Record: An Archives Reader. Editors: Jeannette A Bastian, John A Aarons, Stanley H Griffin. Litwin Books. And also contributed in the upcoming publication (2023)' Disputed Archival Heritage edited by James Lowry.