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The Postcolonial Present

Doornbos, Julia Rosa

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Propositions accompanying the PhD thesis

The Postcolonial Present:

everyday geographies of the Indo-European diaspora

by Julia Doornbos

1. Individual and collective memories of war violence, racialized violence and displacement remain deeply rooted in the everyday lives of Indo-European generations (this thesis).
2. “Ideas about race and superiority and inferiority have been deposited in all of us” (Wekker & Sauer, 2020, p.371).
3. The ways Indo-Europeans negotiate their identities in the present are shaped by larger structures of racialized violence they experience(d) in both the Dutch East Indies and the Netherlands (chapter two).
4. Silences within Indo-European families provide a fertile ground for generating ghosts of the past and thus, intergenerational hauntings (chapter three).
5. Rather than being solely mediated, experiences can be transmitted so deeply that they become memories in themselves for next Indo-European generations (chapter three and four).
6. Places and related power dynamics influence *Indische* senses of belonging and engagements with memories in everyday lives (this thesis).
7. Feminist ethics of care, emphasizing care and responsibility to others and ourselves over outcomes, is pivotal for research with marginalized populations (chapter five).
8. Creative and arts-based research can generate deep insights into multifaceted ways of knowing and can offer ways to give back and contribute to communities (chapter five).
9. Critical engagements within and outside the Indo-European community about colonial pasts, its legacies and its place in current society continue to be needed (this thesis).
10. Indo-Europeans’ histories and identities cannot be captured solely by in- betweenness or dichotomies of ‘European’ colonizer and ‘Indonesian’ colonized, due to their entangled, dynamic and agentic positioning along axes of difference (this thesis).
11. “No different. Only different in your mind. You must unlearn what you have learned.” (Yoda in *Star Wars: Episode V - The Empire Strikes Back*).
12. “Ik kijk naar mijn Indische familie, en realiseer me dat ik sommige dingen nu beter begrijp. Maar ook dat veel dingen een raadsel zullen blijven.” (Maddy Batelaan during *National Indië Herdenking*, 2020).