

## Letter from the Editors

After the last issue's focus on Africa we now turn to America and Asia. Dan Murphree analyses the process of 'racialisation in the Floridas' after the arrival of the Europeans in the early sixteenth century, while the contribution of Jeremy Cohen deals with the *prácticos* of eighteenth-century Venezuela. With regard to Asia, Hong Lysa's article studies how in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the autonomy of the Siamese state was compromised by the imposition of extraterritorial rights for the Europeans in Bangkok. Referring also to the systems of extraterritoriality and foreign residence in China and Japan, she contributes to a better insight in the functioning of European semi-colonialism in Asia during the age of modern imperialism. In the sphere of early modern Asian history, we also bring you three conference papers from the TANAP conference held last year in Bangkok. Marné Strydom, Ryuto Shimada and Atsushi Ota demonstrate the usefulness of Dutch East India Company materials for the history of colonial Formosa, inter-Asian economic competition, and the administrative system of Banten (Java) respectively. Finally the interview held by Leonard Blussé with Patricia Seed brings together Latin American and Asian history, as Professor Seed's specialisations relate to both regions. And as usual we have an extensive collection of reviews of the recent major publications in the field of Colonial History.

After the completion of the previous issue, Jesca Zweijter left *Itinerario* to pursue a career in the administration of the Faculty of Arts of Leiden University. The extensive range of activities she undertook for the journal as editorial assistant and financial administrator has since been continued by Bhawan Ruangsilp, Anjana Singh and Marijke van Wissen-van Staden. Having contributed importantly to the continuity of *Itinerario*, Anjana Singh now returns to the demanding task of producing a PhD thesis on early modern India within the TANAP program at Leiden University. The journal is indebted to Jesca and Anjana for their excellent work. We wish them all the best in their careers.

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