

Melinda Susanto (Leiden University)

*Regulating health and medicine in the Dutch East India Company*

How did the Dutch East India Company (VOC) regulate practices of health and medicine? Trading ports such as Batavia and Colombo functioned as spaces of medical pluralism, and this paper will show how locality and intercultural exchanges contributed to the development of informed health and medical practices in VOC settlements. It further unpacks the connections between labour, health and medicine, suggesting that the VOC's utility of medical knowledge and goods was crucial to its functioning as an institution in Asia. The focus of this paper is on Sri Lanka and the Malay-speaking world, which I suggest are significant transitional zones for circulations of knowledge across the Indian Ocean.

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