

Edwin Pietersma, MA

PhD student specializing in the modern and colonial history of Japan, Thailand, and Indonesia, 1840s-today.

My main scholarly interests include, among others, the intersection of migration and modern nation-state formation, the role of borders and technology in colonialism versus how to complicate their legacies, as well as how to foreground agency in historiography. Passionate about languages, research, and networking.

EDUCATION

PhD in Japanese and Southeast Asian History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, United State of America.

SEPTEMBER 2024 - NOW

- Current GPA standing of 4.0 out of 4.0.
- Member of the Graduate Student Council (AY 2024-2025 and 2025-2026) to support program developments.
- Teaching Assistant for History 244: 'Introduction to Southeast Asia' (Fall 2025-2026) and History 246: 'Southeast Asian Refugees' (Spring semester 2026) for 20 hours a week for 15 weeks.
- Archival research experience in the Netherlands (5 weeks in the winter of 2025-2026) and Thailand (6 weeks in the summer of 2026).

Master of Arts in Anthropology, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan (R.O.C.).

FEBRUARY 2019 – JANUARY 2020

- Graduated with a GPA of 3.89 out of 4.3.
- Completed a two-year degree in one year taught in Mandarin (70%) and English (30%).
- Specialized in the colonial anthropology of East- and Southeast Asia.

Master of Arts in Asian Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands.

SEPTEMBER 2016 – MARCH 2018

- Graduated with a final grade of 8.1 out of 10 (*cum laude*).
- Specialization track of 'Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe.'
- Fieldwork experience in Japanese museums and archives on colonial representation (3 months in the summer of 2017), awarded with an 8.3.

Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

SEPTEMBER 2012 – AUGUST 2016

- Graduated with a GPA of 7.3 out of 10.
- Studied abroad at Osaka University for one year.
- Specialized in modern history, with a minor in 'Non-Western Studies.'

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Pietersma, E (2026). 'The "Lord of Life" with his "Trunk King": the usage of a Javanese Ganesha statue in the colonial collecting praxis of king Chulalongkorn, 1896-1926.', *TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia*, 1-18.

Pietersma, E. (2023) 'From Crafts to Agency: The Legacy of Colonial Discourses in Exhibiting the Ainu in the Tokyo National Museum and National Museum of Ethnology at Osaka between 1977 and 2017.', *Museums & Society* 21 (3) 22-35.

Pietersma, E., and Harrison, R. (2023) ' "The Broken Colonizer": Ruptures of Homecoming and Belonging in Nyckle Haisma's *Peke Donia, de Koloniaal.*', *Indonesia & The Malay World* 51 (151) 1-18.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant to the Southeast Asian Librarian, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

JANUARY 2025 – NOW

- Evaluating and cataloging books and other research material pertaining to, but not exclusive to, Southeast Asia.
- Developing skills in data collection management and library software, including Alma and LibGuides.

Academic Lecturer, Bansomdej Chaophraya Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

JUNE 2021 – MAY 2024

- Designed and taught courses on English language acquisition, academic skills, and professional development for over three hundred students and staff annually (student satisfaction rate of over 80%).
- Established and led two committees towards the university's internationalization and professionalization goals, including implementing the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and establishing connections with the European Union and the United States.



PERSONAL INFORMATION

pietersma@wisc.edu

NATIONALITY

Dutch

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH

October 6, 1993, in Balk (Netherlands)

CURRENT RESIDENCE

Madison, Wisconsin (USA).

SOCIAL

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/edwin-pietersma/>

[win-pietersma/](#)

ORCID: 0009-0004-7331-4200

MEMBERSHIPS

Royal Dutch Historical Society (KNHG)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

Modern Japan History Association

(MJHA)

SKILLS

(Critical) Analysis

(Intercultural) Communication

Multidisciplinary research

Project management

LANGUAGES (CEFR)

Dutch (native)

West-Frisian (native)

English (C2: TOEFL 115/120)

Japanese (B2/C1: JLPT N2)

Mandarin Chinese (B2)

Indonesian (B1)

Thai (B1)

German (B1)

HOBBIES

Travelling, fitness, reading, language learning, visiting exhibitions.

Researcher, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands.

JANUARI 2021 – APRIL 2021

- Analyzed and wrote a report on the status of all existing heritage-related academic programs with a reflection on the significance and improvements of the Double Degree of the International Institute for Asian Studies, named 'Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe.'

Object Researcher, National Taiwan University Museum, Taipei, Taiwan (R.O.C.).

APRIL 2019 – OCTOBER 2019

- Researched and described over 150 cultural artefacts of minority groups in Mainland China and Taiwan for a general museum public in English and Mandarin.

Administrative Assistant, Sodexo, Leiden, The Netherlands.

FEBRUARY 2018 – AUGUST 2018

- Managed the implementation of a local safety culture for over 100 employees working in hazardous environments across three different locations.
- As administrative support, implemented automatization systems, wrote reports on company progress and improvements, and performed miscellaneous administrative tasks.

Tour Guide, Museum Volkenkunde (National Ethnographic Museum), Leiden, The Netherlands.

SEPTEMBER 2016 – AUGUST 2018

- Provided tours on a weekly basis in which I translated ethnographic objects, histories, and cultures around the world for a Dutch and international public of all ages and levels.

University Research Assistant, Department of Teacher Education, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

OCTOBER 2015 – JULY 2016

- Collected, selected, and analyzed internationally published articles concerning *Lesson Study*, a Japanese form of teacher professionalization.

President of the Career Committee, Groninger Historisch Dispuut (GHD) Ubbo Emmius, Groningen, The Netherlands.

OCTOBER 2015 – AUGUST 2016

- Led a team of six to organize a conference and two excursions helping more than 100 students identify future career possibilities.

EXTRACURRICULAR COURSES & CERTIFICATES

Intensive Indonesian Language Course (elementary level), Southeast Asian Summer Language Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

JUNE 2025 – AUGUST 2025

Academic Writing for Publication, Babel Language Courses.

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2022

GA Level 5 Diploma in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, I-to-I.

JANUARY 2021

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Certificate Level N2, Japan Foundation, and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services.

JANUARY 2018

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

International Institute of Asian Studies: **IIAS Grant** for participation in the Double Degree program "Critical Heritage Studies of Asia and Europe".

FEBRUARY 2019

Taiwanese Ministry of Education: **Huayu (Mandarin) Enrichment Scholarship** for studying Mandarin at National Taiwan University, Taiwan.

SEPTEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2019

University of Groningen: **Marco Polo Grant** for studying abroad at Osaka University, Japan.

SEPTEMBER 2014 – AUGUST 2015