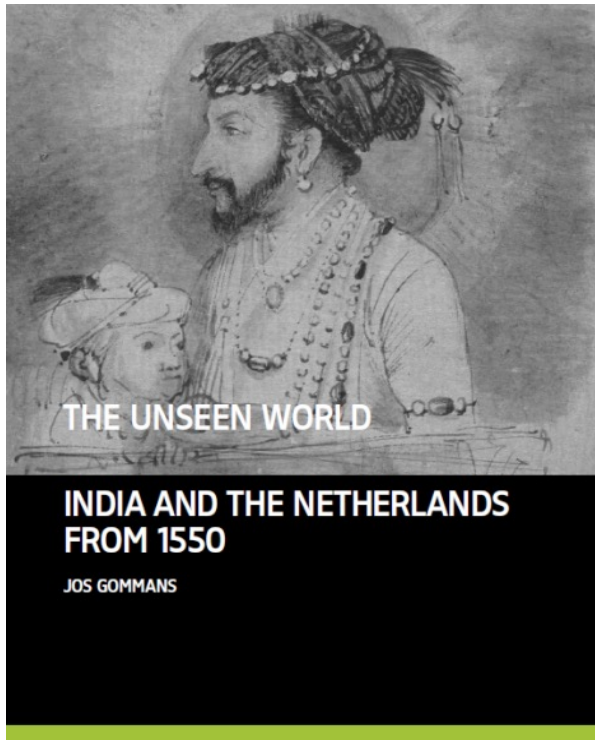


Title: Indo-Dutch Entanglements in the Age of Rembrandt

The talk focuses on Gommans' latest book *The Unseen World* (March 2018) that offers a connective, comparative and entangled perspective on the relations between the Netherlands and India during the seventeenth century.



For India and the Netherlands, the seventeenth century was a golden age of unprecedented economic and cultural activity. Both countries were increasingly affected by globalization and developed vast empires. The ever-expanding scope of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) inevitably led to intensive interaction between them. As a direct result, Indian textiles unleashed a hidden revolution in Dutch consumer behaviour, while the flow of VOC bullion into India contributed significantly to the stability of the country's Mughal Empire. But there was more to this relationship than trade alone, because an ancient and forgotten undercurrent connected the regions, nourishing shared aspects of cultural and intellectual expression. This truly unique artistic dialogue became manifest in the work of painters such as Kesu Das in India and Rembrandt van Rijn in the Netherlands.



Jos J.L. Gommans holds the chair of Colonial and Global History at the University of Leiden. He specializes in the early modern history of South Asia and its connections with the outside world. His major publications include *The Rise of the Indo-Afghan Empire, c.1710-1780* (Leiden, 1995; Delhi, 1999; Delhi, 2018) and *Mughal Warfare: Indian Frontiers and High Roads to Empire, 1500-1700* (London, 2002). More recently he focused on the history of the Dutch colonial empire, published two historical atlases and *Exploring the Dutch Empire* (London 2016) with Catia Antunes and *The Dutch Overseas Empire* with Piet Emmer (Cambridge, forthcoming). This year an omnibus of his work was published as *The Indian Frontier: Horse and Warband in the Making of Empires* (Delhi 2018).