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Sysling, F.H.

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THE ARCHIPELAGO OF DIFFERENCE

Physical anthropology in the Netherlands Indies, ca.
1890-1960



Fenneke Sysling

THE ARCHIPELAGO OF DIFFERENCE

Fenneke Sysling

The archipelago of difference is a study of the practices and ideas of physical anthropology in the context of the Dutch Empire in Southeast Asia. It is a story of both the dirty work of anthropology and the grand questions of race that lay behind it, from skulls that were dug up or confiscated in the Dutch colonies to the question whether such a thing as a pygmy race in New Guinea existed. The book analyses the processes of making racial knowledge and the connections of these processes with the colonial state and the lives of indigenous Indonesians.

Fenneke Sysling is a historian with an interest in the history of science and colonialism. She completed her PhD at VU University.

