

ESTA Newsletter VI
[22-09-2022]

Dear colleague,

I hope this finds you well!

As we are venturing into the new academic year, I would like to update you on the latest developments in the Indian Ocean and Maritime Asian Slave Trade database.

Data news

In the past months we have focused on further curating existing data and adding new data to the database with the help and indispensable efforts of our interns Alexander van Dijkman and Giacomo Mastregregori. We have already added more than 200 new slave trade voyages in the Indian Ocean region, extracted from a recent addition to the [ESTA Dataverse](#): M. Leenstra's and R. Parthesius' "Dutch Ships in Asian Waters in the 17th Century" dataset. Additionally, we will be incorporating 200+ Portuguese slave trade voyages in the coming period. We hope to further build upon this by including Chinese slave trade and human trafficking data in close collaboration with dr. Claude Chevaleyre.

Currently, the database contains **7,826 individual (sub)voyages** that make up 4,163 overarching slave trade voyages across the maritime Asian region between roughly 1600 and 1850. According to our estimates, the number of enslaved persons transported during these voyages lies between **at least 415,000 and 435,000 individuals**.

You will be able to read more about the process leading up to this point soon in a data paper that our previous student-assistants, and project alumni, Maartje Hids, Pascal Konings, Sam Miske and Hanna de Korte have submitted to be published in TSEG - The Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History.

Data visualisation

We have also explored ways to visualise the data we have collected thus far and are steadily working towards a public website for the database. A very interesting exercise in this context was our collaboration with computer science students at Utrecht University under the guidance of dr. Frans Wiering. From February through April this year, the students immersed themselves in the project and presented us with several exciting options for the visualisation of slave trade data. Their input added a valuable layer of ideas and feedback to the efforts of our colleague and software engineer, Rob Zeeman.

New publications & projects

There have, of course, been several relevant articles and issues published recently and we would like to highlight some of those here. The slave trade database workshop organized by dr. Hans Hägerdal in Kalmar resulted in the special issue "Enslavement and the Slave Trade", *Slavery and Abolition* 43:3 (2022), <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fsla20/43/3>

With, amongst others, Hans Hägerdal, 'Warfare, Bestowal, Purchase: Dutch Acquisition of Slaves in the World of Eastern Indonesia, 1650–1800', *Slavery and Abolition* 43:3 (2022), 553-573, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2021.2008722>

And M. van Rossum, 'Enslaveability, Slavery and Micro Histories: Reflections through the case of Cali', *Slavery and Abolition* 43:3 (2022), 482-498, with contributions from Alexander Geelen and Merve Tosun, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2021.2008725>.

M. van Rossum, 'Towards a global perspective on early modern slave trade: prices of the enslaved in the Indian Ocean, Indonesian Archipelago and Atlantic worlds', *Journal of Global History* 17:1 (2022) 42-68, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1740022821000139>.

In other exciting news, our colleague Matthias van Rossum received a [VIDI grant](#) to investigate enslavement and resistance in the early modern Dutch Atlantic and Asian empires. New data on slave trade collected from the VOC archives as part of this project, will also be incorporated into the Indian Ocean and Maritime Asian Slave Trade Database.

Call for collaboration

With this, we would also like to repeat our call to scout for research data or datasets of colleagues who are no longer active, as these are important to recover and preserve. The International Institute of Social History offers to secure and curate the data or collections.

We are of course open to new collaborations and contributions. These can be broader than existing datasets, but could also be shared lists of observations, references, collections of sources, or suggestions for archives!

Warm regards,
On behalf of the ESTA team,

Merve Tosun

For questions or suggestions with regard to the project, data or sources, please don't hesitate to contact us. Alternatively, if you have news you'd like to share with the network, please feel free to get in touch! Contact: Merve Tosun (merve.tosun@iisg.nl) or Matthias van Rossum (mvr@iisg.nl).