

Using Animation to Compare the Climate Futures of Jakarta and The Netherlands

Therese Jones (COL 2024), Juliana Yu (COL 2024), Cynthia Zhou (COL 2023)

Research Advisers: Joshua Mosley (Weitzman, Fine Arts), Simon Richter (COL, Germanic Languages and Literatures)

Funded by PURM



Background

Objectives of the Project: To first become educated on the water story of the Netherlands and to decide on the topic of the next video in the series, to explore a new chapter of the Netherlands' water story. After deciding on this topic, it being viewing the relationship between the Netherlands and Jakarta through the lens of sea level rise, to then discuss the ways these stories overlap and connect. To use animation to depict these stories in order to communicate them to a wider audience. Overall, to demonstrate the complex relationship between the Dutch and Jakartans through the lens of sea level rise and subsidence.

To begin the project, we were first introduced to water stories associated with the Netherlands and Jakarta. We learned about their current day situations with sea level rise and the historical context for those situations, including the complex history between the Netherlands' colonial past and Jakarta.

The Steps we Took to Prepare for the Video:

1. We were introduced to our research advisors and their experiences regarding this project and its subject matter. Professor Richter directed us to some of his prior lectures on the Netherlands and Professor Joshua directed us to his intro to animation videos. Additionally, our team also familiarized ourselves with the prior videos in the series and how they approached the storyboard and animation process.
2. Started forming our base knowledge on the climate situations of the Netherlands and animation by speaking with experts and reading:
 1. Ward, D. (2003). *Water Wars – Drought, Flood, Folly, and the Politics of Thirst*. Riverhead Books.
 2. van Alphen J, Haasnoot M, Diermanse F. *Uncertain Accelerated Sea-Level Rise, Potential Consequences, and Adaptive Strategies in The Netherlands*. *Water*. 2022; 14(10):1527. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w14101527>
3. Used our new knowledge to begin discussing the video topic we would focus on, eventually settling on depicting the complex connection between the Netherlands and Jakarta. After this decision, we began our research into Jakarta by talking to individuals educated on its history and the ways climate change has greatly affected it.
 1. Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs. (2014). *Master plan national capital integrated coastal development*.
 2. The Jakarta Post. (n.d.). *Why the rich in Jakarta have better access to water than the poor*. The Jakarta Post. Retrieved August 28, 2022, from <https://www.thejakartapost.com/academia/2018/03/19/why-the-rich-in-jakarta-have-better-access-to-water-than-the-poor.html>
4. Investigated the Great Garuda Seawall and used its contentious story as the basis of the story for our animation. The photo of the plan for the Sea Wall and its link to the Garuda served as a central inspiration for our video.



Interview Process

Our team met with many Dutch and Jakartan individuals that are involved with and educated on the Jakarta and its relation to subsidence/sea level rise and the Garuda Sea Wall Project that was ultimately pushed to the side by the Jakartan government and its people. These individuals gave us invaluable feedback and insight on our video and how to appropriately approach this sensitive topic that we then implemented going forward. While we met with many individuals that were very helpful, the physical limitations of the poster make it only possible to list a few of them.

• Barry Beagen

Barry Beagen was trained as an urban planner and architect, but now works in many different facets throughout Jakarta. He now advises their government and assists with urban resilience planning throughout many of the kampungs in Jakarta.



• Henk Nieboer

Henk Nieboer is a Dutch engineer who has had experience working in both the Netherlands and Jakarta in water management and climate-based solutions. Additionally, he was the Director of Witteveen+Bos, the engineering company in charge of designing the Great Garuda Seawall. In support of this plan, his new perspective gave our team invaluable insight to apply to our video.



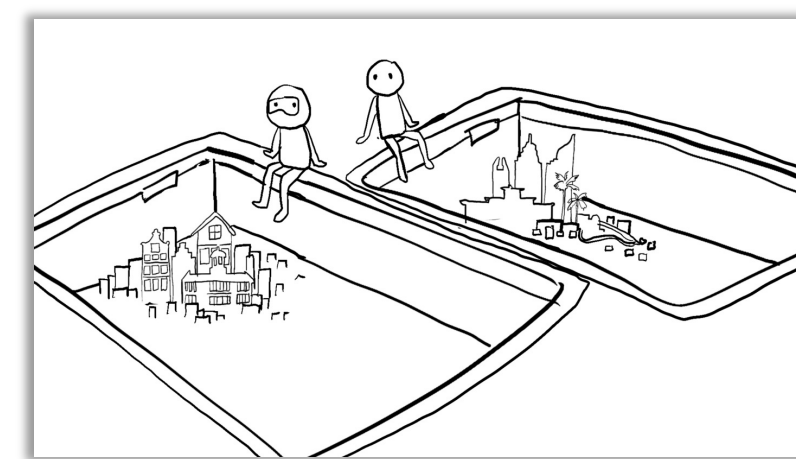
• Emma Colven

Emma Colven is a professor and before that, she wrote her dissertation on the story of the Great Garuda Seawall. As such, she was able to considerably answer all the questions we had on the creation, promotion, and contestation of the Seawall.

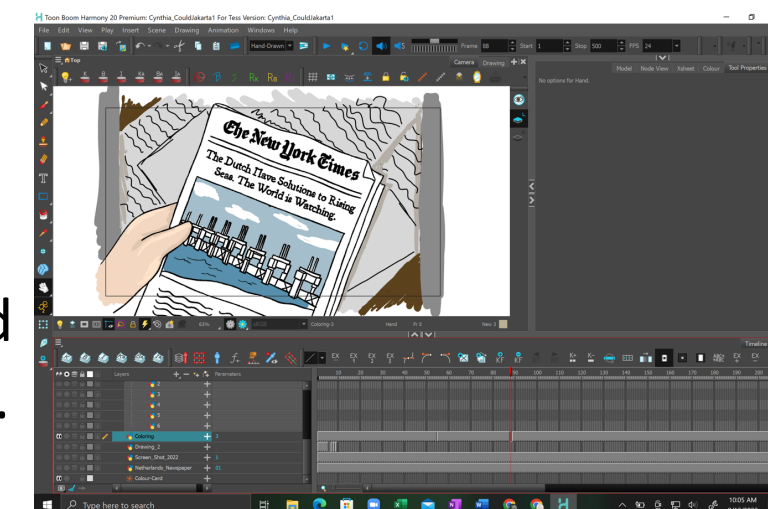


Video Process

- We worked with existing persona “Professor Poldergeist” to provide outsider exploring the intricacies of climate change and adaptation indifferent parts of the world.
- Having consulted with Dutch and Indonesian experts throughout the development process, we strived to ensure respectful discussion about and portrayal of both Dutch and Indonesian culture.
- We developed numerous visual metaphors to communicate the impact of rising sea levels and land subsidence in the Netherlands and Jakarta.



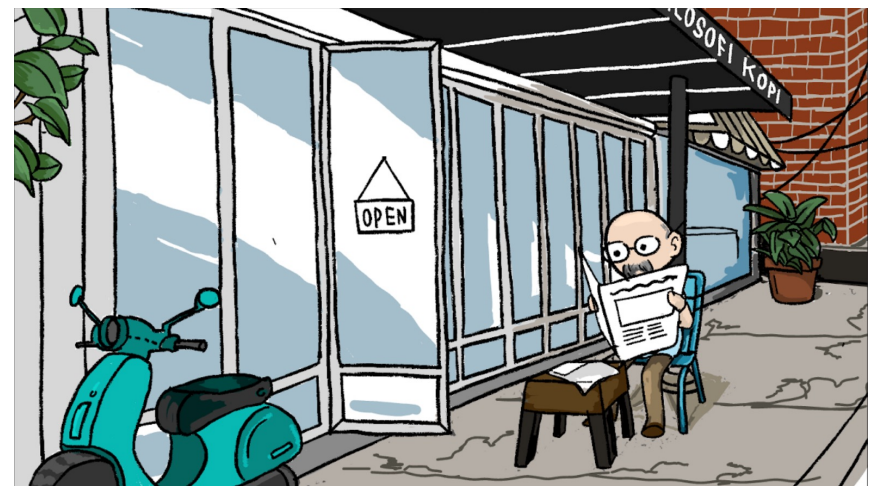
Dutch and Jakartan personas within the drained pool metaphor



Video's Purpose

• Contextualize climate adaptation strategies

- Shed light on the implementation of Dutch climate adaptation strategies domestically and globally
- Explain environmental factors that leave certain regions of the world more vulnerable to climate change

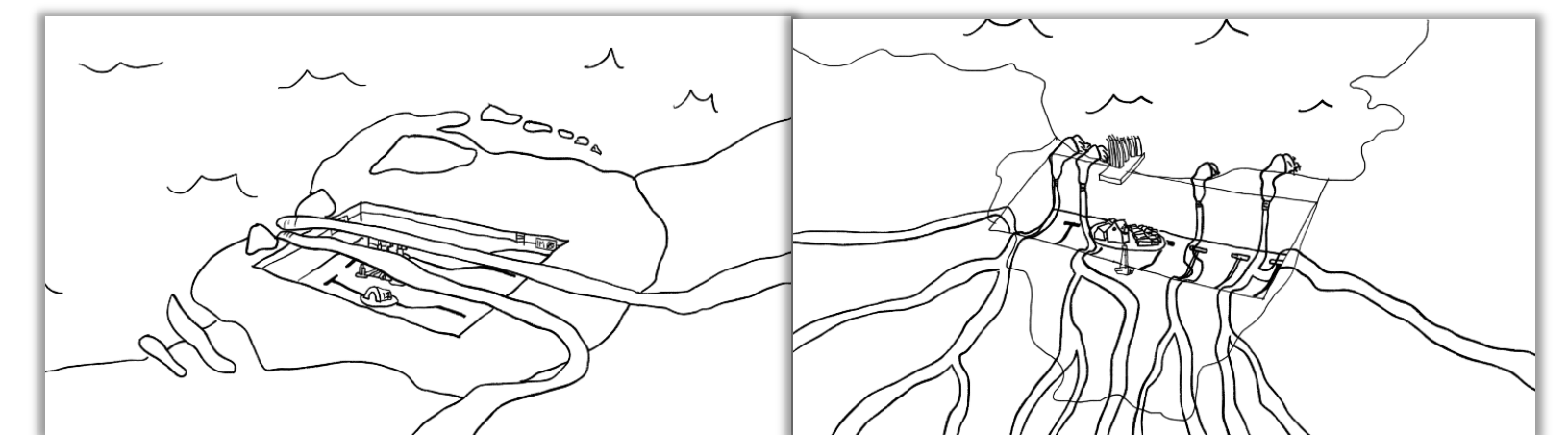


Still of Poldergeist sitting at a famous Jakarta cafe

- Highlight similarities between seemingly contrasting examples of climate adaptation and encourage more nuanced discussion about the implemented strategies

• Further ongoing explainer series

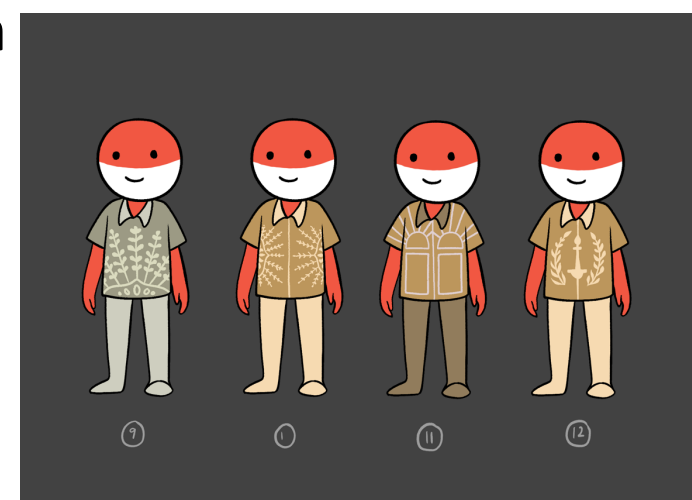
- Develop an informed exploration of climate adaptation through the outsider perspective of Poldergeist
- Bring insights of experts in the field and in the respective regions
- Visually represent research with the goal of bringing awareness to rising sea levels and varying facets of adaptation



Adapting the original Netherlands pool metaphor to Jakarta

• Encourage cultural awareness in climate discussion

- Explore certain uncontrollable factors that impact the implementation of climate adaptation strategies
- Introduce informed and respectful visual representations and language surrounding different countries and their cultures



Test designs for a Batik shirt, a traditional Indonesian garment.

Discussion

Overall, there is more nuance to the Dutch water story than first meets the eye. In the face of rising sea levels globally and other factors such as land subsidence, it is crucial to acknowledge different perspectives and remain informed and objective about the implementation of climate adaptation strategies. Project Poldergeist aims to explore the issues surrounding these topics that are often overlooked. We strived to visually represent some of these complexities and bring the Poldergeist narrative to animated life, as we will continue to do bringing the project to completion.