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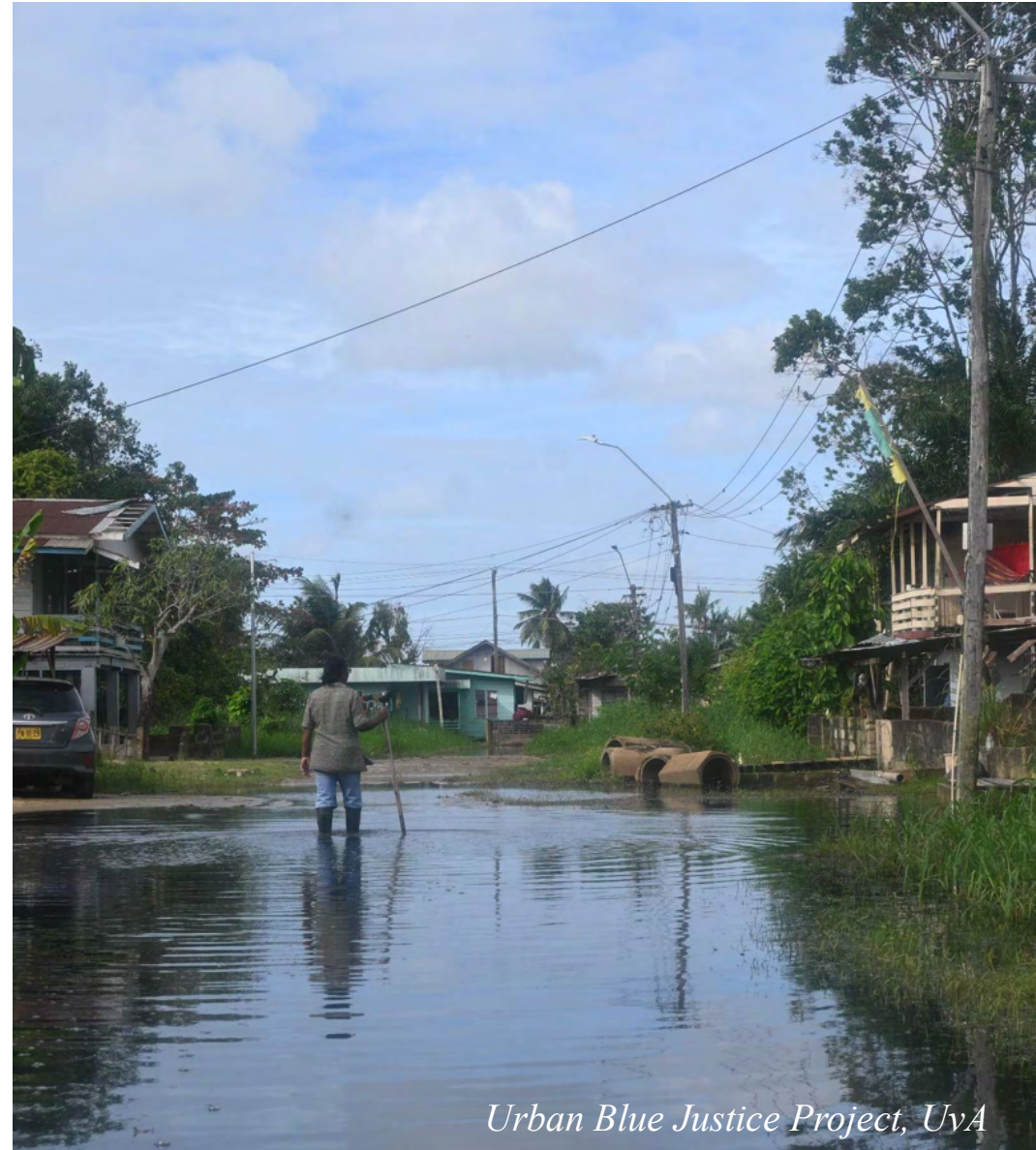
*First analysis of an ongoing research*

# Tracing (Post)colonial Planning and Urban Blue Justice in Paramaribo, Suriname

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*Urban Blue Justice Project, UvA*



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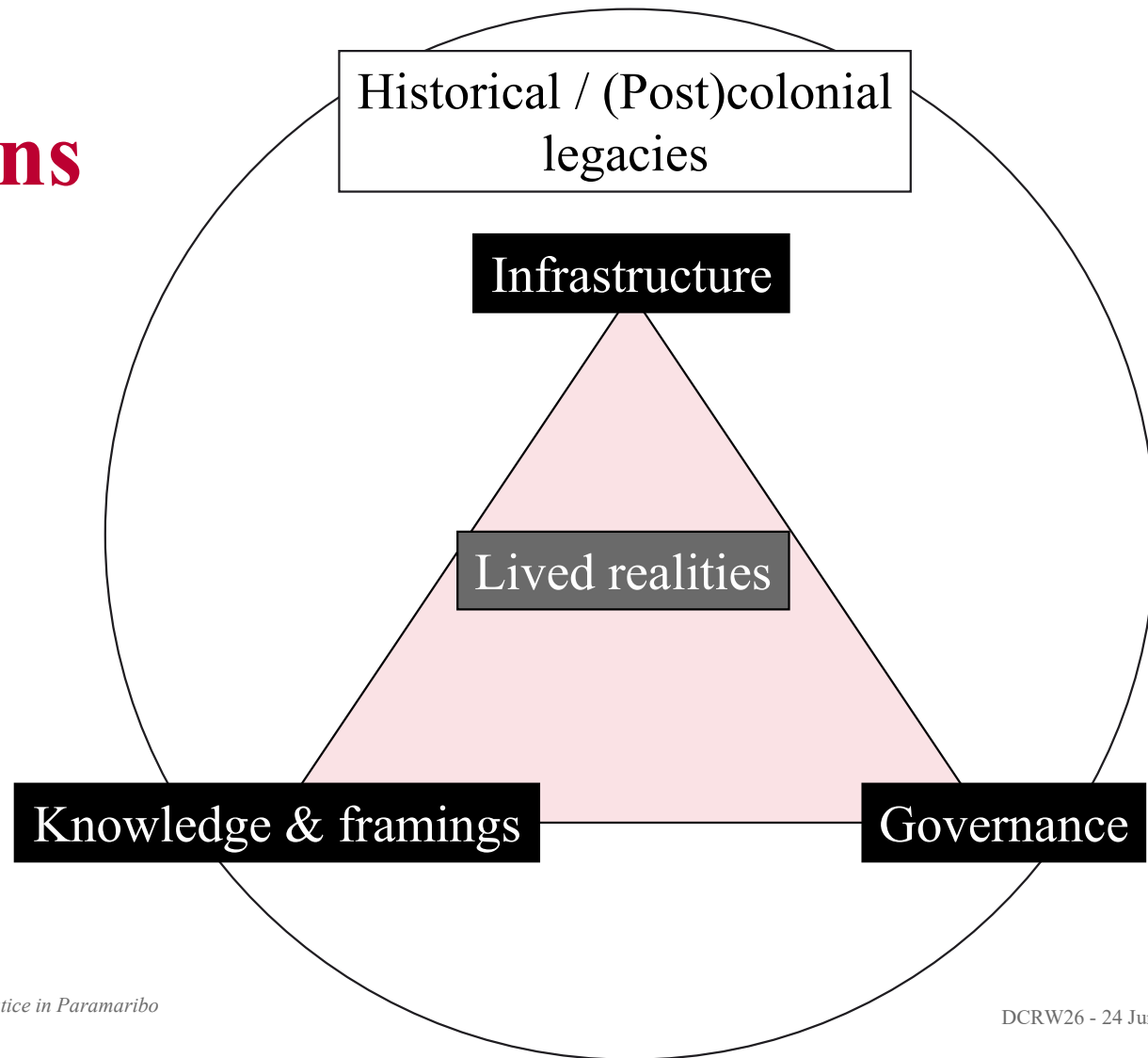
- Case & research question
- Research lens
- Methods
- (Post)colonial legacies & contemporary water governance
- Vignettes / Lived experiences
- Analysis & reflection
- Questions

# Case & research question

How do past and present flood-related infrastructures, governance arrangements and knowledge systems shape justice in how flooding is experienced and managed in Paramaribo?



# Research Lens





# Methods

- Fieldwork interviews

*Ministry of Public Works*

*Local government*

*Engineers*

*Historians*

*Indigenous representatives*

*Employees SCSRP project*

- Participant-led walking interviews

*Winti Wai, Devisbuiten*

- Visual documentation

- Policy / Masterplan documents

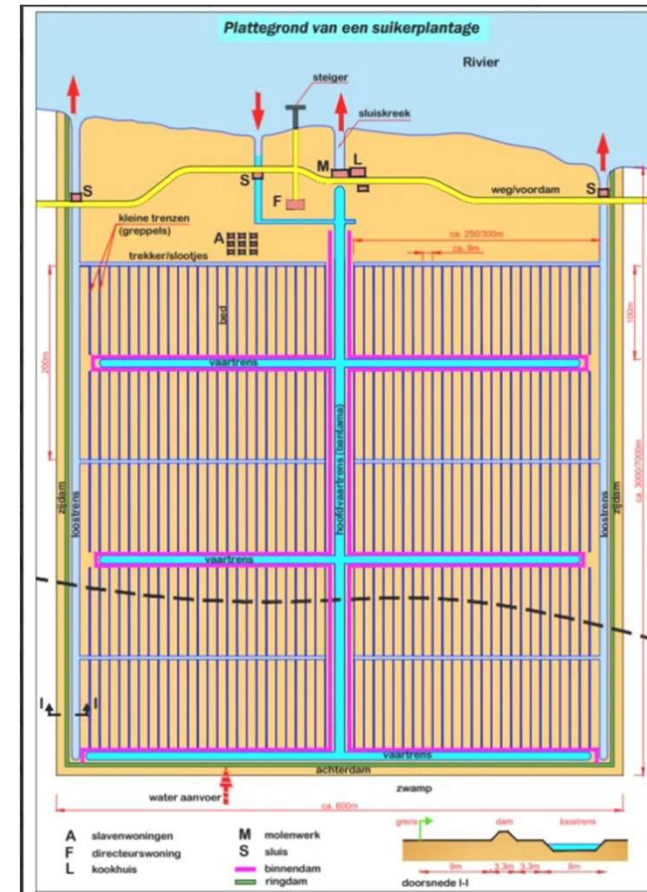
*SCSRP, SuPER*



# **(Post)colonial Legacies & Contemporary Water Governance**

# Historical legacies: infrastructures & planning

- Plantation drainage logic
- Top-down governance tradition
- Urban expansion & fragmentation
- 1972 urban planning law
- Civil war disruption
- External expertise / donor-driven planning



In Bouwen aan de Wilde Kust



# Contemporary water governance

- Project-based, often donor-driven infrastructure
- Multiple actors

*public, private, community, international, national*

- Fragmented & shared responsibilities
- Limited (financial) resources

# Explanations of flooding

## Technical framing

*Pipes too small, wrong levels, outdated*

*Insufficient drainage capacity*

*Broken pumps*

*Clogged channels*

*Connecting new layout to existing infrastructure*

## Governance framing

*Lack of maintenance*

*Fragmented responsibilities*

*Limited institutional capacity*

*Limited (financial) resources*

*Political discontinuities*

*Uncoordinated expansions*

## Behavioral framing

*Solid waste*

*Informal construction*

*Residents blocking drains*

# Lived realities & adaptation



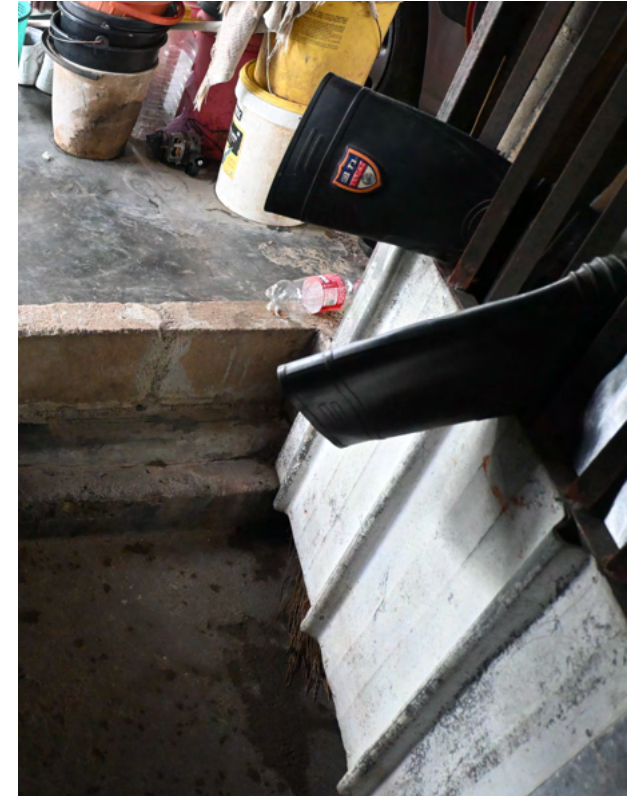
## Vignette 1: Winti Wai *the water that keeps coming*

- Recurrent flooding
- Routine adaptations
- Household coping
- Loss of trust









## Vignette 2: Devisbuiten *waiting for certainty*

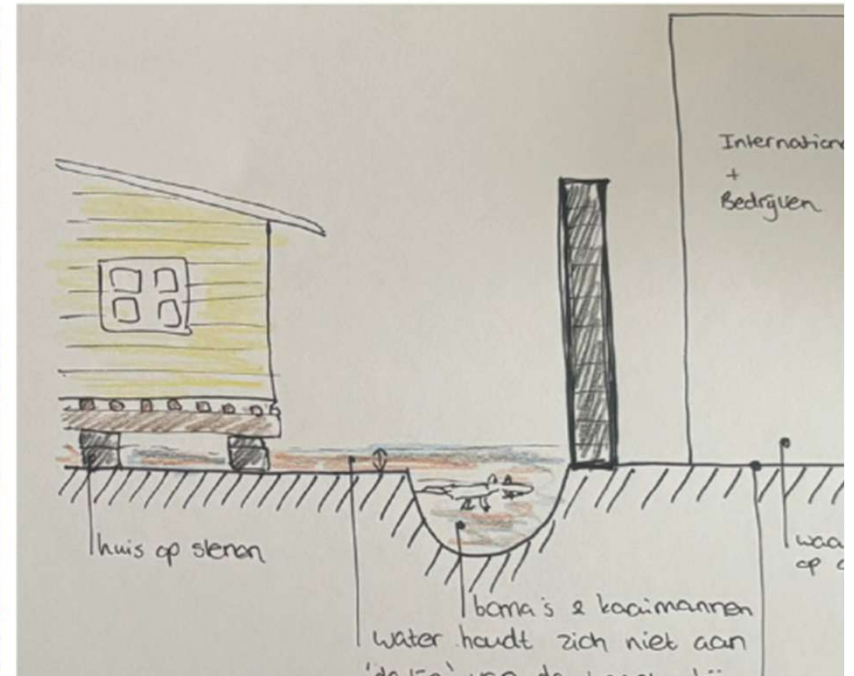
- Occupied land
- Tenure insecurity
- No permits
- Delayed investment

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UBJ-project





# ‘the wall’





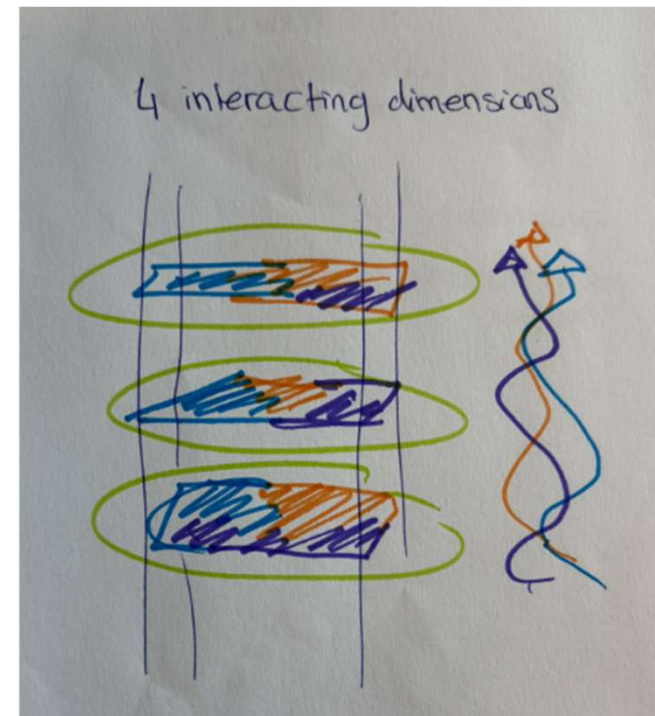
# Analysis & Reflection



# Emerging analytical framework

*Messy temporal patchwork of*

- Infrastructure & maintenance
- Governance & responsibility
- Knowledge & framings
- Lived experiences & adaptation



# Emerging reflections on flooding & justice

- Flooding as layered urban assemblage
- Fragmented governance and shifting responsibility
- Uneven infrastructural conditions and exposure
- Unequal capacity to live with and adapt to water

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# Questions





## Questions for the audience

Do we recognize similar patterns of fragmented water governance and distributed responsibility in other Caribbean urban contexts?

What is lost when water is primarily approached as a technical problem of too much or too little?