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## **Social Subjecthood? The inclusion of (post)colonial migrants in Dutch, French, and British welfare states, 1945-1970**

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In 2019, the UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid addressed elderly Caribbeans who had arrived on the British Isles as UK citizens to apologise for having gradually stripped them of their rights to welfare and social services over the preceding five years. In 2021, President Macron asked for forgiveness on behalf of the French state from harkis, former colonial auxiliaries from Algeria, for interning them in camps upon their arrival in mainland France in the 1960s. In 2023, Dutch Pensions Minister Carola Schouten announced a compensatory payment to those retirees whose residence in the Surinamese part of the Dutch empire did not count for the build-up of their pension rights. The messy encounter between the post-war European welfare state, on the one hand, and the empire(s) within which it took shape, on the other, is of ongoing relevance to the rights and livelihoods of many Europeans today.

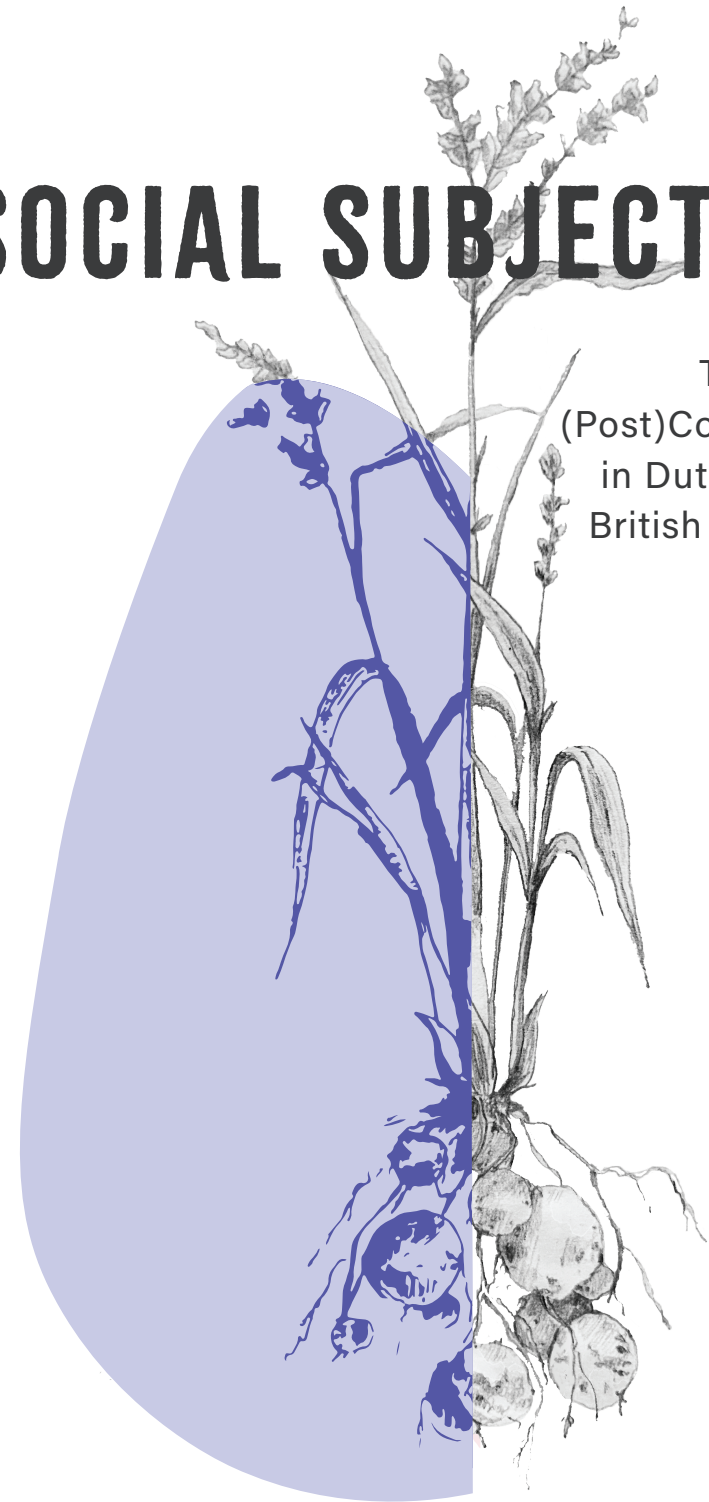
This dissertation pulls into focus the social rights of over one million individuals who traveled from colony to metropole in the post-war period. It does so to contribute to a broader research agenda focused on the impact of migration and (racial) diversity on solidarity. If diversity and solidarity are incompatible, how did the so-called Golden Age of welfare expansion coincide with such substantial migration flows? Moreover, if welfare states need boundaries, how did emerging welfare states in decolonising empires draw them? Through historical-interpretivist comparative case studies of different groups of (post)colonial migrants in the Netherlands, France, and the UK, this dissertation builds original theory about the character and drivers of inclusion that will be useful for students of welfare, race, citizenship, and migration, as well as anyone interested in the location and dynamics of community boundaries, or curious about whether immigration threatens welfare states ■

SOCIAL SUBJECTHOOD?

E. A. WOLFF

# SOCIAL SUBJECTHOOD?

The Inclusion of  
(Post)Colonial Migrants  
in Dutch, French, and  
British Welfare States,  
1945 - 1970



EMILY ANNE WOLFF

