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Shadowboxing: legal mobilization and the marginalization of race in the Dutch metropole, 1979-1999

Fischer, A.L.

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Curriculum vitae

Alison Fischer (Orange Park, 1977) grew up in Miami, Florida, where she graduated from Miami Palmetto Senior High School in 1995. She completed her bachelor's degree in political science and creative writing in 1999 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, which she attended as a Morehead scholar. After working for three years as a grassroots organizer on issues of access to higher education and prison reform, Alison attended Columbia Law School in New York City where she received her doctorate in jurisprudence in 2005. She practiced law, first as a public defender in Miami and New York City, and then in private practice, before moving to the Netherlands in 2011, and working briefly at the Special Court for Sierra Leone both in The Hague and Freetown, Sierra Leone. From 2012 through 2020, Alison taught at the University of Amsterdam Faculty of Law and College of Politics, Psychology, Law and Economics, and the IES Abroad Program in Amsterdam.

In April 2020, Alison joined the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), and the Van Vollenhoven Institute for Law and Governance at the Leiden University Faculty of Law as a PhD candidate, under the supervision of dr. Esther Captain, prof. dr. Rosemarijn Höfte and prof. dr. Maartje van der Woude. While working on her dissertation, Alison has given guest lectures on the history of racialization in Dutch law, co-designed and co-taught a course on race, gender and law for the Leiden Honors College of Law, and served on the organizing committee of Inward Outward, a semi-annual symposium addressing coloniality in archival research. As of July 2025, she is continuing her work as an assistant professor at the Department of Legal History and Legal Theory at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Faculty of Law.