

Dr. Henricus (Rieks) SMEETS (rieks.smeets@gmail.com)

Studies: Slavic languages and literatures, Turkish, Georgian, General Linguistics (Leiden, Leningrad, Tbilisi).

Thesis: Studies in West Circassian Phonology and Morphology, Leiden: The Hakuchi Press, 1984.

Main functions: 2009-present: head of Richelanguage, consultancies for Intangible Heritage, Language Policies and the Caucasus area;  
2003-2008: Chief of Unesco's Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and Secretary of Unesco's Intangible Heritage Convention (Paris);  
2001-2003: Secretary-general of the Dutch National Commission for Unesco (The Hague);  
1978-2001: Lecturer in languages and cultures of the Caucasus, descriptive linguistics and language policies (Leiden University);  
1968-1978: Junior professor in Russian and Georgian (Leiden University).

Other functions: 2011/2012-present: Member of advisory councils of Intangible Heritage institutions created under the auspices of Unesco in Japan and China;  
2007-present: Member of the board of La Maison des Cultures du Monde (Paris);  
2001- 2005: Member of the Council for Dutch Language and Literature (The Hague/Brussels);  
1994-2000: Observer for the Council of Europe at elections;  
1992-1997: Member, then chair of the board of the Foundation for Language, Speech and Logic of NWO, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (The Hague);  
1996-1999: Chair of the Taskforce for Multilingualism of the European Language Council (Berlin);  
1995-1996: Chair of the Societas Caucasologica Europaea.

Other activities: Adviser for language and academic policies; publisher; for eight years contributor to a programme on language on Dutch national radio; articles in the press and contributions in the audiovisual media on conflicts in the Caucasus area.  
At present/recent: advising on ICH matters and language policies; facilitating workshops concerning the implementation of UNESCO's Intangible Heritage Convention (Belarus, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, DPRK, Aruba, Trinidad). Painting/drawing.

Publications in: Caucasian linguistics, modern history of the Caucasus; Russian, European and Dutch language policies; socio-linguistics; intangible cultural heritage.

Nationality: Dutch

Born: February 8, 1946, in Maastricht (the Netherlands).

Address : Hoogzwanenstraat 112, 6211 BZ Maastricht (Netherlands);  
Tel.: 00-31-681413373