

Masterclass 6. Divided by faith? Religious diversity in early modern Europe  
*Benjamin Kaplan (UCL)*

Att.:	all PhD students
Date:	Friday 16 April 2010
Time:	10.00-17.00 hrs.
Location	Amsterdam (exact venue to be announced)
Registration:	Huizinga-fwg@uva.nl
Fee Huizinga members:	none
Fee others (non-Logos):	€ 50
Number of participants:	10-15

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Ever since the Reformation, early modern Europe was divided by faith. Catholics, Lutherans and Calvinists now lived cheek by jowl in religiously mixed communities, which also hosted other sectarians and Jewish minorities. Historians have often emphasized that such religious diversity fuelled conflict, until in the late seventeenth century the enlightened notion of tolerance took root. Admittedly this story contains a kernel of truth, but in his recent book *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (2007), Benjamin Kaplan has shown that people from different religious backgrounds also managed to live together in peace. Examining the day-to-day practice of toleration, he argues that instead of “enlightened ideals” about tolerance, it was pragmatism and the interaction between people of different faith that made religious coexistence work. In this one-day seminar, Benjamin Kaplan will present his ideas on religious diversity in early modern Europe, and offer PhD students the opportunity to present and discuss their own research.

*Preliminary reading:*

- Benjamin Kaplan, *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (2007), introduction.
- Benjamin Kaplan, ‘Coexistence, conflict, and the practice of toleration’, in: Ronnie Po-Chia Hsia, ed., *A companion to the Reformation world* (2004).

All participants should send in an abstract (ca. 250 words) outlining their research project. Those students who are also interested in giving a presentation are invited to write a brief proposal.

*About Benjamin Kaplan*

Benjamin Kaplan is professor of Dutch History at University College London and Professor of Early Modern Religious History at the University of Amsterdam, and has published extensively on religious diversity in the Dutch Republic. His major publications include *Calvinists and libertines: Confession and community in Utrecht, 1578-1620* (1995) ‘Dutch religious tolerance: Celebration and revision’, in: Ronnie Po-Chia Hsia and Henk van Nierop eds., *Calvinism and religious toleration in the Dutch Golden Age* (2002), pp. 8-26; *Muslims in the Dutch Golden Age: Representations and realities of religious toleration* (2007); and most

recently *Divided by Faith: Religious Conflict and the Practice of Toleration in Early Modern Europe* (2007).

*Provisional programme*

10.00-11.30	Plenary discussion on the basis of reader texts
11.30-12.15	PhD student 1
12.15-13.15	lunch
13.15-14.00	PhD student 2
14.00-14.45	PhD student 3
14.45-15.00	tea
15.00-15.45	PhD student 4
15.45-16.30	PhD student 5
16.30	closing remarks and drinks