

The Huizinga Institute

Alumni Guide 1995-2020

HUIZINGA
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Alumni Guide 1995-2020

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Preface

BY ARNOUD VISSER

The year 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Huizinga Institute. This is a festive occasion that we would like to celebrate by presenting to you this *Alumni Guide 1995-2020*. We do so with considerable pride, for over the past two-and-a-half decades the Institute has established itself as a vibrant national platform, catering to a diverse, academically wide-ranging scholarly community interested in cultural phenomena and practices of the past. This diversity has contributed decisively not just to making it a place of intellectual exchange, but also to shaping the professional field of cultural history in the Netherlands.

While the form of the Institute has evolved, the heart of the Huizinga community has always been formed by the annual cohorts of PhD candidates. Over the past decades, the institute has had the honour to train more than 650 doctoral candidates. They are now for the first time collected and presented in this book, together with some elementary information about their research projects. These members

shaped the Huizinga Institute, bringing to the courses and activities their individual interests and experience, their creativity and personality. But the alumni do not just represent stories of an illustrious past. They also show us how cultural historians have found, and continue to find, their way in professional life, in and outside academe.

In 1995, 'when the world was twenty-five years younger', to borrow the phrasing of our famous godfather, the field of cultural history did not exactly have 'much sharper outward forms', but the future was certainly looking bright. Cultural history had momentum internationally and on a national level a spirit of collaboration encouraged the founders of the Institute to take the first step. In 2020 the world looks decidedly different, if no less sunny. The rise of digital media has revolutionized scholarly communication and created new opportunities for research, national and international research agendas have emphasized the need for social impact, and cultural history has matured into a blossoming approach, sometimes even seemingly ubiquitous. This new climate invites fresh approaches to cultural history, where possible from a global perspective, open to new digital opportunities, and with attention to the wider impact in society. The Huizinga Institute is keen to continue facilitating this development. The alumni and active members that fill the pages of this book demonstrate in a stimulating way that the best guarantee for realising this is a spirit of collaboration supported by a diverse, vibrant and creative community.

Arnoud Visser is alumnus of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 1997) and has been director of the Institute since 2019. He is professor of Renaissance Textual Culture at Utrecht University.

Founding the Huizinga Institute

BY JOEP LEERSSEN

If research schools did not exist, they would have to be invented. I know, because I was there when the invention happened, 25 years ago. In the mid-1990s a Cunning Plan was hatched to apply NWO 'stimulus funds' towards a countrywide aggregation of disciplines into 'national research schools'. It was part of a wider and more far-reaching shift, breaking the departmental control over research in favour of what was felt to be a less complacent and 'edgier', project-financed approach.

I am unsure what to think of that. The mantra which proclaims, in endless repetitions, that 'competition leads to excellence' sometimes sounds like entrepreneurial buzztalk to me. It is not as if the Eurovision Song Contest, for all its competitive mechanisms, has raised the standards of European song-writing, or as if Dutch TV viewers were offered more excellent programmes as a result of strenuously competing commercial channels going on air. Nor do I believe that academic scholarship has necessarily benefited from a regime of ever more competitive, time-consuming and unrewarding annual rounds of application-writing and audits. More

Joep Leerssen was director of the Huizinga Institute from 1995 until 2005 and is currently a member of the governing board. He is professor of modern European literature at the University of Amsterdam.

than in other human affairs, in grant-land the word 'submission' has a dreary, sinister ring to it.

Be that is it may... in this instance, the institutional realignments had a happy, quite opposite effect: one towards collaboration rather than competition. In order to obtain recognition for their research schools, academics had to reflect on their discipline's fundamentals and its position at national and international levels. Strategies were necessary, not just for departmental politics, but with regard to theoretical presuppositions and emerging research perspectives. This was borne in on me when in 1995, Eddy Grootes asked me to write a chapter on literary history-writing for what was to become a research school in 'Cultural History' – a term which itself came to be more rigorously debated and defined. I was overawed and not a little intimidated by the request, at that time merely a young whippersnapper amidst the august names of Eddy Grootes, Hans Bots, Wim van den Berg, Willem Frijhoff, Marijke Spies, Ilja Veltman and Wijnand Mijnhardt. But thrown in at that deep end, I, along with the others of my generation, embarked on a process of disciplinary self-reflection and strategizing which was as enriching as it was arduous.

The research schools in the Humanities performed, almost insouciantly, a stroke of genius in that they decided to direct all of their 'stimulus funds' towards the teaching and training of PhD candidates. This was before 'full cost' calculations, and no money went on 'teaching

buy-outs', or expensive hardware or software. It all went on funding get-togethers, and making sure there were refreshments to keep the academic sessions afloat. Never was money better spent.

Junior researchers until then had been dispersed over many, many departments, each individually under the enlightened absolutism of their Promotor, and overshadowed by the presence of their mid-ranking senior colleagues. To aggregate them into a nationwide, disciplinary cohort was a necessity and inspired move. It allowed them to share their experiences, insights and concerns, and to make them less exclusively dependent on the single figure of the Promotor, whose position was now embedded in the nationwide state of the question. And it turned the research school themselves into a meeting ground where disciplines were strengthened by the interaction and collective knowledge transfers across generations.

Ambitions were initially sky-high. In one envisaged development, research schools would be able to define their own disciplinary future strategies by appointing PhD-researchers of their choice. That turned out to be a bridge too far: they remained collaborative inter-faculty platforms with little leverage to face the ongoing, ruinous budget cuts and audit cultures that were imposed on these faculties and on research in general.

But what they did consolidate was the soft power of prestige and goodwill. Research schools provided a connection to cutting-edge developments in the wider world of academia and drew on the enthusiastic participation and academic commitment of their affiliates. In courses, workshops, and above all in the away-day meetings in places like Barchem – Huizinga's annual Woodstock – generations and cohorts bonded into 'colleagues for life'. I still recognize names and faces as 'fellow Huizingians',

and keep a warm place in my heart for those who did their PhD research while I served as director, between 1995 and 2005. I am sure they, amongst themselves, experience a similar fellow-feeling.

'It takes a village', and in that village you need a village well, or a tavern with a common room, to make that village a community. In such hang-outs, plans are made, gossip is exchanged, experiences are made and shared, memories are recalled; and that is what welds a community together. In the modern universities, secretariats and coffee machines are the village hang-outs of the academic community. For me the Huizinga community revolved around its secretariat, with the jokes, wit, and tactical finesse of Paul Koopman (whom I can now forgive for his covert typographical campaign against the hyphen between Huizinga and Institute). And there were the redoubtable Teaching Coordinators, often with a PhD degree of their own, who could speak to snooty juniors with the requisite matronly mixture of firmness and understanding. I warmly recall Luc Korpel, Florike Egmond, Adriënné Zuiderweg, Karin Tilmans, Chantal Olijerhoek, and above all Anne Hilde van Baal, whose tragic early death was the saddest page in Huizinga's history.

How can it be that we were so resilient during the vicissitudes of the last quarter-century? – with its Bologna system, changing institutional frameworks and conditions, and Utrecht taking over from Amsterdam in taking care of organization and administration? Amidst all those changes, 'The Dude Abides'. For that, we can thank our common engagement, free from self-interest or jealousies, free from competition- and efficiency-fixations. It made, and makes, the Huizinga Institute such a kind, steady presence in our working life. A jubilee like this should remind us this collegial cooperation is both our *raison d'être* and our strength.

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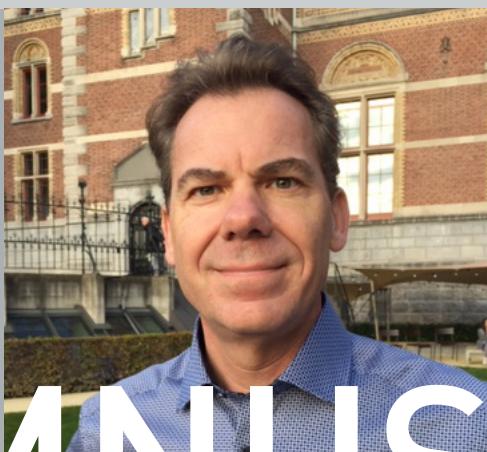
About Meeting Colleagues and Keeping an Open Mind

BY ROBERT VERHOOGT

About 23 years ago, I joined the Huizinga Institute as a young PhD student. With a head full of ideas and a heart filled with uncertainty, I started my research on art reproduction in 19th-century culture. At the Huizinga Institute, I met like-minded fellow researchers sharing the same curiosity and questions, and enjoyed the many cordial conversations on the most diverse cultural-historical topics. It resulted in my dissertation *Art in Reproduction: Nineteenth-Century Prints after Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Jozef Israëls and Ary Scheffer*, and stimulated my interests in 19th-century art and culture even more. This led to one book about 19th-century culture in the sky, such as air balloons, and to another one on 19th-century culture underground, such as in mines. But it also taught me to keep an open mind in my daily work as a senior policy advisor at the Ministry

of Education, Culture and Science. After serving several ministers of culture over the years, I am still fascinated by politics concerning cultural heritage, the arts and society. In the meantime, Johan Huizinga still is for me a source of inspiration for his cultural inquisitiveness and social engagement. Therefore, I wish every young researcher now the same inspiring and stimulating environment with fellow researchers as I experienced at the Huizinga Institute at the time.

Robert Verhoogt is alumnus of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 1997) and currently works as a senior policy advisor in cultural heritage at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands.



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BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

Inger Leemans uses her position as a leading scholar at Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam to boost innovative new historical research. She is one of the founding board members of the Amsterdam Centre for Cross-Disciplinary Emotion and Sensory Studies (ACCESS), where she works towards integrating various dimensions of human ‘sensitivities’ into historical research, such as smell, taste, touch, feelings and sexuality. This multidisciplinary approach is also visible in her leading role as Director of the ‘NL-Lab’ Research Group of the Humanities Cluster of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which aims to use new methodologies such as digital humanities or reconstruction research to get to grips with the illusive Dutch identity. Leemans explains the role of ACCESS: “Because we saw that many different sorts of researchers were involved in

questions of emotions and senses, not how they work physically, but what they mean culturally, we brought them together for lectures, presentations and research projects.” She aims to connect these scholars with different sectors, such as museums and the perfume industry to reconstruct historical smells, and to diffuse these theories and methodologies through interactive courses and field trips for students.

Leemans started out doing research on historical pornography for her PhD-research. She analysed early modern pornographic novels, with titillating titles such as *Venus in the Monastery*. Although they are already exciting works by themselves, Leemans makes them even more interesting by connecting them to the Radical Enlightenment. Because these pornographic novels formed one of the first genres that incorporated vivid and

Inger Leemans is alumna of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 1997) and a member of the governing board. She is professor of cultural history at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and director of NL-Lab at the KNAW Humanities Cluster.



detailed textual representations of sexual intercourse, they had far-reaching consequences for the understanding of physical embodiment in a still spiritually oriented world. This also worked the other way around, with philosophical ideas on God and human nature turning up in these racy little books. This has been a long-time interest of hers, as her master's thesis was already on this subject. On a lighter note, she even had her thesis meticulously formatted as if it were such an early-modern pornographic novel, naming it *Copulo ergo sum*.

Nowadays, she concerns herself more with the interplay between textual and visual culture, such as on graphic depictions of violence during the Dutch 'Golden Age', such as Romeyn de Hooghe's *Les Indes Orientales et Occidentales* (1710): "The idea has long been that the Dutch Republic was all about peace and tolerance, but when you look closer at literary works, such as the poems by Vondel and his pupil Van der Goes, you see these poets 'imagineer' a militaristic world full of violence, glorifying Dutch colonial dominance. This imagination is also engineered by programmatic images, such as the engravings of *Les Indes Orientales et Occidentales*."

Her research on this propagandistic print book by De Hooghe shows how in every single instance, from Spanish colonial rule to indigenous home rule and 'uncontrolled' exotic nature, everything is depicted as violent and threatening, that is, until the Dutch merchants arrive and 'pacify' these scenes through the

wholesome effects of the modern economic market: "Everywhere is violence, except if people start trading. Take for example this scene of the Market of Bantam, all the people of the world 'come together here', to trade in a 'peaceful and civilized manner'. Using this picturization, De Hooghe tries to hide from the viewer the evidently violent nature of the colonial trade system. That sort of violence is pointed to on a different level. By depicting slave labour as a productive aspect of the plantation machinery, humans are reduced to mere economic assets."

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De internationale contacten van J.H. Halbertsma in de periode 1825-1855

Supervised by Prof. Philip Breuker, Prof. Joep Leerssen

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De beoefening van de natuurlijke historie aan de Leidse universiteit 1780-1870

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Gereformeerde ziekentroosters in Nederland, van ca. 1600 tot ca. 1850

Supervised by Prof. Willem Frijhoff, Prof. Fred van Lieburg

Anja Novak

Leiden University

Ruimte voor betekenis: betekenisgeving en de rol van de toeschouwer in de hedendaagse installatiekunst

Supervised by Prof. Kitty Zijlmans



Participants and staff of the international course 'Reading Rome' at the Cimitero Acattolico, fall 2001. In this picture, from left to right: Professor Wessel Krul, Joop van der Zee, Philip Westbroek, Dirk van Miert, Christophe Verbruggen, Julia Noordegraaf, Thijs Weststeijn and Jitse Dijkstra.

Dirk van Miert remembers: "The course 'Reading Rome' took the idea of a guided tour to a whole new level: the city became a training ground to learn about the multi-layered nature of cultural history (whether in an archeological, political or historiographical sense). On top of this, we felt the distinct weight of contemporary history at every stage, given that the 9/11 disaster had happened just a few weeks before. We could not look at the Via della Conciliazione without viewing it apprehensively as a perfect flight path to St Peter's Basilica."

DOM

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The transformation of a genre. Lasca's burlesque style within the academic world of sixteenth-century Florence

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Vjačeslav Ivanov: symbolistisch tragicus

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Betsy Wormgoor

Utrecht University

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2002

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Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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Dromen van een metropool. Aspiraties en prestaties van de creatieve klasse in Rotterdam, 1970-2000

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De invloed van Walter Besant (1836-1901) op het laat-Victoriaanse literaire leven

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University of Amsterdam

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Het maatschappelijk engagement van Nederlandse natuurwetenschappers in het Interbellum*Supervised by Prof. Frans van Lunteren***Peter Boot**

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Zingeving in code*Supervised by Prof. Lia van Gemert, Dr Arie Jan Gelderblom,
Dr Frans Wiering***Martijn van der Burg**

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Betrokkenheid van stedelijke instituties bij de repertoirevorming van de Amsterdamse Schouwburg en de Hamburgse Opera in de jaren, 1675-1750*Supervised by Prof. Joost Kloek, Dr Joachim von der Thüsen,
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Maastricht University

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Leiden University

De vergeten tragedie. Ervaringen aan het Russische front in de Eerste Wereldoorlog

Supervised by Prof. Petra Groen

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Duitslandbeeld en Duitse ideeën in de Nederlandse genootschappen in de periode 1750-1840

*Supervised by Prof. André Hanou, Prof. Guillaume van Gemert,
Prof. Inger Leemans*

2004

Saskia Bonjour

Maastricht University

Het Nederlands gezinsmigratiebeleid (1955-2005)

Supervised by Prof. Arnold Labrie, Prof. Ton Nijhuis

Alissa Brook

Maastricht University

Traversing the Lines: Bourgeoisphobia in Interwar Germany

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Rolf Dreier

Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Supervised by Prof. Johan Mackenbach, Prof. Jan van Herwaarden

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University of Twente

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De rol van de overheid in de waardering van het literaire verleden in de eerste helft van de negentiende eeuw

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Fransje de Jong

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Joodse ondernemers in het Nederlandse film- en bioscoopbedrijf

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De representatie van Zuid-Afrika in Britse en Nederlandse avonturenboeken: een vergelijkend onderzoek naar het begrip imperialisme

Supervised by Prof. Niek van Sas

Krisztina Lajosi

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Eef Masson

Utrecht University

De onderwijsfilm in Nederland (1941 – 1963)

Supervised by Prof. Frank Kessler, Dr Nanna Verhoeff

Floor Meijer

University of Amsterdam

De maatschappelijke betekenis van de Amsterdamse vrijmetselarij, 1848-1898

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Jaap Nieuwstraten

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Marcus Zuerius Boxhorn (1612-1653). History and Politics in Seventeenth Century Dutch Policial Thought

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Cromstrijen in de zeventiende en achttiende eeuw

Supervised by Prof. Simon Groenveld

Francien Petiet

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De invloed van de literaire kritiek op de waardering van het literaire verleden in de eerste helft van de negentiende eeuw

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Jan Rock

University of Amsterdam

De geschiedenis van de vroegste literaire tekstedities uit het Nederlandse en het Vlaamse verleden in relatie tot het groeiende bewustzijn van het literaire verleden

Supervised by Prof. Marita Mathijssen, Prof. Annemarie Kets-Vree

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University of Antwerp

De reiscultuur van de Nederlanden (1650–1750). Een onderzoek naar de dialectische relatie tussen reisliteratuur en reispraktijk en de invloed hiervan op de genese en de ontwikkeling van de Europese toeristische ruimte

Supervised by Prof. Guido Marnef, Prof. Bruno Blondé

2005

Bas von Benda-Beckmann

University of Amsterdam

Een Duitse catastrofe? De geallieerde luchtoorlog in Oost- en West-Duitse geschiedschrijving en historische cultuur, 1945-2005

Supervised by Prof. Frits Boterman

Femke Deen

University of Amsterdam

Public opinion and political decision-making in Amsterdam during the Dutch Revolt (1566 – 1590)

Supervised by Prof. Henk van Nierop, Dr Paul Knevel

Annemarie Doornbos

University of Amsterdam

Maer denckt meer dan gij leest, En leest meer dan er staet. Tegendraadse elementen in het werk van Geertruida Toussaint

Supervised by Prof. Marita Mathijssen, Prof. Maaike Meijer

Ab Flipse

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Natuurwetenschap en levensbeschouwing in Nederland, 1880-1940

Supervised by Prof. Frans van Lunteren

Esther van Gelder

Leiden University

Clusius and botany in the context of Habsbourg court and aristocratic culture (ca. 1570-1590)

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Rutger de Graaf

Utrecht University

Ontwikkeling perscultuur in de 19e eeuw

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Helmer Helmers

Leiden University

The Royalist Republic: Anglo-Dutch Literature and Politics, 1640-1660

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Tussen extase en verslaving. Een geschiedenis van de belevenis aan hand van Ernst Jünger en Walter Benjamin

Supervised by Prof. Wijnand Mijnhardt, Prof. Ed Jonker

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Erasmus University Rotterdam

Gedeelde ervaring – verdeelde herinnering. Herinneringsculturen van concentratiekamp Ravensbrück in Europa, 1945-2005

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International cultural industries in local contexts: the case of the music and film industry in the Netherlands

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Utrecht University

Avant-garde bekeerlingen. Religie, kunst en politiek rond de Eerste Wereldoorlog in Frankrijk, België en Nederland

Supervised by Prof. Geert Buelens, Dr Madelon de Keizer, Dr Wilbert Smulders

Rinske Koehorst

Radboud University

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Supervised by Prof. Sophie Levie, Prof. Marjan Schwegman, Dr Lieske Tibbe

Annemieke Kouwenberg

Radboud University

**Duitslandbeeld en Duitse ideeën in Nederlandse genootschappen
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Radboud University

Dragers van belofte: katholieke elitevorming aan de basis (1920-1970)*Supervised by Prof. Marit Monteiro, Dr Jan Brabers***Johan Sonnenschein**

University of Amsterdam

Kenteringsmomenten in moderne dichterschappen*Supervised by Prof. Thomas Vaessens***Uğur Üngör**

University of Amsterdam

Demographic Engineering in Anatolia, 1910-1950*Supervised by Prof. Johannes Houwink ten Cate, Prof. Michael Wintle***Daan Wegener**

Utrecht University

Energie en wereldbeschouwing*Supervised by Prof. Bert Theunissen, Prof. Frans van Lunteren*

The Legend of Barchem

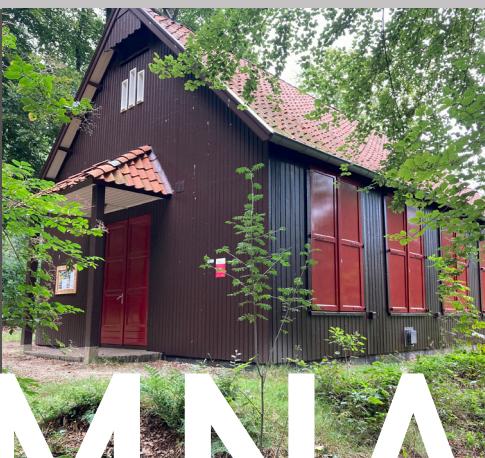
BY SUSAN HOGERVORST

Once in a while, I think of Barchem. All those who have ever attended a Huizinga PhD Conference there, know that this is not just a small, beautifully located village in the east of the Netherlands, but a phenomenon with an importance that moves far beyond the boundaries of that village, at least in the lives of my former fellow PhD students and in that of my own.

After having started my PhD-project in the summer of 2005, it soon became clear to me that Barchem was a phenomenon. The expression on the faces of older PhD-students while assuring me that I should really go there, made me curious. Also Anne Hilde van Baal, the beloved coordinator of the institute who sadly passed away in 2013, made it crystal clear that you simply should and could not miss this.

During two, sometimes three days, PhD-students in their third year gave a 20-minute presentation (or was it 30? I remember it felt like 30, at least) about a part of their research project. For some, this was their first time presenting, others had not yet put a single word of their dissertation on paper, and where still in the middle of one thousand doubts and insecurities about their topic. Nonetheless, the idea was that you should not read it out, but present it by heart, as we had learned from Anneruth Wibaut and Marscha Furth during a presentation course. And, as if this wasn't exciting enough, the presentations were followed by a 15-minute response of and discussion with an expert on the topic, for an audience of fellow PhD-students and these experts. It was seen, and felt, as a rehearsal for the PhD

Susan Hogervorst is alumna of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2005). She is an assistant professor in cultural history and history didactics at the Open University of the Netherlands, as well as a researcher and lecturer at the Erasmus University Rotterdam.



A L U M N I A



defence ceremony. Therefore, as exciting and sometimes nerve-racking Barchem was during daytime, as big and sometimes euphoric the relief was around five-o'clock, when the last question of the day had been answered, either convincingly or not, and everyone moved to the bar.

There were interesting conversations, entertaining nonsense, a lot of laughter, and also romances. Others might remember more spectacular things that contributed to the legendary reputation that Barchem seems to have nowadays. Maybe this reputation stems from the earlier years, when PhD-trajectories were generally not that loaded with education tasks, publication pressure and other demands; a development that I have seen taking place during hat of my own, from 2005 till 2010. As the head of the Huizinga PhD-council, I remember

discussions about the then new phenomenon of research master students. Those clever and ambitious students did not really seem to have time for anything. This culture of preoccupation gradually spread through the PhD-community as well. I remember Anne Hilde complaining about how difficult it sometimes was to interest PhD-students for courses or events, or to let them attend all the meetings instead of only a few, simply because they did not feel they had the time for it. I also remember PhD-students complaining about Anne Hilde in return, because she could be so demanding. But looking back, this seems to have been a wise thing to do. The institute, and to me personally the presentation course that culminated in the Barchem-phenomenon, has been incredibly formative, since it has been a marvellous introduction to what academic life can and should continue to be.

2005

Coen Wilders

University of Amsterdam

De praktijk van het Utrechts regeringsreglement. Het stadhouderlijk patronagestelsel in relatie tot factiestrijd en factievervoeging

Supervised by Prof. Henk van Nierop, Dr Paul Knevel

Sylvia van Zanen

Leiden University

**Exchange and language in Clusius' European network of botanists:
French and Latin (circa 1560-1610)**

Supervised by Prof. Paul Smith

2006

Max Bader

University of Amsterdam

**Democracy, Dictatorship and Modern Geopolitics:
Towards the Democratization of Georgia and Ukraine**

Supervised by Prof. André Gerrits

Beerd Beukenhorst

University of Amsterdam

**De 'lessen' van Vietnam?: De invloed van de Vietnam-ervaring op
nieuwe Amerikaanse interventies**

Supervised by Prof. Ruud Janssens

Inge Broekman

University of Amsterdam

Constantijn Huygens (1596-1687) als kunstkenner, -criticus en mecenas

Supervised by Prof. Johan Koppenol, Prof. Eric Jan Sluijter

Marjet Brolsma

University of Amsterdam

**Het humanitaire moment. Nederlandse intellectuelen en de crisis van
de Euro pese beschaving in de jaren twintig**

Supervised by Prof. Frits Boterman Prof. Michael Wintle

Robin Buning

Utrecht University

**Henricus Reneri (1593-1639): Descartes' Quartermaster in Aristotelian
Territory**

Supervised by Prof. Theo Verbeek

Iris Burgers

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

**Urban mythology. Impact of visual representations on collective
arrangements of the Schiphol region (1919 – ca. 2000)**

Supervised by Prof. Koos Bosma, Dr Heidi de Mare

Verena Demoed

University of Amsterdam

**De impact en receptie van de toneelstukken van Guilielmus Gnapheus
(1493- 1568)**

Supervised by Prof. Jan Bloemendaal

Joris van Gastel

Leiden University

Response and artistic practice in Roman and Neapolitan baroque sculpture

Supervised by Prof. Caroline van Eck, Prof. Maarten Delbeke

Roeland Harms

Utrecht University

**De consequenties van de productie- en distributieorganisatie voor de actualiteit, de mediafunctie en het verslaggebied van het nieuws,
1600-1800**

*Supervised by Prof. Maarten Prak, Prof. Lia van Gemert,
Dr Jeroen Salman*

Jan Hartman

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Johan (1622-1660) & Pieter (1618-1685) de la Court and the invention of governance

Supervised by Prof. Robert von Friedeburg, Dr Hans Blom

Ernst van den Hemel

University of Amsterdam

Calvin's Poetics: Temporality and Monumentality in 'The Institutes of Christian Religion'

Supervised by Prof. Burcht Pranger

Maartje Hermsen

Maastricht University

History education as a locus of the politics of history. Post-war debates in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands

Supervised by Prof. Arnold Labrie, Prof. Ton Nijhuis

Marijn Hollestelle

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About Barchem and Later Career Decisions

BY ROELAND HARMS

To me the Huizinga Institute is synonymous with the PhD Conference at Barchem. Each year advanced PhD candidates gave a presentation there, followed by comments and questions from a senior respondent. The first time I attended I was struck with worry: was I also expected to do this in three years? It got worse when I witnessed a respondent tearing one of the speakers to pieces. Was this really the result of three years of research?

My PhD research has brought me a lot in many different ways. I have learned, slowly but surely, what it means to do research, and how difficult yet also incredibly exciting it is to dig deeper into your research question over a period of four years. Thus, after my PhD defense, I de-

cided to continue as a postdoctoral researcher. And yet, there was also something that started to nag at the back of my mind. I found out that I perhaps liked teaching even more than pursuing research. In the end, therefore, I decided to switch from research to teaching, accepting a post at HAN University of Applied Sciences, where I still teach to students who seek to become teachers of Dutch at secondary schools. Among other things, I give lectures in literary history and in literary studies.

And Barchem? Fortunately, my presentation there was received well, and in hindsight, I regard it as an excellent rehearsal for my PhD defense.

Roeland Harms is an alumnus of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2006) and is Teacher of Dutch at HAN University of Applied Sciences.



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**Asgard revisited. Old Norse mythology and national culture in Iceland,
1820-1918**

Supervised by Prof. Mineke Bosch, Prof. Joep Leerssen

Joost Hengstmengel

Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Divine oeconomy. The role of providence in early-modern economic
thought before Adam Smith**

Supervised by Prof. Wiep van Bunge

Matthijs Jonker

University of Amsterdam

**The academization of art: A practice approach to the early histories of the
Accademia del Disegno and the Accademia di San Luca**

Supervised by Prof. Bram Kempers, Prof. Martin Stokhof, Dr Arno Witte

Marianne Klerk

Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Reason of State and Predatory Monarchy in the Dutch Republic,
1638-1675. The Legacy of the Duc de Rohan**

Supervised by Prof. Robert von Friedeburg, Prof. Conal Condren

Ingrid Kloosterman

Utrecht University

**Wetenschap van gene zijde: geschiedenis van de Nederlandse
parapsychologie in de twintigste eeuw**

Supervised by Prof. Willem Koops, Prof. Joost Vrijeslaar

Koen van Loon

Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Princely or royal reason of state? The nature of the crown in
Rohan's deliberations'**

Supervised by Prof. Robert von Friedeburg

Cultures of Science and Art in Rome, 1400-1900

BY MATTHIJS JONKER

Over the past few years, the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome organized and hosted the course 'Reading Rome: The Tourist City' with great pleasure. That is why we were more than happy to continue collaborating with the Huizinga Institute when they asked us to develop a course on a different topic. This course has become Cultures of Science and Art in Rome, 1400-1900, which I co-developed with Dr. Sietske Fransen from the Biblioteca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History in Rome. In this international and interdisciplinary course, we intend to study (early) modern Rome as a center of scientific research and the visualization thereof – rather than as a center of religion, politics, art, or tourism as is commonly done. By looking specifically at the visual culture of science, participants learn about the networks that brought together scientists, artists, collectors, and intellectuals, and how

these actors and their ideas influenced the practice of science and its visualization.

In the past two decades scholars in different disciplines such as history of art and history of science have paid increased attention to the roles and functions of images in the production and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the (early) modern period. However, a clear overview of the different roles and functions ascribed to images in scientific contexts is yet to be given. One of the aims of our course is to provide such an overview for the Roman context together with the participants.

The first edition of the course – originally planned in May 2020, but postponed due to COVID-19 – will be held in November 2020. The second edition is planned for May 2021. The collaboration with the Biblioteca Hertziana entails that half of the participants will join us from universities outside of the Netherlands. We are confident that the presence of participants from different academic cultures will lead to stimulating discussions and we hope that our course will provide them with fresh ideas for their RMA- and PhD-theses.

The Huizinga Institute has a long tradition in organising courses in Rome. Huizinga-alumnus Matthijs Jonker will be teaching the latest version of this international course, devoted to cultures of science and art. He is lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and currently head of art history at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome.

ALUMNUS



Participants and staff of the international course 'Reading Rome' in the garden of the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome, 2016. In this picture (in random order): Jilt Jorritsma, Lara Fernandez Piqueras, Rebecca van Raamsdonk, Susan Scherpenisse, Anique Hamelink, Isa de Grood, Aimée Plukker, Alan Moss, Gloria Moorman, Vincent Bijman, Bas Gooijer, Leonoor Zuiderveen Borgesius, KNIR-director Harald Hendrix and course coordinator Jan Hein Furnée.

Sabine Muller

University of Amsterdam

Netwerken rond de Amsterdamse schouwburg 1638-1672

Supervised by Prof. Lia van Gemert, Dr Frans Blom, Dr Paul Dijstelberge

Niels van Poecke

Open University of the Netherlands

**Authenticity Revisited : the production, distribution, and consumption
of independent folk music in the Netherlands (1993-present)**

Supervised by Prof. Koen van Eijck, Prof. Jos de Mul

Sanne Ravensbergen

Leiden University

**Courtrooms of conflict. Criminal law, local elites and legal pluralities in
colonial Java**

*Supervised by Prof. Adriaan Bedner, Prof. Wim van Doel,
Dr Alicia Schrikker*

Annetiek Recourt

University of Amsterdam

Moralist van de ontrouw: Jan Greshoff (1888-1971)

Supervised by Prof. Ena Jansen, Prof. Lisa Kuitert

Sophie Reinders

Radboud University

De mug en de kaars. Vriendenboekjes van adellijke vrouwen, 1575-1640

Supervised by Prof. Johan Oosterman, Prof. Lotte Jensen

Arjo Roersch van der Hoogte

Utrecht University

**Colonial Agro-Industrialism. Science, Industry and the State in the Dutch
Golden Alkaloid Age, 1850-1950**

Supervised by Prof. Toine Pieters, Dr Hieke Huijstra, Dr Stephen Snelders

Annemieke Romein

Erasmus University Rotterdam

**The Use of Fatherland, Patria and Patriot in the Cases of Jülich,
Hesse-Cassel and Brittany (1642-1655). Political arguments in an age
of confrontation**

Supervised by Prof. Robert von Friedeburg

Jan Rotmans

University of Amsterdam

**Enlightened Pessimism: Republican Decline in Dutch Revolutionary
Thought, 1780-1800**

Supervised by Prof. Niek van Sas

Maloe Sniekers

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Dark tourism

Supervised by Prof. Marlite Halbertsma, Prof. Stijn Reijnders

Klaas Stutje

University of Amsterdam

Behind the Banner of Unity: Nationalism and anticolonialism among Indonesian students in Europe, 1917-1931*Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Dr Harry Poeze***Bart Verheijen**

Radboud University

Nederland onder Napoleon. Partijstrijd en natievorming (1801-1813)*Supervised by Prof. Lotte Jensen, Prof. Remieg Aerts***Tina van der Vlies**

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Echoing Events. The perpetuation of national narratives in English and Dutch history textbooks, 1920 – 2010*Supervised by Prof. Maria Grever, Prof. Hester Dibbits, Dr Jacques Dane***Hans Voeten**

University of Amsterdam

The Kolyvan-Voskresensk Plants and the Russian Integration of Southern Siberia, 1725- 1783*Supervised by Prof. Jeroen Duindam***Manon Wormsbecher**

University of Amsterdam

'Unity in Diversity' and a European Concept of Equality beyond the Labour Market: the possibilities of establishing freedom, equality and justice for all*Supervised by Prof. Michael Wintle, Dr Lia Versteegh***2012****Jeroen Bouterse**

Leiden University

Nature and history: towards a hermeneutic philosophy of historiography of science*Supervised by Prof. Egbert Bos, Prof. James McAllister***Jordy Geerlings**

Radboud University

Enlightenment, Sociability and Catholicism: Catholics in Dutch secular societies and masonic lodges, 1750- 1800*Supervised by Prof. Marit Monteiro, Dr Joost Rosendaal*

Christian Greer

University of Amsterdam

Countercultural Esotericism: Esoteric Discourses in the North American Cultural Underground Between 1965-1985

Supervised by Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff

Roy Groen

Radboud University

Myths and Morals of Literary Imagination: Nabokov and Ethics

Supervised by Prof. Sophie Levie, Prof. Paul van Tongeren, Prof. Franc Schuerewegen

Floor Haalboom

Utrecht University

A history of dealings with zoonoses in the Netherlands, 1890-2010

Supervised by Prof. Frank Huisman, Prof. Peter Koolmees, Prof. Roel Coutinho

Rindert Jagersma

University of Amsterdam

Ericus Walten en de verspreiding van de Vroege Verlichting

Supervised by Prof. Arianne Baggerman, Dr Paul Dijstelberge

Josip Kesic

University of Amsterdam

European Peripheries: Spain and the Balkans as Stereotype and Border Identity

Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Dr Guido Snel

Mireille Kirkels

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Gerrit Mannoury (1867-1956). Een relativistisch denker.

Supervised by Prof. Frederik Muller

Kasper van Kooten

University of Amsterdam

German opera's quest for canonization in the light of nineteenth-century nationalist music discourse

Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Dr Krisztina Lajosi

Thijs de Leeuw

Radboud University

Entrepreneurs in Catholica. Paul Brand Publishing, 1911-1975

Supervised by Prof. Marit Monteiro, Dr Jan Brabers, Prof. Mathijs Sanders

James Leigh

University of Groningen

Constructing Kosovo: Public and private narratives of identity and the nation-building process in the post-Yugoslav context

Supervised by Prof. Dirk Jan Wolfram, Prof. Janny de Jong

Flora Lysen

University of Amsterdam

Brainmedia: One Hundred Years of Performing Live Brains, 1920–2020
Supervised by Prof. Patricia Pisters

Nicholas Makhortykh

University of Amsterdam

From Myths to Memes: Transnational Memory and Ukrainian Social Media
Supervised by Prof. Ellen Rutten, Dr Max Bader

Jesper Oldenburger

Utrecht University

Scientific innovation in Dutch sheep breeding, 1900-2000
Supervised by Prof. Bert Theunissen

Karlijn Olijslager

University of Amsterdam

Spektakels van Burgerschap. Herinneringspraktijken van het Nederlands feminisme, 1913-2013
Supervised by Prof. Mieke Aerts

Eleá de la Porte

University of Amsterdam

Enlightenment and history. Changing views of the past in the Dutch Republic, 1715-1795
Supervised by Prof. Wyger Velema

Floris Solleveld

Radboud University

How the humanities turned scientific: Ideals and practices of scholarship between Enlightenment and Romanticism
Supervised by Prof. Peter Rietbergen, Prof. Rens Bod

Mariëlle Wijermars

University of Groningen

Cultural memory and political legitimacy in Russia: The mobilization of political myths in the discourse on state and society in mass media, 2000-2012
Supervised by Prof. Joost van Baak, Prof. Sandra Brouwer

Mike Zuber

University of Amsterdam

Alchemy and German Pietism in the Early Eighteenth Century
Supervised by Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff

Bart Zwegers

Maastricht University

Built Heritage in Transition: Global and Local Challenges
Supervised by Prof. Ernst Homburg, Dr Joseph Wachelder

Rosanne Baars

University of Amsterdam

Transnational news networks and public issues in France and the Netherlands during the Wars of Religion and the Dutch Revolt, 1559-1598

Supervised by Prof. Henk van Nierop, Prof. Geert Janssen

Christiaan Engberts

Leiden University

Men with a Mission: Informal Accountability Practices

Supervised by Prof. Herman Paul

Aynur Erdogan

University of Groningen

Orientalia: Reorienting Early American Culture

Supervised by Prof. Wil Verhoeven

Lisa Kattenberg

University of Amsterdam

Lessons from the Low Countries. The theoretical and practical impact of the Dutch Revolt on Habsburg theories of state, 1590-1650

Supervised by Prof. Wyger Velema, Dr Marchje van Gelder

Wouter Klein

Utrecht University

A Change of Plants. The Introduction of Exotic Drugs on the Medical Market in the Low Countries (1600- 1850)

Supervised by Prof. Toine Pieters, Prof. Eric Jorink

Steven van der Laan

Utrecht University

Pig breeding in the Netherlands, 1900-2000

Supervised by Prof. Bert Theunissen

Karin de Leeuw-van Lierop

Leiden University

Nuns in the convent of Loosduinen in the sixteenth century and their 'sisters' in the world. A comparison about agency, religion and economic status of two groups of women in Holland

Supervised by Prof. Manon van der Heiden

Katharina Manteufel

Leiden University

The making of the scholarly self: teacher-pupil relationships in the humanities, 1860-1930

Supervised by Prof. Herman Paul

Alan Moss

Radboud University

A Traveller's Identity in Dutch Grand Tour Accounts of the Seventeenth Century

Supervised by Prof. Johan Oosterman, Prof. Lotte Jensen

Léjon Saarloos

Leiden University

Scholarly Selves: How to Discipline One's Body, Heart, and Mind

Supervised by Prof. Herman Paul

Jesper Schaap

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Reason of State versus Interest of Princes? The rhetoric of intérêt and raison d'état in the New Monarchy of France: Henri Duc de Rohan (1579-1638) and Gabriel Naudé (1600-1653)

Supervised by Prof. Robert von Friedeburg, Prof. Henk Nellen

Laurie Slegtenhorst

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Omgaan met oorlogserfgoed. De Tweede Wereldoorlog in populaire cultuur

Supervised by Prof. Kees Ribbens, Prof. Maria Grever

Thomas Smits

Radboud University

Transnational Images, National Texts. The production of (trans)national identity in European Illustrated Newspapers, 1842-1870

Supervised by Prof. Sophie Levie, Prof. Lotte Jensen

Devin Vartija

Utrecht University

The Colour of Equality: Racial Classification and Natural Equality in Enlightenment Thought

Supervised by Prof. Siep Stuurman

Jesper Verhoef

Utrecht University

Mediating America: Dutch public discourses on mass media and America, 1890-1990

Supervised by Prof. Joris van Eijnatten, Dr Jaap Verheul

Ruben Verwaal

University of Groningen

Vital Matters: Boerhaave's Chemico-Medical Legacy and Dutch Enlightenment Culture

Supervised by Prof. Raingard Esser, Dr Rina Knoeff

Lisanne Walma

Utrecht University

Debating Crime and Drugs: The United States as a Reference Model for Dutch Concepts and Practices, 1890- 1990

Supervised by Prof. Toine Pieters

2013

Lina Weber

University of Amsterdam

Trust and Dependency. British and Dutch discourses on Public Credit in the Eighteenth Century

Supervised by Prof. Wyger Velema

Melvin Wevers

Utrecht University

Consuming America. The United States as a Reference Culture within Dutch Consumer Society, 1890-1990

*Supervised by Prof. Joris van Eijnatten, Prof. Ruth Oldenziel,
Dr Jaap Verheul*

2014

Azinat Abubakari

Radboud University

Representing slavery, inventing human rights

Supervised by Prof. Alicia Montoya

Leonor Álvarez Francés

Leiden University

War Heroes and War Criminals. The Spanish Commanders and their Actions during the First Decade of the Dutch Revolt in Narrative Sources from Spain and the Low Countries (1567-1648)

Supervised by Prof. Jeroen Duindam, Dr Raymond Fagel

Laura Boerhout

University of Amsterdam

Negotiating Post-Memories. Intergenerational Transmission of Bosnia's War Narratives Beyond National Borders

Supervised by Prof. Rob van der Laarse, Prof. Nanci Adler

Trude Dijkstra

University of Amsterdam

The Chinese Imprint: Printing and Publishing the Middle Kingdom in the Dutch Republic, 1595-1700

Supervised by Prof. Lia van Gemert, Prof. Thijs Weststeijn

Dana Dolphin

University of Amsterdam

Beyond the Obligation to Remember: a Reassessment of "Forgetting" in Eastern Europe

Supervised by Prof. Rob van der Laarse, Dr Matthijs Lok

Ivan Flis

Utrecht University

Is psychology a theoretically balkanized field? Exploring quantitative methodology in the 20th century

Supervised by Prof. Bert Theunissen, Dr Ruud Abma

Lonneke Geerlings

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Travelling translator. Rosey Pool (1905-1971), a Dutch cultural mobiliser in the 'transatlantic century'

Supervised by Prof. Susan Legêne, Prof. Diederik Oostdijk

Sander Govaerts

University of Amsterdam

Mosasaurs. Armies and their influence on ecosystems in the Meuse region, 1300-1850

Supervised by Prof. Guy Geltner Prof. Mieke Aerts, Dr Mario Damen

Christiaan Harinck

Leiden University

The Janus head of Mars: Dutch military culture and colonial counterinsurgency in Indonesia 1945-1950

Supervised by Prof. Gert Oostindie, Prof. Henk Schulte Nordholt

Aad Haverkamp

Radboud University

Sport, script en biografie, 1928-2010

Supervised by Prof. Peter Rietbergen, Prof. Marjet Derkx

Martje aan de Kerk

University of Amsterdam

Madness and the city. Interactions between the mad, their families and urban society in the Dutch Republic, 1600-1798

Supervised by Prof. Geert Janssen, Dr Gemma Blok

Enno Maessen

University of Amsterdam

Beyoglu: The capital of many Istanbuls. Beyoglu's urban identities and discursive representations in history and space, 1950-2010

Supervised by Prof. Luiza Bialasiewicz, Dr Guido Snel

Willemijn van Noord

University of Amsterdam

Materialising China: Material culture and perceptions of China in the Dutch Republic, 1665-1721

Supervised by Prof. Frans Grijzenhout, Prof. Thijs Weststeijn

2014

Tymen Peverelli

University of Amsterdam

De stad als vaderland. De dynamiek tussen stedelijke en nationale identiteiten in Nederland en België, 1815- 1914

Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Prof. Jan Hein Furnée

Beatriz Santiago Belmonte

Leiden University

Spanish Heroes in the Low Countries. The Experience of War during the First Decade of the Dutch Revolt (1567-1577)

Supervised by Dr Raymond Fagel

Fieke Smitskamp

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Sound patterns and emotions in Early Modern (Dutch) Theater Plays. An analysis in EHUMANITIES from a historical perspective

Supervised by Prof. Inger Leemans

John Tholen

Utrecht University

The Transformation of the Metamorphoses. How Ovid was read in the Early Modern Netherlands'

Supervised by Prof. Arnoud Visser

Jelle Zondag

Radboud University

Een ondernemende geest in een gespierd lichaam. Beweegcultuur en weerbaarheid in Nederland 1890-1940

Supervised by Prof. Marit Monteiro, Prof. Marjet Derkx

2015

Roland Bertens

Utrecht University

Legal Cures for Medicine's Ailments? The Case of Health Care Regulation in The Netherlands 1848-2006

Supervised by Prof. Frank Huisman, Prof. Jaap Sijmons

Carolien Boender

Leiden University

The persistence of civic identities in the Netherlands, 1747-1848

Supervised by Prof. Henk te Velde, Prof. Judith Pollmann

Lydia ten Brummelhuis

University of Groningen

All-American Heroes: Protestant Poetry from Early America

Supervised by Prof. Sebastian Sobecki, Dr Joanne van der Woude

Yannice de Bruyn

Leiden University

**Staging violence in the Early Modern theatre in the Low Countries
1630-1690**

*Supervised by Prof. Karel Vanhaesebrouck, Prof. Korneel van der Haven,
Prof. Inger Leemans, Prof. Frans-Willem Korsten*

Hanneke Chorus-Borst

Utrecht University

**The Forgotten Lyric Subject: Lope de Vega's Self-Fashioning in the Poetry
of the Spanish Low Baroque (1648-1700)**

Supervised by Prof. Harald Hendrix

Siri Driessens

Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Touching War. Contemporary visits to twentieth-century war sites and
cemeteries in Europe**

Supervised by Prof. Stijn Reijnders, Prof. Maria Grever

Michel van Duijnen

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

**Imagineering Violence: Techniques of Early Modern Performativity in the
Northern and Southern Netherlands (1630-1690)**

Supervised by Prof. Inger Leemans

Pieter van den Heede

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Games set in war-devastated European (urban) landscapes

Supervised by Prof. Kees Ribbens, Prof. Jeroen Jansz, Prof. Maria Grever

Milou van Hout

University of Amsterdam

**Re-discovering cosmopolitan Trieste and Rijeka: imagining new forms of
cultural citizenship in urban borderlands**

Supervised by Prof. Luiza Bialasiewicz, Dr Alex Drace-Francis

Jolanda Lee

University of Groningen

**Ecce homo: van verdoemde until goed christen. De reactie van katholieken
en protestanten Nederland op de reïficatie van homoseksualiteit in de
eerste decennia van de twintigste eeuw**

Supervised by Prof. Mary Kemperink, Dr Gert Hekma

Heleen over de Linden,

University of Groningen

Ukraine as a pawn between EU and Russia

Supervised by Prof. Hans van Koningsbrugge, Prof. Huub Willems

Olfactory History by Caro Verbeek

BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

Caro Verbeek combines her innovative research on everything historically odiferous with her work at Odorama, a project centred around bringing old and new smells to the public at Mediamatic. This cultural centre in Amsterdam is dedicated to new advances in bio-technological art and sustainable and olfactory creativity. Situated at the bustling Oosterdok waterfront, this inspiring environment allows Caro to unite her passion for both cutting-edge historical research and public history. Trained as an art historian, Caro has been successfully working at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam towards her PhD, and will be continuing her interest in the smelly side of history as a postdoctoral researcher. At Odorama, she aims to spread general awareness of the power of smell through

art installations, workshops, food experiences and an interactive olfactory lab, which also contains some of the smells featured in her doctoral research.

Her PhD-research centres around various art movements during the first half of the 20th-century which experimented with new materials that truly offered something for all the senses. These included Futurists, Dadaists and Surrealists, such as Duchamp and Marinetti. Both the heritage sector and academia have largely neglected smells, or resorted to textual descriptions of scents. Caro is now doing pioneering work in reconstructing, capturing, collecting and documenting these historical smells that took centre-stage during the rise

Caro Verbeek is a member of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2015) and a PhD candidate at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.



M E M P E D

of modernity. She uses her unique position and skills to inspire others to follow suit. Caro explains: "I find it so rewarding to talk about smells and the avantgarde, but what I really try to achieve is challenging other researchers to use smell to look at their own field, so with an olfactory viewpoint."

Caro points out the benefits of recognizing smells 'as a source', along with the necessary source criticism. One of the central concepts in this regard is 'period nose', which stems from 'period eye', a concept by the famous art historian Baxandall. The period nose is not only about remaking historical olfactory landscapes, but also about the realization that perceptions of smell are historically determined and have differed over time. She operationalizes this in a complex manner: "One option is the nose witness, autobiographical documents, so reading about what people smelled during a certain time. You can also use your own sense of smell to study old objects, such as vintage perfumes. And if they have disappeared, you can even utilize gas chromatography, during which you take an air sample, and see in the chromatogram which molecules have been present, and reconstruct the connected smell."

During her research, Caro herself has collected an impressive array of smells, especially regarding the main theme of her research, the Futurists, who used them for performances and installations. While many are related to some type of natural origin, the most special are the two synthetic smells by François Coty (1874-1934), which were greatly admired by the Futurists for their industrial novelty: "He is regarded as the father of modern perfumes. He was the first to use synthetic molecules, fragrances that in no way reminded of nature, and so really are 'abstract'. That was what fascinated the Futurists."

Those wondering about what elegant perfume Caro herself must be wearing, may be surprised. She rarely ever uses one herself, as to not distort her sense of smell during her olfactory investigations. However, she does have one favourite she wears on special occasions that amounts to the smell of archives and libraries, fittingly called 'In the Library', which seems an excellent choice for such a promising young cultural historian. "That I wear sometimes", she says smilingly, "but otherwise it would only disrupt my research!"

Jasminka Medin

University of Amsterdam

Transnational dimensions of Transitional Justice. Diaspora and social remittances, a new reconciliation opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina?

Supervised by Prof. Luiza Bialasiewicz, Dr Lia Versteegh

Thérèse Peeters

Leiden University

Trust in the Counter-Reformation

Supervised by Prof. Judith Pollmann

Iris Plessius

Radboud University

Imposed Consensus? An Examination of the Relations between Dutch Settlers and Native Americans in North America between 1674 and 1783

Supervised by Prof. Hans Bak, Dr Mathilde Roza, Dr Pieter Hovens, Dr Hans Krabbendam

Anna-Luna Post

Utrecht University

Claiming Fame for Galileo: The Mechanics of Reputation and its Impact in Early Modern Europe

Supervised by Prof. Arnoud Visser, Prof. Floris Cohen

Andrea Reyes Elizondo

Leiden University

Reading spaces: reconstructing the reading possibilities in a society

Supervised by Prof. Paul Hoftijzer

Didi van Trijp

Leiden University

Enlightened Fish Books: A New History of Eighteenth-Century Ichthyology (1686-1828)

Supervised by Prof. Paul Smith, Prof. Eric Jorink

Caro Verbeek

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

In Search of Lost Scents. Reconstructing the Aromatic Heritage of the Avant-garde

Supervised by Prof. Inger Leemans, Prof. Katja Kwastek, Prof. Frits Scholten

Martha Visscher-Houweling

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

A digital perspective on developments in the twentieth and twenty-first century Dutch Bible Belt

Supervised by Prof. Fred van Lieburg, Prof. Els Stronks, Dr ir. Steef de Brujin

Jos de Weerd

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

The Veluwe reformed. Regional power shift and religious change in the sixteenth century*Supervised by Prof. Fred van Lieburg, Prof. Koen Goudriaan***Jacolien Wubs**

University of Groningen

To Proclaim, to Instruct and to Discipline. The Visuality of Texts in Calvinist Churches in the Dutch Republic*Supervised by Prof. Raingard Esser, Dr Justin Kroesen*

2016

Usman Ahmedani

University of Amsterdam

Ziya Gökalp as a Romantic Nationalist. An intellectual Biography*Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Dr Michiel Leezenberg***Christoph van den Belt**

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Christian press in a secular time*Supervised by Prof. George Harinck, Dr Jan van der Stoep***Frank Birkenholz**

University of Groningen

The Paper Company: the Impact of Paper on the Dutch East India Company in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*Supervised by Prof. Raingard Esser, Dr Megan Williams***Rena Bood**

University of Amsterdam

Hispanophobia and Hispanophilia in England and the Netherlands. 1620-1700*Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Dr Yolanda Rodríguez Pérez***Thomas Delpet**

Radboud University

Learning to listen. The transformation of concert culture in Dutch musical capitals in the nineteenth century*Supervised by Prof. Jan Hein Furnée, Prof. Sophie Levie, Dr Rutger Helmers*

Dutch Historical Tourism Expert in the States: Aimée Plukker's American Adventure at Cornell University

BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

Aimée Plukker is one of the rising stars of the History of Tourism in the States. It all began during the Huizinga RMA Course 'Reading Rome: The Tourist City', taught by Jan Hein Furnée and Harald Hendrix, which inspired her to start investigating the rise of modern tourism in the Eternal City during the 1950's. This time period was the peak of the 'American Century', a time of unbridled optimism and prosperity for the American middle classes after winning World War II. This spirit of American confidence manifested itself in the first waves of American couples honeymooning in Rome, and American students coming to the ancient city to learn all about the 'roots of Western civilisation'. She still thinks back fondly of the Huizinga course: "What made the course so

special, is that you really dove into the mindset of the tourist and also 'the tourist' as historical subject. One example that I remember well was that we were sent to the Forum Romanum, and that every student had to explore it in a different way. There was one group with a 19th-century French tourist guide, a group with a 20th-century German guide etc. I had to do an anthropological approach, in which we literally followed present-day tourists around on the Forum to see how they behaved, comparing this afterwards with historical tourist behaviour discerned from the guides."

Before arriving at Cornell, Aimée was already recognised for her excellence in historical tourism studies. Her master's thesis on the modern

Aimée Plukker was a member of the Huizinga Institute during her Research Master in Modern History at the University of Amsterdam (2015-2018). She is currently a PhD candidate at Cornell University.



American tourist coming to Rome in the 1950's won her the prestigious Volkskrant/IISH Thesis Award. She is now continuing this line of inquiry with her PhD-research, which is supervised by the respectively Italian and Dutch historians Enzo Traverso and Claudia Verhoeven. Her new research is not exclusively on Rome, but focuses on how American tourists exploring Europe contributed to 'the West' as cultural identity. As such, she studies at a multitude of archives across the world. Although her case studies are Rome, Berlin and our own tourist haven Amsterdam, she will also conduct research at the Marshall Plan Archives in Paris, specialised tourism archives in Madrid and Brussels, and several archives throughout the USA.

As a RMA student, she was already very much involved with the graduate community, also being a member of the Huizinga PhD/RMA-Council: "It's very important to be able to control the quality of graduate education, and it's quite different from how things are arranged here in the States. I've got to know so many inspiring cultural historians through the council, people who were already working on their doctoral

thesis, from whom I learned a lot! Such as the process of coming up with a subject, planning and applying for a PhD, but also about how it is to work as a PhD researcher."

Now at Cornell, she continues to be an active member of the graduate community, for example by organising a university-funded interdisciplinary reading group on Saïd's *Culture and Imperialism*. She believes fiercely in the continuing importance of having an academic community for young historians in these challenging times: "National graduate schools such as the Huizinga Institute are a truly special phenomenon, there is no such thing in America. It's exceptional that all these PhD students, with shared research and methodological interests, come together for graduate training and to present their own research to each other during the Huizinga PhD-Conference." Although Aimée will be restricted in terms of traveling and doing research abroad for now, it is evident we will be hearing a lot more in the future from this up-and-coming young tourism expert and her exciting research.

Sophie van den Elzen

Utrecht University

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Supervised by Prof. Ann Rigney, Prof. Bertek Waaldijk

Tim van Gerven

University of Amsterdam

Scandinavism: overlapping and competing identities in the Nordic world

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Laura van Hasselt

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Amsterdam's Philanthropist. Biography of Christiaan Pieter van Eeghen (1816-1889)

Supervised by Prof. Joost Jonker, Prof. James Kennedy

Sophia Hendrikx

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Carlotta Capurro

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Lucas van der Deijl

University of Amsterdam

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Supervised by Prof. Lia van Gemert, Prof. Antal van den Bosch

Nathanje Dijkstra

Utrecht University

Making up disability? Disability benefit legislation and disability identity formation in cases of traumatic neurosis and amputation in the Netherlands (1901-1967)
Supervised by Dr Willemijn Ruberg

Marieke van Egeraat

Radboud University

Narratives of Resilience in the Low Countries, 1517-1609
Supervised by Prof. Lotte Jensen, Prof. Johan Oosterman

Ana Flamind

University of Groningen

*The politics of decadence: inquiry into European critiques of liberal modernity**Supervised by Prof. Luis Lobo-Guerrero, Dr Suvi Alt***Wim Gerlagh**

University of Amsterdam

*William Morris (1834-1896) en zijn invloed in Nederland**Supervised by Prof. Pim den Boer, Prof. Remieg Aerts***Barbara Gruber**

University of Groningen

*The Psychologisation of Security through Resilience**Supervised by Prof. Jaap de Wilde, Dr Nadine Völkner, Dr Jana Hönke***Renske Hoff**

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University of Amsterdam

*Publishing houses as brokers of knowledge**Supervised by Prof. Lisa Kuitert, Prof. Remco Raben***Mirte Liebregts**

Radboud University

*How 'to make the beauty and learning, the philosophy and the wit of the great writers of ancient Greece and Rome once more accessible': a history of the Loeb Classical Library**Supervised by Dr Helleke van den Braber, Prof. Marchen De Pourcq, Prof. André Lardinois***Manuel Llano Martinez**

Utrecht University

*The structure of the networks of the Republic of Letters, 1400-1800**Supervised by Dr Dirk van Miert***John MacMurphy**

University of Amsterdam

*Jewish Alchemy**Supervised by Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff, Dr Peter Forshaw*

Contextualizing the General History of Africa: Larissa Schulte Nordholt's International Investigation into African History-Writing

BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

For her research into UNESCO's *General History of Africa* (*GHA*), Larissa Schulte Nordholt travels around the world to learn more about this fascinating eight-volume general African history (1964–1999). She spent a lot of time in Paris at the international organisation's archives, as she was also a laureate of the Prix de Paris. Next to Paris, this Cambridge-trained historian of historiography has visited several archives for her doctoral research at Leiden University, from private archives in Nigeria to the personal archive at Northwestern University of the famed Belgian historian Jan Vansina (1929–2017), one of the pioneers of oral history and an authority on the history of Central Africa. He

was one of the few non-African contributors to the *GHA*, and as such plays an important role within Larissa's research.

Larissa can be often found at the African Studies Centre in Leiden, which also has its own library. This independent research library is one of the premier starting points in the Netherlands for any historical, anthropological or sociological inquiry into the history of Africa. The library holds, among other things, many volumes of the *African Studies Association (ASA) News*, in which there is also much to be found on Jan Vansina. Larissa explains: "Jan Vansina already did historical research in the Congo

Larissa Schulte Nordholt is a member of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2017) and PhD candidate at Leiden University.



MEMPHIS

in the 1950's, where he wrote history on the basis of stories told, so he was very important in developing oral history, which was also of tremendous importance to the *GHA*, where he played a major role." She shows an announcement of Jan Vansina's seminal work *Paths in the Rainforest*, where the editors of the ASA News still question the methodology of oral history, which is now generally recognized for its enormous research potential.

The *GHA* is not your average history: "It's a general history of the African continent and the diaspora, from pre-history until about 1975, so the decolonization period. Every volume concerns a different episode of African history from an African viewpoint. So not Middle Ages etc., but really with a new periodization." As a general history of Africa might already seem ambitious from a methodological and theoretical standpoint, she is sceptical if there ever will be a general global history: "A 'global history' would

assume a general framework from which you can look at, describe and understand the whole world, and that depends on a form of universalism, which, at the end of the day, I do not think exists, or should at least not be strived for."

Studying historiography is as much about history-writing as about the historians themselves. Her research aims to achieve new insights into not only what it means to be a historian of Africa, but also about what it means to be an African historian. During her two-month research stay in Nigeria, she tried to read as much as possible about *GHA* principal editor Ade Ajayi (1929-2014) in his personal archives, but also spoke personally with his widow Christie to get to know the person behind the historian: "What they really tried was rewriting African history from their own perspectives, African perspectives. This, I think, can be called 'mental decolonization'."

Cloistered in Sint Agatha: Marleen Reichgelt's Multidisciplinary Investigation into the Experiences of Children in Dutch New Guinea (1905-1962)

BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

Over the past five years, Marleen Reichgelt has been working in the beautiful lush surroundings of Sint Agatha, Brabant, where the Heritage Centre for Dutch Monastic Life is situated in the 650-year old Cloister of the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross. The Heritage Centre contains the archives of over 100 monastic orders and religious congregations. In this inspiring environment, not far from the hustle and bustle of Nijmegen, Marleen has been working both as an archivist and, since 2017, has been conducting research for her PhD-project at Radboud University. She is also

active within the Huizinga Institute's PhD/RMA-Council, where she made important contributions towards renewing the curriculum.

She cleverly combines her expert knowledge of the Sint Agatha archives with her research theme, which is the lived experiences of local children coming into contact with the Catholic mission in Dutch New Guinea between 1905 and 1962. She is especially interested in the actions and agency of these children themselves in missionary projects, which have long been neglected in favour of an institution-focussed

Marleen Reichgelt is a member of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2017) and a PhD candidate at Radboud University.



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viewpoint. She adopts a multidisciplinary approach and uses the latest ideas in gender, (post-)colonial and religious studies.

Marleen hopes to achieve new insights into the experiences of children growing up in a society dictated by colonial governance by analysing photographs taken by the missionaries: "The historical uses of these photographs, in missionary journals, as ethnographical sources, or exotic souvenirs, objectified the children. At the same time, these photographs are a rare source in which the presence of children is directly observable. This makes it possible to approach them as historical actors and offer contrasting perspectives to the dominant missionary discourse in the textual archive in which children constitute a passive, marginal presence." Through piecing together biographical information on the depicted children, she hopes to give back some form of agency to these young boys and girls growing up on the missionaries' terms.

What does it mean to work with photos as a source, and what do photos tell about power relations? Marleen explains: "Anthropologists and political philosophers like Ariella Azoulay have been thinking about how to bring back

agency to photographed subjects. This revolves around how the photographer is never truly 'sovereign', as she is never able to fully control all of the external circumstances and the movements and expressions of the subject. That is the way I look at photographs, as a source not only on the subjects, but also as a source co-constructed by the people depicted."

As a tech-savvy digital humanist, Marleen not only does vital work for the Heritage Centre, but also uses her skills in building databases to meticulously document as much as possible on the photographs she studies. Marleen vividly recounts: "Not long ago, a woman from Deurne brought in a new addition to the archives: letters one of the missionaries had sent to her mother. Among these letters were photographs of children I recognized from my own research on Father Geurtjens. In his popular publications on his missionary work, he included a lot of photos of children, sometimes endearingly, but often as the butt of a crude joke. But now suddenly, on the back of the photos was an illuminating piece of information: 'the little Eugenia of Okaba, sent October 1926 by our friend Father Geurtjens.'" She explains smilingly: "So now suddenly she becomes a person, instead of just another picture in an album!"

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay

University of Amsterdam

Occultism in the Orient: Dissemination of the Theosophical Ideas in Bengal and the Role of Bengali Theosophists

Supervised by Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff, Dr Marco Pasi

Bob Pierik

University of Amsterdam

Gender and urban space in early modern Amsterdam

Supervised by Prof. Geert Janssen, Dr Danielle van den Heuvel

Marleen Reichgelt

Radboud University

Making the colonial child visible. Children moving between Indo-European and local cultures on Netherlands New Guinea (1905-1962)

Supervised by Prof. Geertje Mak, Prof. Marit Monteiro

Koen Scholten

Utrecht University

Mining for learned identities in the Republic of Letters, 1400-1800

Supervised by Dr Dirk van Miert

Larissa Schulte Nordholt

Leiden University

What Is an African Historian? Negotiating Scholarly Personae in UNESCO's General History of Africa

Supervised by Prof. Herman Paul

Marija Snieckute

University of Amsterdam

Nation-Building in Imperial Borderlands: The Case of Lithuania

Supervised by Prof. Joep Leerssen, Prof. Luiza Bialasiewicz

Tim Vergeer

Leiden University

The Theatre of Emotions: Spanish Drama in the Seventeenth-Century Low Countries

Supervised by Prof. Wim van Anrooij, Dr Olga van Marion

Jon Verriet

Radboud University

Fitter, Stronger, Faster: The Athlete's Diet and the Pursuit of Healthy Lifestyles in the Netherlands and the UK (1945-2016)

Supervised by Prof. Marjet Derkx, Prof. Jan Hein Furnée

Wouter de Vries

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Imagining Earth. Prints as Evidence in Natural Philosophical Discourse, 1650-1750

Supervised by Prof. Inger Leemans, Prof. Reinier Munk, Prof. Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis

Renée Vulto

Ghent University

Singing Communities: Dutch Political Songs and the Performance of National Identity (1775-1825)*Supervised by Prof. Cornelis van der Haven, Prof. Isabella van Elferen***Anna de Wilde**

Radboud University

Jewish books in private Dutch libraries (1665-1820)*Supervised by Prof. Alicia Montoya, Prof. Irene Zwiep***Céline Zaepffel**

Leiden University

The Illustrated Fable in Education in France (1500-2010)*Supervised by Prof. Paul Smith***Lise Zurné Erasmus**

University Rotterdam

Performing Urban Pasts: Historical Reenactments with Sensitive Heritage*Supervised by Prof. Maria Grever, Prof. Stijn Reijnders,**Dr Robbert-Jan Adriaansen*

2018

Marleen van den Berg

University of Amsterdam

Joods Rotterdam*Supervised by Prof. Frank van Vree, Prof. Ismee Tames,**Dr Hinke Piersma***Lara Bergers**

Utrecht University

The history of criminalistics and forensic medicine in the Netherlands in the period 1930-1988*Supervised by Dr Willemijn Ruberg***Vittoria Caradonna**

University of Amsterdam

"Purity is a Myth": City and Museums Across Geographies of Unsafet*Supervised by Prof. Rob van der Laarse, Dr Chiara de Cesari***Pauline Dirven**

Utrecht University

Forensic Culture. A Comparative Analysis of Forensic Practices in Europe, 1930-2000*Supervised by Dr Willemijn Ruberg*

Dealing with Actual Disasters

BY ADRIAAN DUVEMAN

When Marieke van Egeraat, Fons Meijer, Lilian Nijhuis and I started working together, one of the first things we did, as four unacquainted PhD candidates, was to formally seal our four years of shared future: we made a WhatsApp group. With a profile picture, and a funny name, all as it should be. The name was easily found: Disastrous dissertations, topped off with a nerdy emoji. In the time that followed, the four of us were going to Huizinga classes, international conferences and expert meetings. Colleagues and peers recognised us as ‘those disaster people’. After a couple of beers, this easily changed into ‘the Four Horsemen’, or, less imposing, the rampetampers.

The ‘Dealing with Disasters’ project, led by Prof. Lotte Jensen at Radboud University, investigates the cultural representations of disasters from the late-medieval period up to the nineteenth century. Recent history was not part of the plan. Nevertheless, we did discuss disasters in the news regularly. Or, more accurately, we discussed the news on new disasters.

Researching poems, pamphlets and prints in earlier centuries makes you more aware of the ways in which the climate crisis and catastrophes are framed in the media you consume. Various historians and philosophers have pointed out the striking parallels between

Adriaan Duiveman is a member of the Huizinga Institute (cohort 2018) and a PhD candidate at Radboud University.

the language and logic used by early modern moralists and modern climate activists when explaining disasters, for instance. Floods, hurricanes and forest fires are now regarded as punishments for the sin of consumption.

Nevertheless, disasters were always far away. At least, they seemed to be. When a hurricane hit Sint Maarten, an independent island state within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, we observed that the disaster could not really be nationalised in the media. The closest I came to the flood disasters I investigated was when the river Waal almost came over the quay of Nijmegen. It looked spectacular, the large, wild mass of water. For those couple of days, I could kind of understand the sublimity of the violence of nature that painters wanted to depict in their



PHOTO BY NADINE KUIPERS

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portrayals of Pompeii, the Vesuvius or Dutch dyke breaches.

And then COVID-19 hit.

Luckily, most of us did not have direct, personal experiences with the virus. I heard the stories about the situation in Brabant only via friends from the province. These stories were heart-breaking. They were also worrying. Just like everyone else, I was worried about my family, especially my parents in the risk group.

Nonetheless, you cannot stop your inner scholar. Watching the news, it was difficult not to note the many parallels with earlier disasters and their representations. In addition, there was a felt need in our project team to engage with the current affairs, and provide people with historical context. Our supervisor has been interviewed by media outlets, our post-doc Dr Hanneke van Asperen wrote a piece on the representation of plague epidemics in relation to COVID-19, and Fons Meijer predicted the content of the king's speech with great accuracy in a blog post. I also wrote two articles for the KNAW project Faces of Science on the pandemic, discussing the behaviour of people in epidemics and the impact of the disaster on religiosity. There was just so much to say. As Jensen noted in her column in de Volkskrant: for us, disaster historians, the pandemic felt like scratching a bingo card.

Disaster historians were not just pointing out parallels. At the same time, it was our task to guard against comparisons that went too far or lacked any nuance. There were many of these, floating around in the mediasphere.

No, COVID-19 is horrific, but it is not the Black Death. And no, a pandemic is not an earthquake.

Disasters could lead to solidarity and to conflict. In most cases, the former is prominent in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophic event like a hurricane or an urban fire. A pandemic, however, is a whole different type of event. It develops slowly, and it drives people away from each other, instead of towards each other.

In spite of these circumstances, I have experienced and seen much solidarity in the past couple of months. Friends bought groceries for elderly neighbours. People called in on friends and family to ask whether or not they were okay. Also among colleagues, we helped each other through the mess with small acts of kindness. We sang at someone's front door to celebrate a birthday. In couples, we walked through the Goffert Park or the Ooij Polder, next to the river Waal, discussing ideas for new articles, or just life. On Fridays, the vrimibo went virtual, but conversations could become more profound than ever before.

These were just small acts of kindness, but these kept me going. For my PhD, I moved from my beloved Groningen to Nijmegen. I feel very much at home now, and that I thank also to my wonderful colleagues. In disaster sociology, I read about social capital and disaster solidarity. I cannot claim in any way that I personally experienced a real disaster in the last couples of months. Nonetheless, I do claim that solidarity is, to me, no longer an abstract concept. And this is also because of the rampetampers.

Adriaan Duiveman

Radboud University

Dealing with disasters in the Eighteenth-Century Dutch Republic, 1700-1807

Supervised by Prof. Lotte Jensen, Dr Joost Rosendaal

Arnab Dutta

University of Groningen

In Search of an Alternative Europe: Germanism and Continental Europe in the Bengali Imagination, 1919-45

Supervised by Prof. Hubertus Büschel, Dr Clemens Six

Irene Geerts

Open University of the Netherlands

It's all in the family. The movement of family members of people with psychiatric problems and/or addiction in The Netherlands, 1960-2000

Supervised by Prof. Gemma Blok

Fons Meijer

Utrecht University

The Nineteenth Century: Nationalist Disaster Discourses (1807-1890)

Supervised by Prof. Lotte Jensen

Aomi Mochida

Radboud University

Travelling War Memories: National and Global Dynamics of Japanese WWII Sites Since 1945

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Lilian Nijhuis

Radboud University

Coping with Crisis in the Dutch Republic, 1570-1700

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Sarah Serrano Martínez

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Forensic practices in Spain, 1930-2000

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Christine Mohrmann (1903-1988). Anchoring Emancipation Through the Study of the Classics

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Antonia Weiss

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Open University of the Netherlands

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2019

Vincent Baptist

Erasmus University Rotterdam

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University of Groningen

The Image between Manuscript and Print: re-reading the 'printing revolution'

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Edurne De Wilde

Leiden University

Idols of the Mind: Modern Variations on a Baconian Theme, 1800-2000

Supervised by Prof. Herman Paul

Theo Dekker

Leiden University

Reasoning, Causality and the appreciation of novelty

Supervised by Prof. Judith Pollmann, Dr Erika Kuijpers

Virtues and Vices in Leiden: Herman Paul's Innovative Research into the Language of Scholarly Debate

BY KOEN THEUNISSEN

What does it mean to be an academic? Obviously, there is no single answer to this question. Scholarly personae or models of how to be a scholar change over time and vary across disciplines. However, the language in which scholars praise and criticize each other is less subject to change than one might expect. 'Scholarly vices' like 'dogmatism' and 'prejudice' are already centuries old.

In his NWO Vici project, Herman Paul seeks to explain why that is the case. Why did 'scholarly vices' manage to persist despite the fact that modern research is almost unrecognizably

different from early modern philology or natural philosophy? Paul's longitudinal study has an explicit methodological goal. Historians are very good in tracing changing meanings, but have not many tools at their disposal for understanding why terms, images, or stories persist despite changing meanings. With an eye to current academic challenges, Paul seeks to bring old language of 'virtue and vice' into conversation with new concepts like 'skills' and 'competencies'. What do such categories enable us to see, and what do they hide from view? What would be typically 21st-century 'virtues and vices'?

Herman Paul is a board member of the Huizinga Institute. He is professor of the history of the humanities at Leiden University.



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Paul tells about the sources in which he first encountered scholarly virtues and vices, more than a decade ago. These include necrologies and other posthumous articles written about the Leiden historian Robert Fruin (1823-1899). Some of these pieces praised his supposed ‘impartiality, precision and meticulousness’, virtues which Fruin himself, in his inaugural address of 1860, had strongly endorsed. The more romantically inclined Willem Bijvanck (1848-1925), by contrast, perceived these character traits as vices, which had hindered Fruin in becoming a truly visionary historian. For Bijvanck, Fruin had missed ‘imagination, vision, and life force’.

Vices like ‘dogmatism’ play a special role in justifying innovation: “We usually associate science with novelty, change and cutting-edge research. But when a novel approach needs to be legitimized, when there is need to explain why a new idea is better than an old one, you often see that innovators accuse their colleagues of ‘dogmatism’. Why do they use this

seventeenth-century term, rich with religious connotations? At first sight, this seems out of place. But scientists are perhaps no exception to the rule that people tend to explore unfamiliar territories with familiar tools, and justify the new in terms of the old.”

Paul mentions two reasons why ‘virtues and vices’ are relevant in a competitive academic culture like ours: “We often talk about ‘skills’, but forget that these are technical abilities, less personal and more superfluous, if you want, than the ingrained habits known as virtues. Virtue might actually be a better category than skills.” Secondly, Paul is interested in what socialization in modern academic life does to scientists: “How does competition for money or status affect the kind of persons we are? You can discuss competition at the level of system efficiency or at the level of work pressure. But calling competition a ‘vice’ is a way of saying: it does not bring the best out of us. Hyper-competition is clearly a 21st-century vice.”

Gerdien Evertse

University of Amsterdam

Morisco Displacements

Supervised by Prof. Geert Janssen

Lotte van Hasselt

University of Amsterdam

Protestant and Catholic Exile in Early Modern Europe

Supervised by Prof. Geert Janssen

Marloes Hoencamp

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

The formation of persons in the theories of Kohnstamm and Langeveld

Supervised by Prof. Doret de Ruyter, Prof. Bram de Muynck

Rosa de Jong

University of Amsterdam

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Alie Lassche

Leiden University

Changing mediascapes and the collection of knowledge

Supervised by Prof. Judith Pollmann, Dr Erika Kuijpers

Oeds van Middelkoop

University of Amsterdam

Op zoek naar een didactiek voor dieper begrip van literair-historische teksten in de vwo-bovenbouw

Supervised by Prof. Lia van Gemert, Dr Erwin Mantingh

Anne Por

Leiden University

Hodegetics: Language of Vice in Student Advice Literature, 1700-1900

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Stefan Reyes

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Cape of Storms: The habitus, ideological clashes and accommodation among Cape slave crew communities from 1780-1806

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Lisanne de Ruijter

Theological University Kampen

Protestant chaplaincy within the Dutch military, between 1945 and 2001

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Erasmus University Rotterdam

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Hidde Slotboom

Leiden University

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Black Power in the Dutch Caribbean, 1960s-1970s

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University of Amsterdam

Jewish Diasporas

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2020

Registrations up to September

Dana van Beurden

Radboud University

Christine Mohrmann (1903-1988): scholar at the intersection of gender, religion and academic culture

Supervised by Prof. Marjet Derkx, Prof. Maarten Depourcq, Dr Jan Brabers

Vincent Bijman

Maastricht University

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Geke Burger

Leiden University

The Scheurraak SO1 shipwreck in the maritime-cultural landscape of the early modern Netherlands, 1550-1650

Supervised by Prof. Michiel van Grootenhuijsen, Dr Anita van Dissel, Dr Martijn Manders

A Lively Conversation with Lyndal Roper Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Huizinga Institute

BY SUREKHA DAVIES AND RACHEL GILLETT

What does the German Peasants' War have to do with cycling? How might climbing a ladder to examine monsters on maps raise larger questions about the pleasures and dangers of the archive in the age of digitization? On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Huizinga Institute, Lyndal Roper, Regius Professor of History at the University of Oxford, spoke live from Oxford with Utrecht University cultural historians Dr Surekha Davies and Dr Rachel Gillett about the history of cultural history, new directions in the field, and its continuing relevance for both the present and the future. The conversation ranged widely through space and time, and from the individual to the collective. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, we man-

aged to add the richness and breadth of multiple voices by gathering pre-recorded questions from fellow scholars and students. The result was surprisingly organic, sewing together the thoughts of Leiden University RMA students Tessa de Boer and Jessica den Oudsten, Huizinga PhD candidates and council members Anne Por and Jon Verriet, and University of Amsterdam cultural historians George Blaustein and Maartje van Gelder, with Roper's responses and with the live discussions.

Professor Roper offered rich insights into doing cultural history using imagination, archival research, languages, and working groups. The discussion includes wonderful moments of

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personal reflection and concrete methods for working on landscape, soundscape, and materiality. Roper's joy at hearing the crackle of a document that no-one but you has consulted before led to questions about whose voices are privileged in the archives and whether digitization democratizes or perpetuates particular topics or orders of thought. Is text-recognition software a boon for our discipline? Dr Davies' vivid accounts of how getting to grips (literally) with the sources can yield fresh historical insights prompted conversations about scholarly training, embodiment, and the historical imaginary. Is the boundary between ourselves and the people and mentalities we examine impermeable? Dr. Davies' provocative question about whether challenges and paradigm shifts in (cultural) history, such as women's and gender history, get sidelined into subfields rather than changing larger narratives and becoming mainstream, led Roper to reflect on how her experiences intersected with developments in the field. Probing questions on using methods from psychoanalysis, and on scholarly paths not taken, continued this double-narrative.

Graduate students did not shy away from big

questions currently animating (and sometimes dividing) the historical profession. Professor Roper's response to how she, a scholar at Oxford, has experienced the #RhodesMustFall campaign since its inception 2015, captured a cultural difference. As an Australian, such conversations were not new to Roper, so she was surprised by the initial hesitancy of the press in the UK to tackle them, an observation that may tell us as much about the British mentalité as the sound and fury of whether physical objects should fall. Roper's conclusion reflected on how students at Oxford addressing the #RhodesMustFall movement enriched her own thinking, and mused that if a field is not generating challenges and new questions, then perhaps we should worry about our students and about our discipline. This conversation testifies eloquently to the fact that we have nothing to worry about. Cultural history is alive, engaged, and incisive, and, twenty-five years after its founding, the Huizinga Institute continues to create space for it to be just that.

From 25 September 2020, you can watch how this exciting conversation played out at huizingagainstuu.nl

Anne van Mourik

University of Amsterdam

Heritages of Hunger. Contesting memory: Conflicting Legacies of Hunger in Germany

Supervised by Prof. Peter Romijn

Judith Van Puyvelde

Maastricht University

The Atelier Glasschilderkunst F. Nicolas en Zonen in Roermond (1855-1968) and the Revival of Stained Glass Production in Western Europe in the 19th and 20th Century

Supervised by Prof. Nico Randeraad, Prof. Ad Knotter, Prof. Joep Leerssen

Nick Tomberge

Leiden University

Tourists in the Colony: Dutch Travelers in the Indies, 1870-1945

Supervised by Prof. Olf Praamstra, Dr Rick Honings

Engraved in Stone: Commemorating Huizinga

BY WESSEL KRUL

In January 2019, an official committee decided to celebrate the centenary of Huizinga's Autumn of the Middle Ages by unveiling a commemorative plaque in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam. Johan Huizinga has been honoured in various ways in the Netherlands. Streets and university buildings have been named after him, and of course the Huizinga Institute keeps his legacy very much alive. But as the Nieuwe Kerk is gradually developing into a national

pantheon, apart from being an exhibition venue, it is fitting that he is represented there as well.

The text engraved next to Huizinga's name is the very first line of his introduction to *The Autumn of the Middle Ages*. It reads in Dutch: 'Het is meestal de oorsprong van het nieuwe, wat onze geest in het verleden zoekt'. In English: 'Usually it is the origin of new things,

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PHOTO: LITERATUURMUSEUM, THE HAGUE.



The young Johan Huizinga as a student

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that we are inclined to look for in the past'. Among those familiar with Huizinga's works, the choice of precisely this sentence has raised some eyebrows.

One may ask, in the first place, whether the importance of an author can be deduced from the opening words of his or her most famous work. Let's imagine a series of similar commemorations. Marcel Proust would stand out as the laziest writer ever ('For a long time, I used to go to bed early'), and Thomas Mann as the most uncertain one (his *Buddenbrooks* opens with 'What is that? What – is – that ...?'). If we limit ourselves to political writers and historians, Karl Marx becomes a ghost ('A spectre is haunting Europe'), while Jules Michelet, certainly intentionally, sounds like the Last Judgement ('I define the Revolution, the coming of the Law, the revival of our Rights, the reaction of Justice').

In fact, historians rarely write catchy openings. Most often they explain in a long sentence what problem they are addressing, what kind of method they used and which results the reader should and should not expect from their work. When he composed his introduction to *The Autumn of the Middle Ages* in 1919, Huizinga did exactly the same. But he built up his argument by first referring to an approach he rejected. Even if most historians were looking for the origin of new things, he was going to do something else. His whole work was based on the assumption that history has to do with

endings, as well as with beginnings.

The Autumn of the Middle Ages traces the final manifestations of a mental outlook that took shape in the 12th and 13th century, but that, according to Huizinga, after two or three centuries had become hopelessly convoluted, while losing its potential for renewal. In Huizinga's time, the word 'Renaissance' still carried promising, modern and positive overtones. Most historians of the later Middle Ages concentrated on the things that seemed to herald a new age. Even if the outward forms were still medieval, they saw the same forces at work in 15th-century France and the Burgundian Netherlands as in Italy. The rise of the cities, of international banking, the centralization of political power, the revival of antiquity, a new realism in the arts – were they not all signs that a Renaissance was under way in Western Europe as well?

Huizinga's *Autumn* can be seen as one long polemic against this interpretation. The prevailing world view in France and the Netherlands, as it could be distilled from the documents, was still thoroughly medieval. Even those aspects that most obviously looked like an innovation, such as the painterly precision of Van Eyck and his contemporaries, could just as well be explained as a development of earlier ideas and practices. Perhaps Huizinga later realized that his opening sentence gave only half his argument, and could therefore cause confusion. In the first English translation of his *Autumn*, published in 1924 as *The Waning of the Middle Ages*, his



Commemorative Plaque for Johan Huizinga in the Nieuwe Kerk Amsterdam

counterclaim was included: 'History has always been far more engrossed by problems of origins than by those of decline and fall'.

It is now, after more than a century, commonly agreed that Huizinga was as one-sided as his opponents. In the course of his Autumn the idea of decadence acquires an almost obsessive character. But his attempt at portraying the mentality of an age remains compelling, and the book still overwhelms by its richness of detail. That it is commemorated in Amsterdam with a sentence in which Huizinga explains what he is not going to do, is an amusing inci-

dent in the long story of his international fame. Is it anyhow possible to summarize Huizinga's ideas in a single sentence?

Perhaps it is. In 1929 Huizinga published his own definition of history in a relatively short and memorable phrase. It is well-known as a quotation, but it has lost nothing of its actual importance. An English version was included in 1936 in a 'Festschrift' for the German philosopher Ernst Cassirer, then in exile as a refugee in England. There it reads: 'History is the intellectual form in which a civilisation renders account to itself of its past'. This is a sentence

which truly deserves to be engraved in stone. It looks deceptively simple, almost like a platitude, but on closer consideration it demonstrates great wisdom.

Huizinga entirely abandoned the arrogance of the modern historian who pretends to know the motives of people from the past better than they did themselves. Trying to understand what has happened in earlier times, in his opinion, was a common human impulse, present in all communities and civilisations. His definition of history included every kind of history writing, from Herodotus, Sima Qian or Ibn Khaldun to Ranke and Burckhardt. The implication is that every age has its own way of interpreting the past, according to its own interests, needs and limitations. There is no absolute standard of the truth in history. Those who claim to be in possession of it, usually assume that their own personal values have eternal validity.

An immediate objection may be that Huizinga opened the door towards a dangerous relativism. If the writing of history depends so much on time and circumstance, does this not leave everyone free to propose their own vision of the past, however fantastic? How would Huizinga, a confirmed anti-Nazi, counter the ideological use of history by fascist and national-socialist authors? His answer would be, first, that history is a collective enterprise. It is not a product of private imaginings. It always consists in research and critical dialogue, with the sources, but even more with predecessors

and colleagues. Secondly, history should not sink below the standards its own time has set. From the 19th century onwards, a whole complex of historical methods has been developed as the foundation of modern 'scientific' history. To neglect these methods is to neglect the 'intellectual form' proper to one's own time. One may differ about interpretations, but to ignore the facts or to give free rein to irrationalism inevitably leads to lies and falsification.

Lies, of course, can never be a serious way to 'render account'. In this formula the moralist in Huizinga takes precedence. History is not just saying something about the past. It always requires a concentrated effort to understand, to make sense of what has happened, and to find a coherent meaning. Again, this attitude is not the reserve of the modern historian. It was there in Thucydides or Machiavelli as well. But the modern historian can only reach this objective by using every modern means at his or her disposal. The desire to render account, that is, to come to a reliable and well-considered conclusion, should be the driving force of everybody involved in the study of the past. If Huizinga can still teach us anything, it must be this.

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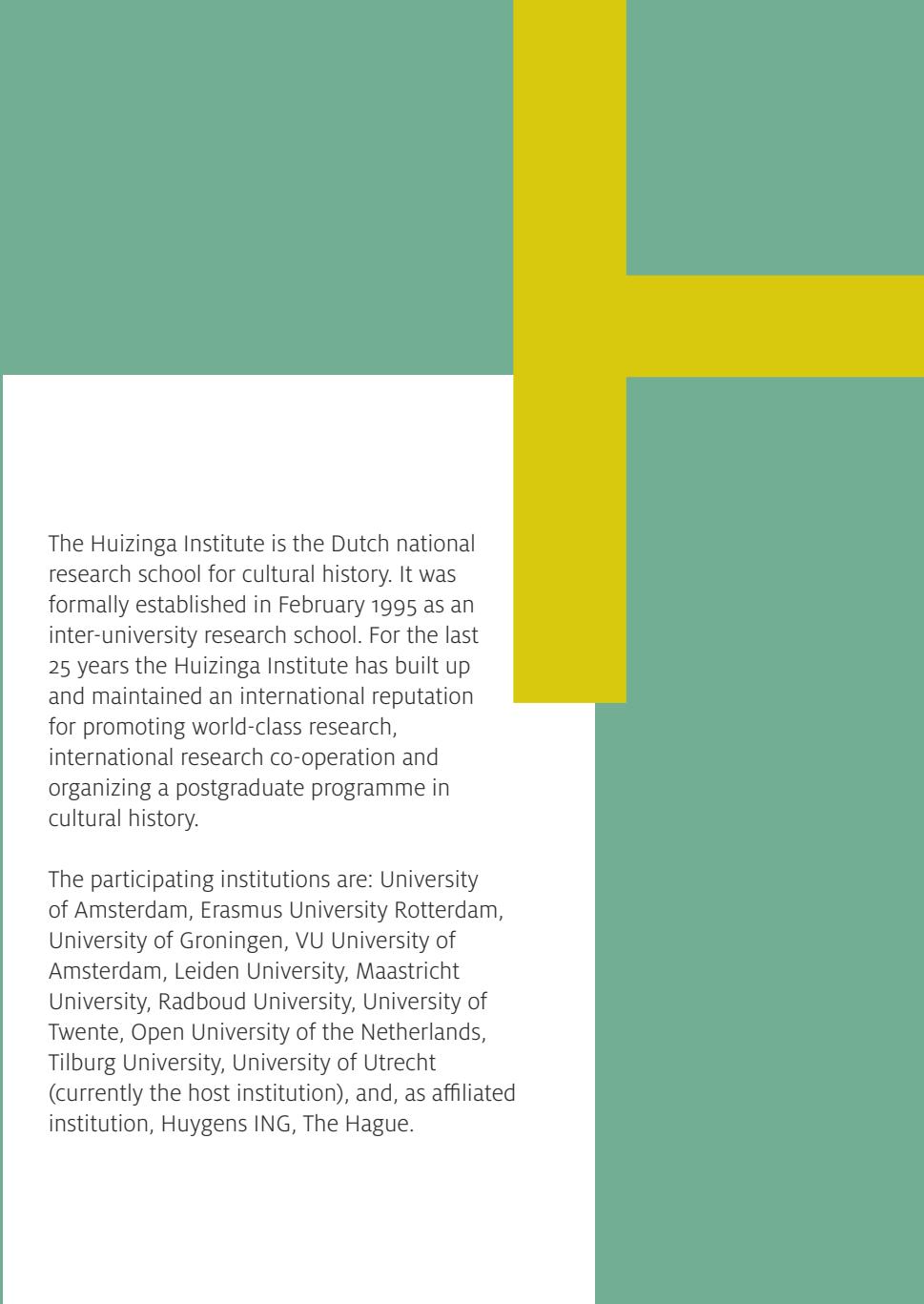
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The Huizinga Institute is the Dutch national research school for cultural history. It was formally established in February 1995 as an inter-university research school. For the last 25 years the Huizinga Institute has built up and maintained an international reputation for promoting world-class research, international research co-operation and organizing a postgraduate programme in cultural history.

The participating institutions are: University of Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam, University of Groningen, VU University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, Maastricht University, Radboud University, University of Twente, Open University of the Netherlands, Tilburg University, University of Utrecht (currently the host institution), and, as affiliated institution, Huygens ING, The Hague.