



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

N.W. POSTHUMUS INSTITUTE

RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY

N.W. POSTHUMUS INSTITUTE

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- Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication
- Fryske Akademy (FA)
- Ghent University (UGent), Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
- International Institute of Social History (IISH)
- Leiden University (UL), Faculty of Humanities
- Maastricht University (UM) / Centre for the Social History of Limburg (SHCL)
- Radboud University Nijmegen (RU), Faculty of Arts
- University of Amsterdam (UvA), Faculty of Humanities
- University of Antwerp (UA), Faculty of Arts
- University of Groningen (RUG), Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Economics and Business
- Utrecht University (UU), Faculty of Humanities
- Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Faculty of Arts
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), Faculty of Humanities
- Wageningen University (WUR), Rural & Environmental History Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The N.W. Posthumus Institute is *the* major platform in social and economic history in the Netherlands and Flanders aimed at both senior and junior researchers in the field. The N.W. Posthumus Institute organises a bi-national community of researchers around a range of research and training activities. It provides a carefully thought-through, internationally oriented PhD training programme tailored to the individual candidates' needs and research projects and offers a Research Master programme that allows master students to acquire the knowledge and skills in social and economic history they need to embark on their own research in the field.

2024 was a very successful year for the N.W. Posthumus Institute. We were able to welcome the largest cohort of new PhD students in the history of the institute: 35 PhD students enrolled in the Posthumus PhD Training. All participated in Seminar I, which took place on 12 and 13 December 2024 in Maastricht. The PhD students of the cohort 2023 first attended Seminar 2 (11-12 April 2024 in Groningen) and subsequently the ESTER Research Design Course, which took place in Münster from 30 September until 2 October 2024. The RDC was organized in close collaboration with the section *Neuere und Neueste Geschichte mit Schwerpunkt Sozialgeschichte* of the University of Münster. We thank the local organizers of Seminars I and II and of the RDC for their hospitality and efforts.

The 2024 annual Posthumus conference was held on 23 and 24 May 2024 in Leeuwarden, at the Campus Fryslân of the University of Groningen. It was hosted by the Fryske Akademy. The theme of the conference was *Regional History in a Global Context*. The conference was well attended by both PhD candidates and fellows. The third-year PhD candidates presented part of their research, and each received useful feedback from a senior fellow as well as from the audience. All six networks organised a network session. The keynote lecture was delivered by Nikolaus Wolf (Humboldt University Berlin), with a co-referate by Marijn Molema (University of Groningen/Fryske Akademy). We are very grateful to the Fryske Akademy for hosting the conference. In the course of the year various workshops and conferences and a masterclass were organised by fellows and PhD candidates and supported by the N.W. Posthumus institute. These events allowed junior and senior scholars to exchange ideas, present their research and receive feedback.

In the academic year 2023-2024 a total of 35 students participated in one or more of the Posthumus Research Master courses, a 30 percent increase from the previous year. The course *Debates in Global Economic and Social History* in particular attracted a much larger number of students than last year.

Finally, in November 2024 the training offered by the N.W. Posthumus Institute to PhD students was evaluated as part of the formal research assessment of the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University. The report of the committee was very positive about the performance of all four research schools hosted by the Faculty, including the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Jessica Dijkman
Scientific Director

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The N.W. Posthumus Institute (NWP) is the Research School for Economic and Social History in the Netherlands and Flanders and has 15 members. It embodies the cooperation between about 300 economic and social historians attached to 15 universities and research institutions in the Netherlands and Flanders. The institute functions as an international platform for research activities in economic and social history, and organizes the PhD training as well as a series of Research MA courses. The Posthumus Institute was founded in 1988 as the *Netherlands Interuniversity Institute For Graduate Training in Economic and Social Historical Research*. In 1994 the NWP was officially recognized as a Research School by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). The official accreditation was renewed in 1999, in 2004, and in 2011 for periods of 6 years. From 2018 formal assessment of the NWP is embedded in the assessment of the university acting as ‘penvoerder’ (see below). NWP has established a durable platform for collaboration among scholars in the field of economic and social history. Since 2004 the Flemish universities of Antwerp (UA), Brussels (VUB) and Ghent (UGent) officially participate in the Institute. In 2017 Maastricht University joined the Posthumus Institute as a full member.

Economic and social history can be distinguished from the broader field of the historical discipline by its strong empirical and theoretical orientation and an acute awareness of methodology. Economic and social historians often seek interdisciplinary cooperation and connections outside the field of history, with social scientists coming from various disciplines. Whilst economic and social historians clearly take their inspiration from the social sciences, they maintain a strong focus on historical times and the importance of historical context.

The N.W. Posthumus Institute is committed to creating a joint community of Dutch and Flemish scholars in which academic excellence is fostered and in which all scholars, both junior and senior, can grow to achieve their full academic potential. The NWP pursues this goal in different ways. First of all, it is strongly committed to educating the next generation of economic and social historians by offering high-level courses for Research Masters and PhD candidates. Candidates are encouraged to have an open mind towards new scientific developments and to engage with the academic world beyond the narrow national boundaries. An important part of the PhD training in Posthumus is therefore provided within the European framework of the ESTER programme. Secondly, the NWP promotes and stimulates innovative and advanced interdisciplinary research initiatives by bringing together junior and senior scholars in joint research networks. In this way, a Dutch and Flemish forum is created which may further the communication between local research groups with a view to research collaboration. Finally, the NWP operates as a nodal manager of existing international research and training networks, and defines quality indicators to meet international publication standards and the standards of the quality assessments in Flanders and the Netherlands.

As an interuniversity research institute the NWP has its own budget, supporting staff, and secretariat. The institute organizes a successful research training programme for PhD candidates and several courses for Research MA students. The NWP stimulates interuniversity research networks and financially supports workshops and conferences to initiate new research activities or to support the dissemination of research results. For both postgraduate candidates and senior scholars the Posthumus Institute provides access to a wide range of information and expertise, and it has a large international network of experts in social and economic history.

The Posthumus Institute has a rotating secretariat. The secretariat organizes or coordinates the organisation of all educational activities of the research school, and maintains contacts with other research schools in the Humanities, as united in LOGOS. It also distributes a frequent newsletter by e-mail and takes care of the maintenance of the website. Since 2021, the Humanities Faculty of Utrecht University is ‘penvoerder’. The ‘penvoerder’ ‘hosts the secretariat and is responsible for the appointment of the scientific director, the education programme director and the office manager, supported by the executive committee of the general board. Former ‘penvoerders’ were Utrecht University (1988-1994), Erasmus University of Rotterdam (1994-1998), Radboud University Nijmegen (1999-2003), University of Groningen (2004-2009), Leiden University (2010 – 2016), and again Radboud University Nijmegen (2016-2021).

The General Board of the N.W. Posthumus Institute, consisting of the chair holders in economic and social history at the participating institutions, met twice in 2024: on 7 February (online) and 24 September (in Utrecht). The six research programmes are headed by the research programme directors. The Posthumus Institute has two other committees that monitor the quality of its teaching activities: the Education Committee and the Examination Committee.

The N.W. Posthumus Institute organizes educational activities for Master students (from Flanders), Research Master students and PhD Candidates. More information about the various activities can be found in Appendix 2.

2.1 Training for PhD candidates

The core curriculum of the Posthumus PhD training programme, which is compulsory for all PhDs enrolled with the N.W. Posthumus Institute, starts with three seminars ('My project in a nutshell', 'Work in progress', and the 'Research Design Course') in which first-year PhD candidates present and discuss their research designs under the supervision of senior researchers. The focus of these seminars is on interacting professionally in the academic community and receiving highly specialised feedback to improve the PhD project. The seminars are followed by an Individual Assessment in the second year, in which two fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute reflect on the progress made by the PhD and assess the expectations concerning the remainder of the project. Also part of the training programme is participation in the annual Posthumus conference. Here, second-year PhDs comment on one of the papers, while third-year PhDs present a paper of their own (see also Appendix 1).

Additional to the core curriculum, the N.W. Posthumus Institute offers PhDs individual options to participate in a five-day Writing Retreat, in a bi-annual Career Day organised together with the Huizinga Institute and the Research School for Political History, in advanced international seminars organised by the ESTER network, in masterclasses on specific topics, and in the NWP Research Master courses. PhD students are also encouraged to organise masterclasses themselves. In order to facilitate this, the N.W. Posthumus Institute offers financial support.

Up until 2024 a distinction was made between the Basic Training (the three seminars plus the individual assessment) and the Advanced Training (other activities including participation in the Annual Conference). In September 2024 the General Board decided to drop this distinction and introduce, starting with the cohort 2024, the training programme as described above. PhDs from cohorts 2023 and earlier complete their training according to the earlier set-up. In 2024, 30 PhDs (cohort 2022) received their Basic Training certificate.

The table below presents registrations and results of the PhD training in 2024.

Results for PhD candidates

Date	Activity	Cohort	Location	EC	Participants	EC awarded
9 January	Masterclass Social Histories of Dutch Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World and South East Asia*	all	Nijmegen	2	6	12
March	Individual assessments	2022	Utrecht/ Antwerp	1	31	31
23-24 May	Annual Conference	2022 and 2023	Leeuwarden	1	24	24
11-12 April	Seminar 2: Work in progress	2023	Groningen	6	26	156
12-18 May	Datini-ESTER Advanced Seminar	all	Prato	4	2	8
24-29 June	Writing Retreat	all	Heeswijk- Dinther (Abdij van Berne)	2	10	20

Sept-Dec	GREATLEAP online lecture series 'An Introduction in Health Inequalities using Historical Causes of Death'*	all	online	1	1	1
30 Sept – 2 Oct	Research Design Course (ESTER) **	2023	Münster	8	25	200
12-13 December	Seminar 1: My project in a nutshell	2024	Maastricht	2	35	70

*Also open to other junior scholars.

**In addition 19 PhDs from universities in other European countries participated.

2.2 Research master courses

The N.W. Posthumus Institute offers a variety of Research Master courses focusing on debates, sources and methods in Economic and Social History. These courses allow Research Master students to gain knowledge of the Posthumus specialisation and its specialists. MA students from the Flemish universities participating in the N.W. Posthumus Institute and PhD students are welcome to participate in one or more courses if there are free places.

In the academic year 2023-2024 two changes were implemented, based on an evaluation which included consultation of the coordinators of the Research Master programmes at the participating universities. Firstly, the course *Debates in Global Economic and Social History*, which introduces students to important debates, methods and sources in the field of Economic and Social History, was revised on several points, partly practical (a later start, scheduling on Fridays, a 5/6 EC option besides a 10/12 EC option) and partly related to content (more attention to social aspects). Secondly, the course *Keys to the Treasure Trove* was replaced by a summer school *Crises and History* which took place in the first week of July 2024 and offered in-depth knowledge of this topic and the sources and models used to study it. The two remaining courses, *Data Management for Historians* and *Quantitative Methods for Historians*, remained unchanged. These courses focus on specific skills that are essential to a quantitative approach of social and economic history but that are usually not part of the curriculum of RMA programmes in History.

The changes made to the programme have benefited participation. A total of 35 individuals registered for one or more of these courses, 18 of whom were first-year RMA students, 6 were second-year RMA students, 8 were PhD students and 3 were MA students from one of the Flemish universities (for details see Appendix 3). This is a clear increase from last year (27 individuals). The main contributing factor is the greater interest in the course *Debates in Global Economic and Social History*: from 5 registered RMA students last year to 16 in 2023-2024.

The table below presents registrations and results per course. On average 69% of the students actually started with the courses they had registered for. The 31% no-show is problematic, if only for the sake of planning, but it should be added that this a general issue, also present at other research schools and, for that matter, at regular university courses. Only four students who started with a course did not complete that course successfully, either for personal reasons or because they had enrolled in too many courses and were unable to complete all of them.

Results for Research Master Students

Date	Course	Location	EC	Registered	Started	Completed	EC Awarded
Nov 2023 - Feb 2024	<i>Debates in Global Economic and Social History</i> . Organisation: Rombert Stapel and Erik Odegard	IISH	5/6 or 10/12	13	10	9	74
Feb-April 2024	<i>Data Management for Historians</i> Organisation: Rick Mourits	Online	5	6	3	2	10
April-June 2024	<i>Quantitative Methods for Historians</i> Organisation: Auke Rijpma	UU	5/6	10	7	6	31
1-5 July 2024	<i>Summer School Disasters & History</i> . Organisation:	UU	2/3	7	5	4	9

	Jessica Dijkman						
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Higher participation in the courses is not reflected in the number of first-year RMA-students enrolling with the N.W. Posthumus Institutes as affiliates at the beginning of the academic year. In September 2023, 10 first year RMA students enrolled as affiliates. This is about the same as in the year before (11 students). The discrepancy between the number of RMA students enrolling as affiliates and the number registering for the courses indicates a growing participation in the courses of others than our 'own' RMA students. In itself this is a positive development: it signals the appeal of these courses to a wider group of students. From a financial perspective, however, this situation is not ideal, as funding from the *Programmabureau Duurzame Geesteswetenschappen* is based on the number of students enrolling as affiliates with the research school and not on course registration. While the trend may already have turned — enrolment as affiliate in September-October 2024 has gone up to 17 — information to newly arriving RMA students on the benefits of enrolling with the N.W. Posthumus Institute as affiliates, rather than just registering for one or more courses, will also be improved.

3.1 Quality management

The N.W. Posthumus Institute ensures the quality of its education through a variety of means. Firstly, information to prospective students on the learning objectives, content and study load of all courses and training activities is provided via the website of the institute. For each course or training activity of three or more EC, this is supplemented by a syllabus that gives detailed information on the course schedule, examination and assessment, prescribed literature and preparations. The four-eyes principle is applied here: if there is only one teacher, the draft version of the syllabus is checked by the education director or the academic director of the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Secondly, each PhD training activity and all RMA courses of three or more EC are evaluated by the participants by way of a standard online form designed for this purpose. The evaluations of PhD training activities are discussed with the PhD representatives. The evaluations of RMA courses are supplemented by a short reflection of the teacher or supervisor. All evaluations and reflections are subsequently discussed in the General Board of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. In addition, once a year the Education Committee, together with the PhD representatives, critically evaluates the teaching programme as a whole.

Thirdly, all teaching materials for the courses and training activities (syllabi, submitted papers and assignments, and assessments) are collected by the Posthumus office and stored digitally for four years. This allows the Board of Examinations of the host institution to request and review the materials of the Research Master courses, if desired.

Finally, the N.W. Posthumus Institute participates in the formal research assessment of the host institution that take place every five years. In 2024 an assessment of the research of the Faculty of Humanities took place. This entailed the drafting of a self-assessment report, which after approval by the General Board was reviewed by an international expert. It also included participation, together with the other three research schools hosted by the Faculty, in an interview with the assessment committee during the site visit.

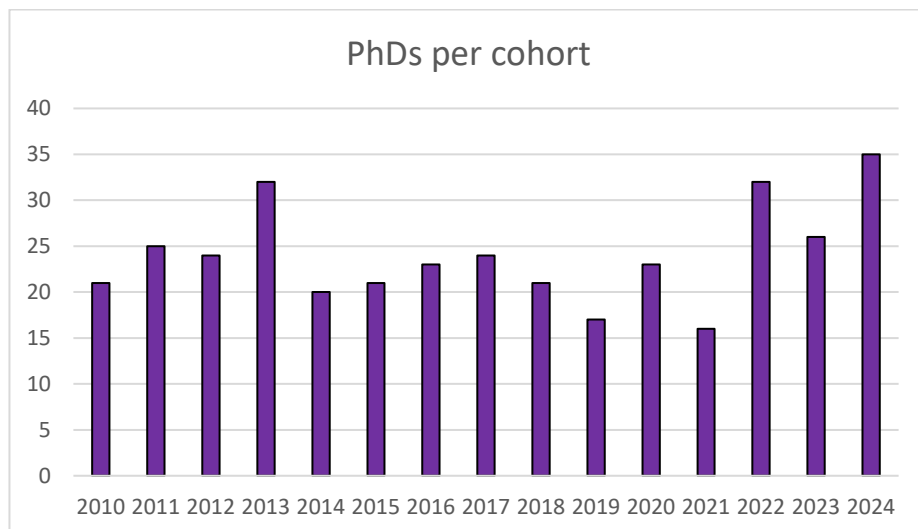
3.2 Completion rates

The success rate of students in finishing their PhD thesis is operationalized by calculating two variables: the completion rate (i.e. the percentage of completed PhD projects) and the average duration (i.e. the number of months between start and completion). It is important to realize that the figures for duration are influenced by parttime instead of fulltime employment (mostly for 80 or 90%) and by contract extensions caused by a variety of reasons that include illness and maternal leave. Also, duration is calculated between the starting and the date of the defense, while the time between completion of the dissertation and the defense can be two to six months. As a consequence, an average (formal) duration of four years is not realistic. Our mission is to increase the completion rate and shorten the average duration in months; but we have to keep in mind that PhD students who finish their dissertation with perseverance after eight years increase the cumulative completion rate, although they stretch average duration. Table 1 provides a general overview of the performance of the 2010-2019 cohorts, and Figure 1 shows enrolment by cohort for the years 2010-2024.

Table 1: Enrolment and completion rates N.W. Posthumus Institute 2010-2019

Cohort	Started	Stopped	Completed within 4 years	Completed within 5 years	Completed within 6 years	Completed within 7 years	Completed total	Completed percentage	Average duration	Standard deviation duration
2010	21	2	2	10	14	16	18	86	5.1	1.0
2011	25	3	0	6	11	13	19	76	6.7	2.6
2012	24	1	4	7	12	14	15	63	5.4	1.8
2013	32	3	0	6	18	20	24	75	5.6	1.0
2014	20	4	0	4	8	9	10	50	5.6	1.2
2015	21	1	0	3	13	14	15	71	5.7	1.0
2016	23	2	2	9	15	16	18	78	5.2	1.0
2017	24	3	2	7	10	14	14	58	5.1	1.2
2018	21	4	0	1	5	6	6	29	5.9	1.0
2019	17	1	0	2	6	6	6	35	5.0	0.5

Figure 1: Enrolment by cohort (2010-2024)

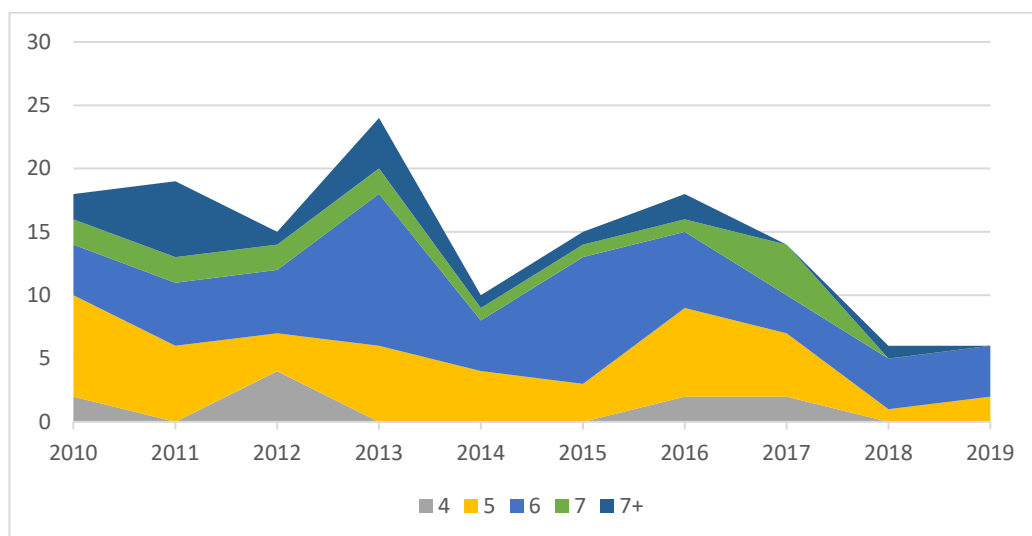


3.3 Duration

In 2018 the VSNU (now ULN: Universiteiten van Nederland) investigated the duration and results of PhD trajectories at Dutch universities in the preceding years (more recent research is unfortunately not available). The findings show that since 2009 the average duration of PhD trajectories had been stable at about 61 months (or 5.1 years). For the Humanities, the average was higher: about 5.5 years. About 69% of Dutch PhDs that started their PhD between 2006 and 2012 completed it before 2018. For the Humanities this figure was, at 62%, lower.¹

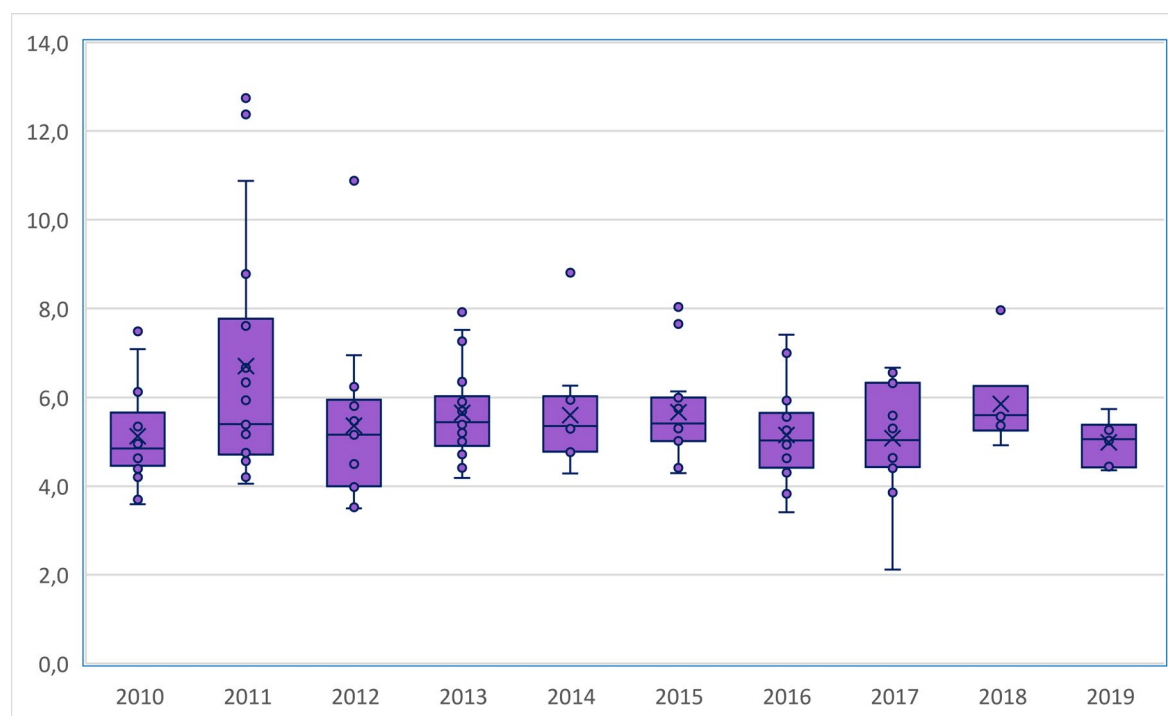
The results within the N.W. Posthumus Institute for the cohorts 2010-2019 are shown in figures 2 and 3. About 64% of the NWP PhD students of the cohorts 2010-2019 completed their PhD thesis before 31 December 2024: this is at about the same level as the Dutch average for the Humanities reported by the UNL. The average duration of the PhD trajectory of these PhDs was 5.6 years, again around the same level as the Dutch average for the Humanities. About 70% of these PhDs obtained their degree between 4.1 and 6.0 years. This can also be observed in Figure 2, where the number of PhD students who complete their PhD within 4, 5, 6, 7 or more years is visualized, and in Figure 3, which plots the spread of the duration per cohort. The mean and median per cohort remain fairly stable between 5 and 6 years.

Figure 2: Number of PhDs per cohort who completed the PhD within 4, 5, 6, 7 or more years (cohorts 2010-2019)



¹ VSNU (UNL), Rapportage promovendigegevens 2018. Available at [Overzichten Promovendi 2018.xlsx](#). Date of consultation: 9 July 2025.

Figure 3: Boxplot of the duration of completed dissertations in years 2010-2019



The six research networks active in the N.W. Posthumus Institute bring junior and senior scholars together and in this way promote and stimulate communication and collaboration between local research groups.

A. Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in Comparative Perspective

Research directors in 2024: Pepijn Brandon (VU) and Wout Saelens (UA)

Theme

This program brings together Dutch and Flemish scholars working on different aspects of the economy and society of the Low Countries between 1300 and 1850. The main objective of the network is to embed ongoing research in a larger comparative perspective that identifies differences and commonalities both within the Low Countries and with other countries and regions around the globe. Both the Dutch and Belgian case offer excellent opportunities for comparative research in major ongoing international debates. In this respect, key examples are questions related to the character of early modern growth, the dynamics of social inequality, questions related to the impact of European and global/colonial trade on the domestic economy of the Low Countries, and questions related to the early industrialization of Belgium. Conferences and workshops, inspired by one of the projects of the fellows, or in collaboration with other research networks, address the internationalization of a specific theme. Additional objectives are the dissemination of information between network members, coordination of activities and networking.

Activities

In 2024 the network supported the following activities:

- The workshop The Fragmented City in Premodern Europe (25 January 2024, Centre for Urban History, University of Antwerp). This workshop was organised by Bente Marschall and Peter Stabel (both from the University of Antwerp) and was aimed at bringing together researchers to discuss the theme of the divided city in premodern Europe.
- The conference Feeding the Citizens? Urban Land and Landownership in Past and Present (11-12 April 2024, STAM Gent), which was co-supported with the Societies in Context network. This conference was organised by Tim Soens (University of Antwerp), Cécile Bruyet (idem), Esther Beeckaert (STAM Gent), Yves Segers (KULeuven) and Thijs Lambrecht (University of Ghent). Participants crossed present-day debates on land-based food supplies with different configurations of urban land and landownership in the past.
- Network session at the annual Posthumus Conference (23 May 2024, Leeuwarden) on Flows between Town and Country in the Pre-Industrial Period, which attempted to capture the 'metabolic' relationship between cities and the countryside. Presentations were provided by Frederik Buylaert and Thijs Lambrecht (both University of Ghent), Marjolein 't Hart (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Wout Saelens (University of Antwerp).

B. Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability in Long-Term Perspective

Research directors in 2024: Robrecht Declerq (UGent), Frank Veraart (Tu/E) and Pim de Zwart (WUR)

Theme

The NWP programme Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability in Historical Perspective (GIS) is the continuation of the NWP programme 'Drivers and Carriers of Globalisation'. It seeks to bring together the work of NWP fellows and PhD students on (1) the determinants of worldwide/regional integration of markets, technological systems, business systems, and polities ('Globalisation'); and (2) origins of the rise of global inequality ('Inequality') and the historical shaping of issues of sustainability and transnational trade-offs between economic, social, human and natural resources ('Sustainability'). This research network is organized around these three interrelated and key themes that are central to current debates in the social sciences: globalization, inequality and sustainability. These themes arguably represent some of the greatest societal challenges facing the world today. Our network aims to contribute to a better understanding of these challenges by rooting these themes in a historical perspective. The network hosts a variety of approaches, like comparative and transnational, and stimulates the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods. We are not confined to a particular period of time. The network welcomes research initiatives, projects and thinking that tackle issues of globalization, inequality and sustainability on a longue-durée perspective.

Activities

At the annual Posthumus Conferences at the Fryske Akademy, Campus Fryslân (Leeuwarden) 23 and 24 May 2024 the network organized a session entitled Histories of Globalization, Inequality and Sustainability in Regional Contexts. This session unraveled the interconnectedness of historical developments and phenomena in an interregional context. The session presented three papers of ongoing and recently started research. The papers varied in scope from early modern to modern history. The session took us from a

the long term perspective of the regional ‘Tiny Divergence’ in the (Northern) Netherlands, via shifts in wood resourcing regions of the early modern Frisian wood processing industries, to modern day entangled histories of soy between Brazil and the Netherlands and high tech supply chain cooperations between the Netherlands and Taiwan. The session contained the following contributions: Alexandra M. de Pleijt (Wageningen University), Jan Huiting (Utrecht University) and Jan Luiten van Zanden (Utrecht University), ‘*30,000 wages and the Tiny Divergence, 1300-1800*’; Hanno Brand (Fryske Akademy), ‘Shifts and specialization in 17th-century Frisian overseas wood transports’; and Mila Davids (Eindhoven University of Technology), ‘Sustainable challenges in the global semiconductor supply chain: Coordination and cooperation between stakeholders in Dutch and Taiwanese high-tech regions’.

The network also facilitated two workshops organized at other moments in the year. On 22 April 2024 the Workshop Commodification, Values & Knowledge Politics took place at Utrecht University. This workshop, in which 15 scholars participated, was organized by the NWO research programs Sustainability Trade-offs in the Netherlands’ Entangled Modernisation (STONEM), 1900-2020 (TUE and UU) and SOY STORIES (TUE and VU). The workshop explored some key concepts relevant to study the establishment, growth and maintenance of transnational production systems acknowledging the social pluralities in and between different global regions. The workshop centred around notion of commodification, values and knowledge politics. The notion of commodities is often loosely understood as materials, goods or services that are exchanged to provide human demands. This leaves open the question of how commodities come about. How is value attributed to natural substances? Historians focussing on resources have explored the involvement of various actors in creating, capturing, and circulating commodities. (Neo)Marxists scholars have commented and critiqued on the process of commodification by pointing at the subjugation of use values to exchange values in capitalistic systems. They also argue these developments are drivers of social (global) inequalities and environmental degradation.

On 13 September 2024 the workshop Political Economy and Long-Run Development took place in Wageningen University. This workshop had 10 participants and was organized by Daniel Gallardo-Albarrán and Pim de Zwart. The event brought together researchers working at the intersection of political institutions, economic development, and historical change. The topics explored include how political structures, governance, and power dynamics have shaped long-run economic trajectories across different regions and time periods. The presentations touched upon case studies ranging from military rule in Chile to colonial governance in Africa and India. Speakers examined areas such as administrative reform, public health infrastructure, political tenure, taxation, institutional legacies, climate, and rural development, highlighting the long-run interactions between politics and economic development across diverse contexts.

C. Societies in context: Interactions between humans and rural-urban environments

Research directors in 2024: Katharine Frederick (UU) and Wouter Ronsijn (UGhent)

Theme

The Societies in Context research network investigates how humans have interacted with their ecological, social, institutional, and economic environments as they sought to build their lives and develop societies and economies. The network primarily brings together scholars exploring topics relating to rural and environmental history, and encourages a regional approach to explore how humans operated within (and affected) their particular ‘environmental’ contexts, over time and across space.

Activities

Several activities were carried out in the course of 2024. A network session was organized at the Posthumus Conference in Leeuwarden, 23-24 May 2024, entitled “Institutions and development in the (post)colonial Global South”, with contributions by Aditi Dixit and Vigyan Ratnoo. The network supported the organisation by Tim Soens, Cécile Bruyet, Thijs Lambrecht, Esther Beeckaert and Yves Segers of the conference “Feeding the citizens?”, that was held on 11-12.04.2024, in Ghent. The network also sent a welcoming email to our new PhD-students.

D. Life-Courses, Family and Labour

Research directors in 2024: Sanne Muurling (RU) and Evelien Walhout (UL)

Theme

This network uses the household as the central unit of analysis to answer micro and macro questions about changes in demographic behaviour and the labour market. It explicitly applies a gender lens to better understand these developments. By discerning patterns in the development of populations, economic structures, and the gender division of labour, our network contributes to understanding historical as well as present-day societies.

The key questions within this network centre around three main themes. First, the three phases of the demographic transition: a Malthusian (high birth and death rates), an intermediate (population growth), and a neo Malthusian (low birth and death rates) phase. Demographic transition theory has traditionally been tested at a high level of aggregation. We study the transition on the micro-level, using individual data, to better understand when, how, and why countries from all over the world have experienced, or are currently experiencing, the demographic transition.

The second topic is migration history. Although the media present the 21st century as an age of migration, people have always been on the move. With the help of register data migration trajectories of individuals and families can be ‘reconstructed’ and analysed. This increases our understanding of the agency of migrants across time and space, as well as the constraints they were confronted with. By

comparing demographic and labour market behaviour of migrants and natives, processes of social inclusion and exclusion can be analysed. On a higher level of aggregation, the study of migration history enhances our understanding of the opportunities and challenges migration poses to sending and receiving areas.

The third, closely related theme is gender inequality in the labour market. Households' demographic behaviour, such as age at marriage, and the timing and number of children, affected the labour division of husbands and wives and thus, indirectly, the composition of the aggregate labour market. At the same time, labour market opportunities and shifting economic structures affected households' demographic behaviour, including migration. This interrelationship shaped women's opportunities and their actual position in the labour market and the household. Researching this relationship is thus crucial for understanding the long-term development and the determinants of gender inequality. Therefore, collecting empirical evidence on women's work and remuneration is high on the research agenda of this network.

Activities

In 2024 the network Life-Courses, Family and Labour supported the Young Historical Demographers at the annual conference of the Young Demographers that took place from 4-7 February in Prague. The Young Historical Demographers co-organised three masterclasses on inequality in health (Reproductive health – Anna St'astná, Inequality in health – Kristina Thompson, and Historical health – Vera Slováková). The network also contributed to the translation of a book by Posthumus members Jessica den Oudsten and Ramona Negron called *The Private Slave Trade in Eighteenth-Century Amsterdam. On Jochem Matthijs and Coenraad Smitt* (Amsterdam University Press). At the annual Posthumus Conference on 23 and 24 May in Leeuwarden, the network organized a session on the topic 'Health in the city'. The session included presentations by Mayra Murkens & Tim Riswick (A competing risks analysis of victims and survivors: the impact of different socioeconomic factors on cause-specific early childhood mortality risks in Amsterdam, 1856-1865), Matthias Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, Bjorn Quanjer & Kristina Thompson (The impact of maternal death on the survival of enslaved children in Suriname, 1830-1863), Isabelle Devos & Hilde Greefs (The 1866 cholera epidemic in Antwerp and Brussels: a comparative analysis of the epidemic's trajectory and public health responses) and Arlinde Vrooman (The Factors Behind the Spatial Diffusion of Colonial Health Care Facilities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire: ca. 1900-1950).

E. Inclusion, Exclusion and Mobility

Research directors in 2024: Bart Lambert (VUB) and Marion Pluskota (UL) / Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (UL)

Theme

Inclusion, Exclusion and Mobility is a Flemish-Dutch research network for scholars working on the broad field of the social history of communities from the late Middle Ages to the present. The network brings together PhD candidates and postdoctoral fellows and senior researchers from the Netherlands and Flanders who are active in a number of large research projects, such as the projects of Manon van der Heijden (UL) on the topic of crime and gender and of Leo Lucassen (UL), Marlou Schrover (UL), Anne Winter (VUB) and Hilde Greefs (UA) on migration processes. It also welcomes PhD candidates who work on stand-alone projects that relate to the social history of communities.

The programme looks at the formation of boundaries between social groups, at processes of inclusion and exclusion and at the rise of civil society. 'Civil society' is a central concept in the literature on the social history of communities, and refers to institutions that do not belong to the market or state, but are formed by citizens, such as guilds, churches, voluntary associations, charitable bodies, NGOs, etc. These organisations are often seen as important when studying the processes of group formation, as well as processes of inclusion and exclusion in communities from medieval times to the present. Of particular importance is the formation of boundaries and bridges between social groups, and the causes, and consequences that this produced. Three areas of research are particularly relevant:

1. The inclusion and exclusion of social groups, due to such factors as real and imagined class, gender and ethnic similarities and differences. Communities were formed and shaped by the delineation of in- and out-groups. Processes of inclusion and exclusion are therefore quintessential to examine the ways communities functioned. Processes of in- and exclusion are strongly linked to the balance of power within communities. Scholars in this research network explicitly look at vulnerable / less powerful groups within communities, what their position was, and their level of agency.
2. The effects of mobility and immobility. Migration — internal, seasonal, emigration, immigration, asylum, forced movement, return — was an integral part of early modern and modern societies. But mobility does not solely relate to the movement of people, but also to products and ideas, as well as social mobility/immobility within societies.
3. The impact that institutions have on society at large: do the ties between the institutions and their members, and among the members themselves, lead to a generalized feeling of trust in society, or, conversely, to social tensions and conflicts?

Activities

The Inclusion, Exclusion and Mobility research network set up a research session, entitled 'Analysing the Migrants' Life Cycle', during the Posthumus conference in Leeuwarden on 23-24 May 2024. The session included a paper by Swantje Falcke (Utrecht University) on 'Naturalisation, citizenship and mobility in the migrant life course'. Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (Leiden University) spoke about the role of social work at the time of the arrival of postcolonial migrants in both the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The third and

final paper in the session was delivered by Andrew Shield (Leiden University). Entitled 'Queer migration history: archiving past & present narratives', it addressed the role of sexuality and gender identity in migrants's life courses but also at the need to archive queer migrants' experiences.

F. Routes and Roots in Colonial and Global History

Research directors in 2024: Ulbe Bosma (IISH/VU), Elisabeth Heijmans (UA) and Dries Lyna (RU)

Theme

The research network 'Routes and Roots in Colonial and Global History' convenes Dutch and Flemish scholars, whose aim it is to combine a global approach with a sensitivity for local and emic perspectives. Projects within this network study globalizing societies starting from a micro level and highlight individual agency. Their focus is on the various ways these local societies and individual persons participated in inter-regional networks, how their encounters with 'others' impacted their (social, cultural, religious) lives on a local level, and how in turn these encounters also had an impact on these supra-local levels. Highlighting the micro level and individual agency involves the use of primary sources born in different cultural and linguistic zones. It also entails using methodologies that are not necessarily always readily available in a historian's toolbox, such as oral history and fieldwork.

The network brings together knowledge on broad transnational processes such as empire-building, (de)colonization, modernization and globalization, with expertise on specific societies, groups and individuals. There is a wide range of research projects: from cosmopolitanism among the elites at the Indo-Islamic courts, to modern life-styles of contemporary Africans to non-western urbanisation. The network also includes studies on how new hardware, from ships, to roads, to cars, to cell phones, transformed spaces from relatively sequestered into globalised.

Research in this network further concerns interactions between colonial/postcolonial policies and grassroots' negotiation of and impact on these colonial/postcolonial policies. Or, focus on how missionary messages were transformed in local cultures and often resulted in indigenous re-translations of external concepts. As a rule of thumb these research projects include critical reflections on the various ways in which people contest, transform and appropriate their colonial heritage. The network invariably concerns research that critically engages with Eurocentric historical markers such as the Early-Modern and the Modern and explores the options for periodizations that are truly global in character.

Activities

In 2024 this network organised three meetings:

- 9 January 2024: Dries Lyna (Radboud University) and Matthias van Rossum (IISG) organized the second edition of the PhD masterclass *Social Histories of Dutch Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World and South East Asia* in Nijmegen. Professor Nigel Penn (University of Cape Town) welcomed 10 PhD-students from our network, commented on their position papers and shared his expertise with all of them cohorts. Nigel Penn also gave a public lecture on the Khoisan and Slave Revolt of 1801, in which he explored how race, class and gender oppressions combined to provoke a major anti-colonial uprising in the Cape Colony. Afterwards the attendants visited the travelling South African exhibition 'Fugitives' in Nijmegen, for which pracademic and forensic facial imaging specialist Kathryn Smith (Stellenbosch University) reconstructed portraits of 19th-century runaway enslaved people together with historians.
- 24 May 2024: network session 'Commodity Frontiers' at the annual Posthumus conference in Leeuwarden, with speakers Michiel de Haas (Wageningen University & Research), Luc Bulten (Leiden University/Radboud University) and Allan Souza Queiroz (Ghent University), followed by a network lunch. The session was very well-attended, with about 30-35 participants from all over the Low Countries. Dries Lyna chaired the session, and steered the group discussion on aspects of commodity frontiers, covering Dutch cinnamon production in 18th-century Sri Lanka (Bulten), cotton imperialism in modern Africa (De Haas) and Brazilian sugarcane plantations in the 20th and 21st centuries (Souza Queiroz).
- 18 December 2024: As follow-up to the publication 'Since 1624: Taiwanese-Dutch Relations' (2024), this eponymous workshop delved into the historical influence of the Dutch East India Company on Taiwan, focusing on how this period continues to shape academic inquiry. The event was organized by Tim Riswick (Radboud University Nijmegen) and Mila Davids (*Technical University Eindhoven*), and they welcomed about 20 scholars from both the Netherlands and Taiwan.

5

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below we present a detailed financial overview for the year 2024. Total revenues were more or less as expected. It is worth emphasizing that, as in other years, about 30% of the total revenues originate from the contributions of the non-DLG participants.

Financial Report 2024	In € 1000	
Revenues	Budget 2024	Realised 2024
Contributions of participating faculties (DLG)	44.9	44.9
Contributions of non-DLG faculties	38.7	38.7
Fees PhD Candidates	22.5	21.8
'Duurzame GW' general subsidy for ResMA	19.0	20.0
'Duurzame GW' personal budgets ResMA students	6.0	5.0
TOTAL REVENUES	131.1	130.3
Expenditures		
Office		
Compensation Scientific Director (0.2 fte)	20.0	19.1
Education Programme Director (0.4 fte)	36.0	35.5
Office Manager (0.5 fte)	39.3	37.7
Expenses for office & meetings (Board, committees)	2.5	3.6
Contingencies	0.5	0.1
Subtotal	98.3	96.0
Educational activities		
NWP Research MA	1.0	0.6
Seminar I	6.0	18.3
Seminar II	3.0	2.9
Individual Assessments	1.5	1.5
RDC	12.5	20.5
Advanced Training (Masterclasses, Adv Sem & Cert.)	1.5	0
Writing Retreat	6.0	4.9
Career Event	0.0	0
Subtotal	31.5	48.7
Research		
General expenses Program Directors	0.5	0.2
Expenses for activities of interuniversity research network	6.0	5.6
NWP Annual Conference	12.5	10.4
Subtotal	19.0	16.2
TOTAL EXPENSES	148.8	160.9
Exploitation result	-17.7	-30.5
Financial reserve at the end of the year	125.9	108.8

Expenditure on two educational activities significantly exceeded the budget. The high costs for seminar I (11-12 December 2024, Maastricht) are partly related to the unexpectedly large number of PhD students in cohort 2024 in combination with the location: the tightly packed schedule and the distance to most universities in both the Netherlands and Flanders implied that almost all participants had to stay two nights in a hotel in Maastricht. It should be added, however, that in 2023 the budget for seminar I, which then took place in Utrecht, was also exceeded (by about 7K). While in the past the budget for seminar I could be modest because the VUB, in return for a reduced participation fee, provided accommodation, it must be concluded that in its current set-up seminar I is structurally underbudgeted.

The second educational activity the budget of which was exceeded was the RDC (30 Sept – 2 Oct 2024, Münster). The main cause is the re-introduction, decided upon by the General Board in February 2024, of a 200 euro reimbursement for accommodation costs for the participating PhDs. In addition, several expert commentators from outside Münster attended because of the large number of participating PhDs.

High expenses for seminar I and the RDC were partly compensated by the fact that office expenditure and expenditure on research were slightly below budget. The result is nonetheless a negative result of -30.5K instead of the budgeted -17.7K. It should be remembered, however, that last year we were in the opposite situation: the financial report over 2023 ended in a negative result that was much smaller than budgeted (-6.9K instead of -26.4 K). It is also worth noting that according to the DLG guidelines (of March 2023), the N.W. Posthumus Institute is expected to reduce its financial reserve by 30K per year in order to arrive at the goal of a reserve of about 25K (20% of revenues in the benchmark year 2021) by the end of 2027.

Budget 2025 and financial prognosis up to 2027

The budget for 2025 and the financial prognosis up to 2027 are presented below. As stated above, the N.W. Posthumus Institute is expected to reduce its financial reserve to about 25K by the end of 2027. The General Board wants to carry out this reduction by employing the surplus for teaching and research activities in a responsible way. The prognosis fulfils this requirement.

Budget 2025 and Financial prognosis up to 2027	In € 1000		
Revenues	2025	2026	2027
Contributions of participating faculties (DLG)	44.9	44.9	44.9
Contributions of non-DLG faculties	38.7	38.7	38.7
Fees PhD Candidates	16.0	14.5	14.5
Fees Writing Retreat	2.0	2.0	2.0
‘Duurzame GW’ general subsidy for ResMA	20.0	20.0	20.0
‘Duurzame GW’ personal budgets ResMA students	8.0	7.0	7.0
TOTAL REVENUES	129.6	127.1	127.1
Expenditures			
Office			
Compensation Scientific Director (0.2 fte)	19.7	20.3	20.9
Education Programme Director (0.4 fte)	36.6	37.6	38.8
Office Manager (0.5 fte)	38.8	40.0	41.2
Expenses for office & meetings (Board, committees)	2.5	2.5	2.5
Contingencies	0.5	0.5	0.5
Subtotal	98.0	100.9	103.8
Educational activities			
NWP Research MA	1.0	1.0	1.0
Basic Training: Seminar I	12.0	12.0	12.0
Basic Training: Seminar 2	3.0	3.0	3.0
Individual Assessments	1.5	1.5	1.5
Basic Training: RDC	12.5	12.5	12.5
Writing Retreat	6.0	6.0	6.0
Career Event	2.0	0	2.0
Subtotal	38.0	36.0	38.0
Research			
Expenses for activities of interuniversity research network	6.0	6.0	6.0
NWP Annual Conference	12.5	12.5	12.5
Subtotal	18.5	18.5	18.5
TOTAL EXPENSES	154.5	155.4	160.3
Exploitation result	-24.9	-28.3	-33.2
Financial reserve at the end of the year	83.9	55.6	22.4

Regarding revenues, for 2025 revenues from the fees for PhD candidates and from the personal budgets of ResMa students for 2025 have been based on the actual figures of enrolment in 2024. Revenues for 2026 and 2027 have been based on average enrolment in the years 2020 to 2024. Revenues from participation in the Writing Retreat have been estimated based on 8 participants per year. Contributions of the DLG and the non-DLG participants have been budgeted at the same level as in 2024. Regarding expenditure, an annual increase of salaries of 3% has been budgeted. The budget for the RDC has been maintained at the level of €12.500. This requires abandoning a measure that was re-introduced last year: a (partial) reimbursement of €200 for travel and accommodation costs for all Posthumus PhDs attending the RDC. The budget of €12.500 does include a modest sum to assist a small number of PhDs who cannot make use of other funds and would not be able to attend the RDC without any financial support. The budget for seminar I has been raised to a realistic level of €12.000. While this will impose restrictions on the location and the schedule, it does mean that for this first training activity hotel accommodation can still be offered to the participating PhDs. Expenses for the Advanced Training, other than the Writing Retreat, have no longer been included in the budget.

The N.W. Posthumus Institute is confident that from 2028 onward a budgetary balance can be established. Firstly, we expect the lump-sum contributions of the DLG and the non-DLG participants, which are to cover office costs but have not been indexed since 2021, to be adjusted to increased wage levels once the reserve has reached the norm. Secondly, there are sufficient opportunities to reduce expenditure for teaching and research activities, for instance by foregoing on offering overnight accommodation altogether.

The N.W. Posthumus Institute is looking forward to the year 2025 with confidence. The first seminar of the PhD students of cohort 2024, in December 2024, was successful and has shown that we are able to organise high-quality training, even for such a large group as this – thanks to the enthusiasm of the PhDs and the willingness of many fellows to contribute as expert commentators. We are confident that seminar II (in April, Eindhoven) and the RDC (November, Sevilla) will proceed as successfully. The annual conference 2025 will be held at Radboud University in Nijmegen. In September 2024 the General Board agreed to switch to joint sessions of PhDs and fellows (instead of separate sessions), to be organised by the networks together with the PhD representatives. We are looking forward to the results of this new set-up and will evaluate them carefully afterwards. In the course of 2025, we will look out for hosts to organise seminars I and II, the RDC and the conference in 2026.

The increase in the number of Research Master students enrolling with the N.W. Posthumus Institute and in the registration for the Research Master courses is encouraging. We aim to keep up the positive trend by improving communication about the courses and activities on offer, and by developing a new theme for the summer school. The aim is to alternate themes between the years in order to diversify the offer and appeal to a wider circle of students (or allow students to attend a Posthumus summer school both in the first and in the second year of their studies). At a point in time when regular university (Research) Master programs are under severe financial pressure, inter-university courses and training activities are more important than ever. They allow for highly specialised education to Research Master students that individual universities may no longer be able to offer, a task to which the N.W. Posthumus Institute is happy to contribute.

Finally, in June 2026 the term of the Utrecht *penvoerderschap* will end. The search for a new host institution has started. In the course of 2025 preparations for the transfer will begin, starting with the formal steps of gaining consent from the General Board, the prospective host institution, and the DLG.

N.W. POSTHUMUS INSTITUTE
PhD
DISSERTATIONS
DEFENDED IN 2024

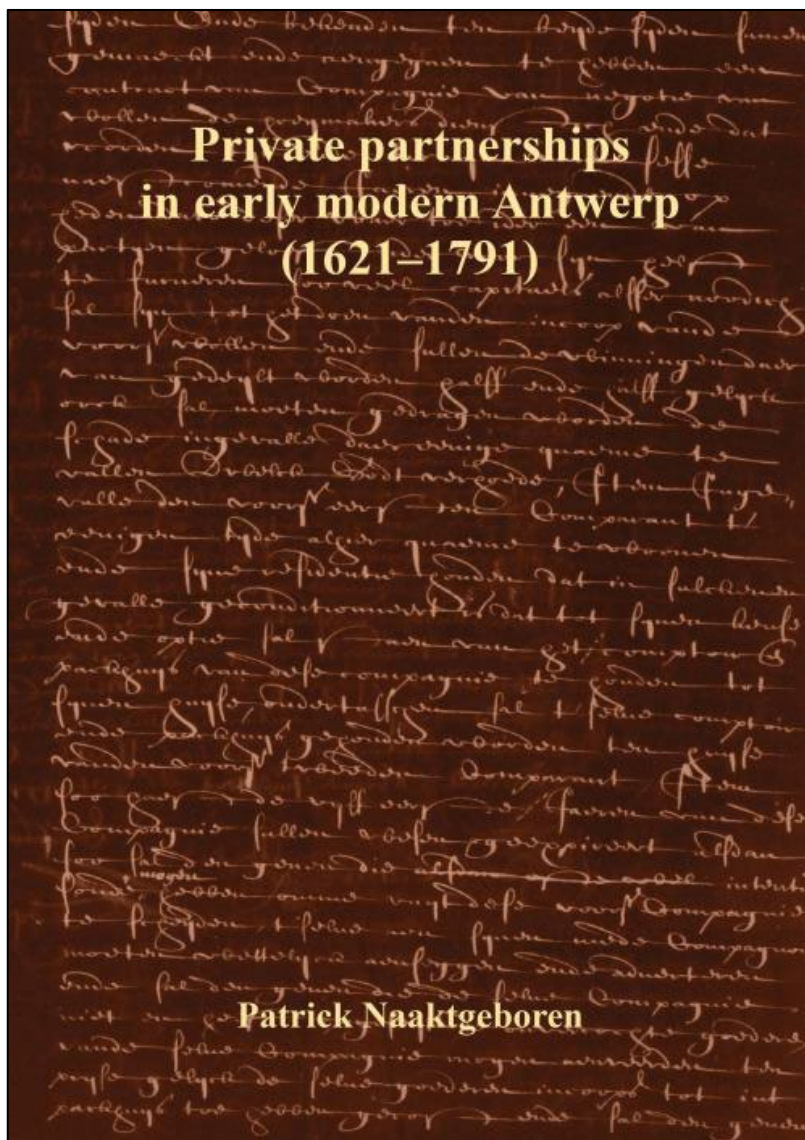
Patrick Naaktgeboren (UM)

Title: *Private partnerships in early modern Antwerp (1621-1791)*

Supervisors: Bram van Hofstraeten and Jeroen Puttevils

Graduation: 11 January 2024

This dissertation investigates private partnerships in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Antwerp (1621–1791) from both a legal historical and a socioeconomic perspective. Whereas the legal-historical part deals with the interaction between Antwerp customary law and learned legal literature (the ‘law in books’) related to business practices in the form of notarised and privately drafted agreements (the ‘law in practice’), the socioeconomic historical part focuses on the functions a partnership could fulfil in an early modern society. Based on 221 notarised partnership contracts and 20 privately drafted agreements, this dissertation demonstrates that entrepreneurs resorted to the legal principle of freedom of contract to create a partnership contract that conformed to but also partially deviated from the existing legal framework. In addition to that, this dissertation argues that partnerships could be established to create some form of legal security for the partners involved and their family members, to stimulate or constrain the circulation of knowledge and skills, and to prevent or resolve conflicts. In this way, partnerships contributed to economic development and played a role in addressing social issues in early modern Antwerp.



Vitaly Volkov (UA)

Title: *Governance, Technology and Craftmanship in the Belgian Window-glass Industry: The Case of Charleroi Region 1830-1914*

Supervisors: Bert de Munck and Joost Caen

Graduation: 26 January 2024

This dissertation contributes to the debate surrounding the nature of 19th-century industrialization and technological development. The Belgian window glass industry serves as a case study. During the period between Belgian independence in 1830 and the start of the First World War in 1914 this industry boomed, making Belgium one of the world's leading window glass producers. Moreover, this industry was largely concentrated in the Charleroi region. Consequently, this study adopts a primarily geographical approach, using Industrial Districts theory as its conceptual framework.

The research into the history of the Belgian window glass industry as presented here contributes to several historiographical fields, such as the history of the Belgian window glass industry in the 19th century, the history of industrial districts as a specific form of entrepreneurial organization, and the history of the relationships between technological innovation and craft traditions in the context of the Industrial Revolution. This study's significance transcends the purely Belgian context by contributing to international debates, using the often-overlooked glass industry as a case study. The development of the Belgian window glass industry is concretely illustrated through, among other things, an analysis of the governance structures that emerged in the Charleroi region and the development and management of technological innovation in relation to craft traditions.

The findings of this research paint a picture of a dynamic industrial environment, composed of various actors (companies, employers' organizations, and governments) that demonstrated remarkable technological creativity, integrating technological innovations with traditional craft methods. Moreover, it was characterized by a business organization closely integrated with international commercial and knowledge-sharing networks. Yet, this organization also had its limits, as illustrated by several "dissident firms" that, for various reasons, refused to cooperate.



Faculty of Arts
History Department

Governance, technology and craftsmanship in the Belgian window-glass industry: The Charleroi region, 1830-1914

Thesis for the degree of Doctor in History
to be defended at the University of Antwerp by Vitaly Volkov

Supervisors Bert de Munck and Joost Caen
Antwerp, 2023

Hannah Fluit (UA)

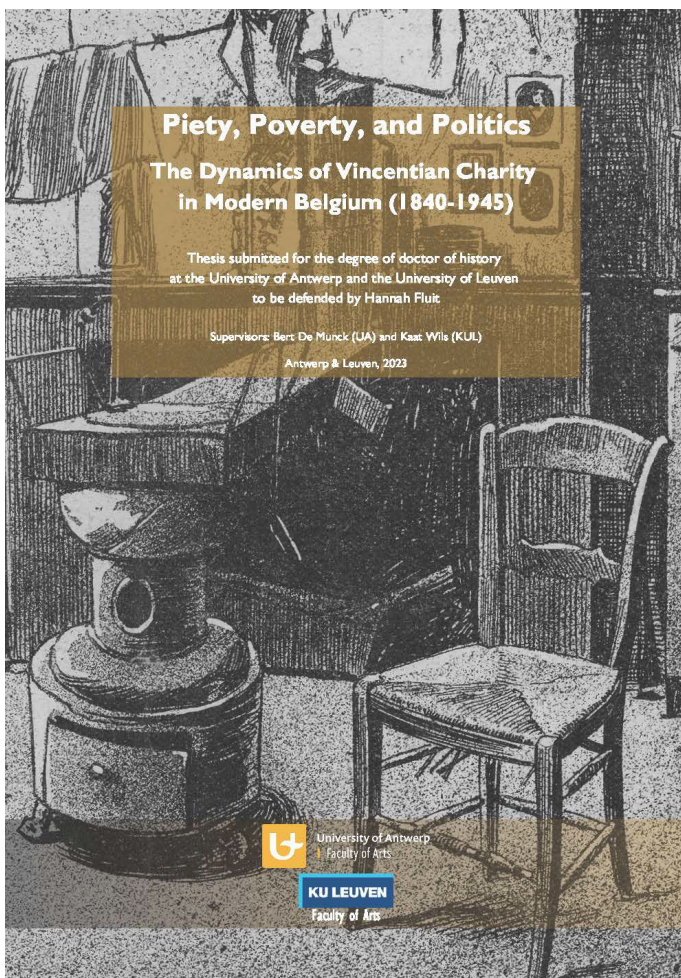
Title: *Piety, poverty, and politics: The dynamics of Vincentian charity in modern Belgium (1840-1945)*

Supervisors: Bert De Munck, Katelijne Wils and Patrick Loobuyck

Graduation: 8 February 2024

The act of voluntary giving to those in need has been an enduring facet of human history. In the Catholic tradition, benevolence is intrinsically associated with the virtue of charity, prescribing not only the dispensation of alms but also the internalization of love for the other out of love for God within the believer's disposition. Charity moreover served as an important source of social assistance for those facing poverty, preserving this function well into the nineteenth century, particularly in regions strongly influenced by Catholicism and with limited public sources of assistance, such as Belgium. In Belgium, a country 'created' in 1830, Catholics and the Church played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's identity and culture, as well as its social sphere, notably within the fields of social assistance and education. In this context, charity fulfilled multiple functions, serving as a means for believers to practice their faith, a resource for social assistance, and a mechanism to affirm the enduring societal relevance of religion in modernity, which became increasingly contested as time progressed. Charitable organizations like the Ladies of Charity and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, which constitute the main focus of this study, were able to flourish in this environment, persisting as primary outlets for the social engagement of the Catholic lay elites.

Focusing on these 'Vincentian' charities for lay women and men, this study explores the intricate relationship between the spiritual and social objectives of charity in Belgium. Spanning from the early 1840s to the tumultuous era of the Second World War, the investigation traces the Vincentian organization's development amid societal transformations. This period witnessed a dynamic interplay of conservation and renewal in Vincentian charity, closely connected to broader socio-economic, political, and cultural developments in Belgium. The unique Belgian context significantly influenced these outcomes, at the same time fostering Catholic social engagement and inciting intense contestation surrounding the influence of Catholicism and the Church in society. The study unfolds how the Vincentians continuously sought to reconcile temporal and transcendent objectives, ensuring the enduring relevance and legitimacy of their charitable work. These endeavors found expression in shaping the organizational image, defining personal identities, conceptualizing poverty, engaging with 'the poor,' and self-historicizing – all within the framework of the Catholic mission to establish a modern society rooted in the Christian worldview.



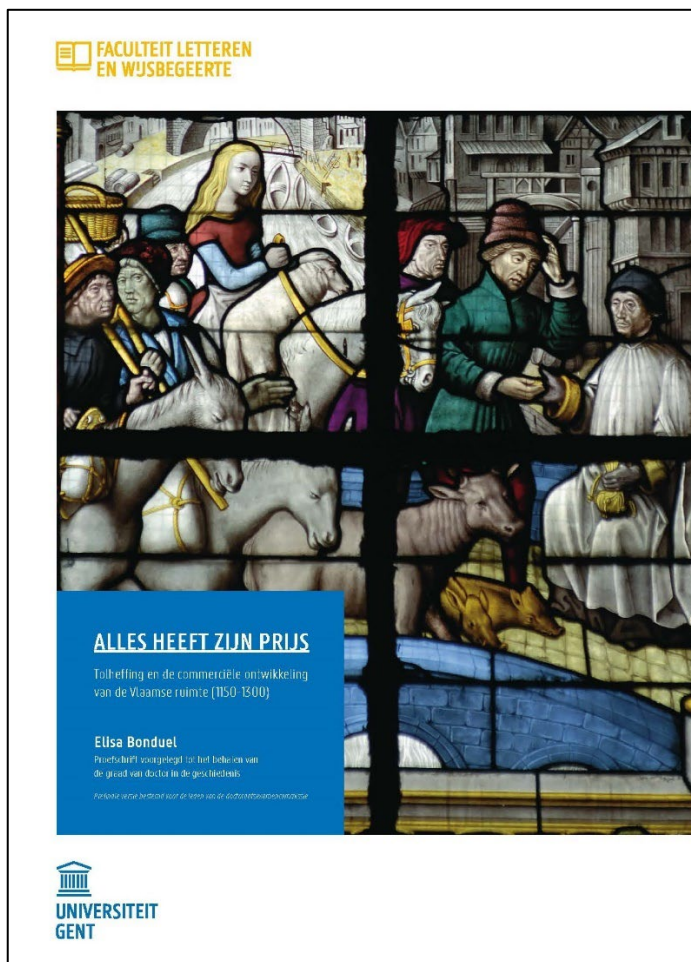
Elisa Bonduel (UGhent)

Title: *Alles heeft zijn prijs: Tolheffing en de commerciële ontwikkeling in de Vlaamse ruimte (1150-1300)*

Supervisors: Jan Dumolyn and Wim De Clercq

Graduation: 9 February 2024

This research examines the commercial development of the Flemish region between 1150 and 1300, a period generally described as a time of exceptional economic and commercial growth in Western Europe. Nevertheless, there has been a noticeable lack of discussion in recent historiography about the origin and nature of this prosperity, largely due to the lacunary and intricate nature of the available source material. The primary objective of this study is to revitalize this debate by using toll regulations (toll exemptions and tariffs) as a proxy to measure and explain commercial changes in the region. The aim is to create a more concrete picture of the actors and products that characterized trade activities between 1150 and 1300, with specific attention to the chronology and nature of this commercial growth in what we refer to in this study as the 'Flemish region'. The dissertation begins by ascertaining the chronology of growing economic activities and intensification of trade flows, along with their complex relationship with changing practices of pragmatic literacy that manifested in the same period. Therefore the increased writing and conservation of toll exemptions as well as the greater variety of goods and regulations in tariffs is examined. The study then traces the gradual shift of the commercial focus to the north of the region, approaching this process from a comparative perspective and considering different areas with distinct features of industrial and commercial specialization. The goods flows of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were embedded in a complex network involving both ancient and more recent centers, and were influenced by market locations, demographic growth, industrial production, and the existence and construction of roads, rivers, and canals. The nature of this commercial growth is then explored, with a special focus on the actors actively involved in toll collection and/or those having interests in trade activities. Also studied are the main supply lines for the populous Flemish cities that had an increasing demand for industrial raw materials, such as construction materials and products for the textile industry, by looking at bulk products that were part of an interregional or international trade network. The dissertation concludes by leaping forward in time, to analyze real trade flows in Northwestern Europe, using practical sources: toll accounts from the English port city of Kingston-upon-Hull in the early fourteenth century. By approaching the limited corpus of normative sources in a more dynamic way, this dissertation injects new life into the debate, ensuring its historical relevance in understanding the rise of the Flemish economy in view of the late medieval prosperity in the region.



Title: *'Werk in eigen streek!' Ontstaan en evolutie van een economisch beleid op maat van streken en regio's (België, tweede helft van de 20ste eeuw)*

Supervisors: Eric Vanhaute and Dirk Luyten

Graduation: 16 February 2024

In every country there are regions doing less well economically and socially than others with a higher average level of prosperity. Within Flanders, the regional differences in this respect have become relatively small today and there is mainly a wealth discrepancy with large parts of Wallonia which lost its 19th-century economic supremacy within Belgium from the 1960s onwards. However, until the end of the 1990s also within Flanders high unemployment rates and unequal employment opportunities continued to exist and became an increasing concern for policymakers. Even though, as we studied, the demand for government intervention to increase employment possibilities in all regions already was going up before the Second World War, it was only from the 1950s onwards that there was a more structural policy in this respect. In Belgium the first initiatives were largely shaped bottom up. Policymakers became increasingly convinced that specific measures (e.g. financial support for companies or the reduction of taxes) for certain sectors and regions could reduce regional wealth and income inequality. In this research we studied the origin of that policy. We looked how the regional economic policy strategies were interpreted by policy makers, from local/sub-regional governments to the European policy level that became increasingly important in defining regional policy lines. We also studied which political strategies have tightened or weakened those policy, to what results they led to and which actors (with or without a political mandate) played an important role in it. By reconstructing the different policy strategies and visions, each with its own long-term emphasis and underlying ideas, certain fault lines and/or continuities became visible, which gave us a nuanced picture of the most important shifts and policy mechanisms. We were able to clearly demonstrate that such a policy process was not at all evolving in a linear way: there were ups and downs and often a lot of time elapsed between the initial ideas and proposals and their actual implementation. Much depended on the shifting political constellations. Specific for Belgium the complexity of this process increased, because regional economic awareness was part of an important nation-building undercurrent. Each regionally differentiated economic policy initiative was viewed through a state reform lens and was strongly influenced by it. We also investigated the extent to which the gradual transfer of economic policy to Flanders since the 1970s has led to different, more or less effective results to eliminate regional socio-economic inequalities. The study ends in the mid-1990s, when Flanders' 'own' economic policy had come to full development and when an important part of new bottom-up initiatives stimulating regional economic development now were taken by the companies themselves.

'Werk in eigen streek!'

Ontstaan en evolutie van een economisch beleid op maat van streken en regio's

(België, tweede helft van de 20ste eeuw)

Ophelia Ongena



Proefschrift voorgelegd tot het behalen van de
graad van Doctor in de Geschiedenis

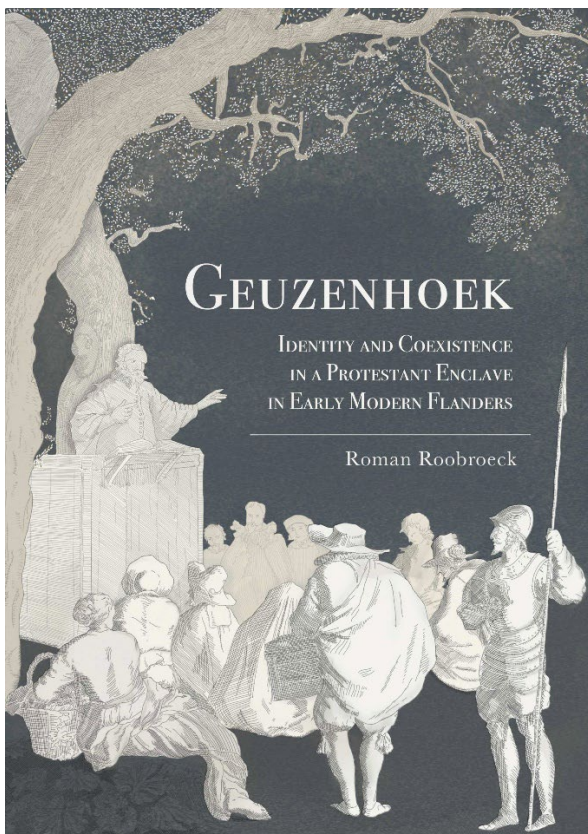
Roman Roobroeck (UGhent)

Title: *Geuzenhoek: identity and coexistence in a protestant enclave in early modern Flanders*

Supervisors: Anne-Laure van Bruaene

Graduation: 27 February 2024

In the heart of early modern Flanders, amidst the pervasive dominance of Catholicism, a distinctive region defied the prevailing religious landscape, harbouring a resilient Calvinist community known as the Geuzenhoek. Situated in the countryside east of Oudenaarde, in villages like Sint-Maria-Horebeke, Mater, and Etikhove, this enclave steadfastly maintained its Reformed tradition throughout the seventeenth century and beyond. Against the backdrop of the prevailing trend of catholicization in the Habsburg Netherlands, the Geuzenhoek emerged as one of the few surviving Protestant bastions within an otherwise predominantly Catholic territory. This doctoral dissertation meticulously traces the extraordinary journey of the Geuzenhoek from the seventeenth to the eighteenth century, unravelling the mystery of how this minority community not only endured but flourished. Employing an entangled microhistorical lens, the narrative delves into the lives of Geuzenhoek villagers within the broader interconnected context of the Low Countries. Through this approach, the thesis explores the forging of a distinct confessional identity and the use of coexistence strategies to navigate and resolve local conflicts. In doing so, the thesis reveals the Geuzenhoek Protestants to exhibit exceptional resilience in the early seventeenth century, showcasing identity flexibility and strategic use of nicodemism to navigate challenges within their predominantly Catholic environment. The latter half of the seventeenth century witnessed the community capitalizing on geopolitical shifts, seizing opportunities to establish new confessional customs and progressing from mere survival to a phase of thriving. By the eighteenth century, they had successfully disentangled themselves from the Catholic community, evident in ceremonies surrounding pivotal life events like marriage and baptism, marking the complete confessionalization of the community. A crucial aspect of this transformative journey was the formalization of a 'connivance' framework in the eighteenth century. This transition from a system of informal coexistence based on implicit boundaries in the seventeenth century to a more structured form of officially recognized condoning illustrates a compelling parallel with developments in the Dutch Republic, despite significant differences in the size of confessional minorities between the two regions. By providing a nuanced perspective on the complexities and resilience of Protestant identities beyond the transformative sixteenth century, "Geuzenhoek: Identity and Coexistence in a Protestant Enclave in Early Modern Flanders" challenges prevailing historical narratives that often neglect post-Reformation Protestantism in the Habsburg Netherlands. Rooted in archival sources and enriched by an exhaustive engagement with existing scholarship, this dissertation significantly contributes to our understanding of religious life in early modern Flanders. It unveils a captivating story of dynamism within a Protestant minority, thereby enhancing our comprehension of the broader tapestry of European religious history.



Eva van der Heijden (UL)

Title: 'Educational Endeavors: Children of immigrants in education in the Netherlands, 1980-2020' at Leiden University..

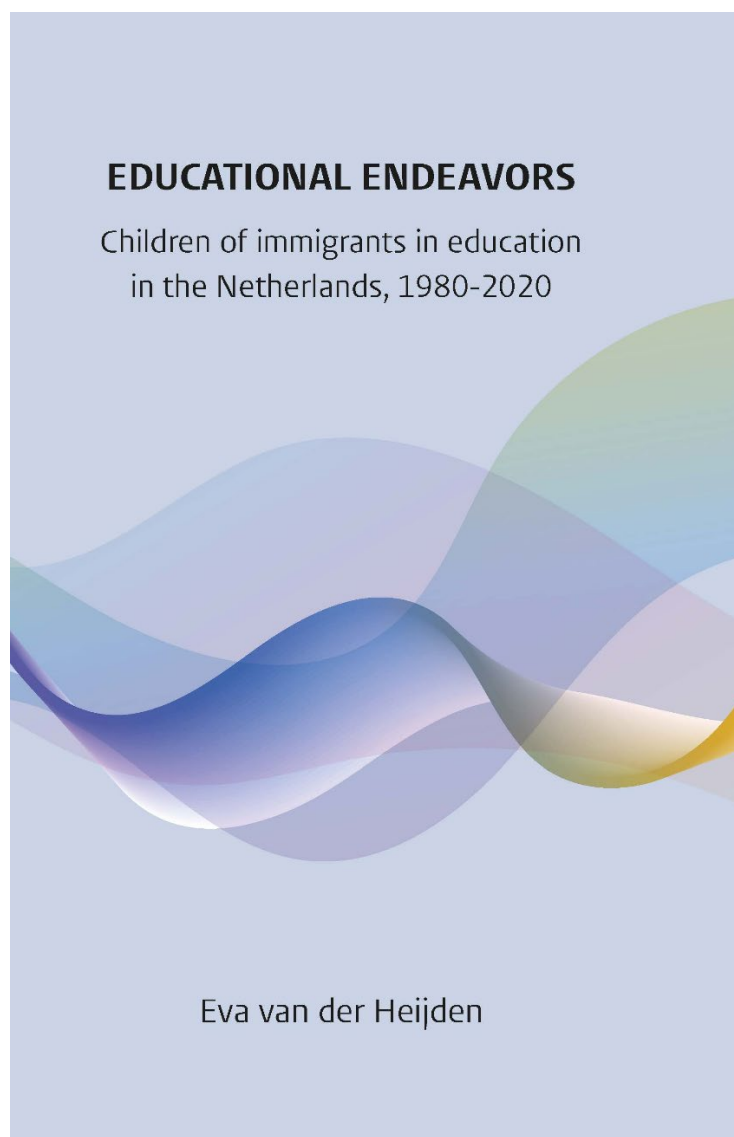
Supervisors: Leo Lucassen and Helga de Valck

Graduation: 21 March 2024

This dissertation examines the educational trajectories of migrant children in the Netherlands between 1980 and 2020 and analyzes how migration background and socioeconomic factors influence their educational outcomes. The study's findings show that migrant children generally make significant progress in education, especially the second generation, younger birth cohorts, and girls with a migrant background. This trend points to promising upward mobility within education for many of these children and young people.

The family in which a child is born and grows up can significantly influence educational outcomes. Socioeconomic background plays a crucial role, with higher parental incomes leading to higher educational attainment for children in the short and long term. Moreover, the living environment also appears to influence educational outcomes such as school dropout, as evidenced by the fact that boys with a migrant background in larger cities are more likely to drop out of school early than their female peers or peers without a migrant background.

Nevertheless, the educational outcomes of migrant children cannot be viewed in isolation from discrimination. Despite institutional barriers and discrimination in the education system, these children show an upward trend in education. This emphasizes the importance of further research that considers discrimination as a factor.



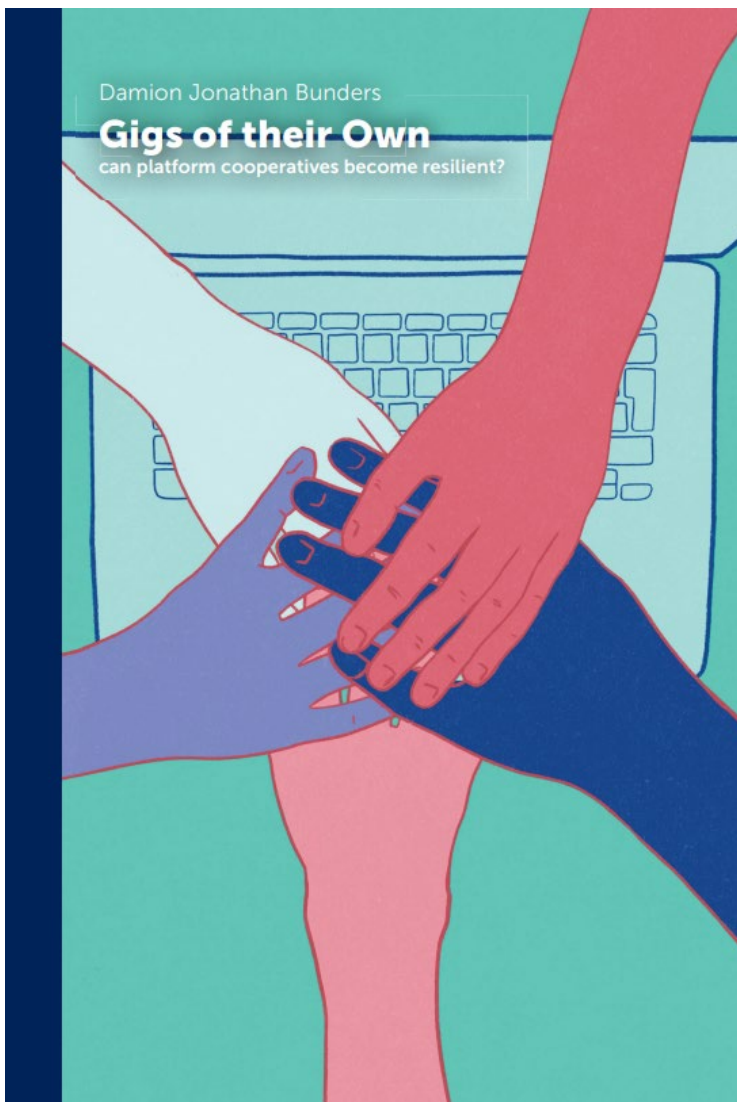
Damion Bunders (EUR)

Title: *Gigs of their own: Can platform cooperatives become resilient?*

Supervisors: Tine De Moor, Agnes Akkerman and Pearl Dykstra

Graduation: 15 March 2024

The gig economy, where mostly self-employed workers perform short-term service jobs intermediated by digital platforms, is often portrayed as offering a glimpse at the future of work. Platform cooperatives that are owned and controlled by gig workers themselves have emerged as an alternative form of organisation to the currently dominant investor-owned platforms. The appeal of platform cooperatives as an alternative is to provide more secure working conditions and democratic control over the platform. In his PhD project, Damion Bunders investigates the challenges that gig workers face when organising themselves in a cooperative enterprise. In particular, he provides insight into the initial feasibility and more long-term challenges of platform cooperatives as one institutional approach to organise work differently in the gig economy by analysing the conditions under which cooperatives of gig workers can become resilient. The project addresses questions on enterprise formation, member commitment, democratic governance, and coordination of collective resources. Damion takes a multidisciplinary and multi-method approach, combining theory from sociology and institutional economics with interview, survey, and text analysis research. Just as economists have long wondered why firms are usually controlled by capital suppliers instead of by labour suppliers, this dissertation addresses the puzzle of why platforms are not more commonly owned and governed by workers.



Arlinde Vrooman (RUG)

Title: *Here to heal? The effect of colonial rule on disease and health care in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire: ca. 1900-1955*

Supervisors: Jutta Bolt and Herman de Jong

Graduation: 28 March 2024

Africa is the region of the world with the most critical health issues. The continent's high disease burden is caused by a variety of endemic and epidemic diseases and has affected African populations for centuries. However, the African disease burden changed profoundly with the onset of European colonization. New diseases were introduced from Europe, the mobility of population groups increased across the continent leading to a more widespread transmission of diseases, and colonial policies introduced new, and changed pre-existing, medical practices.

In my PhD thesis, I examined the development of British and French colonial health care provisions in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire during the first half of the twentieth century. To this end, I gathered new information from colonial reports to be used in qualitative and quantitative analyses. By mapping and comparing the development of colonial health care expenditures, facilities, personnel and patients, my PhD thesis shows that even two countries as similar as Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire experienced different historical trajectories in colonial health care provisions. I also find that the geographical distribution of colonial health care facilities during this period can be explained by factors such as economic and administrative motives, the disease environment, and population density. Finally, using new data on official morbidity figures, I argue that British and French colonial policymakers' responses to diseases were influenced by factors such as the impact of the disease on the European population, advances in medical knowledge, and the number of afflicted persons.



Here to Heal? The Effect of Colonial Rule on Disease and Health Care in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire: ca. 1900-1955

Arlinde C.E. Vrooman



Theses in Economics and Business

Björn Quanjer (RU)

Title: *A tale of tallness: A household perspective on early life determinants of male height within the Netherlands between 1850 and 1950*

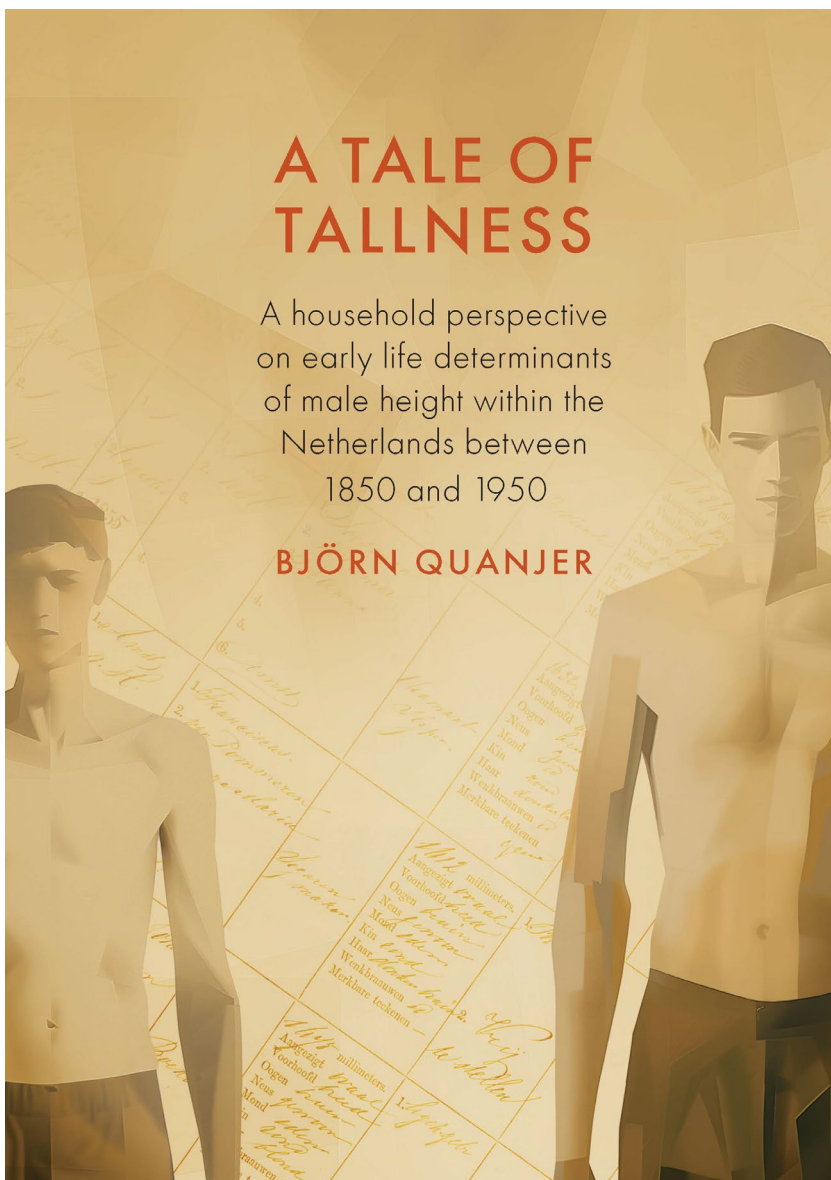
Supervisors: Jan Kok, Angelique Janssens and Vincent Tassenaar

Graduation: 1 May 2024

Body height provides insights into the standard of living during the first two decades of life. Malnutrition, disease, and hard labour can inhibit people's growth. In particular comparing the average length of groups allows us to distil these factors, because genetic transmission at the individual level is then eliminated.

This PhD thesis examines which factors within the household influence linear growth, while taking a critical look at how best to approach factors such as disease and malnutrition. For example, given the limited resources of a Dutch household in the nineteenth century, growing up among many siblings would have meant smaller portions. However, this research study takes into account the fact that older children contribute to household finances, allowing for a more nuanced analysis.

The study shows that there was a fairly constant socio-economic gradient in heights. Furthermore, we observed that maternal mortality had a negative effect on height in early childhood due to loss of care. Also, height correlates more strongly with the chances of survival of children than of infants. These and other findings can tell us how the Dutch became richer and healthier from 1850 onwards.



Aditi Dixit (UU)

Title: *Asian divergence in an age of globalisation: Textile manufacturing, trade, and the state in India and Japan, ca. 1890-1940*

Supervisors: Elise van Nederveen Meerkkerk, Christine Moll-Murata

Graduation: 17 May 2024

This thesis addresses a central question within the field of economic and social history: the 'Great Divergence' debate, which seeks to understand why the West prospered while the rest of the world did not. It explores its Asian counterpart, the 'Little Asian Divergence,' through a comparative study of the mechanized cotton textile industry in India and Japan during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Scholars have previously explained this divergence by focusing on aspects like labour productivity, labour organization, and technology adoption. I widen the scope, and argue that differences in productivity and work organization stemmed from broader institutional developments under distinct State regimes in India and Japan, with broader implications for their industrialization trajectories. I examined these contrasting outcomes of Japan's developmental State and India's colonial State through an analysis of their respective trading organizations and their interrelationship with the textile commodity chain. In addition, I studied the implications of such divergent institutional conditions on business strategies and on the organization and composition of the textile workforce. The thesis comprises five core chapters alongside an introduction and a conclusion. Here, I briefly summarize the main arguments. I investigated how trade organizations differentially shaped access to raw material resources (raw cotton) and markets (for yarns and fabrics), which, in turn, conditioned business strategies adopted by firms. In Japan, State-assisted development of trade organizations, which were closely integrated with its textile industry, ensured access to raw cotton and markets for its textile products. India, conversely, was embedded in colonial trade patterns and its resultant trade organization was insufficient for its industrial needs for raw cotton and (external) markets (chapters 3 and 4). In this thesis, I further argue that differences in the broader economic developments in terms of an expanding market for labour also shaped households' decisions to supply labour, which in interaction with internal institutions further shaped the industries' strategies (chapter 5, co-authored with Elise van Nederveen Meerkkerk). The final chapter examines how constraints in access to raw materials and markets for final goods shaped labour intensive strategies of Indian mills and their impact on the industry's work organization and wages (chapter 6, again co-authored with Elise van Nederveen Meerkkerk). This is the only chapter that was not comparative in nature due to restrictions in data-accessibility and time related issues due to Covid.

ASIAN DIVERGENCE IN AN AGE OF GLOBALISATION

*Textile Manufacturing, Trade,
and the State in India and Japan, ca. 1890-1940*



ADITI DIXIT

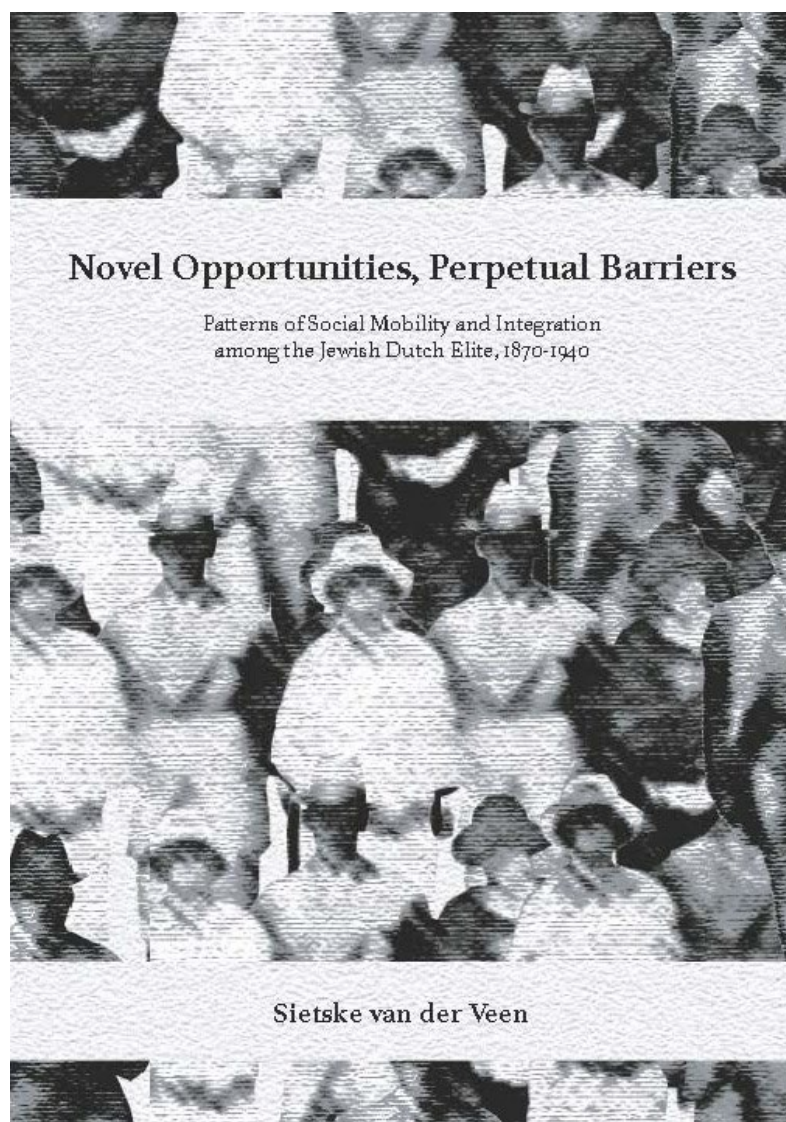
Sietske van der Veen (UU)

Title: *Novel opportunities, perpetual barriers: Patterns of social mobility and integration among the Jewish Dutch Elite, 1870-1940*

Supervisors: Lex Heerma van Voss, Leo Lucassen and Karin Hofmeester

Graduation: 31 May 2024

From the final decades of the nineteenth century until the Nazi occupation, Dutch Jews experienced unprecedented opportunities for climbing the social ladder and integrating into mainstream society. Sietske van der Veen's dissertation *Novel Opportunities, Perpetual Barriers: Patterns of Social Mobility and Integration among the Jewish Dutch Elite, 1870-1940* offers the first systematic, large-scale analysis of the social mobility and integration of Dutch Jews with a relatively high social status. What specific opportunities did they seize? And what role did their Jewish background still play in their lives? By studying over seven hundred Jews whose life stories were documented in the Dutch Biography Portal, with a focus on work, education, place of residence, religious affiliation, marriage, and association membership, this dissertation offers a fresh perspective on scholarly notions about Jewish social mobility and integration. It also analyses Jewish involvement in the women's movement, Jewish country house life, and Jewish migration to the Dutch East Indies in three separate case studies, showing how Dutch Jews from the upper middle and upper classes could act on particular opportunities in this historical period. This dissertation demonstrates how the position of Jews in Dutch society shifted as the lives of Jewish members of the Dutch financial, political, and cultural elites became more interwoven with those of their non-Jewish counterparts. At the same time, this dissertation emphasises the agency of a very diverse group of Jews, exposing mechanisms of cultural exchange. In doing so, it makes evident that integration is never a one-sided or exhaustive process.



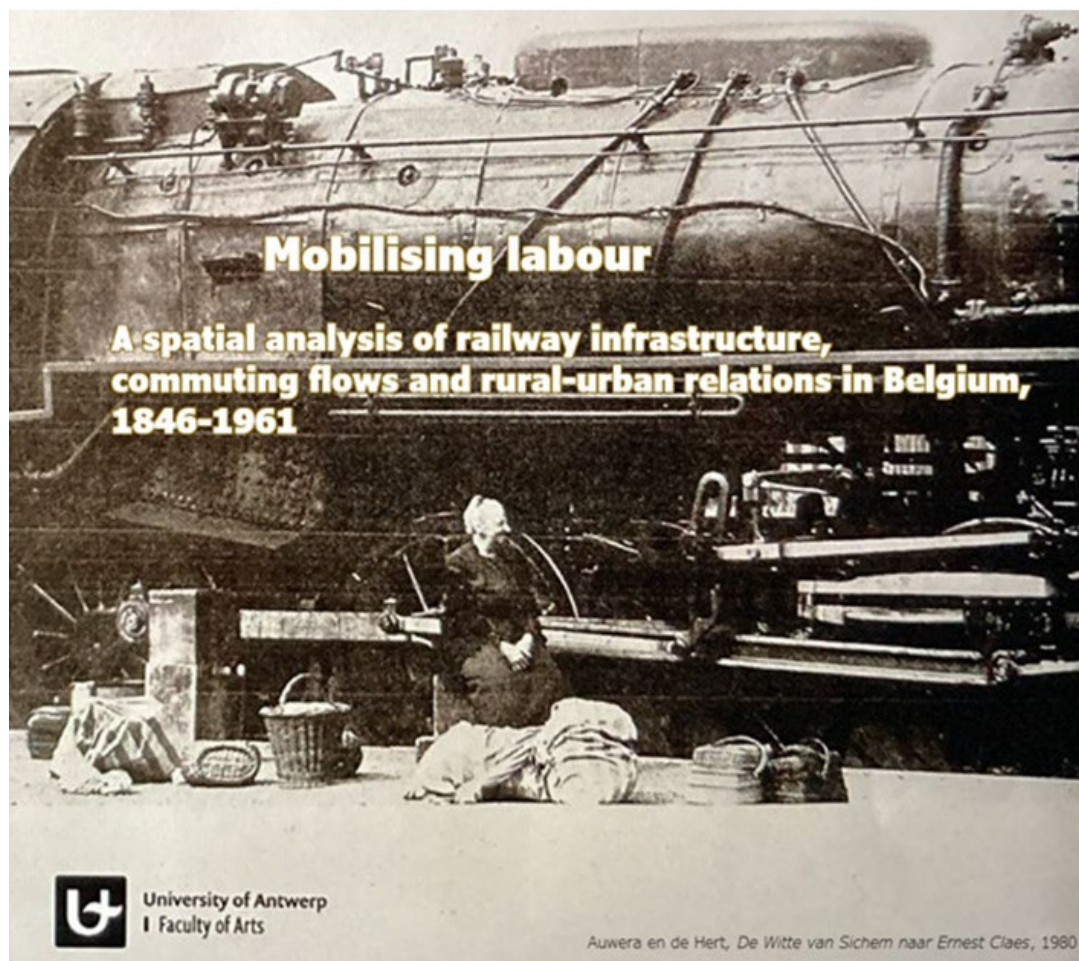
Ingrid Schepers (UA)

Title: *Mobilising labour: A spatial analysis of railway infrastructure, commuting flows and rural-urban relations in Belgium, 1846-1961*

Supervisors: Greet De Block, Ann Verhetsel

Graduation: 11 June 2024

In contemporary debates on sustainable environments, the intertwinement of transport policies, mobility flows and urbanisation patterns is common. In historical studies of mobility and migration, urbanisation, transport, planning and in historical geography, on the other hand, only aspects of this tripartite are studied. This dissertation bridges that disciplinary gap by asking how the novel practice of governments to plan railway infrastructure top-down in the nineteenth century affected labour mobility and urban morphology. The double pioneering role in railway policies made Belgium a suitable case-study: Belgian policy makers were not only the first to build and finance a coherent public railway network, but they were also the first to support railway commuting on a national scale. In 1869, the Belgian government decided to create a national rural-urban continuum for solving the societal problems that overcrowding in the cities of the nineteenth century caused. To realise this spatial model, railway policies were developed that allowed rural households to remain in their village while having access to industrial and urban labour markets. By the early twentieth century, the strategy to make railway commuting an affordable alternative to labour migration for wage workers had led to a successful establishment of the intended rural-urban continuum, as studies on the use of cheap railway subscriptions demonstrated. Yet, the spatial patterns that the commuting and population data displayed for the years 1846 to 1961 refuted a straightforward link between gained railway access and rising commuting rates. The national scale of these empirical maps directed the attention to labour markets, livelihoods and rural agency, alongside transport technology's ability to deal with the friction of distance, as key variables in understanding home-work configurations. Moreover, William Cronon's identification of commodity markets as the linchpin around which nineteenth-century transformations of rural-urban landscapes revolved, led to the understanding that the rise of large-scale production and trade have turned commuting into an economic imperative to provide for a livelihood. Therefore, to prevent making mobility injustice a structural part of planned sustainable environments, requires an approach to commuting first as a contemporary necessity to provide for a livelihood and only then as a privilege to realise location preferences.



Ewout Hasken (UU)

Title: *From rags to riches: Changing perceptions of family business in the Netherlands, 1945-2019*

Supervisors: Bas van Bavel, Naomi Ellemers and Gerarda Westerhuis

Graduation: 17 October 2024

This dissertation examines the evolving use and connotations of the term "family business" and reveals the strategic and political implications underlying the term's usage. Throughout the 20th century, family businesses were criticized as outdated in comparison to large managerial enterprises, particularly due to their perceived limitations in resources and innovation. In the Netherlands, family firms faced skepticism, especially during the 1950s and 1960s, when egalitarian and meritocratic ideals collided with inherited wealth and control. However, a shift occurred in the 1980s as family businesses were reappraised, gaining recognition as viable alternatives to large, impersonal corporations. The growing positive connotations were also possible due to the absence of a shared and accepted definition of "family business". This absence resulted in a wide array of definitions and typologies to capture the many different forms of family enterprise. Such definitional ambiguity allowed the term to be used for diverse political purposes, often contradictorily, as evidenced in parliamentary debates. Politicians employed the term to support various policies, particularly during discussions on inheritance and endowment taxes, where "family business" was strategically used in frames to advocate for tax exemptions. In contrast, family-owned businesses themselves rarely used the term in their advertisements during the periods of skepticism towards family firms, underscoring the strategic use of the term. This dissertation argues that the use of "family business" is not merely descriptive but is strategically employed to shape perceptions and influence political outcomes. The absence of a clear, accepted definition allows for flexible interpretations, enabling the term to be used to advance specific agendas. Thus, a critical approach to the study of "family business" is necessary, as its usage has significant political and economic implications.



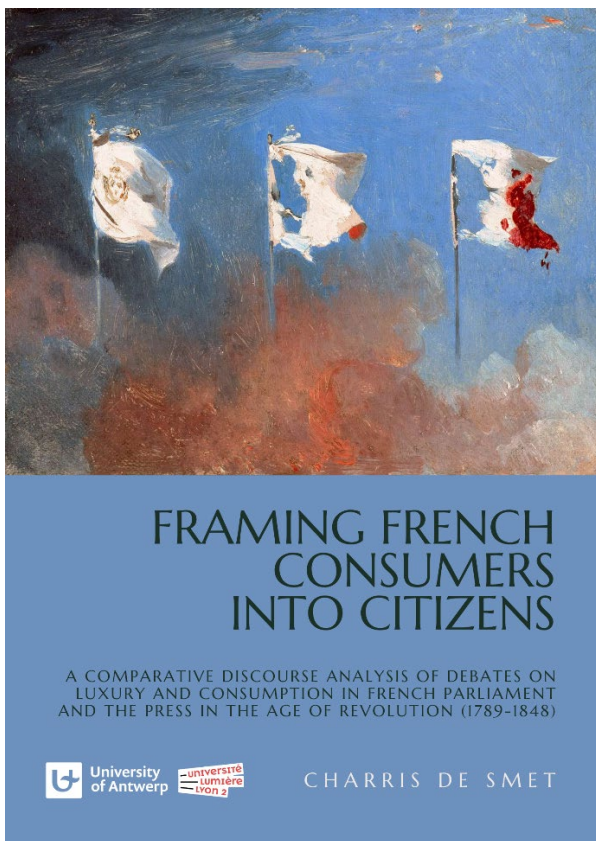
Charris De Smet (UA)

Title: *Framing French consumers into citizens: A comparative discourse analysis of debates on luxury and consumption in French Parliament and the press in the age of revolution (1789 – 1848)*

Supervisors: Ilja Van Damme, Marnix Beyen and Natacha Coquery

Graduation: 10 December 2024

This dissertation studied and compared French parliamentary policies regarding luxury and consumption during three revolutionary years: 1789, 1830, and 1848. Contrary to the assumption that consumption became increasingly depoliticized after the Ancien Régime, this research has demonstrated that consumption was a significant point of discussion during several modern French political regimes. An in-depth reading of parliamentary debates revealed that the development of consumerism in France was seen as inextricably linked to broader political issues such as citizenship, representation, and political identity. Consumption and luxury thus constituted issues of significant political importance between 1789 and 1848, sparking parliamentary discussions about how consumer behavior could be curbed, encouraged, or transformed to serve the well-being of the French state and its citizens. Based on this discourse analysis of parliamentary proceedings and press discourse, "consumption regimes" can be distinguished for each of the three case studies, characterized by different policy decisions, shifting hierarchies between public and private consumption, varying conceptions of citizenship, and alternative interpretations of the legacy of the French Revolution. In 1789, the debates were characterized by a democratic focus on consumer morality. In 1830, the discussions revolved primarily around middle-class consumers and bourgeois notions of rationality. In 1848, republican-inspired ideas about consumer equality came more to the fore in parliamentary discourse. While these discourses on luxury and consumption did not express a single ideology, they were, in line with post-revolutionary political life, permeated with conflicts and tensions. Counter-hegemonic ideological elements can be observed in parliamentary discourse during all three regimes. Far from being completely marginalized, the opposition's arguments were often indirectly integrated into the discourses of the political majority: in 1789, the proponents of the monarchy left their mark on the debate by targeting the luxury consumption of the Catholic Church. In 1830, the liberals of the July Monarchy opportunistically flirted with republican notions of simplicity, virtue, and popular sovereignty to legitimize royal privileges in their discourse. In 1848, the economic crisis, which threatened, among other things, to undermine France's colonial expansion, prevented the provisional government from pursuing a rigorous ideal of austerity or a policy of social reform through the redistribution of material wealth. These controversial parliamentary conceptualizations of consumption and consumers highlight the complexity of the genealogy of the consumer as a political entity before 1850, as well as the profound political dimensions of consumption as a social phenomenon.



APPENDIX 1:

OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATIONAL UNITS

GENERAL BOARD

Major decisions of the N.W. Posthumus Institute are taken by the School Board, consisting of the holders of chairs in economic and social history at the participating institutions. The board meets two to three times a year. The daily affairs of NWP are in the hands of an executive committee and a scientific director supported by an office manager. The training programme and research networks are headed by respectively an education programme director and research directors. The ultimate responsibility for research activities lies within the faculties and institutions that participate in the NWP. An examination committee and an education committee see to the quality of the candidates and teaching affairs of NWP.

GENERAL BOARD IN 2023 (members and substitute-members*)

EUR: Ben Wubs, Jeroen Euwe

FA: Hanno Brand

IISH: Ulbe Bosma, Karin Hofmeester

RU: Dries Lyna, Jan Kok

RUG (Economics): Jutta Bolt, Abe de Jong

RUG (Arts): Hilde Bras, Richard Paping

TU/e: Mila Davids, Erik van der Vleuten

UA: Tim Soens, Hilde Greefs

UGhent: Thijs Lambrecht, Christophe Verbruggen

UL: Marlou Schrover, Jeroen Touwen

UM: Joris Roosen, Vincent Lagendijk

UU: Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk, Sarah Carmichael

UvA: Justyna Wubs

VU: Petra van Dam, Pepijn Brandon

VUB: Wouter Ryckbosch, Anne Winter

WUR: Ewout Frankema (chair), Pim de Zwart

Advisor: Jessica Dijkman (NWP)

**Our system of substitute members guarantees that each participating university is represented at the meetings of the General Board.*

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Cécile Bruyet MA (UA)

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Marlou Schrover (UL)

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APPENDIX 2:

THE POSTHUMUS INSTITUTE PhD TRAINING PROGRAMME

Aims of the programme

With its PhD training, the N.W. Posthumus Institute contributes to the successful completion of dissertation projects in the domain of economic and social history. The success of a PhD project is determined by the quality of the dissertation and the duration of the PhD project. Normally, projects are designed to be completed in four years. The N.W. Posthumus Institute contributes to the formation of a next generation of excellent researchers.

First, the Institute wants to realise these aims by enlarging and deepening the knowledge of economic or social history as taught to the PhD candidates during their Master studies. The background knowledge of PhD candidates differs. A broad knowledge of the field is important in order both to contribute to scientific progress within the field of economic and social history in general and to successfully transfer knowledge to candidates and the general public within and outside academia.

Secondly, the N.W. Posthumus Institute supports PhD projects by encouraging PhD candidates to write and present their work from the start. PhD candidates are expected to write a series of papers, which will be presented and criticised during seminars. Their individual projects form the main focus of the Posthumus training programme. The programme contributes to the development of PhD candidates by enabling them to become independent and self-confident researchers.

Finally, the N.W. Posthumus Institute intends to integrate PhD candidates into the community of Dutch and Flemish historians specialising in economic and social history and by stimulating them to engage in international activities (the Research Design Courses and Advanced Seminars of ESTER, summer schools, conferences) and thus become part of international networks.

The general structure of the PhD training programme

The PhD training programme of the N.W. Posthumus Institute covers the entire period of the dissertation project, but in practice, the programme focuses on the first three years. PhD students that have successfully completed the training programme are awarded the Posthumus training programme diploma during a ceremony which takes place at the annual Posthumus Conference.

In the course of the first 14 months PhDs participate in three seminars in each of which they present their research design, starting with a short research note and culminating in a fully developed research plan:

- Seminar 1: My project in a Nutshell
- Seminar 2: Work in Progress
- Seminar 3: Research Design Course

The training is followed by an Individual Assessment, in which two fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute will evaluate the development of the PhD student and his/her project. In the course of years 1, 2 and 3 PhDs moreover participate (in various roles) in the annual Posthumus Conference.

The N.W. Posthumus Institute also offers additional training activities in which PhD students can participate at any time during their PhD trajectory.

Seminar 1: My Project in a Nutshell (2 EC)

The new cohort PhD candidates get to know each other and their projects during the first seminar, lasting two days. In addition to PhD candidates who recently embarked upon their project, the seminar can also be attended by Research Master students who are close to writing a PhD proposal or application of funds. The seminar provides a forum to present initial ideas and get feedback from both other starting researchers and two Posthumus fellows. Prior to the meeting every participant writes a short research note about the historiographical background and the substance of his/ her project: "My project in a nutshell". The aim is to position the project in the academic debate. The research note should be written in English. Participants will read and discuss each other's notes.

Minor Paper & Seminar 2: Work in Progress (6 EC)

The *minor paper* provides a first substantial discussion of the PhD project. It positions the research project in the relevant debates, formulates the research questions and discusses the methodologies and techniques (10-15 pages A4). The minor paper should be written in English and has to be presented during Seminar 2: Work in Progress.

Seminar 2 lasts two days. Each PhD student will present her/his minor paper. Every participant will also be discussant of the minor paper of another PhD student. A senior researcher, usually one of the fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute (but external experts are an option too) will give a second comment on the minor paper.

Participants of Seminar 2 read the minor papers of all other participants in their group and take part in the general discussion. Everyone will referee one paper specifically. If they see fit, experts can assign some reading material to the participants. The Education Programme Director of the N.W. Posthumus Institute or a substitute will be present during the seminar.

Major Paper & Research Design Course (6 EC)

The *Major Paper* provides an advanced discussion of the PhD project. It evaluates the major choices made structuring the research and the ultimate thesis. It also justifies these choices in the light of good academic practice. The Major Paper thus gives a well-founded formation of the research question and sub-questions, the expected answers, the methods to be used, the steps to be taken doing research, the timing, the required information, and the (provisional) structure (chapters) of the thesis. The Research Design Course invites to reflect upon issues discussed in the theory of science literature, including the scientific ambitions, the perspectives adopted and rejected, and problems combining theory and empirical investigation. It is expected that such issues, selected upon relevance for the particular project, are included in the Major Paper after the Research Design Course. The Major Paper will result in a draft version of the first chapter of the dissertation. It includes a substantial introduction to the project, and a dissertation plan. The paper, 20-25 pages, is written in English.

The Research Design Course is an international seminar lasting three to five days. The Research Design Course is coordinated in the Netherlands by the Education Programme Director. At the Research Design Course the Major Papers are presented by their authors and discussed by participants and invited senior researchers. The Research Design Course is open to PhD candidates from all over Europe. That is why this course is organised by the ESTER network and its partners. They bring together an international team of well-qualified historians. During the seminar, PhD candidates will present their Major Paper, but will also be discussant of the paper of another participant and chair a session. Usually, the Research Design Course works with parallel groups. The participants read all the papers of their group and prepare the general discussion of each paper.

The application process is competitive, and enrolment is limited. Participants will be selected on the basis of the progress of their research project and their proposal should meet the minimum standards. Participation in the RDC may be substituted for participation in another activity, such as a summer school. However, PhD candidates who prefer to participate in another course, should contact the Education Programme Director in advance.

Individual Assessment (1 EC)

The three seminars are followed by an individual assessment. During this meeting of approximately one hour, two fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute will assess, together with the PhD student and her/his supervisor, the first year of the PhD project and the expectations concerning the remainder of the project. The major aim is to assess whether the PhD project is likely to be completed in time. Problems and possible solutions can also be discussed. The PhD student submits a report beforehand in which they include the previous comments they received, as well as a reflection on how they will deal with this feedback. If the fellows conclude that the PhD student is unlikely to complete her/his project, the PhD student can be asked to write an additional paper in which remaining questions must be answered. As a last option, the Examination Committee will be consulted regarding these serious doubts and will be asked to advice on possible termination of the candidate's membership to the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Annual Posthumus Conference (1+1+1 EC)

The annual Posthumus Conference has a central place in the PhD training programme. During the conference, the directors of the research networks assisted by PhD students from the various networks and a PhD representative organise one or more thematic session(s) in which both PhD students (mostly in the third year of the programme) and senior researchers can present their work.

Third-year PhD students should be able to present the first results of the research they performed. They submit a paper, which will be distributed to the participants. Each paper will be reviewed and refereed by both another PhD student and a senior expert. The paper will be discussed with the session participants, the session and discussion will be moderated by a discussant from the research network involved.

Second-year PhD students act as peer-reviewers / referees during this conference. Second-year PhD students who feel they are 'ready' for presenting their research at the conference, may also choose to act both as reviewer/referee as well as presenter in their second year.

First-year PhD students will present a poster during a special poster session, summarising the status of their research after seminars 'My research in a nutshell' and 'Work in progress' (see above).

Additional Training Activities

PhD candidates participating in the PhD training programme of the N.W. Posthumus Institute can participate in as many additional training activities as they want. Moreover, they are actively encouraged to organise activities themselves. The N.W. Posthumus Institute's Bureau can help anyone who wants to organise a workshop or a conference with financial as well as personal and practical support. In order to give an idea about the practical forms that are frequently used, several activities are listed below.

Masterclasses (2 EC)

A Posthumus masterclass brings together a renowned expert (the master) and junior academics (early-stage post-docs, PhD Candidates and possibly Research master students) who are more or less working in the field of expertise of the senior researcher. A masterclass will usually last a couple of hours, to have time to discuss 3 to 7 pre-circulated papers. The organisers decide whether there is time for short presentations, but everyone will have read each other's paper in advance. This may be a draft chapter, working paper or provisional text that you want to turn into an article. In any case, the masterclass should be advertised early enough that participants are able to hand in a paper. Preferably, they should connect to the master's expertise. A major advantage of the masterclass is its sheltered setting, where the PhDs do not have to worry about their reputation. There should be ample room for the junior academics to show doubts and uncertainties. One of the major advantages of a masterclass is that this type of private interaction can take place without repercussions for the PhD's position. Participation of Posthumus fellows or senior researchers should therefore be avoided, supervisors in particular (even if they are co-authors).

ESTER Advanced Seminar (4 EC)

ESTER, the European Graduate School for Training in Economic and social historical Research, annually organises an Advanced Seminar around a particular domain of research, intended for advanced PhD candidates. During an Advanced Seminar, PhD candidates are brought together with a number of international experts and discuss the papers and presentations of the PhD candidates. The Advanced Seminars will be advertised on the website of the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Career Event (2 EC)

With organising this bi-annual event (together with the other research schools in History), the Posthumus institute tries to help PhDs in preparing for the labour market, in- and outside of academia, after completion of their dissertation. By providing the opportunity to network and ask questions to Posthumus alumni, we try to offer them more insight into job applications and handles on how to present themselves in CVs and interviews.

Writing Retreat (2 EC)

During this one-week retreat a group of 10 to (max) 12 PhD candidates have the opportunity to work on their dissertation in a quiet place away from all the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The Writing Retreat is primarily intended for PhDs in the last year of their trajectory. Candidates formulate concrete goals in advance, e.g. completing a specific chapter of their dissertation. Every day is devoted to this purpose. At the end of each day PhDs reflect on their work in small groups of 3 to 4 people, on what went well and what did not; they also make a writing plan for the next day.

Research network activities

The research conducted by the senior fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute is grouped in six networks (see Chapter 2). The PhD candidates are expected to join at least one of these networks, and they may add a second one. They are expected to contact the research director(s) of the network they are interested in and to let the Office Manager of the N.W. Posthumus institute know which network they would like to join. The Institute invites the PhD candidates to take part in the conferences or other activities organised by their group. They also can and should suggest group activities with added value to their projects.

APPENDIX 3

ENROLLMENT OF PHD CANDIDATES IN 2024

1. Merel Blok (International Institute of Social History)	
Research:	Commodity frontiers and merchant houses (part of project SevenFrontiers: The global south in the age of early industrial capitalism)
Supervisor(s):	Ulbe Bosma, Pepijn Brandon
2. Hannelore Braeken (Leiden University)	
Research:	History of loneliness in people with mild intellectual disabilities (part of project Collaborative learning from loneliness)
Supervisor(s):	Marlou Schrover, Paul van Trigt
3. Marten Buschman (VU Amsterdam)	
Research:	Biography of Henri van Kol. 1852-1925
Supervisor(s):	Pepijn Brandon, Lucas Poy Lopez
4. Mingran Cao (Leiden University)	
Research:	An experiment in self-governance: Land reclamation companies in Coastal Jiangsu, 1895-1950
Supervisor(s):	Limin The, Carola Hein
5. Zarah Christine Cleve (Ghent University)	
Research:	The history of African animal trypanosomiasis in colonial and early post-colonial Belgian Congo, Ruanda and Burundi (1890s-1970s)
Supervisor(s):	Samuël Coghe
6. Paulien Daelman (Ghent University)	
Research:	(De)constructing vermin: interactions between agriculture and wildlife in the Low Countries (1780-1840)
Supervisor(s):	Thijs Lambrecht
7. Antje De Herdt (University of Antwerp)	
Research:	Epidemic policies and inequalities in Belgium, 18th century till present
Supervisor(s):	Hilde Greefs, Tim Soens
8. Hans de Vries (Utrecht University)	
Research:	De marges aan de flanken van het publieke bestel: Welke identiteiten passen in het verzuilde medialandschap?
Supervisor(s):	Alec Badenoch, André van der Velden
9. Nadeche Diepgrond (Radboud University)	
Research:	Unequal treatment? Exploring the transformation of hospitals and investigating health inequalities among hospital patients in the Netherlands, 1830-1940
Supervisor(s):	Sanne Muurling, Tim Riswick
10. Rick Faust (University of Antwerp)	
Research:	Cherchez la femme: Women and the boom of antiques in Belgium (c. 1880 – c. 1940)
Supervisor(s):	Ilja Van Damme, Ulrike Müller

11. Gijs Hoekstra (University of Groningen)	
Research:	Social-historical analysis of depopulation and community welfare in the Northern Netherlands, 1950-2022 (part of project Coping with decline: Comparative social-historical analysis of depopulation and community welfare in Europe, 1950-2022)
Supervisor(s):	Hilde Bras, Yuliya Hilevych
12. Brent Huygh (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)	
Research:	Village(r)s in court: Judicial empowering interactions between subjects and government in rural Brabant and Limburg (17th and 18th century)
	Klaas Van Gelder
13. Pascal Konings (International Institute of Social History)	
Research:	Patterns, mechanisms and enslaved experiences of maritime slave trade in colonial Dutch Asia (1600-1800) (part of project Voices of Resistance)
Supervisor(s):	Matthias van Rossum, Sanne Muurling
14. Evert Lambrechts (University of Antwerp / VLIZ)	
Research:	Worth the gamble? Tourism and the embeddedness of gambling in seaside resorts between 1880's-1930's
Supervisor(s):	Torsten Feys, Hilde Greefs
15. Camille Le Brettevillois (International Institute of Social History)	
Research:	Category limits: How enslaved people of India used status & categories as an act of resistance in the Portuguese colonial empire, 16th-18th centuries
Supervisor(s):	Matthias van Rossum, Filipa Ribeiro da Silva
16. Alisha Ma (International Institute of Social History)	
Research:	Mobility, stratification, and delocalisation: Constructing spatialities of enslavement in the French colonial Indian Ocean world, c. 1660-1789
Supervisor(s):	Matthias van Rossum, Filipa Ribeiro da Silva
17. Jacobine Melis (Leiden University)	
Research:	Gebrand op het Verleden, onderzoek naar de chaîne opératoire van vensterglas
Supervisor(s):	Frans Theuws, Roos van Oosten
18. Wieke Metzlar (Radboud Universiteit)	
Research:	Missing Dutch girls. Patterns and determinants of excess mortality among girls, the case of Maastricht, 1864-1930
Supervisor(s):	Jan Kok, Paul Puschmann
19. Paulo Pereira Oliveira Matos (Ghent University)	
Research:	Colonial policies towards cattle pastoralists in Portuguese Angola and Mozambique, 1918-1975
Supervisor(s):	Samuël Coghe
20. Patrick Pieters (University of Antwerp)	
Research:	Power, profit and risk in Antwerp banking, 1870-1940
Supervisor(s):	Hilde Greefs, Johan Poukens
21. Wouter Raaijmakers (Radboud University)	
Research:	From legal strategies to social identities: Litigation in Dutch and British colonial South Africa and Sri Lanka, 1730-1830
Supervisor(s):	Matthias van Rossum, Dries Lyna
22. Ilmari Samuel Railo (University of Groningen)	
Research:	Coping with decline: Comparative social-historical analysis of depopulation and community welfare in Finland, 1950-2022
Supervisor(s):	Hilde Bras, Yuliya Hilevych

23. Lindsey (Lou) Resnikoff (University of Groningen)	
Research:	Union House: Service worker organizing in the twentieth-century United States
Supervisor(s):	Stefan Couperus, Tim Jelfs
24. Maud Rijks (Leiden University)	
Research:	'Water for Life': Greenpeace and the fight against toxicity in the Great Lakes, 1980s-1990s (SCOOP-project)
Supervisor(s):	Dario Fazzi
25. Marte Stoffers (Radboud University)	
Research:	'Business as usual'
Supervisor(s):	Jan Kok, Joris van den Tol
26. Sanâa May Swart (Leiden University)	
Research:	Relinquishment for adoption in the Netherlands, 1939-1980
Supervisor(s):	Marlou Schrover, Evelien Walhout
27. Iliana Tintori Reyes (International Institute of Social History)	
Research:	From 'Chinese' slaves to renegade men: Cultural practices as forms of resistance in New Spain and Philippines during the 17th century
Supervisor(s):	Matthias van Rossum, Filipa Ribeiro da Silva
28. Dea Van den Brande (University of Antwerp)	
Research:	The financial lives of Antwerp immigrants, 1870 – 1940
Supervisor(s):	Oscar Gelderblom, Hilde Greefs
29. Michiel van Dongen (University of Groningen)	
Research:	The Dutch into foreign mining adventures. Free standing companies, 1870-1914
Supervisor(s):	Richard Paping, Abe de Jong
30. Jessie van Straaten (Leiden University)	
Research:	Onderzoek naar levensloop en 'ouderen' in medische literatuur en beleid
Supervisor(s):	Evelien Walhout, Paul van Trigt
31. Jessica van Zadelhof (University of Antwerp)	
Research:	The experience of material culture in households in the 15th and 16th-century Southern Low Countries
Supervisor(s):	Bruno Blondé, Julie De Groot
32. Elene Vernaeeve (Ghent University)	
Research:	Cattle production and socio-ecological change in Katanga, 1910s-1970s
Supervisor(s):	Samuël Coghe
33. Sophie Henrike Vries (Utrecht University)	
Research:	Sticky practices: The co-evolution of early years childcare, parental leave and women's labour force participation
Supervisor(s):	Tanja van der Lippe, Robert Vonk
34. Yuanita Wahyu Pratiwi (Wageningen University & Research)	
Research:	The well-being of rice farming societies in Java, 1750-1900
Supervisor(s):	Ewout Frankema, Pim de Zwart

35. Pieter Zhao (Erasmus University Rotterdam)	
Research:	The return of the privateers? A historical analysis of the international norms of maritime warfare and security following the re-emergence of non-state actors and irregular forces at sea in the 21st century
Supervisor(s):	Ralf Futselaar, Hein Klemann

The N.W. Posthumus Institute relies on fellows from the participating institutions for the organisation of local seminars, for the invitation of guest speakers and for experts who comment on the PhD Candidates' papers. For the Research Design Course additional international experts are recruited for the duration of the RDC.

Individual Assessments: March 2024, Antwerp and Utrecht

Cohort: 2022
Coordinator: Rogier van Kooten
Discussants: Bas van Bavel
Corinne Boter
Pepijn Brandon
Joost Dankers
Margo De Koster
Amaury De Vicq
Swantje Falcke
Kate Frederick
Hilde Greefs
Marjolein 't Hart
Lex Heerma van Voss
Manon van der Heijden
Marieke Hendriksen
Benoit Henriët
Michael Limberger
Dries Lyna
Felix Meier zu Selhausen
Jim van der Meulen
Rick Mourits
Nel de Mûelenaere
Mayra Murkens
Lucas Poy
Vigyan Ratnoo
Tim Riswick
Wouter Ronsijn
Matthias van Rossum
Keetie Sluyterman
Tim Soens
Rombert Stapel
Paul van Trigt
Eric Vanhaute
Frank Veraart
Anne Winter
Ben Wubs

Seminar II - Work in Progress: 11-12 April 2024, Groningen

Cohort: 2023
Coordinators: Rogier van Kooten, Hilde Bras, Jutta Bolt
Commentators: Hilde Bras
Jutta Bolt
Matthijs De Graeve
Amaury De Vicq
Jessica Dijkman
Daniel Franken
Coen van Galen
Yuliya Hilevych
Rogier van Kooten
Josef Liljegren
Richard Paping
Anjana Singh
Clement Six
Harm Zwarts

Research Design Course: 30 September – 2 October 2024, Münster

Cohort: 2023
Coordinators: Rogier van Kooten, Christine Fertig, Thilo Albers
Experts: Thilo Albers
Felix Brahm
Victoria Burguera Puigserver
Claude Chevaleyre
Jessica Dijkman
Alexander Engel
Torsten Feys
Leonor Freire Costa
Ben Gales
Philip Hahn
Antonio Castro Henriques
Felicity Jenz
Rogier van Kooten
German Montes Jimenez
Susana Münch Miranda
Alessandro Nuvolari
Anne Sophie Overkamp
Ulrich Pfister
Magnus Ressel
Marlou Schrover

Seminar I - My project in a Nutshell: 12-13 December 2024, Maastricht

Cohort: 2024

Coordinators: Rogier van Kooten, Joris Roosen

Fellows: Daniel Curtis
Jessica Dijkman
Torsten Feys
Elisabeth Heijmans
Yulia Hilevych
Rogier van Kooten
Jim van der Meulen
Mayra Murkens
Michail Moatsos
Rick Mourits
Lucas Poy
Nico Randeraad
Tim Riswick
Joris Roosen
Robert Vonk
Jan Luiten van Zanden

APPENDIX 4: RESEARCH MASTER PROGRAMME ‘GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY’

The N.W. Posthumus Institute organizes the Posthumus Research Master programme ‘Global Economic and Social History’. This programme allows Research Master students to gain knowledge of the Posthumus specialisation and its specialists, by providing courses that they can follow as an elective within their home university programme. The programme aims to provide students with:

- A thorough knowledge of concepts, notions and perceptions of economic and social history
- Up-to-date knowledge of the state of the art in global economic and social history
- Insight in and ability to take part in the on-going historical debates
- Experience with several most commonly used research methods and skills to conduct research in the field of global economic and social history
- The ability to use varied primary sources to build historical case-studies and redefine theoretical approaches
- The ability to report on research results in written and oral form at an academic level
- The ability to formulate a research proposal for a PhD project.

The Research Master programme offers a combination of courses that introduce students to important debates, methods and sources in the field of Economic and Social History (*Debates in Global Economic and Social History* and a summerschool, the theme of which varies) and courses that train them in specific skills used in the field: *Data Management for Historians* and *Quantitative Methods for Historians*.

Debates in Global Economic and Social History (Semester 1, 5 or 10 EC)

The course offers an introduction into debates concerning globalisation, the rise of the West and worldwide inequality, worldwide networks and global-local relations, and the consequences of globalisation for identity formation. The course also looks at a number of in-depth studies related to global history, such as migration, the environment, revolutions, economic growth and capitalism, and science and technology.

Data management for historians (Semester 2, 5 EC)

In order to allow master students within economic and social history to process their own rudimentary data and enable reuse according to the FAIR data principles, this course instructs them on the basics of quantitative data management. It introduces the quantitative research cycle, programming in R and SPARQL, and how to report on data questions. Combined, these skills allow participants to understand quantitative research better, make efficient and reproducible enquiries on the data, and clearly report on data questions. As such, the course prepares participants for quantitative research in general.

Quantitative methods for historians (Semester 2, 5 EC)

Economic history is a discipline that lies at the crossroads of social sciences and the humanities. It requires its practitioners to be familiar with the research methods of both history and economics. In countries such as the United States and England, most economic historians have a degree in economics but in the Low Countries the majority of students are trained historians. This course aims to familiarise the latter group with the methodological tool kit of the social sciences. Students are introduced to some of the most widely used quantitative methods in economic history research. The course takes a hands-on approach in which students will work on assignments that will familiarise them with the purpose, strengths and weaknesses of these methods.

Summerschool (Semester 2, 2 or 3 EC)

Annually, the N.W. Posthumus Institute organizes a one-week summer school for RMA students on a specific theme in social and economic history. Examples of such themes are: disasters, migration, female labour, the welfare state, or slavery. In 2024 the theme of the summerschool was Disasters and History.

APPENDIX 5:

ESTER NETWORK

ESTER

The European Graduate School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER) is a European collaboration of prestigious universities and institutions. The ESTER-network aims at improving and internationalising the education and training of young scholars in the field of economic and social history. The current ESTER-network involves more than 60 universities throughout Europe.

The ESTER-network offers high-level research training for PhD-candidates in an international context. This training consists of Advanced Seminars and Research Design Courses (RDC). Advanced Seminars focus on a specific topic within economic and social history, whereas the RDC focuses on the PhD-dissertations of the participants.

History of ESTER

In 1989 the N.W. Posthumus Institute took the initiative to establish a European graduate training programme for post-graduates, the European Graduate School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER). More than 60 European universities have become institutional members of ESTER. During the 1990s ESTER participants organised annually three so-called Advanced Seminars, which proved very valuable. From 1999 on these were supplemented by a Research Design Course. The Research Design Courses of ESTER are particularly successful. The number of participants is large and the reactions to the content offered are good. It was decided to give priority to the Research Design Course. Because more PhDs attend the regular conferences, the need for Advanced Seminars seems to decline somewhat. Nevertheless, there still is some demand for specialised meetings particularly conducive for PhDs and young academics. ESTER, therefore, will continue to organise such Advanced Seminars occasionally, such as the seminar together with “F. Datini” International Institute of Economic History.

ESTER fellows

Maria Ågren, Uppsala University
Thilo Albers, University of Münster
Tobias Axelsson, Lund University
Guido Alfani, Bocconi University
Lena Andersson-Skog, Umeå University
Gareth Austin, University of Cambridge
Andrés Barrera González, Madrid Universidad Complutense
Peter Becker, University of Vienna
Erik Bengtsson, Lund University
Felix Brahm, University of Münster
Victòria Burguera Puigserver, Heidelberg University
Erik Buyst, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
António Castro Henriques, Universidade de Lisboa
Claude Chevalyere, CNRS, Lyons Institute of East Asian Studies
Joaquim da Costa Leite, University of Aveiro
Maïka De Keyser, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Jessica Dijkman, Utrecht University
Kerstin Enflo, Lund University
Alexander Engel, Georg-August University Göttingen
Christine Fertig, University of Münster
Giovanni Federico, New York University Abu Dhabi
Lourenzo Fernández Prieto, University of Santiago de Compostela
Torsten Feys, Ghent University

Helder Fonseca, University of Évora
Leonor Freire Costa, Universidade de Lisboa
Ben Gales, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
Regina Grafe, University of Cambridge
Francesco Guido Bruscoli, Queen Mary University of London
Jelle Haemers, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Philip Hahn, Tübingen University
Milan Hlavačka, Charles University Prague
Lisa Maria Hofer, Lern- und Gedenkort Schloss Hartheim
Bram Hoonhout, Leiden University
Angelique Janssens, Radboud University
Felicity Jenz, University of Münster
Germán Jimenez Montes, University of Seville
Clemens Jobst, University of Vienna
Rogier van Kooten, Utrecht University
Michael Kopczynski, University of Warsaw
Markus Lampe, Vienna University of Economics & Business
Erich Landsteiner, University of Vienna
Margareth Lanzinger, University of Vienna
Giampaolo Lecce, University of Bergamo
Jonas Ljungberg, Lund University
Zsófia Lóránd, University of Vienna
Paolo Malanima, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro
Tomas Mantecon Movellan, University of Cantabria
Rita Martins de Sousa, Universidade de Lisboa
Susana Münch Miranda, Universidade de Lisboa
Marjaana Niemi, University of Tampere
Svante Norhem, Lund University
Alessandro Nuvolari, Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies
Bartosz Ogórek, Pedagogical University of Cracow
Anne Sophie Overkamp, Tübingen University
Federico D'Onofrio, University of Vienna
Hanne Østhus, Oslo University
Jorge Miguel Pedreira, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Faustine Perrin, Lund University
Socrates D. Petmezas, University of Crete, Athens
Ulrich Pfister, University of Münster
Amélia Polónia, Universidade do Porto
Paulina de los Reyes, University of Stockholm
Andreas Resch, Vienna University of Economics & Business
Magnus Ressel, Bremen University
José Manuel Santos Pérez, University of Salamanca
Juliane Schiel, University of Vienna
Eric Schneider, London School of Economics
Yves Segers, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
José Vicente Serrão, ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon
Annemarie Steidl, University of Vienna
Deborah Toner, University of Leicester
Joris Vandendriessche, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Christian de Vito, University of Vienna
Kirsten Wandschneider, University of Vienna
Jaco Zijlenderduijn, Lund University

APPENDIX 6: PROGRAMME OF THE 2024 POSTHUMUS CONFERENCE (23 – 24 MAY, LEEUWARDEN)

Theme: Regional History in a Global Context

Key note lecture: Nikolaus Wolf (Humboldt University Berlin), 'Globalisation and Regional Inequality'.

Co-referate: Marijn Moleman (University of Groningen & Frisian Institute of Social Research), 'Economic Development from Below. A Reflection on the Keynote of professor Wolf'.

PhD sessions

	PhD Presenter	Title	NWP Fellow	Peer-commentator
1.A	Mark Raat (FA)	<i>A revision of the Frisian eighteenth-century political debate on peat extraction</i>	Petra van Dam (UU)	Chris Vlam (UU), Claudia Hacke (UU)
	Reinder Klinkhamer (UGhent)	<i>Cutting sods, cutting growth: Rural economic growth and labour productivity in Eastern Guelders, c. 1460-1560</i>	Jan Luiten van Zanden (UU)	Suzan Abozyid (UL)
1.B	Alberto Concina (KU Leuven)	<i>Reconstructing total household income in early modern Piedmont: Wealth, land and assets</i>	Bruno Blondé (UA)	Matthias Van Laer (UA)
	Bas Spliet (UA)	<i>'Bad and old': Why did paintings go out of fashion after the Dutch Golden Age?</i>	Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (UU)	Martijn Collijs (UGhent)
2.A	Pichayapat Naisupap (UL)	<i>Between material and symbolic: Dutch management of elephants in early modern Ceylon</i>	Luc Bulten (RU)	Sam Miske (UU), Marin Kuijt (UvA)
	Silke Geven (UA)	<i>Untangling the thread: A historical analysis of Ghent's tourism promotion network (1880-1980)</i>	Yuliya Hilevych (RUG)	Silke Baas (UU), Aaron Roberts (UU)
2.B	Maartje AB (RU)	<i>Absent but still involved? Functions of (sub)regional meetings between Hansetowns in the Third of Cologne (1447-1619)</i>	Jessica Dijkman (UU)	Boike Teunissen (RUG)
3.A	Vany Susanto (UvA)	<i>The people's aftermath of the Chinese massacre in 1740 Batavia</i>	Anjana Singh (RUG)	Lise Bevernaegie (UGhent), Ivana Zecevic (RUG)
	Dinos Sevdalakis (RUG)	<i>The onset of infant mortality declines in urban Senegal: The case of colonial Saint-Louis, 1880-1921</i>	Ewout Frankema (WUR)	Leen van Hirtum (UGhent)
3.B	Max-Quentin Bischoff (UA)	<i>Future orientation in trade</i>	Gijs Dreijer (UL)	Maartje A.B. (RU)
	Sieben Feys (Ughent)	<i>The geography of power: mapping seigneuries in late medieval Brabant</i>	Rombert Stapel (IISH)	Maartje A.B. (RU)

Research network sessions

Session I: Life-courses, Family, and Labour <i>Health in the city</i>	
Presenters	Paper title
Mayra Murkens (Radboud University)	<i>A competing risks analysis of victims and survivors: the impact of different socioeconomic factors on cause-specific early childhood mortality risks in Amsterdam, 1856-1865</i>
Matthias Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge (RU), Björn Quanjer (RU) and Kristina Thompson (WUR)	<i>The impact of maternal death on the survival of enslaved children in Suriname, 1830-1863</i>
Isabelle Devos (UGhent) and Hilde Greefs (UA)	<i>The 1866 cholera epidemic in Antwerp and Brussels: a comparative analysis of the epidemic's trajectory and public health responses</i>
Arlinde Vrooman (Tilburg University)	<i>The effect of colonial rule on disease and health care in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (c. 1900- 1955)</i>
Session II: Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in Comparative Perspective <i>Flows between town and country in the pre-industrial period</i>	
Presenters	Paper title
Frederik Buylaert (UGhent) and Thijs Lambrecht (UGhent)	<i>Lordship, towns, and economic change in the Low Countries, c. 1350-1650</i>
Marjolein 't Hart (VU)	<i>Warfare, cities and countryside. The impact of the Dutch Revolt on urban-rural relations</i>
Wout Saelens (UA)	<i>From rift to shift: energy transition, metabolic expansion and urban agency in the early modern Low Countries</i>
Session III: Inclusion, Exclusion, and Mobility <i>Analysing the migrants' life cycle: from the postcolonial period to contemporary times</i>	
Presenters	Paper title
Swantje Falcke (UU)	<i>Naturalisation, citizenship and mobility in the migrant life course</i>
Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (UL)	<i>Coming to terms with the colonial legacy by professionalising social care</i>
Andrew Shield (UL)	<i>Queer migration history: archiving past & present narratives</i>

Session IV: Routes and Roots in Colonial and Global History' Commodity Frontiers	
Presenters	Paper title
Michiel de Haas (WUR)	<i>How well do we understand cotton imperialism in Africa? Metropolitan interests, local conditions and diffuse outcomes</i>
Luc Bulten (UL/RU)	<i>Commodifying cinnamon: Lankan planters gaining access to the global spice market, 1771-1795</i>
Allan Souza Queiroz	<i>From Quilombo dos Palmares to Operation Zumbi dos Palmares: a long-term perspective on free and unfree labour in the Brazilian sugarcane plantation</i>
Session V: Societies in Context: Interactions between humans and rural-urban environments Institutions and development in the (post)colonial Global South	
Presenters	Paper title
Aditi Dixit (WUR)	<i>Raw cotton markets, industrial strategies, and trade organization in India and Japan, c. 1890-1940</i>
Vigyan Ratnoo (UU)	<i>Seasonality and development in colonial India</i>
Katharine Frederick (UU)	<i>Economic ideologies and colonial legacies: comparing industrialization strategies in early post-colonial Kenya and Tanzania</i>
Session VI: Globalisation, Inequality and Sustainability in Long-Term Perspective Histories of globalisation, inequality and sustainability in regional contexts	
Presenters	Paper title
Alexandra de Pleijt (WUR), Jan Huiting (UU) and Jan Luiten van Zanden (UU)	<i>30,000 wages and the Tiny Divergence, 1300-1800</i>
Hanno Brand (FA)	<i>Shifts and specialisation in 17th-century Frisian overseas wood transports</i>
Erik van der Vleuten (TU/e)	<i>Connected microhistories of soy</i>
Mila Davids (TU/e)	<i>Sustainable challenges in the global semiconductor supply chain: Coordination and cooperation between stakeholders in Dutch and Taiwanese high-tech regions</i>

APPENDIX 7: FELLOWS 2024

A research fellow is an academic research/teaching position at a university or research institution. This includes (full, associate, assistant) professors, post docs, and senior researchers. Key date: December 2024.

University of Groningen

Faculty of Arts

H.A.J. Bras
D.W. Franken
Y. Hilevych
W.M. Jongman
J. Lilljegen
A.M. Molema
M. Murkens
R.F.J. Paping
I. Pesa
A. Singh
C. Six
A. van Steensel
P.G. Tassenaar
H. Zwarts

M. van Rossum
R. Stapel
R. Zijdeman

Radboud University Nijmegen

L. Bulten
I. van Dijk
C. van Galen
A.A.P.O. Janssens
J. Kok
J. van Lottum
D. Lyna
S.R.D. Muurling
T. van Oort
P. Puschmann
B. Quanjier
T. Riswick
J. van den Tol

University of Groningen

Faculty of Economics

J. Bolt
B. Gales
A. de Jong
H.J. de Jong
M. Malinowski
A. de Vicq de Cumptich

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

M. Davids
R. Oldenziel
J. van der Straeten
J.P.H. Smits
F.C.A. Veraart
E. van der Vleuten
D. van Vliet

Erasmus University Rotterdam

D.R. Curtis
J. Euwe
T. De Moor
E.M. Jacobs
H.A.M. Klemann
C. Nierstrasz
G. Oonk
M. Van Dijck
B. Wubs

University of Antwerp

B. Blondé
B. De Munck
M. Dekkiche
S. Espeel
S. Geens
O. Gelderblom
H. Greefs
E. Heijmans
L. Hermenault
I. Jongepier
K. Loockx
M. Luyckfasseel
R. Peeters
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