



# 9<sup>th</sup> PhD Conference in History of Science and Humanities

*Soeterbeeck Abbey, 20-21 April 2023*

## Provisional programme

### Tuesday April 20th

10:00 Registration

10:30 Word of welcome and round of introductions

11:00–12:30 **First session: Exchanges and Hierarchies in Early Modern Knowledge**

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 **Second session - Cold War Science**

15:15–16:45 **Third session - History of Medicine**

16:45–17:15 Evening walk

17:15–18:00 Reception

18:00–19:30 Dinner

19:30–22:30 Board game night

### Friday April 21st

09:15–10:45 **Fourth session - New scientific disciplines and methods**

11:00–12:30 **Fifth session - Clinising health : the early development of scientific based health care clinics**

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30–15:00 **Sixth session - Science & Technologies**

15:30–17:00 **Seventh session - Fashioning the self, fashioning others**





## **Commentators: short presentations**

Lisa Johnson, please send your PPT to your commentator Ted van Aanholt

Ted van Aanholt, please send your PPT to your commentator Luz Van den Bruel

Luz Van den Bruel, please send your PPT to your commentator Pieter van Wingerden

Pieter van Wingerden, please send your PPT to your commentator Lisa Johnson

Lisa Vanderheyden, please send your PPT to your commentator Niels De Nutte

Niels De Nutte, please send your PPT to your commentator Antje Van Kerckhove

Antje Van Kerckhove, please send your PPT to your commentator Anse De Weerdt

Anse De Weerdt, please send your PPT to your commentator Felix Deckx

Felix Deckx, please send your PPT to your commentator Lisa Vanderheyden

Marissa Griffioen, please send your PPT to your commentator Marieke Gelderblom

Marieke Gelderblom, please send your PPT to your commentator Max Bautista Perpinyà

Max Bautista Perpinyà, please send your PPT to your commentator David Skogerboe

David Skogerboe, please send your PPT to your commentator Marissa Griffioen

## **Commentators: long presentations**

Luca Forgiarini, please send your PPT to your commentator Felipe Colla de Amorim

Felipe Colla de Amorim, please send your PPT to your commentator Ines Sanchez Cienfuegos

Ines Sanchez Cienfuegos, please send your PPT to your commentator Theo Dekker

Theo Dekker, please send your PPT to your commentator Martijn van der Meer

Martijn van der Meer, please send your PPT to your commentator Rinske Vermeij

Rinske Vermeij, please send your PPT to your commentator Vincent Bijman

Vincent Bijman, please send your PPT to your commentator Georgiana Kotsou

Georgiana Kotsou, please send your PPT to your commentator Luca Forgiarini





## Overview of the sessions with abstracts

### *Short presentations*

*The allocated time for each presentation with the discussion is 20 minutes. The presenter should aim for a talk of 10-15 minutes. The commentator should prepare a question to open the general discussion of 5-10 minutes.*

### **First session - Exchanges and Hierarchies in Early Modern Knowledge**

#### Oranges and orangeries: innovations and representations in the northern Netherlands 1600-1750 – Lisa Johnson

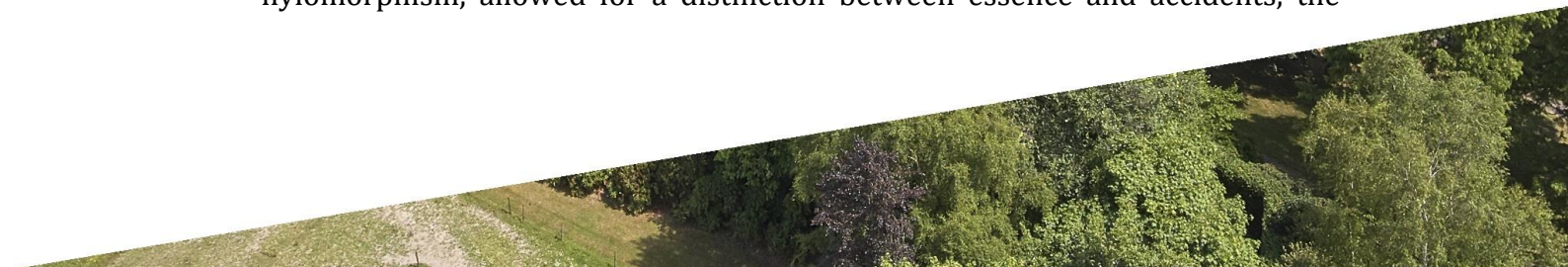
My PhD research explores the development of horticultural knowledge surrounding the cultivation of exotic fruit in the early modern period in the northern Netherlands. I discuss melons, oranges, peaches and pineapples and the specific technologies and practices that evolved in order to successfully grow each of these newly introduced non-native plants into the colder Dutch climate. Themes emerging from my research to date include: the continuous repackaging of knowledge throughout the period as gardeners and consumers became more familiar with the fruit; the application of practices and technology developed in other related fields of knowledge; and the rapid international exchange of ideas and codified knowledge relating to each fruit.

With my presentation I want to focus on oranges and orangeries and the innovations and ask the following questions:


- How did oranges and orange trees become symbols representing the House of Orange?
- How were oranges and other citrus fruit housed in the winter months, and which technology was introduced to insulate and heat these buildings?
- Which horticultural techniques were applied and developed to cultivate and propagate (new varieties of) orange trees?

#### The Question of the Eucharist and the Catholic Church's Struggle with Atomism 1640-1680 – Ted van Aanholt

In the 17th century, natural philosophers started to argue that the world was made up of material corpuscles or atoms in motion instead of substances that were composed of matter and form. Whereas the latter framework, hylomorphism, allowed for a distinction between essence and accidents, the







corpuscular framework didn't. However, the doctrine of transubstantiation – the conversion of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ during the Eucharist – required a change in essence but a continuity in accidents. The corpuscular framework, which didn't allow for this possibility, therefore posed a notable challenge to Catholic philosophers and theologians, who observed the revival of ancient atomism with preoccupation.

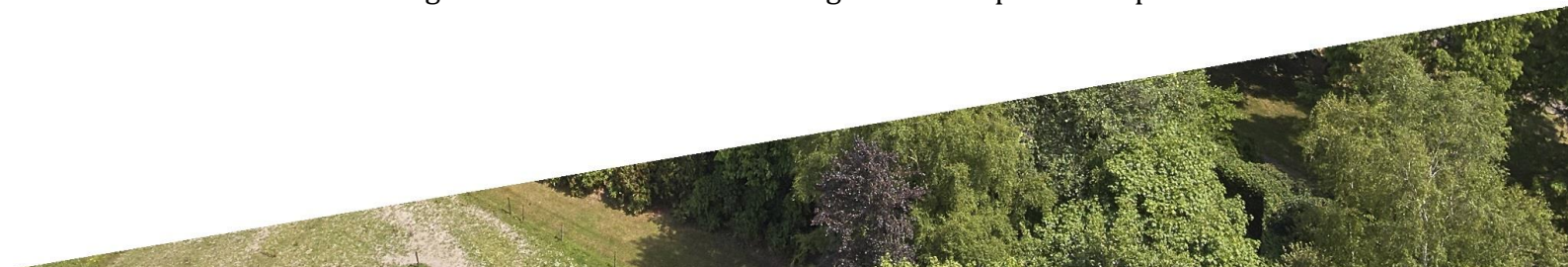
As a consequence, authors who favoured corpuscular and atomistic explanations faced much scrutiny from Church hierarchies, religious orders and teaching institutes. At the same time, the Church did not want to lose its philosophical and pedagogical primacy. This created an intellectual tension within the institutional Church, which at the Council of Trent had just reaffirmed the medieval explanation of the Eucharist in terms of substances, essences, and accidents. Then again, they also witnessed the success and popularity of the corpuscular and atomistic philosophies of thinkers such as Descartes and Gassendi.


There were three ways in which clerical natural philosophers could react to this tension: they could embrace atomism, they could reject it, or they could try to synthesize atomism with hylomorphism. In my presentation, I will introduce these three reactions and then present the central arguments on the eucharist of two of the most radical clerical authors to openly embrace atomism: the Oratorian Jean-Baptiste Du Hamel and the Benedictine Andrea Pissini.

Categorizing, Standardizing, Codifying: a Framework for Philology 'im weitesten Sinne', as Devised by C.J. Kraus (1753-1807) – Luz Van den Bruel

As language studies grew within several fields of scholarship throughout the eighteenth century, various figures called for language studies to become an independent branch of learning. In an attempt to collect all previous (or worthy) knowledge on the topic, we see scholars begin to draft surveys of their predecessors (Van Hal 2012, 42–45). One such figure who attempted to codify the field of 'Philologie im weitesten Sinne' is Christian Jakob Kraus (1753-1807). As a student, the Königsberg professor had been influenced by the philological and historical teachings of Göttingen professors C.G. Heyne (1729-1812) and A.L. Schlözer (1735-1809) (Kaltz 1999, 299). Also active in the fields of philosophy and 'Camerawissenschaft', Kraus made a name for himself in the field of language studies through his review of P.S. Pallas's *Vocabularia* (Kaltz 1985a).

On the topic of language studies, Kraus is credited for two works: his Pallas review and his posthumously published *Encyklopädische Ansichten einiger Zweige der Gelehrsamkeit* (1809) (Brekle 2010, 5:213–14). The work has been previously examined by Barbara Kaltz (1985b), whose pilot studies are essential for understanding the source material. I investigate Kraus's particular presentation of






the state of philology in his time, compared to the surveys presented by his contemporaries and predecessors, to provide an overview of early modern debates concerning discipline formation and standardization. These debates indicate how early modern sciences did not develop in a continuous line of progress, but rather how different actors from various fields influenced, assisted, or even hindered the formation of current disciplines. This paper focusses on Kraus's call for a standardized field of comparative linguistics (Auroux et al. 2001, 2:1199; Koerner 1975, 726) and Kraus's attention to the historical potential of comparative linguistics, as first proposed by Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716) (Van Hal 2014, 199).

### Catching Rhinos & Understanding Tigers: Indigenous Knowledge in the Expeditions of the Natuurkundige Commissie – Pieter van Wingerden

The Natuurkundige Commissie (Natural History Commission) was founded by king Willem I of the Netherlands in 1820 in order to discover the natural riches of the Netherlands Indies. Over a period of thirty years, more than thirty European naturalists travelled throughout the Netherlands Indies in order to collect specimens for 's Rijks Museum van Natuurlijke Historie (National Museum of Natural History, now Naturalis Biodiversity Center, in Leiden).

On their expeditions, the members of the Natuurkundige Commissie were accompanied by a small group of Javanese indigenous employees, who did most of the collecting and preparing. In addition to this, indigenous assistance was solicited wherever possible, simply because the European naturalists were collecting in natural environments that were wholly unknown to them. Indigenous knowledge played a pivotal role in gathering and understanding their collections.

One example is the indigenous knowledge regarding both the Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros. Techniques for catching them were very different and only through indigenous knowledge and agency were the members of the Natuurkundige Commissie able to bring home some rhinoceros specimens. A second example is the indigenous knowledge regarding the different species of tiger that existed on Java. By interviewing indigenous people, Natuurkundige Commissie-member Salomon Müller described six different locally-acknowledge species, only to reduce the number of 'real' species to just two or three. These two examples will show how essential indigenous knowledge was to the success of the expeditions of the Natuurkundige Commissie.







### **Third session - History of Medicine**


#### The unborn in newspapers – Lisa Vanderheyden


In this paper, I will present my findings on newspaper coverage of stillbirths, miscarriages and abortion in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, as part of a larger project on the provenance of the collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century fetuses and stillborn children from Museum Vrolik, the anatomical museum of the University of Amsterdam (now housed in the Amsterdam University Medical Center). We know little about the provenance of the fetuses/stillborn; where they came from, who their parents were (was permission given for the researching/preserving of their children?), how they came into the collection and whether general society took notice of this collecting process.

This last question can be answered via exploring newspaper coverage on, firstly, the concurrence of birth and death, and secondly, on the collecting of its anatomical aftermath. By analyzing newspaper articles on fetuses/stillborn from 1860 to 1930 – including short announcements, police and jurisdiction reports, obituaries, ... – my aim is twofold. The first is provenance research – attaining more information on the collection from the museum Vrolik – whereas the second is methodological – to show newspapers as a valuable source, both for studying the history of anatomy and that of medicine in general.

#### Euthanasia: mercy and/or self-determination? Historical connotations – Niels De Nutte

As is often stated, the word euthanasia translates to a good (eu) death (thanatos). The practice has however known variety of connotations. Equating the practice of euthanasia to mercy killing is one such an idea that emerged in the late nineteenth century. In his seminal essay, non-physician Samuel D. Williams defends his view that a 'patient's consciousness should be promptly and irrevocably extinguished in order to secure a quick and painless death'. This act, where the pain is mitigated by increasingly higher doses of sedatives until the patient's death, was performed by physicians until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, who would be summoned to the patient's house. It was then considered a normal medical practice. The emergence of the medical euthanasia debate approximately 150 years ago is not surprising, given the enormous rise in medical efficiency henceforth. Until the outbreak of the Second World War, euthanasia advocacy would be related to eugenics and social Darwinist ideas, especially in the United States and Great Britain. No euthanasia advocacy existed in Belgium during that period, nor did any substantial eugenics movement emerge. From the 1960s onwards, auto-determination and freedom of choice would become central to euthanasia advocacy, equally so in Belgium, and the position of the physician would subsequently change. These changes in argumentation and focus cannot be seen as separate from the technological and medical advances of the time. For this paper, we shed light on the most prevalent





connotations euthanasia practices have seen in the past 150 years as they are related to medical and technological advances and insights.


Understanding sexual pain: vaginismus through the lens of Belgian healthcare professionals (1950s-present) – Antje Van Kerckhove

The latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM 2013) classifies vaginismus as a type of sexual dysfunction that is characterized by persistent and recurrent problems with vaginal penetration. Vaginismus is according to contemporary interpretations both a psychological disorder, involving fear of penetration and emotional distress and a physical condition due to involuntary contractions of the muscles around the vagina. Therefore, the treatment of vaginismus requires the expertise of health professionals from different scientific disciplines. Today, the involvement of gynecologists, physiotherapists, sexologists and psychologists is self-evident in the treatment of the condition. According to Belgian sexologists and psychiatrists, Piet Nijs and Koen Demyttenaere, however, this was not the case before the 1960s. Reflecting on their own experiences, they argue that vaginismus used to be the sole concern of gynecologists and psychoanalysts (Nijs en Demyttenaere 1990).

When and why did scientists and health practitioners from various disciplines become interested in the condition? Based on research in scholarly and professional journals, I will examine how this process has come about. In addition, I will question how these various disciplines have related to one another over the past decades. After all, recent pleas for a multidisciplinary approach in the treatment of vaginismus indicate that scholars in previous decades primarily acted within their own field of study. The issue of interdisciplinary cooperation also raises questions on the (previous) dominance of certain disciplines in the treatment of vaginismus. In other words, did different disciplines acquire and/or lose authority over the problem at particular moments in time?

Projecting tropical medicine: The use of the magic lantern in the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp – Anse De Weerd

In 1906, King Leopold II of Belgium established the School for Tropical Diseases in Brussels to conduct research on tropical diseases and provide education to doctors and nurses to work in Congo Free State. The institution moved to Antwerp in 1933, the important port city, as the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITG). The institution continued to train colonials and after Congo's independence in 1960, it trained 'development' aid workers. The research institution in Antwerp still specializes in research, education and services in tropical medicine and the organization of healthcare in 'developing' countries. However, so far there is little or hardly any







critical research on the tropical institute's colonial heritage and the way the ITG produced information about Central-Africa and contributed to Belgium's colonial imagery.


The 1,300 lantern slides that are kept in the remarkable Art Deco building attest to the education that was given to the colonials in training. The magic lantern allowed for the projection of images for an audience of soon to become doctors and nurses in the early 20th century. Making use of these images, aspiring colonials were trained in fields such as race theory, entomology, the history of Africa, virology, tropical diseases, and the daily life of the people of Central-Africa. The slides demonstrate how knowledge about Congo was produced and disseminated in Belgium's medical field.

With this abstract I propose to give a short presentation (10-15 min) on the use of the magic lantern by the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and its significance in the history of tropical medicine and colonial imagery. Since I'm rather new to the history of medicine and science, this PhD conference is a great opportunity for me to introduce the case to an audience of historians of science. With the presentation, I hope to receive feedback on how I can include insights from the perspective of History of Knowledge and Science.


### Sulfones, Sickness and Segregation? The Landscapes of Leprosy Care in Congo (1930-1970) – Felix Deckx

In the Western world leprosy is often seen as a disease of the distant past by both broad society and academic historians. Existing research focuses largely on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a period characterized by great fear of contagion with the then untreatable disease. It depicts its patients as deformed outcasts, to whom only missionaries looked after in colonial leprosaria. Here they were enculturated in a specific Christian leprosy identity, shifting the religious focus purely to life after death (Vaughan, 1991). Unlike all other modern medical institutions, leprosaria did not focus on the therapeutic correction of body or mind in the 'earthly life' (Edmond, 2006).

My research investigates the evolution of treatment, experience and socio-cultural significance of leprosy in Congo between 1930 and 1970. When most other colonies phased out their leprosaria after the introduction of effective sulphone treatment around 1950, Belgian Congo – counting approximately 300 000 inhabitants infected with leprosy – continued to expand its network of leprosaria up to the end of colonial rule in 1960. This unique case allows me to study the afterlife of the colonial leprosarium at a time when isolation had become an unnecessary sanitary measure.







A diverse corpus of archival, material and oral sources is used, corresponding to both the local, national and transnational viewpoints of my research. The employed methods are close reading, (audio)visual analysis and ethnographic fieldwork. Unlike the leprosaria studied before 1950, some Congolese leprosaria did evolve into therapeutic-corrective institutions under the influence of sulfone treatment. The specific Christian approach gave way to a medically authorized treatment, led by a heterogenous group of Belgian – and after 1960 also Congolese – health professionals. The period after Congolese independence was characterized by a process of diversification, on the one hand, and the remarkable resilience of the largest leprosaria, on the other hand.


## **Sixth session - Science & Technologies**


### Map Encounters: The Material Culture of Maps in the Early Modern Low Countries (1500-1800) – Marissa Griffioen

My interdisciplinary PhD project analyses the history of maps and their users in order to answer the main research question: how common and widespread were maps in early modern society? Limited by the relatively small number of used maps that have survived today, existing studies on the circulation and use of maps are contradictory about the development of cartographic literacy and the availability of maps in the early modern period. This PhD project offers a new and innovative method to examine early modern map use by collecting and analysing map encounters in visual and textual historical sources, such as prints, paintings, letters, advertisements and other map use promoting texts. The concept of map encounters demonstrates (1) how historical sources shed light on maps and their users, and (2) what ideas and concepts about map use circulated in the early modern period. Using six case studies based on the Low Countries, the largest map market in early modern Europe, I will identify developments in the places, times and people who used maps. The research will show the specific context in which people had access to maps, but also identify those who remained excluded from maps and cartographic information in this period of increasing globalisation, and thus examines if and to what extent the group of map users in early modern society became more inclusive. At the conference, I would like to discuss either the central concept of this research project ('map encounters') or one specific case study in a short presentation.

### Starting up Grasping Graphics – the introduction of statistical graphics, 1850-1914 – Marieke Gelderblom

Statistical graphics are visual representations of empirical, quantitative data, and they enable the graphical comparison of relationships within this data. Such graphics can make data more comprehensible and aid in understanding complex phenomena – if interpreted correctly. Historical research on statistical graphics



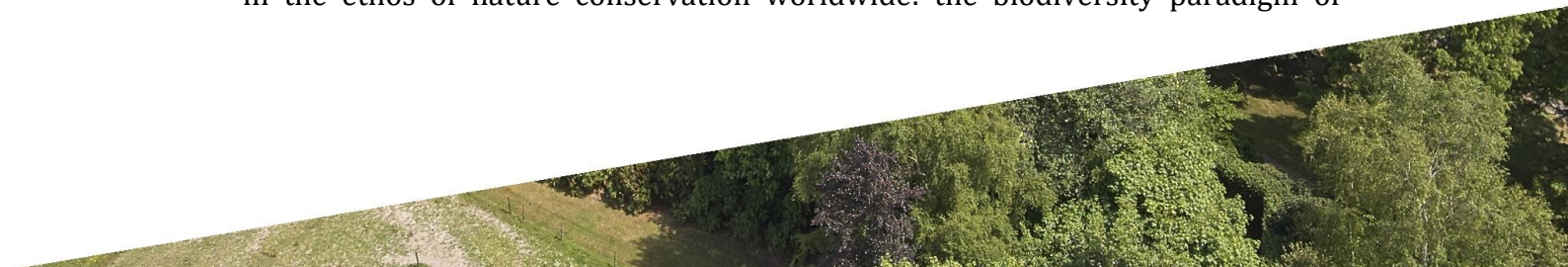


often points to a so-called 'golden age of statistical graphics' (~1850–1900). However, this historiography usually neglects the Netherlands, even though Dutch scholars like Buys Ballot are known to have made significant contributions. Dutch science adopted the new graphical method in this period, and the use of charts in educational and public settings also shifted. My research aims to understand how different Dutch audiences dealt with this shift in dealing with data. It traces the origins of statistical graphs and investigates how the required (proto-)statistical literacy developed and spread in Dutch society.


In this talk, I would like to present this new research topic as well as my initial findings. I will propose a theoretical framework for analysing graphs based on the division between their representative and investigative function. On the one hand, visualisations were used as a new way to represent complex ideas. They often served a rhetorical purpose, were meant to persuade, or helped to create a mental picture. On the other hand, graphs also began to develop into investigative tools. They provided a method to analyse data and make new discoveries that might not so easily show otherwise. Since this study is currently still being set up, I would particularly like to invite the audience to think along and suggest potentially fruitful concepts, literature, or directions.

### Scientific forestry in post-Franco Spain: making “better” trees at a national network of experimental stations – Max Bautista Perpinyà

Scientific forestry has been often described as an extractivist tool developed in order to improve timber production, entangled with the widening of the State's control of natural resources and the exclusion of local communities from access to woodlands. A great example of these processes can be found in twentieth-century Spanish history. While histories of science have largely forgotten scientific forestry as a science, scholarship in environmental and forest history has described, and in the process, dismissed the science of forestry (especially during the Francoist regime, but also earlier) simply as a tool deployed to meet the state's autarkic ideal of self-sufficiency. These accounts notwithstanding, this paper should take these stories both as departure points to inquire about scientific forestry in the decades post-dictatorship in Spain, and as a way to nuance the monolithic label of 'productivism' that is often applied to this applied science. Few histories go beyond the death of Franco, and the process by which forestry state officials lose centralising power in nature management is rarely discussed. Here I will try to show how, despite the end of the dictatorship, foresters continued to imagine nature as an engineering challenge in the midst of global, national, and local environmental concerns and social mobilisation. The 1980s saw a revitalised interest in making nature “better” (read, \*more productive\*) by Spanish forest geneticists. This paper aims to contextualise the efforts of state scientists in a period of large political restructuring in the country as well as a momentous turn in the ethos of nature conservation worldwide: the biodiversity paradigm of








nature conservation. Based on archival work and oral history methods of the community of forest engineers, I describe the scientific and managerial practices at a forestry research station in Alaquàs (Valencia, Spain) as part of a larger national network of experimental centres and pine seed orchards, which during the last third of the twentieth century saw diverse personal ventures in trying to marry the old productivist forestry practices with the upcoming conservationist objectives.

### Satellite Futures in Europe, 1975-1995 – David Skogerboe

The SATFUTURE project aims to understand the history, and future, of European satellite infrastructures. It focuses on satellite futures, a form of sociotechnical imaginary defined as visions of desirable satellite infrastructures that set expectations for the future and shape technological, societal, and political development. The project aims to showcase how the communication of the future shapes not only the way technologies are developed and utilized but also how the public understands science. The project aims to ask: How have expectations shaped the development of past satellite infrastructures? In what ways were these expectations incorporated into the final product? And how have these expectations changed over time?

In contributing to understanding Europe's history in space, the project will look back to two of the European Space Agency's first satellite infrastructures: Meteosat, for meteorology, and the European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS), for Earth observation. Meteosat-1, launched in 1977, was developed to provide meteorological data and imagery to the scientific community. ERS-1 & ERS-2 were launched in 1991 and 1995, respectively, and were designed to collect data on Earth's land, water, ice, and atmosphere. Notably, both Meteosat and ERS were explicitly modelled after NASA satellites, offering a unique opportunity to explore the difference in portrayals of the future wrought by these satellite systems between the EU and the USA. This project has just begun, so the presentation will center on the research plan, with hopes for a discussion that brings to light new questions, relevant frameworks, and prospective literature.





## **Long presentations**

*The allocated time for each presentation with the discussion is 45 minutes. The presenter should aim for a talk of 25 to 30 minutes. The commentator should prepare a reaction of 3-5 minutes and a question to open the discussion. Afterwards, there is a general discussion of 10-15 minutes.*

## **Second session - Cold War Science**


### Science for Peace/Science for Europe: Probing the ideational structures of post-WWII European scientific cooperation – Luca Forgiarini

A longing desire for peace and stability, as well as the need for material and economic reconstruction are the ideals that drove the political and economic integration of Europe after the end of World War II. The first steps in this process were the 1952 creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) followed by the establishment of the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1958. Around the same time as these political institutions that laid the basis for what is today the European Union, many nations were also involved in a number of scientific cooperative efforts. The European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) and the European Space Agency (ESA) are the two most prominent examples of a handful of scientific organisations that were founded during the thirty after the end of WWII. Interestingly, these scientific organisations were situated firmly outside the institutional frame of political and economic cooperation of the EEC, yet their aims aligned strongly with the idealistic nature of European integration.


This paper aims to render visible the aims and ideals of scientific cooperation. It does so by drawing on archival material from the personal fund of Pierre Auger, who was a key figure behind the creation of both CERN and ESA. The analysis will concentrate on the different notions of 'science' and 'Europe' deployed in the context of the development of these scientific organisations. Focussing on the ideational structures that underlie these organisations, we argue, provides a better understanding of the development of scientific cooperation in Europe as a phenomenon in itself and of the role of scientific cooperation in the context of broader processes of Europeanisation at play during the 20th century.

### The Birth of a Discipline: the Ford-Iuperj grant agreement and the modernization of political science in Brazil (1967-1973) – Felipe Colla de Amorim

In the late 1960s, Brazilian political science underwent a process of academic modernization that transformed the discipline's theoretical assumptions, institutional arrangements, foreign dialogues, and thematic approach. The field isolated the previously dominating sociopolitical thought explanations and turned







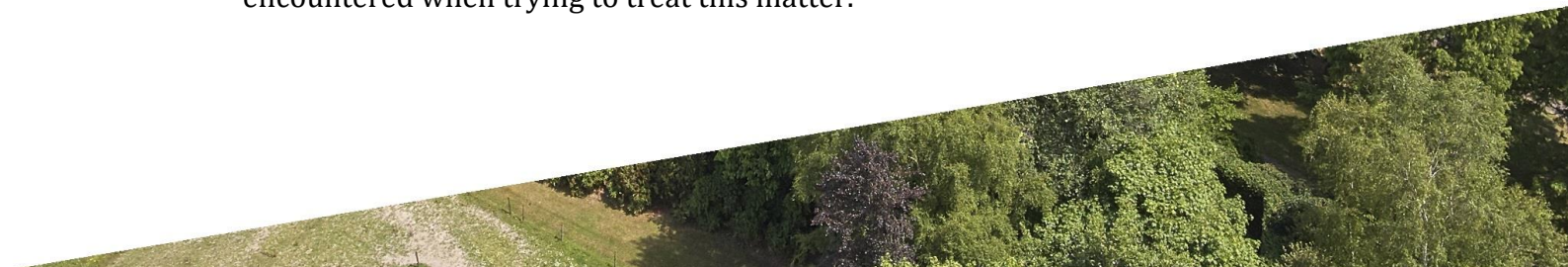
to a scientifically-guided, objective approach, with new methodological tools. With robust financial aid provided by U.S. philanthropic foundations, this field's new direction included a major investment in academic internationalization, which brought forth the development of a cross-national intellectual network. Thematically, these new academic trends envisioned the discipline as an applied and policy-oriented science with a say in non-academic public debate and a closer relationship to governmental issues. One of the protagonists of this modernization process was IUPERJ (Instituto Universitário de Pesquisas do Rio de Janeiro), founded in 1967 by the legal scholar and social thinker Candido Mendes de Almeida. With the philanthropic support from the Ford Foundation, the institute would establish itself in the coming decades as a leading political science center in the country both in training and research. Drawing on primary sources -- especially the Ford-IUPERJ grant agreement documentation (1967-89) and the personal papers of U.S. intellectuals Alex Inkeles and Samuel Huntington -- this article accounts for the role IUPERJ played in the building of a new, modernized academic discipline in Brazil. Situated within the fields of Cold War social science, Latin America's Cold War, and disciplinary history (published in English, Portuguese, and Spanish), this article will argue that a transnational approach to the history of Brazilian social sciences may provide new reflections on the entanglements between: academia and public planning, authoritarianism and democratization, national history of military dictatorship (1964-1985) and global histories of modernization.


#### **Fourth session - New scientific disciplines and methods**

##### The Genesis of History of Art in Belgium: Teaching Archeology and Art history in the Nineteenth Century – Ines Sanchez Cienfuegos

The lack of studies on the history of history of art in Belgium was the starting point of my thesis proposal. Therefore, my main objective is to provide a better understanding of the genesis of art history in the nineteenth century through three major areas: higher education, the museum sector and learned societies. In this paper, I would like to focus on the teaching of art history in the universities but also in other institutions of higher education such as the academies of fine arts.

First, I will examine more precisely the way those courses were created: by whom, with what intentions and according to what models (other disciplines or foreign examples). I will try to show how those decisions are influenced by conditions relative to the history of universities as well as by political events external to those institutions. Art history being a new field in the higher education panorama, its position in it and how it interacts with other fields will be examined. Second, I would like to discuss the content of those courses. This raises the questions of the primary sources that are still preserved, and thus of the limitations that are encountered when trying to treat this matter.





One of the particularities of Art History as a humanities field is that it evolves not only in universities and research institutes but also in museums, and this has to be born in mind. With this collected data I hope to shed a new light on the relations between those institutions and some places of sociability of the discipline.

### A New Quantifying Spirit? How quantitative data enabled 18th-century chroniclers to find new patterns and regularities – Theo Dekker


The eighteenth-century passion to order and systematize as well as to measure and calculate has been explained as a result of both the Scientific Revolution and the emergence of centralized states. The first, enabled the new experimental philosophy that quantified the 'sciences', while the latter created the need for statistics (e.g., demographic data).

This paper explores the diffusion of the 'quantifying spirit' among the wider public in the eighteenth century and offers alternative explanation for the interest of the population at large in structured quantitative data. Using a corpus of 188 handwritten chronicles, produced by a heterogenous group of middle-class authors from the Low Countries, between 1500-1800, it analyses how early modern chroniclers used Western/Hindu-Arabic numerals in their writings, and under which circumstances this changed in the eighteenth century. From the analysis it appears that chroniclers used meteorological measurement and demographic data for different purposes than natural philosophers and (centralized) governments. Moreover, it transpires that the collection of quantitative data was initially stimulated by local governments, subsequently made public by various media, and picked up by the society at large and higher authorities.


### **Fifth session - Clinising health: the early development of scientific based health care clinics**

#### "DOOR 'T KIND VOOR DE NATIE". Infant mortality, breastfeeding, weighing and the origin of Dutch infant clinics, 1880-1940 – Martijn van der Meer

In this talk, I will present my research on how Dutch infant clinics could become a central institution in Dutch public health care in the first decades of the twentieth century. "Consultatiebureaus" did not exist before 1901, when Broer Plantenga initiated the first infant clinic in The Hague. In the 1930s, most Dutch infants were routinely weighed in these "consultatiebureaus" to check their health status. What was the purpose of these clinics? Which problem did they have to solve? And how could the collective practice of weighing children on a massive scale become part of Dutch society? These questions speak to the issue of how collectively defined problems can be turned into collective action in a specific historical context.








My answers are based on a close analysis of Dutch medical journals, maternal handbooks, propaganda material, and remaining archival material of the first infant welfare organisations. I will show how a group of paediatricians and general practitioners employed statistics to raise awareness of infant mortality resulting from malnutrition in working-class families at the turn of the century. Children did not die anymore as individuals but as a group. Health reformers deemed this problem because the loss of potential workers threatened the labour potential of the Dutch nation. By encouraging mothers to breastfeed and providing them with buttermilk or sterilised cow milk, health reformers hoped to prevent infants from dying and instead grow into productive citizens. In “consultatiebureaus”, newborns were constantly weighed to assess their health status, check whether earlier advice was followed, and encourage mothers to return to the infant clinics in case of abnormal weight. Health reformers skillfully mobilised local civil society and municipal governments by explaining their efforts in terms of the early-twentieth-century aims to “elevate” working-class families to turn weighing infants into a collective practice. As such, the early history of infant clinics sheds light on the social fabric of Dutch society in the first decades of the twentieth century.


### The role of temperament in intellectual assessment for vocational guidance at the Groninger psychotechnical institute in the 1920's and 30's – Rinske Vermeij

Psychotechnics was a popular discipline in the Netherlands during the '20s and '30s. It aimed at the practical application of psychological knowledge by providing vocational guidance, and is the precursor of industrial and organizational psychology. The rise of this discipline was driven by societal challenges resulting from the industrial revolution. As such, psychotechnical practice demanded a careful balancing of scientific and theoretical concerns on the one hand, and the pragmatic and societal demands on the other. Using previously unreported archival findings from one of these Dutch psychotechnical institutes, this text aims to explore these tensions.

The dr. D. Bos foundation (1920-1938) was one of the first psychotechnical institutes in the Netherlands during the high tides of psychotechnics. It was placed under the direction of Henri J.F.W. Brugmans, who succeeded Gerard Heymans in 1927 as professor of Psychology. Heymans had been a philosopher and psychologist, who founded the first psychological laboratory in the Netherlands and developed a typology: the Heymans cube. This all bears mentioning because Heymans' teachings were central to the way Brugmans directed the institute and conducted the intellectual testing and vocational guidance.

Through the particular case of the dr. Bos foundation, this paper provides a rich and detailed journey into the challenges of organizing a scientific disciplines to





answer societal needs. Moreover, it aims to shed light on the complexity of the intellectual testing, and challenges the idea that intellectual testing was uniform and unidimensional (as today's use of singular IQ scores might imply). Especially, I place emphasis on the importance of what we could call "extra-intellectual factors" in intelligence testing, such as personality and temperament.


### **Seventh session – Fashioning the self, fashioning others**

#### The Sea Lamprey invasion in the Great Lakes, 1940s-1960s: On the science, management, and media representation of an invasive species in a polluted aquatic ecosystem – Vincent Bijman


During the 1920s, a Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) was for the first time observed in the waters of Lake Erie, part of the Great Lakes. It was traditionally a coastal predatory fish, that due to various canal extensions was able to move upstream and was regarded to have caused the destruction of the already pressured fishery economy. The dispersal of the Sea Lamprey drew a response from a coalition of scientists and civil servants from both the United States and Canada, who tried to understand the complex Sea Lamprey life cycle and invented technological solutions to control the invasion, such as weir trapping and poisoning. The Sea Lamprey became entangled in international postwar invasive species discourse and was represented as an intrusive 'other' that endangered the existing economy and the natural balance of the Great Lakes. This paper draws from various primary source materials, including committee hearing minutes, scientific reports and newspaper clippings to show how the creation of the invasive Sea Lamprey depended on situated knowledge production, management practices and environmental discourse that emphasized fish as an economical resource. Traditionally, the Sea Lamprey invasion has become regarded as a watershed moment in Great Lakes history, causing the full decline of the fishery economy and catalyzing applied research and cross-border management. Less attention has been given to how animal agency, the imagination of the animal as an invasive predator and changing scientific and control practices informed the representation of the Sea Lamprey and resulted in a 'killable' fish.

#### Strike a Pose for Science: Conventions of Group Photography in Scientific Conference 1900-1960 – Georgiana Kotsou


Despite their longstanding role in scientific life, scientific conferences have been taken for granted as a natural part of the academic life cycle, mainly examined as the background for other developments and important events. The material, cultural and social components that constitute conferences and allow their reproduction over time, like people, locations, hierarchies, traditions, equipment, and public demonstrations, have been largely left unexplored. Many of these socio-material elements are captured in a condensed but consistent manner in





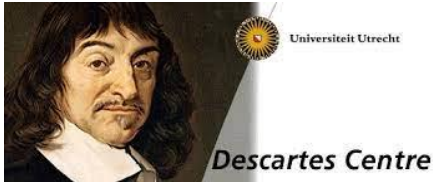


conference group photographs, an ongoing tradition of scientific gatherings. Researching conference culture and the scientific practices, materialities and identities involved in it requires the study of its visual representations, both as depictions of the events and as artefacts producing truths about science and its practitioners. Focusing on the standardisation period of regular scientific conferences, this paper will study the conventions of group photographs taken during scientific conferences in the early and mid-20th centuries. It will discuss what these photographs depict and how these depictions are related to scientific identities and ideas about science popular in their time period. In order to do so, the paper will contextualise the photographs in the environments and events they show by a) studying the institutional practices of group conference photography in relation to other popular genres of group photography (family, school, corporate photography) and b) exploring how the photographs were produced, circulated, and attributed with meaning by their producers and audiences.





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