

Amsterdam School of Historical Studies

Annual Report 2017

Introduction and mission statement

The Amsterdam School of Historical Studies (ASH) represents and fosters the study of the human past from Antiquity to the present day. It brings together more than 200 academics from Amsterdam's Faculty of Humanities, who participate in 18 research groups and 4 research centres. ASH does not limit itself to a particular period, discipline or method, but integrates a variety of (inter)disciplinary perspectives, including history, history of art, literature, and religious studies. It encourages collaborations between scholars along thematic lines (e.g. Religion, the City, Conflict), geographical focus (e.g. Mediterranean World, American Studies, Modern Germany) and in terms of period (e.g. Antiquity, the Middle Ages, Early Modern and Modern History). As a broad, inclusive and dynamic School, ASH is home to three larger research units: the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the Amsterdam Centre for the Study of the Golden Age and the Amsterdam Centre for Urban History. Moreover, in 2016 the Vossius Center for the History of Humanities and Sciences was launched, bringing together researchers from all faculties who share an interest in the history of humanities and sciences. The Vossius Center functions independently but is administratively attached to ASH.

ASH prides itself in being firmly rooted in contemporary society. Current political debate, societal challenges and cultural developments inform, or contribute to, our research agenda. Set in the vibrant city of Amsterdam, ASH maintains strong ties with museums, heritage institutions, libraries, and modern media, including national television and the local and national press.

This 2017 annual report offers a brief overview of developments within the School and lists a selection of the achievements of its members and research groups.

ASH in 2017

In the wake of the Midterm Review of 2016, over the course of 2017 ASH took on board suggestions made by our assessors that congratulated us on our diverse strengths but also recognized the importance of further sharpening our profile. In accordance with this input, we have refined our goals and visions for the future, identified our benchmarks, and reduced the number of our research groups from 21 to a far more sustainable and flourishing 18. Having developed a targeted mission statement that builds on our many past achievements, we can now confidently look forward to the external 'Visitatie' that will take place in December 2018 (during which our activities between our founding in September 2014 and the end of 2017 will be evaluated by an international review panel).

ASH management, support, and organisation

As set out in its founding white paper, ASH policy departs from the idea that researchers with different qualities complement, inspire, and reinforce each other. ASH aims to support and encourage all active and ambitious researchers and to provide them with the tools to enable them to make a contribution to the School as a whole.

Since September 2016, the position of ASH's Academic Director has been held by Professor Liz Buettner. The Director is responsible for the quality of research, its overall coherence and output, and the implementation of Faculty policy. More specifically, the ASH Director monitors the activities of the different research groups, considers funding applications, advises about vacancies, and reviews the progress of PhD projects. The ASH Director is a member of the Research Council of the Faculty that discusses research policy and ensures its implementation. In 2017, the ASH director was supported in all principal, practical, and budgetary matters by the Research School coordinator (Brigit van der Pas) and its office managers (Margreet Vermeulen and Afke Berger).

An interdisciplinary Advisory Board advises the Director on ASH strategic and operational matters (e.g., assessment procedures, the shortlisting of PhD candidates for Faculty- and NWO-funded doctoral positions, the selection of research groups and research areas, and the awarding of annual prizes). In 2017 it consisted of the following senior academics from different disciplines within ASH and a PhD researcher:

- Professor Lex Bosman
- Dr Maartje van Gelder
- Dr Helmer Helmers
- Professor Gerard Wiegers
- Dr Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz
- Martje aan de Kerk (PhD representative until September 2017)
- Arjan Nuijten (PhD representative since September 2017)

The ASH PhD representative represents the ASH PhD community on the PhD Council Board, the Graduate Study Committee, and the ASH Advisory Board. The PhD representative organises a meeting for the ASH PhD community twice a year to discuss topics relevant to PhD candidates.

ASH also has a confidential advisor for PhD candidates, Dr. Gemma Blok. In this role, she can help ASH members who encounter unacceptable behaviour from others and help deal with workplace conflicts.

ASH currently is home to 18 research groups (see the list in Appendix 1). Among their main responsibilities are establishing a research agenda; preparing research grant proposals; stimulating new research through reading groups, research presentations by group members and invited outside

speakers, and organizing workshops and symposia; and fostering regular exchanges between PhD candidates and more senior staff members. For a detailed overview of their profile and activities, please see ASH's website (ash.uva.nl). ASH members are kept up-to-date about developments and activities within the School through a twice-monthly newsletter, which aims to inform and connect different research groups and research areas.

Awards, grants, and honours

Although our Faculty continues to operate in a climate of financial difficulties, ASH is very proud of its ongoing impressive record of grant applications across all levels. Yet whether falling under the rubric of the NWO, European Commission, or other bodies, grants obviously remain dauntingly competitive and demand a great investment of our time, regardless of whether applications ultimately bear fruit. We remain grateful to all ASH researchers who undertaken this commitment and appreciate that their efforts mean that they move forward with new research project ideas that often involve important national and international collaborations, whether or not they are officially 'successful' in securing what often proves elusive financing.

In 2017 the following projects and members were able to secure external funding:

- NWO Vidi: Dr. Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz (€ 800.000)
Title: Managing multi-level conflicts in commercial cities in Northern Europe(C. 1350-1570)
- NWO Rubicon: Dr. Tineke Rooijakkers (€ 80.000)
Title: Tying the Roman Empire together: The appropriation of clavi in the Eastern Mediterranean
- NWO PhDs in the Humanities: Prof. dr. Lia van Gemert/Lucas van der Deijl (€ 150.000)
Title: Radicale geruchten
- NWO PhDs in the Humanities: Prof. dr. Wieger Velema/Mathijs Boom (€ 150.000)
Title: Mens en natuur aan de grenzen van de tijd, 1760-1860
- NIAS Fellowship: Prof. dr. Remco Raben (10 month fellowship)
Title: The Long Decolonisation of Indonesia
- NIAS Fellowship: Dr. Maartje van Gelder (5 month fellowship)
Title: Unrest in Venice
- NIAS Fellowship: Dr. Helmer Helmers (10 month fellowship)
Title: Public Diplomacy in Early Modern Europe: Dutch Print and International Relations, 1560-1648.
- Niels Stensen Fellowship: Dr. Ingrid de Zwarte (1 year postdoc at Oxford University)
- Marie Curie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship (Statens Museums for Kunst in Denmark): Dr. Angela Jager
Title: Netherlandish Paintings in Ledreborg Palace: A Multi-Disciplinary Research of circa 600 Paintings
- NWO Gravitation: OIKOS / Prof. dr. Caroline Kroon & prof. dr. Irene de Jong (M€ 18,8 – co-applicants)

- Title: Anchoring Innovation
- NWO Smart Culture Big Data: Prof. dr. Charles van den Heuvel & prof dr. Julia Noordergraaf
Title: Virtual Interiors as Interfaces for Big Historical Data Research
 - NWO Kiem Creative Industries: Dr Manon Parry (€ 18.000)
Title: 'Digital Disability Archive'
 - NWO Kiem Creative Industrie: Dr. Jonneke Bekkenkamp (€ 18.000)
Title: 'Storypix: Verhalen achter Bloemen'
 - NWO Internationalisation in the Humanities: Dr. Samuel Kruizinga (€62.000)
Title: Getting the Big Picture on Small States. Towards a New Research Agenda for Small State Studies, 1815-present day
 - EU H2020-SC6-ENG-GLOBALLY: Prof. dr. Elizabeth Buettner (M€ 2,4 – co-applicant)
Title: European Colonial Heritage Modalities in Entangled Cities (ECHOES)

In 2017 the following ASH members were able to secure internal funding:

- FGw PhD Finishing Fellowship: Petra van den Boomgaard
- FGw PhD Finishing Fellowship: Norbert Middelkoop
- FGw Cutting Edge Network Grant: Samuel Kruizinga
- FGw Cutting Edge Network Grant: Liz Buettner & Peter van Dam
- FGw Cutting Edge Network Grant: Kristine Johanson
- FGw Cutting Edge Network Grant: Manon Parry

ASH awards two annual prizes, the first for the best PhD thesis and the second for the most imaginative valorisation project. In 2017 the following ASH members received these awards during the annual meeting:

- *Valorisation award*

Djoeke van Netten for her role as guest curator of the exhibition 'The World according to Blaeu | Master Cartographer of the Dutch Golden Age', at the Maritime Museum, Amsterdam (Het Scheepvaartmuseum).

- *Award for Best PhD thesis*

Frans Camphuijsen and Rianne Hermans were co-winners of the 2016-2017 ASH dissertation award.

The award was presented to Frans Camphuijsen for his PhD dissertation *Scripting Justice. Legal Practice and Communication in the late Medieval law Courts of Utrecht, York and Paris*, which he carried out from 2011 until 2016 as a so-called docent promovendus (lecturer PhD candidate), under the supervision of Professor Guy Geltner.

The award was presented to Rianne Hermans for her PhD dissertation *Latin Cults through Roman Eyes. Myth, Memory and Cult Practice in the Alban Hills*, which she carried out from 2011 until 2016 under the supervision of Professor Emily Hemelrijk and Professor Marijke Gnade.

ASH PhD community

PhD candidates represent the core of our School. In 2017 ASH had 46 PhD researchers who were employed by the faculty and 58 registered self-funded PhD candidates ('buitenpromovendi'). In accordance with the Faculty's 'Rules and regulations PhD researchers', their progress is monitored throughout the course of their employment. The first formal evaluation of their progress takes place after 9 months by means of a pilot study. If the pilot is assessed positively, the employment contract is extended. Subsequently, PhD researchers have annual appraisals with the Research School Director and the supervisor(s). In 2017 the ASH director held all scheduled interviews herself.

ASH doctoral defenses

The following 16 PhD projects were completed in 2017 (in chronological order):

Valentina Covaci, GER / ASH (11 January 2017)

Between traditions: The Franciscans of Mount Sion and their Rituals (1330-1517).

Supervisor: prof. dr. Guy Geltner: co-supervisor: dr. Michele Campopiano

Merel Leeman, GER / ASH (13 January 2017)

Transatlantic Enlightenment. Peter Gay and the Drama of German History in the United States, 1930s-1970s.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Frits Boterman: co-supervisor: prof. dr. Volker Berghahn (Columbia University)

Frans Camphuijsen, GER / ASH (13 January 2017)

Scripting Justice. Legal Practice and Communication in the late Medieval law Courts of Utrecht, York and Paris.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Guy Geltner

Saskia Willigers, ACASA / ASH (24 January 2017)

Narrative Authority: From Epic to Drama.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Irene de Jong

Rianne Hermans, GER / ASH (2 February 2017)

Latin Cults through Roman Eyes. Myth, Memory and Cult Practice in the Alban Hills.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Emily Hemelrijk; co-supervisor: prof. dr. Marijke Gnade

Noël van Dooren, K&C / ASH (3 March 2017)

Drawing Time. The Representation of Change and Dynamics in Dutch Landscape Architectural Practice after 1985.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Erik de Jong; co-supervisor: prof. dr. Udo Weilacher (Technische Universität München)

Adrienne Zuiderweg, Neerlandistiek / ASH (16 June 2017)

Batavia Berijmd. Een geschiedenis van de compagniesliteratuur en een overzicht van de compagniesdichters in Batavia.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Michiel van Kempen; co-supervisor: prof. dr. Bert Paasman

Mike Zuber, GER / ASH (20 June 2017)

Spiritual Alchemy from the age of Jacob Boehme to Marry Anne Atwood, 1600-1900.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Wouter Hanegraaff; Co-supervisor: dr. Peter Forshaw

Marianne Ritsema van Eck, GER / ASH (28 June 2017)

Custodians of Sacres Space. Constructing the Franciscan Holy Land Through texts and sacri monti (ca. 1480-1650).

Supervisor: prof. dr. Guy Geltner; Co-supervisor: dr. Michele Campopiano (University of York)

Willem Flinterman, GER / ASH (7 July 2017)

The Cult of Qalāwūn. Waqf, Commemoration, and Dynasty in early Mamluk Cairo, ca. 1280-1340.

Supervisors: prof. dr. Guy Geltner, prof. dr. Maaïke van Berkel (Radboud Universiteit)

Geralda Helle, ACASA / ASH (4 October 2017)

Composition in Athenian black-figure vase-painting: The 'Chariot in profile' type scene.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Irene de Jong; Co-supervisor: prof. dr. Vladimir Stissi

Carel Crone, GER / ASH (13 October 2017)

Casus Imperii. Enige aspecten van de ondergang der Dubbelmonarchie 1867-1918.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Ton Nijhuis; co-supervisor: dr. Carlos Reijnen

Clemens Kemme, K&C / ASH (18 October 2017)

Mozart's Unfinished Mass in C Minor, K. 427 ('Great Mass'). History, Theory and Practice of its Completion.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Rokus de Groot; co-supervisor prof. dr. Manfred Hermann Schmid (Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen)

Maarten Hell, GER / ASH (3 November 2017)

De Amsterdamse herberg (1450-1800). Geestrijk centrum van het openbare leven.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Geert Janssen; co-supervisor: dr. Clé Lesger

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp, GER / ASH (23 November 2017)

Improving Pupils' Understanding of Historical Time in Primary School.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Carla van Boxtel; co-supervisor: dr. Anje Ros (Fontys Hogeschool)

Isabella van Eeghen, GER / ASH (20 December 2017)

The Western Allied Project to Denazify Third Reich Feature Film Stock.

Supervisor: prof. dr. Frits Boterman

New ASH PhD Candidates

ASH welcomed 7 new fully funded PhD candidates in 2017:

John MacMurphy (1-3-2017) – History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents

Jewish Alchemy. Interdisciplinary Esotericism & Laboratory Consciousness

Supervisor: Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff; co-supervisor: Dr. Peter Forshaw

Arend Elias Oostindiër (1-3-2017) – NWO Free Competition project Mario Damen

The multiplicity of territory in late medieval Brabant

Supervisor: Prof. Guy Geltner; Co-supervisor: Dr. Mario Damen

Bob Pierik (1-3-2017) – NWO Vidi project Danielle van den Heuvel

Gender and Urban Space in Amsterdam (1600-1850)

Supervisor: Prof. Geert Janssen; co-supervisor: Dr. Danielle van den Heuvel

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay (20-4-2017) – History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents

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

Supervisor: Prof. Wouter Hanegraaff; co-supervisor: Dr. Marco Pasi

Mathijs Boom (1-9-2017) – NWO PhDs in the Humanities

Charting Time. Nature and Culture in the History of Time, 1760-1860

Supervisor: Prof. Wyger Velema; co-supervisor: Prof. Erik Jorink

Sebastiaan Broere (1-9-2017) – NWO Free Competition project Remco Raben

The formation of an Indonesian postcolonial academia

Supervisor: Prof. Remco Raben

Lucas van der Deijl (1-10-2017) - NWO PhDs in the Humanities

Radical Rumours. A digital reconstruction of the dissemination and translation of Cartesianism and Spinozism in Dutch textual discourse (1640-1720)

Supervisors: Prof. Lia van Gemert, Prof. Antal van den Bosch

ASH welcomed 10 new self-funded PhD candidates in 2017:

Marianne Groep (01-02-17)

The appreciation of usable water in early modern towns and cities in Holland (1600-1750)

Supervisors: Prof. Geert Janssen, Prof. Guy Geltner

Benjamin Hirschfeld (01-02-17, co-funded PhD position with the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam)

A history of the use of anthropological knowledge by military intelligence

Supervisors: Prof. Ton Nijhuis, Prof. Liz Buettner

Pauline Onderwater (01-02-17)

Citizenship, government and society in the Netherlands during the First World War, 1900-1925

Supervisor: Prof. Liz Buetter; co-supervisor: Dr. Samuel Kruizinga

Natasja Hogen (15-03-17)

A new approach to comfort: Nineteenth-century innovations in the heating and ventilating of buildings

Supervisors: Prof. Lex Bosman, Prof. Gabri van Tussenbroek

Eldad Zion (15-03-17)

From the abstract to the concrete - Eretz Israel in the writings of Shadarim (1700-1882)

Supervisor: Prof. Irene Zwiep; co-supervisor: Dr. Y. Hagbi

Hicham Boutaleb (01-06-17)

Iberian Convivencia in Contemporary Historiography

Supervisor: Prof. Gerard Wiegers

Shumihiko Oki (01-09-17)

Konrad Witz and the Visuality in the Era of the Council of Basel

Supervisor: Prof. Hugo van der Velden; co-supervisor: Dr. Machteld Brüggem Israëls

Konstanze Schiemann (01-09-17)

Animal Hunts in Late Antiquity. Changes in Practices and Perceptions between Pagans and Christians in the East of the Roman Empire

Supervisor: Prof. Emily Hemelrijk; co-supervisor: Dr. Sofie Remijsen

Sophie van Ginneken (01-10-17)

The architectural perception and performance of Amsterdam as a tourist city 1838-1990

Supervisor: Prof. Lex Bosman; co-supervisor: Dr. Petra Brouwer

Wouter van Elburg (01-12-17, co-funded PhD position with the Stichting Hendrick de Keyser)

Wonen in Nederland – De (typologische) ontwikkeling van het Nederlandse woonhuis

Supervisors: Prof. Lex Bosman, Prof. Gabri van Tussenbroek

Research and valorisation

In 2017, ASH members published more than 175 books, book chapters, and peer-reviewed articles. Many of these were published with leading international presses or high-ranking refereed journals.

A full list of publications by ASH members can be found in the University of Amsterdam's Digital Academic Repository (DARE). This repository contains digital copies of many articles, books, book chapters, reports, dissertations and inaugural lectures: [**Publications by ASH members in UvA-DARE.**](#)

In line with tendencies in international scholarship and the requirements for external funding, ASH seeks to develop and stimulate the valorisation of research results. Many ASH researchers already have close connections with societal partners. ASH encourages them to make these partnerships more visible, to foster and broaden their agenda and, where possible, to formalise them.

ASH researchers contributed to a number of museum exhibitions and cultural activities related to them in 2017. Among others, Vincent Kuitenbrouwer provided input into the Rijksmuseum's *Goede Hoop: Zuid-Afrika en Nederland vanaf 1600* exhibit and contributed to its catalogue and NPR TV series; Elmer Kolfin co-curated *The Art of Laughter: Humour in the Golden Age* at the Frans Hals Museum and co-edited its accompanying catalogue; and Djoeke van Netten served as guest curator of the exhibition *Blaeu's wereld in kaart—The World according to Blaeu / Master Cartographer of the Dutch Golden Age* at the Scheepvaartmuseum, alongside which she made short films and wrote articles and blogs on its subject matter.

ASH is also a regular contributor to the Amsterdam debate centre SPUI 25 (please see <http://www.spui25.nl/programma/archief/archief.html>) and the educational programme of the Illustre School (<http://is.uva.nl>). Several ASH researchers enhanced our School's links with the state sector as well. Rimko van der Maar and Ruud van Dijk, for example, established the 'Werkgroep Historie en Internationale Politiek' that brings together historians, diplomats, and civil servants for discussions, debates, and conferences in a collaborative initiative with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A number of ASH scholars, including Niek Pas and Willem Melching, were regularly invited to speak publicly about their popular books and share their expertise with newspaper, radio, and television audiences, being highly valued for their ability to place contemporary political issues into historical perspective in an accessible fashion.

New researchers

The following new senior members were appointed in 2017:

- Prof. dr. Remieg Aerts, Dutch History
- Dr. Sofie Remijnsen, Ancient History

ASH funds

ASH seeks to support the activities of its members and groups through small grants. Each individual researcher, research group, and centre may apply for financial support. Applications are considered by the Director and are based on formal guidelines to allocate the funding in a clear and transparent manner. The results can take the form of events, publications, new collaborations (external partners, such as co-financers of future research), or research grant proposals. ASH also earmarks a significant portion of our annual budget for events organized by PhD students that will benefit their research, help expand their scholarly networks, and enrich their CVs.

In 2017 ASH granted 29 requests for funding of general ASH-related activities (see Appendix 2 for an overview). These activities involved conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, symposiums, and masterclasses for PhD candidates. ASH's three Research Centres each received a lump sum of

€2.500 in 2017. In all three cases the funding was used for a thematic seminar/lecture series (Golden Age Study Seminar Series, Lecture Series Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Urban History Seminar Series). Another € 2.000 was allocated to the History Research Seminar. The Vossius Center has its own separate budget.

Appendix 1: Overview of research groups and centres in 2017

Research centres:

- Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRSA)
- Amsterdam Centre for the Study of the Golden Age (ACSGA)
- Amsterdam Centre for Urban History (ACUH)
- Vossius Center for the History of Humanities and Science

Research groups:

- America in the World
- Boundaries and Identity Formation in the Premodern World
- Changing Identities. Art and architecture as bearer of meaning
- Classical (con)texts
- Cultural Memory, Rhetoric and Literary Discourse
- Early Modern News and Information Culture
- Emotion and Subjectivity, 1300 - 1900
- Historical Theatre Research: Text, Performance, and Production of Knowledge
- History and Philosophy of the Humanities
- History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents
- Medicine and Society
- Modern History
- Natura Artis Magistra
- Networks of the Dutch Republic
- Power and Society in the Later Middle Ages
- The Public and its Discontents
- Public Health in Premodern Cities
- Religious Dynamics and Cultural Diversity

Appendix 2: Overview of activities sponsored by ASH in 2017

<i>Activities supported by ASH in 2017</i>	<i>Date of activity</i>
Seminar series: ACSGA 'Golden Age Studies' (7 seminars)	2017
Seminar series: ACUH 'Urban History' (7 seminars)	2017
Lecture series: CMRSA 'Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies' (4 lectures)	2017
Seminar series: 'Annual history research seminar' (8 seminars)	2017
Seminar Series: 'Classical (con)texts' (2 seminars)	2017
Workshops: 'Globalizing Modern European Histories' research workshops (2 workshops)	2017
Workshop series: 'Emotion and Subjectivity, 1300-1900' (4 workshops)	2017
Symposium series: Religious Studies 'Current Issues' (2 symposiums)	2017
International conference: research group "Historical Theatre Research: Text, Performance, and Production of Knowledge "	26-28 January 2017
Expert meeting: Jewish Digital Humanities	February 2017
Masterclass: Material Culture History by Professor Ulinka Rublack	March 2017
Colloquium: 19th International Colloquium on Latin Linguistics, Munich	April 2017
Workshop: Crossing the Iron Curtain: Tourism and Travelling in the Cold War	April 2017
Symposium: De jurk van Texel	May 2017
Symposium: The Newspaper in the Golden Age	May 2017
Guest lecture: Dr Christopher Fletcher – English department lecture series	May 2017
Seminar: Keep in touch with the Dutch	June 2017
Conference: Madness in Civilization. Current research into the history of psychiatry in the Low Countries	June 2017
Conference: Modernist Studies Association Conference 19 " Modernism Now "	August 2017
Workshop: Connecting the Wireless World	August 2017
PhD weekend: ' Dutch-Caribbean Literature '	September 2017
Workshop: Shame and Citizenship in Democracy	October 2017
Guest lecture: Dr Amy Levin (extra History research seminar)	October 2017
Symposium: ' Amsterdam Symposium on the History of Food '	November 2017
Workshop: World Histories of Architecture. The Emergence of a New Genre in the Nineteenth Century	November 2017
Guest lecture: Dr Nir Arielli (Modern History Group)	November 2017
Symposium: Nooit gebouwde stad (Spui 25)	November 2017
PhD workshop: Republican Experiences in the Enlightenment (organised by and for PhD candidates)	December 2017
PhD workshop: Digital Tools for the Analysis of Historical Text Corpora (organised by and for PhD candidates)	December 2017