

Amsterdam School of Historical Studies

Annual Report 2015

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 ca. 30 research groups. 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.

ASH is 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.

This 2015 annual report offers a brief overview of developments within the School and lists the achievements of its members and research groups. For a detailed description of the School's organization and policy, please see the founding white paper of 2014.

ASH in 2015

2015 marked the transition of the Amsterdam School for Culture and History (ASCH) to the Amsterdam School of Historical Studies (ASH). This change of name also involved the transfer of several research groups to other Schools in the Faculty of Humanities, notably ASCA, ASHMS and ARTES.

More specifically, the change in size, composition and name followed from discussions within the Faculty, the ASCH Advisory Board, research group coordinators and many individual members during the academic year 2014-2015. From its foundation in August 2014, ASCH had been, by far, the largest school within the Faculty of Humanities, incorporating a sizeable number of scholars (over 250) and disciplines. Its broad profile (all scholarship that resonates with 'culture' and 'history') proved a strength but also a weakness. ASCH lacked a distinctive identity and its comprehensive research agenda overlapped with that of other, more focused Schools, which hampered their respective development. ASCH's size and involvement with more than 6 departments also posed limits to its ability to support its members and research groups effectively. This led, among other

things, to a lack of transparency during the annual OOTV (Research and Teaching planning) meetings, the review of research funding applications and the distribution of subsidies and PhD scholarships.

After consultations with the Advisory Board, the coordinators of several research groups and the directors of the other Schools (particularly ASCA, ASHMS and ARTES), it was decided to aim for a more balanced distribution of research groups among the different Schools and clarify ASCH's scholarly focus. Thus, a number of research groups engaged with Modern Art, Modern Literature, Conservation and Restauration and Heritage Studies have gradually moved to ASCA, ASHMS and ARTES respectively. Following this redistribution of groups, the Advisory Board suggested to rename the downsized ASCH to 'School of Historical Studies'. It was felt that the study of the human past, in its various guises, reflected better the interests of the School's members and its distinctiveness towards other Schools.

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.

The ASH management structure and the composition of its support team largely remained the same in 2015. The Academic Director was prof. dr. Geert Janssen. 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. In 2015 he sat in selection panels for various professorships and university lectureships. The ASH director is a member of the Research Council of the Faculty that discusses research policy and ensures its implementation. In 2015 the ASH director was assisted by an Executive Board. Its members were prof. dr. Irene Zwiép and dr. Arno Witte (until September 2015). He was also supported in all principal, practical and budgetary matters by the Research School coordinator (Brigit van der Pas) and the office manager (Charlotte Faber).

An interdisciplinary Advisory Board advises the director on ASH strategic and operational matters (e.g., assessment procedures, selection of research groups and research areas). In 2015 it consisted of the following senior academics from different disciplines within ASH and a PhD researcher: prof. dr. Lex Bosman, prof. dr. Liz Buettner, prof. dr. Mia Lerm-Hayes (until July 2015), prof. dr. Ellen Rutten (until July 2015), prof. dr. Henk van der Liet, prof. dr. Vladimir Stissi, prof. dr. Gerard Wiegers, dr. Maartje van Gelder (from August 2015) and Sanne Frequin (PhD representative, until July 2015), Janna Coomans (PhD representative, from August 2015).

ASH currently houses about 25 research groups (see the list in Appendix 1). Among their main responsibilities are establishing a research agenda, preparing research grant proposals and fostering regular exchanges between PhD candidates and more senior staff members. For a detailed overview

of their profile and activities, please see the website (ash.uva.nl). ASH members are kept up-to-date about developments and activities within the School through a monthly newsletter, which aims to inform and connect different research groups and research areas.

Awards, grants and honours

Despite financial setbacks in the Faculty, ASH was able to improve its record in terms of research grant applications, across all levels. ASH greatly values time and energy that its members and groups spent on these, often highly competitive grant schemes. It recognizes that many excellent proposals for funding may not receive funding, but can still serve as a catalyst of new research projects and international collaborations. Hence in our assessment of research, the quality of grant applications is leading, not their relative 'success' in terms of funding.

In 2015 the following projects and members were able to secure external funding:

- NWO Free Competition: James Kennedy (UvA, later UU)/Gemma Blok (UvA) - €750.000
- NWO Free Competition: Mario Damen - €530.000
- NWO Veni grant: Marlena Whiting - €250.000
- NWO PhDs in the Humanities: Nanouschka Wamelink / Gerard Wiegers - €166.000
- Niels Stensen Fellowship: Suze Zijlstra (1 year postdoc at a renowned university abroad)
- Van Gogh travel grant: Niek Pas - €3.330
- CENDARI Visiting Research Fellowship: Samuël Kruizinga - €15.000
- Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds: : Samuël Kruizinga - €20.000
- NWO Alfameerwaarde: Petra Brouwer - €18.000
- NWO Alfameerwaarde: Arie van Steensel - €18.000
- NIAS fellowship: Lex Bosman (5-month placement)

ASH awards two annual prizes for the best PhD thesis and the most imaginative valorisation project.

In 2015 the following ASH members received these awards during the annual meeting:

- Valorisation award: joint winners Gemma Blok and Ingrid de Zwart
Gemma Blok was selected for her work on two projects in the past year: an investigation commissioned by the GGD *Achter de Voordeur*, a history of public mental health in 20th century Amsterdam, and her new research project on the so-called 'heroin epidemic' in the Netherlands in the 70s and 80s. For the latter project she has set up an interactive website and blog, inviting respondents to contribute to her research, which has proven to be very successful. The jury applauded these initiatives, particularly because Blok not only valorizes and popularizes existing research, but also generates new research ideas inspired by input from the public.

Ingrid de Zwart was selected for her contributions to an exhibition on the Dutch food crisis in 1944-1946 at the Verzetsmuseum last year, which not only contributed to a record number of visitors to the museum, but also generated a lot of media attention. De Zwart was interviewed by several newspapers, radio and TV programmes. The jury was impressed by how she put her PhD research in the public spotlight in such a clear and engaging way.

- Award for Best PhD thesis: Jaap Cohen
Jaap Cohen received the award for his dissertation 'De onontkoombare afkomst van Eli d'Oliveira. Een Portugees-Joodse familiegeschiedenis' (also published by Querido; Amsterdam 2015). From 2009 until 2014 Cohen carried out his PhD research at the NIOD, under the supervision of Prof. Hans Blom and Prof. Evelien Gans and with the support of the UvA and Stichting Conto. The investigation comprises a history of Portuguese Jews (Sephardim) in the Netherlands, focusing on the history of the Jessurun d'Oliveira family. Cohen was praised for his in-depth archival research and sophisticated analysis, which covers a wide range of themes over a period of four centuries, and his writing skills.

The following ASH members received notable external recognition:

- Emily Hemelrijk: Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Gothenburg
- Irene de Jong: appointed member of KNAW
- Clé Lesger: Professor van Winter Prijs for his book *Het winkellandschap van Amsterdam*
- Geert Janssen: Gerald Strauss Prize for his book *The Dutch Revolt and Catholic Exile in Reformation Europe*
- Claire Weeda: Keetje Hodshon award for her PhD dissertation carried out at the UvA
- Niek van Sas: Royal distinction Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau
- Pepijn Lewis: Huygens-Descartes best MA prize

ASH PhD community

PhD candidates represent the core of our School. In 2015 ASH had over 65 PhD researchers who were employed by the faculty and 50 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 2015 the ASH director held all scheduled interviews himself.

Completed PhD projects in 2015:

- Johannes Verschoor – *Gist in de plooiën van de geschiedenis. De Nederlandse boeken in de bibliotheek van een vroegmoderne Kroatisch-Hongaarse edelman.* (20-1-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Lisa Kuitert; dr. Paul Dijstelberge
- Ineke Huijsman – *Scènes uit een huwelijk. Het leven van Béatrix de Cusance (1614-1663).* (6-2-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Henk van Nierop, prof. dr. Henk Nellen (Erasmus Universiteit)
- A.J.A. Heumakers – *De esthetische revolutie: Ontstaan en ontwikkeling van het moderne kunstbegrip in Verlichting en Romantiek.* (13-2-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. W. den Boer & prof. dr. B. Kempers
- Jacobien de Boer – *Gertrud Leistikow en de moderne, 'Duitsche' dans. Een biografie.* (31-3-2015)
Supervisor: prof. dr. Niek van Sas

- Marije Osnabrugge – *Netherlandish Immigrant Painters in Naples (1575-1654): Aert Mytens, Louis Finson, Abraham Vinck, Hendrick de Somer and Matthias Stom.* (7-4-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Eric Jan Sluijter; copromotor: dr. Arjan de Koomen
- Christine Miedema – *Vrede of Vrijheid? Dilemma's, dialoog en misverstanden tussen Nederlandse en West-Duitse linkse organisaties en de Poolse oppositie in de jaren tachtig.* (21-5-2015)
Supervisor: prof. dr. Ton Nijhuis
- Jaap Cohen – *De onontkoombare afkomst van Eli d'Oliveira. Een Portugees-Joodse familiegeschiedenis.* (27-5-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Hans Blom, prof. dr. Evelien Gans
- Suze Zijlstra – *Anglo-Dutch Suriname. Ethnic Interaction and Colonial Transition in the Caribbean, 1651-1682.* (10-6-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Henk van Nierop; copromotor: dr. Michiel van Groesen
- Simon Gabay – *L'Acteur au Moyen Âge: L'Histrion et ses avatars en Occident de saint Augustin à saint Thomas.* (28-9-2015)
Supervisor: prof.dr. I.M. van der Poel
- Kees-Jan van Klaveren – *Het onafhankelijkheidssyndroom: Een cultuurgeschiedenis van het naoorlogse Nederlandse zorgstelsel.* (30-9-2015)
Supervisor: prof. dr. J.C. Kennedy
- Miranda Bloem – *De Meesters van Zweder van Culemborg. Werkplaatspraktijken van een groep Noord-Nederlandse verluchters, ca 1415-1440.* (6-10-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Claudine Chavannes-Mazel; prof. dr. James Marrow (Princeton)
- Marrigje Paijmans – *Dichter bij de waarheid. Parrhesia en dramatisering in het werk van Joost van den Vondel.* (11-11-2015)
Supervisors: prof. dr. Lia van Gemert; dr. Frans Blom; prof. dr. Frans Willem Korsten (Leiden)

ASH welcomed three new fully funded PhD candidates:

- Nanouschka Wamelink, NWO PhDs in the Humanities
Fasting in the public eye: medieval ideas about saintly self-starvation and spectatorship
Supervisors: Gerard Wiegers, Jacqueline Borsje
- Tiffany Bousard, NWO Vidi project Michiel van Groesen (transferred to Leiden in September 2015)
- Esther Baakman, NWO Vidi project Michiel van Groesen (transferred to Leiden in September 2015)

ASH welcomed 10 new external PhD candidates:

- Huib Iserief – *The Representation of Jews and Judaism in Art of the Late Medieval Low Countries. Christian and Jewish Identities Communicated through Art (1300-1550)*
Supervisors: prof. Hugo van der Velden, dr. Wendelien van Welie-Vink
- Niels Mathijssen – *Conflicting Images: Televised Representations and the Legacy of the Dutch-Indonesian Decolonisation War*
Supervisors: prof. Peter Romijn, prof. Huub Wijffjes

- Nienke Altena – *Oorlog in de klas. Een geschiedenis van het Nederlandse middelbaar onderwijs en zijn functioneren onder nationaalsocialistische druk tijdens de Duitse bezetting.*
Supervisors: prof. Peter Romijn, dr. Bram Mellink
- Milan van Manen – *The Art of Pieter Pietersz. Painting on the eve of the Dutch Golden Age*
Supervisors: prof. Hugo van der Velden, dr. Wendelien van Welie-Vink, dr. Matthias Ubl (Rijksmuseum)
- Jan Willem Bruins – *Van natuurdrijf tot geestdrijf. Oskar Pfisters psychoanalytische godsdienstpsychologie*
Supervisors: prof. J.A. van Belzen, dr. U. Popp-Baier
- George Muishout – *Muslims and Palliative Care*
Supervisors: prof. Gerard Wiegers, prof. Hanneke van Laarhoven
- Rinze Nieuwenhuis – *Leven in verwachting van de komst van Christus. Onderzoek naar de wijze waarop over Paulus' teksten over de (weder)komst van Christus in 1 Tessalonicenzen gepreekt wordt*
Supervisors: prof. Jan Willem van Henten, prof. F.G. Immink (PThU)
- Avraham Roos – *English Translations of the Haggadah from 1770-Now. An Algorithmically Assisted Cultural-Historical Study*
Supervisors: prof. Rens Bod, dr. Tom Cheesman (Swansea)
- Tijn van Beurden – *De Curaçaose offshore: Opkomst, bloei en neergang van een internationaal financieel centrum (Curaçao as an offshore financial center: its rise, flourishing and decline)*
Supervisors: prof. Joost Jonker, dr. J. Th. Lindblad (Leiden University)
- Dani Evers – *Halacha and emotion: a study in the modernization of Jewish religious jurisprudence*
Supervisors: prof. Irene Zwiep, prof. Emile Schrijver

Research and valorisation

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. As a first step in developing this strategy, some examples of successful partnerships between ASH researchers and external parties were added to the ASH website. Furthermore, a joint ASH valorisation event, hosted together with Innovation Exchange Amsterdam (IXA), took place on 15 January 2015. In addition, two ASH researchers received the annual valorisation award – see above. ASH researchers Petra Brouwer and Arie van Steensel were also both successful in securing funding in the NWO Alfa Meerwaarde programme, which facilitates public-private partnerships in the area of humanities research. A number of ASH scholars, including Frans Grijzenhout, Jeroen van Zanten, Niek Pas and Lucinda Dirven received substantial media coverage of their research projects.

Leave of researchers and acquisition

A relatively large number of ASH members left the University this year to take up prestigious posts elsewhere. Notably, three lecturers became professors at the University of Nijmegen and Leiden. The professor of Dutch History was appointed Dean of Utrecht University College.

Their leave also meant a significant loss of expertise and skill – Michiel van Groesen, Jan Hein Furnée, Maaïke van Berkel and James Kennedy had been highly visible within ASH and coordinated several research groups. We were pleased that, despite the difficult financial situation, the Faculty has allowed us to refill the majority of these vacancies over the course of 2016. We envision that the hiring of up to 5 new tenured researchers will strengthen and re-energize our research agenda in the next few years.

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 way. Conditions for funding are that researchers also seek external (i.e. non-ASH) co-funding and that requests make clear which concrete results can be expected. These predicted results can take the form of publications, but also new collaborations (external partners, co-financers of future research) or research grant proposals.

In 2015 ASH granted 21 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 received a lump sum of €2.500 in 2015. 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 €2.500 was allocated to the History Research Seminar.

Appendix 1: Overview of research groups and centres in 2015

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)

Research groups:

- America in the World
- Boundaries and Identity Formation in the Premodern World
- Canonization in the Arts
- Changing Identities. Art and architecture as bearer of meaning
- Classical (con)texts
- Classical Receptions
- Cultural Memory, Rhetoric and Literary Discourse
- Early Modern News and Information Culture
- Emotion and Subjectivity, 1300 - 1900
- Geschiedschrijving Universiteit
- Globalisation and Identity Formation in Historical Context
- Historical Theatre Research: Text, Performance, and Production of Knowledge
- History and Philosophy of the Humanities
- Medicine and Society
- Modern History
- Modernism and Avant-Garde Studies
- Moralising the global marketplace
- Natura Artis Magistra
- Networks of the Dutch Republic
- Public Health in Premodern Cities
- Religious Dynamics and Cultural Diversity
- Society and Conflict
- The Dutch Golden Age: Transfer and Transformation
- The Postmodern and the Late Postmodern Dante
- The Public and its Discontents
- The Republic of Letters

Appendix 2: Overview of applications awarded ASH funding in 2015

<i>Activities supported by ASH in 2015</i>	<i>Date of activity</i>
Lecture series: 'The Dynamics of a Textual Past' by Research group 'Cultural Memory, Rhetoric, and Literary Discourse'	2014-2015
Seminar series: ACSGA 'Golden Age Studies' (7 seminars)	2015
Seminar series: ACUH 'Urban History' (7 seminars)	2015
Lecture series: CMRSA 'Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies' (8 lectures)	2015
Seminar series: 'Annual history research seminar' (8 seminars)	2015
Lecture series: Amsterdam Virgil Lectures	2015
Conference: 'Popular political protest in Renaissance and Early Modern Venice'	Feb 2015
Workshop: 'Text, Performance, and Production of Knowledge' by the Research group 'Historical Theatre Research'	March 2015
PhD Masterclass: 'Impact of Empire'	May 2015
Golden Age Annual Lecture: Gary Schwartz – 'A pregnant past: the Dutch seventeenth century in the global twenty-first'	May 2015
Workshop at NIAS: 'Digitizing Visual Memories in Architecture: Rome and Amsterdam'	June 2015
Conference: 'Sporterfgoed in internationaal perspectief'	June 2015
Master class: with prof. dr. Regina Grafe	June 2015
Symposium: 'Waar zijn wij mee bezig?'	June 2015
Conference: 'The First Amsterdam Comics Conference: Comics Interaction'	July 2015
Conference: 'The 3-G Network Celebrates the Guyanas 2015-2016. The PanGuyanese Highway: Cayenne-Georgetown-Paramaribo'	Oct 2015
PhD weekend: 'Caribbean Literature'	Oct 2015
Symposium: 'Van oude orde naar moderniteit? De toekomst van de Nederlandse Sattelzeit 1750-1850'	Oct 2015
Conference: 'Kalla Joodse Spiritualiteit'	Nov 2015