

Amsterdam School of Historical Studies

Annual Report 2018

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 2018 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 2018

Much of 2018 was devoted to extensive preparations for the external 'Visitatie' that involved compiling a detailed written 'Self-Evaluation' and that culminated in the external visit by an international review panel in mid-December. Our diverse activities between our founding in September 2014 and the end of 2017 were taken into consideration.

The final report of the committee (received in the spring of 2019) is testament to the extremely high calibre of ASH's work. Like other research schools within our Faculty, we were evaluated in three areas: a) Research quality; b) Relevance to society; and c) Viability. The possible scores achievable were 1) excellent; 2) very good; 3) good; and 4) unsatisfactory.

ASH was judged as:

- Research quality: excellent (1)
- Relevance to society: very good (2)
- Viability: excellent (1)

This places ASH as one of the three top-rated schools within the Faculty of Humanities, with no school having received all (1)s. This tremendous result stems from the many and varied internationally- and nationally-respected activities of a large proportion of our researchers, whether they be doctoral students just starting their careers, senior professors, or the many in between. This success is very much a collective achievement in which the entire school can take immense pride.

In the coming years, ASH will take the committee’s suggestions on board in consultation with the Faculty of Humanities. Among other things, we will continue to strive towards further sharpening our overall profile, ensuring the viability of ASH’s research centres and research groups, and contemplating the most effective ‘valorisation’/societal relevance strategies in ways that both respond to external opportunities that present themselves as well as proactively help to initiate new societal engagements from within. Moreover, as before, we will strive to maintain our excellent track record in publications, research grants, and attracting talented doctoral candidates who will be assisted in completing their projects successfully in a timely fashion.

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 2018, the ASH director was supported in all principal, practical, and budgetary matters by the Research School coordinator Brigit van der Pas (until September 2018) and later Simon Speksnijder (from September onwards) together with its office manager, Margreet Vermeulen.

An interdisciplinary Advisory Board advises the Director on ASH strategic and operational matters (e.g., assessment procedures, the shortlisting of PhD candidates for NWO-funded doctoral positions, the selection of research groups and research areas, and the awarding of annual prizes). In 2018 the Advisory Board consisted of the following senior academics from different disciplines within ASH and a PhD researcher:

- Professor Lex Bosman
- Dr Maartje van Gelder (until November 2018)

- Dr Helmer Helmers
- Professor Manon Parry (from November 2018 onwards)
- Dr Sofie Remijnsen (from November 2018 onwards)
- Professor Gerard Wiegers
- Dr Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz (until November 2018)
- Arjan Nuijten (PhD representative)

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 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 Research Council, 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 2018 the following projects and members were able to secure external funding:

- NWO VICI: Prof. Geert Jansen (€1.500.000)
Title: *The Invention of the Refugee in Early Modern Europe*
- NWO PhDs in the Humanities: dr. Danielle van den Heuvel/Antonia Weiss (€150.000)
Title: *Crafting Nature, Cultivating Gender: Gender and Urban Nature in Berlin and Amsterdam during the long 18th century*
- NWO Veni: dr. Marleen Termeer (€250.000)
Title: *Coining Roman rule? The emergence of coinage as money in the Roman world*
- NWO Internationalisation in the Humanities: prof. Geertje Mak (€40.000)
Title: *Colonised children*
- KNAW Fonds Staatsman Thorbecke: Prof. Remieg Aerts (€118.000)
Title: *Over het hedendaags burgerschap. De herijking van een Thorbeckiaans concept*

- Marie Curie Skłodowska-Curie International Training Network: Prof. Gerard Wiegers (co-applicant; €265.000 for UvA)
Title: *Mediating Islam in the Digital Age. Present issues and past experiences of technological revolutions*
- ERC Synergy Grant: Prof. Gerard Wiegers (co-applicant; €547.170)
Title: *The European Qur'an*
- COST Action: Prof. Gerard Wiegers (co-applicant; no specified amount for UvA)
Title: *Islamic Legacy: Narratives East, West, South, North of the Mediterranean (1350-1750)*

In 2018 the following ASH members were able to secure internal funding:

- FGw RIS fund grant: Martijn Icks
- FGw Aspasia fund grant: Sofie Remijnsen
- FGw Aspasia fund grant: Judith Noorman
- FGw Aspasia fund grant: Kristine Johanson

ASH awards two annual prizes, the first for the best PhD thesis and the second for the best valorisation project undertaken by (an) ASH-member(s). In 2018 the following ASH members received these awards during the annual meeting:

- *Valorisation award*

The joint prizewinners of the ASH Valorisation Award 2017-2018 were *Over de Muur* and Josephine van den Bent. Josephine van den Bent was awarded the prize for her role as editor-in-chief of *ZemZem*, a Dutch language magazine on the Middle East, North Africa, and Islam, and for her role as president of the board of the Zenobia Foundation that promotes the study of East-West relations. In these capacities she organized a very successful public event *Jeruzalem van Eden tot Heden*, actively participated in a series of public debates, and led excursions in places such as Cairo.

The group of founders of the weblog *Over de Muur* (which includes numerous members of ASH) was awarded the prize for publishing no less than 59 articles on History in connection with current affairs and reaching over 37,000 individual visitors within the space of a year. Many of these publications were cross-posted. The team has also started giving workshops to students and PhD researchers on how best to write for a wide audience.

- *Award for Best PhD thesis*

The winner of the ASH dissertation award 2017-2018 was Ingrid de Zwarte (History) for her PhD dissertation *The Hunger Winter: Fighting Famine in the Occupied Netherlands, 1944-45*, which she carried out from 2013 until 2017 under the supervision of Prof. dr. Peter Romijn. She also received a Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Grant for writing a Dutch-language book on the Hunger Winter, which was published by Prometheus in the spring of 2019.

ASH PhD community

PhD candidates represent the core of our School. In 2018 ASH had c. 60 PhD researchers (with their numbers fluctuating slightly throughout the year) who were employed by the faculty and about c. 70

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).

ASH doctoral defenses

The following 12 PhD projects were completed in 2018 (in chronological order):

Ingrid de Zwarte (23 February 2018)

The hunger winter. Fighting famine in the occupied Netherlands, 1944-45.

promotor: prof. dr. Peter Romijn; copromotor: dr. Ralf Futselaar (NIOD-KNAW)

Rinze Nieuwenhuis (23 May 2018)

Leven in verwachting van de komst van Christus. Een onderzoek naar de uitleg en het gebruik van Paulus' teksten over de (weder)komst van Christus in 1 Tessalonicenzen in preken.

promotores: prof. dr. Jan Willem van Henten, prof. dr. Gerrit Immink (Protestantse Theologische Universiteit)

Bert Westera (24 May 2018)

Met list en vlijt. Koningen & kooplieden en de kanonnenhandel tijdens de Republiek.

promotor: prof. dr. Henk van Nierop; copromotor dr. Clé Lesger

Janna Coomans (8 June 2018)

In Pursuit of a Healthy City. Sanitation and the Common Good in the Late Medieval Low Counties.

promotor: prof. dr. Guy Geltner

Yvonne Vermijn (20 June 2018)

« De quoy jusqu'a mille ans bien parlé en sera ». *La réception de la Chanson de Bertrand du Guesclin entre 1380 et 1618.*

promotores: dr. Jelle Koopmans, prof. dr. Ieme van der Poel

Alberto Feenstra (22 June 2018)

Between shared and conflicting interests. The political economy of the markets for public debt in the Dutch Republic, 1600-1795.

promotor: prof. dr. Joost Jonker; copromotor: prof. dr. Marjolein 't Hart (VU)

Tijn van Beurden (28 juni 2018)

De Curaçaose offshore. Oorzaken van ontstaan, groei en neergang van een belastingparadijs, 1951-2013.

promotor: prof. dr. Joost Jonker; copromotor: prof. dr. Thomas Lindblad (Leiden)

Lisa Kattenberg (4 juli 2018)

The Power of Necessity. Reason of state in the Spanish Monarchy, ca. 1590-1650. promotor: prof. dr. Wyger Velema; copromotor: dr. Maartje van Gelder

Rens Smid (11 september 2018)

Stadsuitbreiding en Volkswoningbouw in private handen | Amsterdam 1877-1940. Promotor: prof. dr. A.F.W. Bosman; copromotor: J. Abrahamse

Bas van Velzen (26 september 2018)

The Universe between Felt and Wire: a New Look into the Typology of Western Made Paper.
promotor: Prof. J. Wadum, copromotor: Dr H.J. Porck

Roy de Ruiter (24 oktober 2018)

BREUKLIJN 1989. Continuïteit en verandering in het Nederlandse defensiebeleid 1989-1993.
promotoren: prof. dr. H. Amersfoort, prof. dr. W. Klinkert

Theo Gerritse (24 oktober 2018)

Rauter. Himmlers vuist in Nederland. promotoren: prof. dr. P. Romijn, prof. dr. N. Adler

New ASH PhD Candidates

ASH welcomed 4 new fully funded PhD candidates in 2018:

Anique Hamelink (1-5-2018)

Dress, gender and identity in the northern and western provinces of the Roman Empire
Supervisor: Prof. Emily Hemelrijk. Co-supervisors: Prof. Olivier Hekster (Nijmegen) & dr. Ursula Rothe (Open University, UK)

Lola Digard (1-9-2018)

Caring for Corpses
Supervisor: Prof. Guy Geltner; co-supervisor: Dr. Claire Weeda

Christian Manger (1-9-2018)

Managing multi-level conflicts in late Medieval commercial cities in Northern Europe (c. 1350-1570)
Supervisors: Dr. Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz and Prof. Guy Geltner (promotor)

Ester Zoomer (1-9-2018)

Economic diplomats: Hansards in Bruges, Antwerp and London (c.1350-1570)
Supervisors: Dr. Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz and Prof. Guy Geltner (promotor)

ASH welcomed 7 new self-funded PhD candidates in 2018:

Birgit Dukers (1-3-2018)

Medieval town houses along the Meuse river in the present province of Limburg, the Netherlands
Supervisors: Prof. Gabri Tussenbroek, prof. D. de Vries (Leiden)

Annemiek Houwen (1-5-2018)

Beeldvorming en historisch redeneren, het nationale verleden in de bovenbouw van het voortgezet onderwijs

Supervisor: Prof. Carla van Boxtel. Co-supervisor: Dr. P. Holthuis (RUG).

John van Geffen (1-7-2018)

Curacaose architectuur in een mondiaal perspectief (1654-1834), typologie, identiteit en representatie

Supervisor: Prof. Lex Bosman

Lisa Koks (1-8-2018)

The 'white nigger' in action: emotional mobilization and political symbols in independence movements in Québec (1963-1975) and Northern Ireland (1969-1997).

Supervisor: Prof. Liz Buettner. Co-supervisor: Dr. Natalie Scholz

Weixuan Li (1-9-2018)

Artists and the Creative Urban Space: Understanding the artist's location choices in Golden Age Amsterdam

Supervisors: Prof. Charles van den Heuvel, Prof. Julia Noordegraaf

Kwasi Koorndijk (1-11-2018)

Sranan en identiteitsbehoud in Nederland

Supervisors: Prof. Michiel van Kempen, Prof. Pieter Muysken (Nijmegen)

Tigran Martirosyan (15-11-2018)

A History of the First World War's Caucasus Campaign, 1914-1918

Supervisor: Prof. Wim Klinkert. Co-supervisor: Samuël Kruizinga

Research and valorisation

In 2018, ASH members wrote or contributed to over 200 academic publications (including monographs, articles, book chapters, edited volumes) and over 100 professional (e.g. reviews) and popular publications. Many of these were published with leading international presses or high-ranking journals; over 150 publications were peer-reviewed. 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.

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 2018. Among others, Tim Verlaan gave the annual [Enneüs Heermalezing](#), is involved in the

collective [Failed Architecture](#), advises the Gemeente Amsterdam on post-war architecture, frequently commented on urban history in the media, and more; Lia van Gemert (with Jeroen Jansen and others outside ASH) was instrumental in organising activities for the '[Brederode Year](#)', including the public [lecture](#) in the Aula of the UvA by René Stipriaan; Manon Parry set up a [website](#) on disability history and organised several activities for the '[Global Village](#)' that was part of the International AIDS Society annual conference 2018; and PhD candidate Arjan Nuijten organised a [public symposium](#) in Paradiso.

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 members were appointed in 2018:

- Csilla Ariese, postdoc in the Horizon 2020-project *European Colonial Heritage Modalities in Entangled Cities* (ECHOES), led – at the UvA – by prof. Elizabeth Buettner.
- Janna Coomans, postdoc in the ERC-project *Healthscaping Urban Europe: bio-power, space and society, 1200-1500*, led by Prof. Guy Geltner.
- Kit Morrell, postdoc in the NWO Zwaartekracht-project *Anchoring Innovation* (awarded to the national research school in Classical Studies OIKOS).
- Alexandra Oanca, postdoc in the *ECHOES-project*.
- Claire Weeda, postdoc in the ERC-project *Healthscaping Urban Europe*.
- Marie Yasunaga, postdoc in the NWO VIDI-project *The freedom of the streets: gender and urban space in Eurasia 1600-1850*, led by dr. Danielle van den Heuvel.
- Taylor Zaneri, postdoc in the ERC-project *Healthscaping Urban Europe*.

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 2018 ASH granted over 20 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 2018. 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 2018

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 2018

<i>Activities supported by ASH in 2018</i>	<i>Date of activity</i>
Seminar series: ACSGA 'Golden Age Studies' (5 seminars)	
Seminar series: ACUH 'Urban History' (7 seminars)	
Lecture series: CMRSA 'Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies'	
Seminar series: 'Annual history research seminar' (8 seminars)	
Seminar Series: Modern History Research Group (5 seminars)	
Seminar Series: 'Classical (con)texts' (2 seminars)	
Seminar Series: 'Ancient History Research Seminar' (2 seminars)	
Symposium series: Religious Studies 'Current Issues' (2 symposiums)	
Translation costs for 'Een telkens nieuwe Oudheid' by David Rijser, to be published by CUP in 2019/2020.	
Book launch: Anticorruption from Antiquity to the Modern Era	January 2018
Knowledge sharing event: Dutch Maritime Museum and UvA Faculty of Humanities	January 2018
Lecture series: VOX-POP for National Book Week (Nationale Boekenweek)	March 2018
Workshop: Histories of Islam in the Netherlands and Flanders until 1955	April 2018
Conference: National Association of Professors of Hebrew annual conference 2018	June 2018
PhD workshop: Convivencia Debates: Issues and Methods in the Study of the History of interreligious contact in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia (organised by and for PhD candidates)	June 2018
PhD workshop: Early Modern Mobilities Summer Workshops (organised by and for PhD candidates)	June 2018
Lecture: Golden Age Lecture 2018: Shakespeare, Bredero, Rembrandt. Theatre of passion in the seventeenth century	September 2019
PhD weekend: Nederlands-Caraïbische letteren	September 2018
Workshop: Big data and Art Histories	October 2018
Symposium: 'Amsterdam Symposium on the History of Food'	November 2018
Lecture: The extremist and the moderate: a history of the war on terror, 1543-1918	December 2018
Conference: The Iranian revolution as world event	December 2018