

SPRING 2010

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- *Institutes, NIAS and Wim* ■ *Heaven on Earth in Wassenaar*
- *Ingenio Atque Amicitia: 1001 Words for NIAS* ■ *NIAS, A Little 'Republic of Ideas'?* ■ *NIAS – a State of Mind* ■ *Wassenaar, Princeton, Berlin: Some Comparisons* ■ *Wim Blockmans and NIAS: Some Reminiscences*
- *Crossing Disciplines* ■ *On NIAS, New Thinking, and Wim Blockmans*

NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE  
FOR ADVANCED STUDY  
IN THE HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



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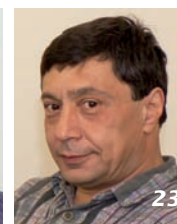
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Academy of Arts and Sciences*

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## President's Note

Life is very fast-paced these days; everyone is in a hurry, and there is no time for deep thought. As a distinguished historian of the Middle Ages, Wim Blockmans is well aware that this observation is as old as humanity itself. There never seems to be enough time to reflect on life itself – that is the only certitude. At the same time, the cure is almost as old as the affliction: scholarship, preferably at a dedicated institution, preferably in good company, and preferably under the gentle guidance of an experienced and wise hand.

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences is proud that one of its treasures, NIAS, can offer scholars and scientists from around the world such a stimulating environment. And it is equally proud that for the past eight years, this institution has been in the capable hands of Wim Blockmans.

NIAS plays a special role in the Dutch scientific landscape: it is a counterweight to everyday pressures, offering a fine balance between engagement and reflection. It is often the case that our professional lives are defined by what remains if we remove all the short-term obligations and requirements. At NIAS, this logic is reversed: scholarship is put centre stage. NIAS allows its fellows to choose a new point of view, slightly out-of-plane, to view things from an inspiring perspective. It is a place where they can concentrate on writing the book that was forever in the back of their minds, or arrange a bouquet of experts and disciplines that otherwise would have never met. It is, so to speak, an institute for the protection of unborn projects.

NIAS is a special place that can support, give, and lead; but to guide such an institution successfully requires a special person who can



also support, give, and lead. Wim Blockmans has been such a special person. Under his leadership, NIAS has blossomed and become even more inclusive, for example by collaborating with the Lorentz Center at Leiden University to encourage interaction with the natural sciences.

Philosophers tell us that desire and duty must coincide before we can achieve true happiness. Ideally, the character of an academic institution and its leader should also coincide. Both are very rare phenomena, but the latter can be said to be true of NIAS and its rector. We should all be grateful for this.

**Robbert Dijkgraaf**

*President of Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*

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## Director's Note

Normally, this space is devoted to the esteemed reflections of the Rector. This time it's not the rector reflecting on intriguing aspects of science and culture as facilitated by NIAS, but the scientific director of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), looking back on an eight year period during which Wim Blockmans governed NIAS. A sort of friendly, textual *coup d'état* that would not have been necessary, had Wim not announced his retirement.

NIAS is a remarkable institute, hidden in a quasi-rural Dutch landscape. The dunes within walking distance, rabbits and roes in the garden. At the same time it is an institute at the crossroads of different disciplines in the humanities, an institute where the word "Science" is written with a capital "S", where culture is not an elitist word but simply part of the atmosphere, and where debate is stimulated as the powerful engine of reason.

Wim Blockmans was born in 1945 in Antwerp, equipped with a gentlemanly style which is increasingly rarely found in the North. Politeness combined with a fine touch of aloofness reflected in a hardly observed smile that always has some shimmer of irony.

He has been the rector and the face of NIAS since 1 September 2002. He became rector just two days before the Nikkei stock average fell 3.2 % to 9,217.04, an 18 year low. It was also the year in which Bruges was the cultural capital of Europe. There is probably no relationship between these events.

During the eight Blockmanian years, much has changed at NIAS. New events were started that formed the impetus for innovative discussions. Think of the closer relationship

between NIAS and The Hague. The KB Fellowships that started in 2004 are a clear example of such cooperation, in this case between NIAS and the National Library of the Netherlands. But think also of the Spinoza Fellowship that has its origins in a cooperation between NIAS, The Hague, Leiden University and Radio Netherlands Worldwide. Richard Goldstone, the former prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, was the first Spinoza Fellow to visit NIAS in 2009.

Although deeply embedded in the humanities, Wim Blockmans always had an eye for progress, which he thought to be crucial for further development. Even the relationship between advanced technology and the humanities is not a subject alien to Blockmans. Indeed as early as 2001 in *Forum 6*, he defended the introduction of information technology in the faculty of arts, at a time when almost everyone saw this as a threat to the humanities. In February 2010, his institute hosted an important workshop on Computational Humanities. In the NIAS building, the foundation was laid for a KNAW programme that will stimulate the development and use of advanced information technology. Blockmans was not only a distinguished host, but he also participated with dedication in the discussions.

In 2010 a period has come to an end, a period in which many old clocks were re-set and new ones started ticking. What the future will bring is anyone's guess, but for the time being I would like to conclude with: thank you Wim!

**Theo Mulder**

*Director of Research of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*



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## NIAS News

### DLF Award for Richard Gill

On Monday 22 March 2010, Richard Gill was presented with the second Distinguished Lorentz Fellowship (DLF) Award by Alexander Rinnooy Kan, Chair of the Lorentz Advisory Board.



The DLF award includes a financial prize, a fellowship at NIAS and the organisation of an inter-disciplinary workshop at the Lorentz Center.

During his fellowship, Professor Gill will work on further developing forensic statistics together with both other scientists and, in particular, with lawyers. Apart from the traditional use of statistics in court cases, he will carry out research on the use of 'Bayes nets', a theoretical aid in helping unravel the chance elements of coincidence, correlation and causality. The Bayes nets is also a tool with which various, and possibly conflicting, pieces of evidence can be either combined and/or judged against each other. Finally, Professor Gill will examine the way in which scientists communicate their insights to lawyers and others.

Professor Gill calls statistics "the most inter-disciplinary of all disciplines". Forensic statistics by nature requires inter-disciplinary cooperation far beyond the traditional experimental and observational sciences. In his capacity as Distinguished Lorentz Fellow,

Professor Gill will use this approach to strengthen the responsible use of statistics in court cases, such as the recent case of Lucia de B. in the Netherlands. Richard Gill truly works with the principle of the Distinguished Lorentz Fellowship: reaching across scientific boundaries.

### László Andor, Magyar Fellow 2001/02, is the new European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Former Magyar Fellow, László Andor, was appointed the new European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion on 10 February 2010. The Hungarian Economist stayed at NIAS in the academic year 2001/02.

In his new function he will have to deal with the effects of the financial crisis: *"Tackling the economic and social consequences of the crisis must be Europe's top priority. We need to find a balanced way out of the current turmoil and help get people back into work. This cannot become the lost decade."*

Perhaps the cultural theory of the economy that Andor started to develop at NIAS can help in the goals that he and his staff set in his new role as European Commissioner.

### UN Report on Gaza by Spinoza Fellow Richard Goldstone, endorsed by European Parliament

After intensive lobbying, the European Parliament endorsed the Goldstone report on 10 March 2010. This report was the outcome of the UN's official investigation into the bombardment of the Gaza Strip in January

2009. The investigators, led by Spinoza Fellow 2009 Richard Goldstone, reported that war crimes were committed by both Israeli and Hamas troops.

Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union, called on Member States to implement the recommendations made by the Goldstone report. In the weeks before the vote there was heavy lobbying within the Parliament against this resolution backing the Goldstone Report. But on 10 March, the resolution was nevertheless approved.

**Henk Nellen, NIAS Fellow 2004/05 recipient of the Henriëtte de Beaufort Prize of the Society of Dutch Literature**



On 10 March 2010, the Society of Dutch Literature granted the Henriëtte de Beaufort Prize 2010 to Henk Nellen for his biography of Hugo Grotius. The prize is granted each year to a Dutch or Flemish author for a biography or autobiography written and published in Dutch. The choice of the Commission for the nomination of the book by Henk Nellen, *Hugo de Groot. A life in struggle for peace 1583-1645*, was based on several reasons, including the following on the website of the Dutch Society of Literature:

*"The author has thoroughly researched his subject, which took him deeply into the intellectual life of Europe in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The main character, Hugo de Groot, manifested himself in many areas: in*

*politics, diplomacy, development of law and theology. Henk Nellen followed him on various topics to such a degree that he could describe and analyze the intellectual force of Grotius in detail."*

Henk Nellen worked on this biography of Grotius during his year at NIAS.

**Anna-Maria Brandstetter, NIAS Fellow 2009/10 gave the sixth Ortelius lecture in Antwerp**



On 1 April, Anna-Maria Brandstetter, current NIAS Fellow, gave the annual Ortelius Lecture in Antwerp. The Ortelius Lecture is a joint initiative of NIAS and the University of Antwerp. The series of lectures, named after the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Antwerp cartographer Abraham Ortelius, was set up to further Dutch-Flemish cooperation in the humanities and social sciences. The lecture is delivered each year by a specially selected NIAS Fellow and is intended for academics from both the Netherlands and Flanders.

The title of Anna-Maria Brandstetter's lecture was "Contested Pasts and the Politics of Remembrance in Post-Genocide Rwanda". In her talk Anna-Maria Brandstetter explored the ways in which the post-genocide government is seeking to shape the collective memory in Rwanda. She focused on the memorial sites and the disagreements that have emerged around practices of commemorating the dead.

## Institutes, NIAS and Wim

by Peter Goddard

*Peter Goddard has been the Director of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, New Jersey, since January 2004. He is a mathematical physicist and distinguished for his contributions in the areas of string theory and conformal field theory. IAS and NIAS are both members of an informal consortium of nine institutes for advanced study, SIAS.*

In his *The Higher Learning in America*, written in 1916, the Norwegian-American economist and sociologist Thorstein Veblen argued that the introduction of business principles into institutions concerned with advanced research leads “toward a perfunctory routine of mediocrity” and advocated as an antidote “a joint enterprise among American scholars and universities for the installation of a freely endowed central establishment where teachers and students of all nationalities, and Americans along with the rest, may pursue their chosen work as guests of the American academic community at large ... There should also be nothing to hinder the installation of more than one of these houses of refuge and entertainment”. Nearly a century later, around the globe, modern versions of what Veblen termed “systems of standardization, accountancy, and piecework”, imported into academia from routine areas of business, are being applied again ever more vigorously to

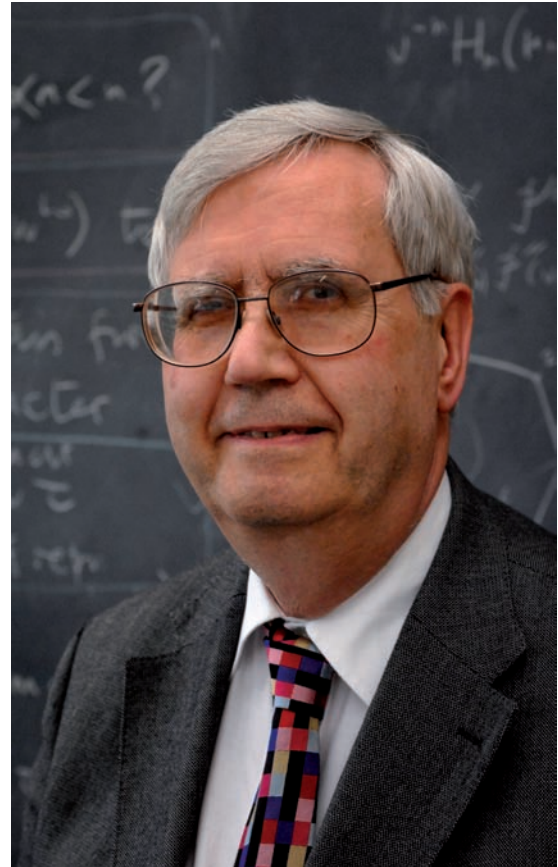
assess research and determine funding in the both the humanities and the sciences.

It was another educational reformer, Abraham Flexner, who obtained the resources to realize Veblen's proposed enterprise when in 1930 he persuaded the department store entrepreneurs Louis Bamberger and Caroline Bamberger Fuld to found the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton. Flexner's vision was that the institute should “be small and plastic, ... simple, comfortable, quiet without being monastic or remote; ... it should provide the facilities, the tranquility, and the time requisite to fundamental inquiry into the unknown. Its scholars should enjoy complete intellectual liberty and be absolutely free from administrative responsibilities or concerns”. Over the last eight decades, his vision has been realized not only in Princeton. As J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of Flexner's successors as Director of IAS, put it in 1959,



“university chairs no longer necessarily offer that opportunity for seclusion, and for the most difficult and intensive intellectual effort, which was once their special hallmark. For this reason, places of retreat, which are in effect places for advance, have been brought into being. These serve multiple functions, but basic to them all is an opportunity for much more intensive concentration on study and research than is elsewhere possible”.

Presciently, Oppenheimer foresaw institutes for advanced study multiplying around the world. Now there are literally hundreds: DIAS, NIAS, STIAS, FRIAS, and many more that do not rhyme, far too many to catalogue here (but be careful – JIAS is a Chinese restaurant in Chicago rather than the institute for advanced study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, or so Google tells me). While institutes for advanced study vary in their characteristics, NIAS in particular shares with IAS its internationalism, its tranquil setting, its sense of community and, above all, its commitment to curiosity-driven rather than objective-driven research. The growth in their number arguably reflects both the success of such institutions in terms of the research they produce and of the impact they have on the development of those who spend time in them, on the one hand, and the current need for academics to seek respite in some house of refuge and entertainment, to use Veblen’s description, on the other. As the testimonies of Veblen and Oppenheimer demonstrate, the pressures now felt in



universities are not new but they are resurgent and, with modern communication, like diseases, their symptoms are manifested around the world.





With the proliferation of institutes naturally has come the development of second order structures, networks of institutes for advanced study, of which perhaps the first was SIAS, an organization founded in 1991, which meets once a year at the home of one of its members, now ten in number. (As in Harry S. Truman, what the first S in SIAS stands for is at best ambiguous: was it originally 'six', the number of founding members, or, more pragmatically 'some'?) The SIAS meetings are remembered not so much for the (barely) formal sessions as for the excursions and the opportunities for even more informal exchanges that they provide. In this respect, the 2003 meeting, for which NIAS and Wim Blockmans were hosts, with its trips on barges and visits to medieval villages, remains legendary, even for those of us whose personal experience of SIAS is from a later date.

Through SIAS, I have been able to appreciate directly Wim's understanding of the international role of institutes for advanced study and his eloquent advocacy for the humanities. His humour and modesty cannot conceal his eminence as a medieval historian. His distinction as a scholar is complemented by the breadth of his intellectual generosity and his labours on behalf of others in the international academic community and beyond. In SIAS we will miss his lucidity, vision and sympathy, not to mention his enormous personal charm. In 1931, with his institute in embryo, Flexner wrote, "no administrator, no institution can do more than furnish conditions favourable to the prowling of an enlightened and informed intellect"; at NIAS and beyond, Wim has done this and much more.



## Heaven on Earth in Wassenaar

by Esther-Mirjam Sent

*In 2002/03 NIAS Fellow Esther-Mirjam Sent conducted a research project that was to gain a deeper understanding of developments in contemporary economics. The research was carried out using an analysis that employs ideas developed by sociologists of scientific knowledge. Currently, she is Professor of Economic Theory and Policy at Radboud University Nijmegen.*

Imagine a lovely place in the tranquil woods of Wassenaar. Add a group of inspiring academics. Include a superbly supportive staff group. Complete the picture with a rector who has an awe-inspiring academic record and a wonderfully warm personality. And there it is, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS); heaven on earth in Wassenaar.

For me personally, my year at NIAS inspired a turn-around in my academic career and personal life. After having lived in the United States of America for almost 15 years, my time in Wassenaar convinced me to return to my country of birth, the Netherlands, which I did after spending one more year in the United States of America upon completing my stay at NIAS. And it was at NIAS that I met the father of my daughter.

This is not to say that my transition from the

University of Notre Dame to NIAS went entirely smoothly. On the contrary, I would almost say. Where my American colleagues were amazed whenever I cycled to work, the NIAS fellows happily used their free bicycles for trips to the beach and to Leiden. Where my American colleagues got up at the crack of dawn to be ready for the school bus at 7 a.m., the NIAS fellows started trickling into their offices around 9 a.m. That is, some had started the day with a refreshing run through the dunes. During these morning runs, I desperately tried to keep up with Václav Blažek, Jana Chamonikolasová, Kees Knipscheer and Hans Ormel. This was no easy task, I can assure you. Perhaps I ought to have joined Nan Stevens for her power walks!

Whenever I had a coffee craving at Notre Dame, I would pay \$ 4.50 for a 'double non-fat caffeine free latte'. The NIAS Fellows, however, had access to a lovely coffee corner with free



hot drinks. Whenever I celebrated my birthday in the United States of America, my colleagues would take me out for lunch. At the NIAS, however, I was expected to treat the fellows and staff to birthday cake, accompanied by the free beverages from the coffee corner. If you expect a child in the United States of America, your colleagues throw a big baby shower for you to literally shower you with presents for the little one. Yet, when Wim Blockmans became the proud grandfather of Felix, he treated the fellows to *beschuit met muisjes*, which required lots of explanation. Where Americans had taken political correctness so far that they would sometimes address a man as 'she', I happily had my face painted black and acted stupid during the *Sinterklaas* celebration.



And then there were the famous NIAS lunches. At Notre Dame I would eat, oftentimes at my desk, quickly, a much too big sandwich with lots of chips and a 'super-size Diet Coke'. At the NIAS, the fellows would bounce up from their chairs at the sound of the lunch buzzer, excited about the prospect of getting to enjoy a delicious lunch accompanied by intellectually stimulating conversations. As if the leisurely lunch was not enough, it was oftentimes followed by a volleyball game with dazzling serves by Jeroen van der Weijer and vicious spikes by Rudy Andeweg disturbing the after-lunch balcony breaks of Cynthia Pyle. And where my Notre Dame colleagues would socialise by having dinner together in the

evening, the NIAS staff arranged an impressive social programme that partly took place during the day.

So here I am, back in the Netherlands for good. My year at NIAS inspired my move back home, but had not prepared me for the fact that a university is not the same as a research institute and that Nijmegen is not the same as Wassenaar.

What makes NIAS a treasure to cherish is the opportunity it offers academics to escape from their crazy daily routines involving the





knowledge-based economy, international positioning, top studies, student portfolios, multi-disciplinary knowledge strategies, research schools, admission restrictions, PostDoc programmes, the Ba-Ma structure, student vouchers, variable tuition, and so on. The efforts of so many universities to belong to the top remind me of Lake Wobegon, which is a mythical American town that is an invention of humorist Garrison Keillor. He starts each story with “Welcome to Lake Wobegon, where all the women are strong, all the men are good-looking, and all the children are above average”.

What makes NIAS a top research institute is the safe haven it offers in the midst of all this craziness. It gives academics a much-needed opportunity to think. Science does not progress by repeating one simple scientific trick over-and-over again in an effort to

maximise the research scores that may thereby be obtained. No, top research requires careful reflection. It requires thinking outside the comfort zone of one's discipline. In stimulating research in the humanities and social sciences and in promoting interdisciplinary cooperation in an international setting, this is where NIAS has a very important role to play.

To make up for the difference between NIAS and my present position, I regularly have NIAS-in-Nijmegen dinners with Anita Böcker, Kees Knipscheer and Nan Stevens, former fellows whom I met during my year at NIAS. This makes up for some of the loss, but not for the absence of Wim Blockmans in our lives. It is a great loss for NIAS that he will leave. We are hoping that it is our gain in that he now has time to join us for our special gatherings. Wim, we very much hope to finally be able to return your warm hospitality!





## Ingenio Atque Amicitia: 1001 Words for NIAS

by Karla Pollmann

*Karla Pollmann, NIAS Fellow in 2003/04 studied Statius' Thebaid book 12, which is the last and most intriguing part of an epic from the first century AD on the war against Thebes. In 2004 she published her research in Statius, Thebaid 12. Introduction, Text and Commentary. In 2008/09 she was the coordinator of the research theme group "The Modern and Postmodern Augustine. Aspects of His Reception from 1600 to 2000". She is Professor of Classics at the University of St Andrews.*

### Personal

When I arrived at NIAS on the morning of 1 September 2003, exhausted because I had worked the night before till after midnight and had to get up at 4 a.m. to catch the flight from Edinburgh to Amsterdam, the first thing that struck me upon my arrival was the friendliness of the place. You felt at home immediately, although it was not yet home, could not yet be – but from the start you had no doubts that you could feel comfortable here. And this first impression proved correct. I stayed there for 10 unforgettable months as an individual fellow. Five years later (2008/09) I had the privilege and pleasure of returning for another 10 months, this time as the leader of an international and interdisciplinary theme group on the Modern and Postmodern Reception of Augustine from 1600 to 2000.

So I am in the lucky position to be able to compare these two stays in which I had slightly different functions. In 2003/04, I was the only classicist around, so I felt like the queen in my subject. In 2008/09 the concentration of people working in related or overlapping fields was significantly higher, which created an atmosphere of intellectual luxury. The fellows' group from 2003/04 was named one of the most bibulous ever, with bar meetings twice a week – whereas during my second time we had bar meetings perhaps twice a semester ...

### General

NIAS belongs to a phalanx of high profile institutes around the world which offer unique working opportunities for scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences. One of its





particular strengths is its strategically convenient position between various intellectual centres of excellence with good libraries, while at the same time providing unusual tranquillity and a healthy environment. When NIAS was conceived in the wild sixties, and initiated in the, potentially even wilder, seventies, elitism was an anathema to be avoided – not by not having it, but by hiding it, or rather the scholars representing it. In the case of NIAS this meant that it was and is not situated in one of the Dutch University towns, but in the sylvan dune

area near Wassenaar. The relative seclusion also has social consequences, both for the Fellows present and for conference participants at NIAS: instead of dispersing into the neighbourhood for various entertainment activities, there is a stronger sense of togetherness, fostering a more concentrated sharing of casual time that can lead to unexpected activities and collaborations, especially across disciplinary boundaries.

Among the principles of selecting the fellows for a given academic year are not only their high academic standards, but also that they will clearly give something to the Institute and to the community. This is complemented by numerous social activities which enable the foreign fellows in particular to see the cultural side of the Netherlands and a bit of the Dutch mentality. The celebration of Sinterklaas in early December is an especially challenging and typically Dutch event! The social side is also (substantially!) aided by the various dinners organised for the fellows. Initiatives taken by the fellows themselves along these lines are always welcome and supported; typical is the invariably personal and warm atmosphere.

Sometimes the question is raised about the nature of NIAS: ivory tower, intellectual pancake house, paradise. Or else along the lines of monastery, Malaysian longhouse, mental infirmary, heterotopia. It should by now have become obvious that NIAS is very much a



successful mixture of all these things! This is last but not least due to its staff that is committed far beyond the call of duty. Their professionalism, dedication, reliability and their initiatives to make the fellows' lives as agreeable and as efficient as possible are clearly very much above average, and certainly among the highest levels I have encountered anywhere.

#### *Vision*

Of course to maintain this dynamic it is important to have a sense of direction. It will be a challenge for his successor to match the qualities of the outgoing rector, who is a multilingual, true *Homo Europaeus*, with first-hand experience in various international scientific committees, and an impressive network of international scholars. Leading NIAS means to be knowledgeable of new global scientific developments, constantly weighing their potential or desirable consequences for the future structure and shape of NIAS. Various initiatives, scholarships and so on, especially some involving less privileged countries and some with a new interdisciplinary focus, have been and are being developed. But at the same time attention has also been paid to the national side of NIAS, notably through the necessary change to increase the money available for Dutch colleagues to spend time at NIAS.

For the humanities especially, the dichotomy of research which has to take place both on an individual, solitary *and* on a collaborative group level has to be maintained, and it needs to be defended against any potential intention to abolish it in favour of a more 'communist' approach. NIAS with its dual structure reflects this need superbly. I see a particular strength in NIAS in its ability to foster a heightened awareness of the specific qualities, limits and uniqueness of the Humanities in contrast to both the Social and the Natural Sciences. Here I could imagine NIAS gaining an even greater role by playing a crucial part in shaping the disciplinary profiles even more sharply, and by standing against a methodological and procedural take-over by the Natural Sciences.

NIAS has an emblem, the owl, among other things, the symbol of wisdom. But it does not have a motto as yet. I used an occasion in 2003/04 to suggest one that would reflect the strengths and uniqueness of NIAS, and I wish to repeat it here as it is still as valid as it was then:

"Through Imagination and Friendship".

However, one would not say this in some sort of vernacular but in the true language of academe and then it would be:

"INGENIO ATQUE AMICITIA".





## NIAS, A Little ‘Republic of Ideas’?

by Esther Benbassa

*Esther Benbassa is Professor of Modern Jewish History at the École pratique des hautes études, Sorbonne, and Director of the Alberto Benveniste Center for Sephardic Studies and Culture in Paris. In the year 2004/05, while at NIAS, she published a book she wrote together with Jean-Christophe Attias: Le Juif et l'Autre, in Dutch De jood en de ander.*

My arrival at NIAS, on a late summer's day in 2004, was a memorable experience – especially for me.

There had been a huge traffic jam near Rotterdam. My car was beginning to smoke. And I was going to show up late for the welcome reception, exhausted by hours of driving from Paris, and dressed in holiday gear that was frankly not suitable for a first meeting with the Rector and my future colleagues. I stood out from the word go. A sequel would allow no opportunity to repair my image.

An academic snowed under with work, an excitable intellectual often invited to have her say in the media, constantly running up hill and down dale (though there is not much of either in the Low Countries): that was my life. What a contrast to the enchanting setting of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in Wassenaar: calm, wooded, bordered by a

little canal, dotted with sumptuous but equally calm villas! I didn't know what calm was, and I wasn't about to learn, even at NIAS. Faced with its North European rector, an elegant, cultivated, calmly spoken polyglot with a slightly mocking expression on his face, I couldn't be anything other than myself; there was no other strategy. A bundle of nerves, always on the go, pitched in among former good pupils now become respectable researchers: I had to go on as I was, even if it meant that my circle and the Rector himself thought that I was no more than what appeared before their eyes.

In fact, despite my constant toing-and-froing between Paris and Wassenaar, it was in this uncharacteristically peaceful new location that I would work the longest hours, often leaving my office late at night after everyone else. For me this place for reflection proved to be a place for inventiveness. It was there that I





wrote my *Suffering as Identity*<sup>1</sup>, which has been translated into several languages. And the peace reigning in Wassenaar was indeed my suffering. It spurred me on to complete the book, which I hold very dear, because it marked the end of a long stretch of road, a kind of wayside station in the progress of my career. And that station coincided with ten months of living in a monastery called NIAS.

Strange things happened in that austere yet civilized, cold yet welcoming, location. To begin with, researchers found themselves face to face with the blank page, without any pretext for being distracted. The hour of truth sounded as soon as you arrived. Apart from the good-natured little parties, the weekly lectures, the drinking sessions in the bar, the educational outings, the scholarly lunches and the daily not always gastronomic (at least for a French palate) meals, there was really nothing at all to distract the men and women who had come there to write. Anxiety mounted if time passed without anything to show for it. There was real life behind the monotony, however: the life of jealousy, rivalry, thirst for recognition, power games, flirtation, disappointment; the everyday history of petty hates, vanity and boredom, a longing to escape the cloister, and so on.

To be entertained by the Rector was a special privilege. You hovered around him in order to seduce him – intellectually speaking, of course. But can seduction remain purely



intellectual? His tastefully decorated office, where artworks knowledgeably collected by his wife held pride of place, enchanted more than one who entered. I certainly enjoyed interrupting him there. Sometimes I found him a little autistic, as most members of the male sex are in academia. But I really got to know



him only afterwards, when I was no longer at NIAS. The truth is that we shared certain ideals; we rallied to the same kind of causes. At the time I didn't know this and thought I was disturbing him. He so institutional, me so anti-institutional: what could we have to say to each other?

The surprise came much later: he, the Northern man of discretion, I the spirited – but in fact very secretive – Mediterranean woman. I think it was thanks to him, and a few others, that I learned not to judge people from the first glance – to appreciate that esteem and friendship are things that need to be cultivated. NIAS gave me a real lesson in humility. Human beings do not immediately disclose everything about themselves; you have to go out and meet them. “Science without conscience is the soul's perdition”, wrote Rabelais. Yes, it is not enough to devour books, or to write hundreds of pages, unless you learn to draw the Other out of his/her shell.

For me NIAS was the source of enduring friendships with three of its residents, Helma Lutz, a German scholar, Barbara Waldis, a Swiss one, Ezra Suleiman, from Princeton, and with the person in charge of information technology, Yves de Roo. We continue to see one another, to speak about NIAS, and to share the ups and downs of our lives. Whenever I go back to the Netherlands, I pass NIAS with a twinge of sadness. For I ended up loving my

provisional prison and remembering it with delight. Life is like that.

Not long ago Wim Blockmans, who had bought my book *Être juif après Gaza* (Being a Jew after Gaza)<sup>2</sup> in Paris, asked me to write an article for a Dutch paper and even offered to translate it for me. I knew he was at the same time supporting Richard Goldstone (Spinoza Fellow at the NIAS in 2009), the author of a report on the crimes of Israel and of the Hamas during the Gaza war, so ferociously and so unfairly attacked by Israel and by Jewish institutions around the world. I took Wim's proposal as a gesture of friendship and it reminded me, once again, that the experience at NIAS had been overwhelmingly positive. Intellectual ties are not always at the mercy of the vagaries of our existence. They cross times and frontiers, demonstrating that consumerism has not yet succeeded in killing off the “Republic of Ideas” of which NIAS is a miniature version. But for how much longer will this be true?

NIAS also gave me time to indulge my love of Dutch and Flemish art by going in and out of museums, galleries and exhibitions to escape the rain or snow. It was all I could have wished for. And, in the process, I established strong ties with a number of artists and gallery owners, from whom I continue to add to my own modest collection. Love of art turned into friendship. What should I say of the ever charming and courteous Jos Hooghuis, who shared his love of dance by taking us to the



ballet? To please him, I even ended up enjoying modern dance!

It was during my time at NIAS that I developed a deep attachment to the Netherlands, which I consider to be one of my adoptive countries. Yes, NIAS served as a compass with which to improve my bearings – to look differently at a people, a country or a religion and its customs and ways of seeing the world. This Institute that set out to be international was also the shortest route into a country that had long been alien to me. NIAS, Wim Blockmans and the Institute staff: you helped me not only to overcome my prejudices and enter another world, but also to become a little more of a human being. What I imagined to be a hell proved to be an odd kind of paradise – but a paradise all the same.

People often talk of paradise lost. For me NIAS was a wonderful inferno lost, strewn with tulips of every colour, and with a little black pig at its centre – what a sin for the non-

believing Jew that I am! – which we came across every morning in front of a villa. I eventually called it Roberto – but then we discovered that it was female, and so we reversed the baptism and changed its name to Roberta. In the end it did a disappearing act. We concluded that it had been eaten by its owners. It was the end of the year. We were going back to our various countries. That was the end of our story.

One final word. Please forgive me, dear friends at NIAS, that despite all my efforts to fit into Dutch culture I couldn't learn how to ride a bicycle and had to pollute your beautiful forest every morning on my drive into work. I won't promise anything. But maybe next time...

<sup>1</sup> Originally published in French in 2007, Winner of the 2008 Guizot Prize of the Académie française, softcover ed. 2010. Recently published in Italian (2009) and in English (*Suffering as Identity*, London and New York, Verso, 2010). Forthcoming in Spanish.

<sup>2</sup> Paris, CNRS Éditions, 2009.





## NIAS – a state of mind

by Rudie Botha

*In 2005/06 NIAS Fellow Rudie Botha was coordinator of the research theme group “Restricted Linguistic Systems as Windows on Language Genesis”. The overall aim of the group was to gather evidence to improve the current understanding of what is involved in language genesis. Currently, Rudie Botha is Honorary Professor in the Evolution of Language at Utrecht University.*

Misgiving. That’s what I felt when asked to write “a short piece with [your] views on an institute for advanced study in general and about NIAS in specific”. What, I wondered, could I say about institutes of advanced study in general that may be of interest to anybody? For illumination, one could turn, after all, to what authorities such as Henk Wesseling, Björn Wittrock, W. Robert Connor and Geoffrey Galt Harpham say in elegantly formulated writings about the rationales for and nature of such institutes. This leaves the NIAS-specific part of the topic. Which I will pursue by recounting briefly how the alchemy practised at NIAS affected me as a Fellow-in-Residence. The account is one of the emergence of a particular state of mind from some of the memorable things that I experienced at NIAS when it was led by Henk Wesseling and, after him, Wim Blockmans.

One of the earliest of these experiences was

that of my mind being cleared, if not cleansed, of concerns inimical to focused thinking. Serving as a barrier against disruptive intrusions from the outside, the secluded location and tranquil setting of the NIAS campus were instrumental in this process. The protective seclusion that I sensed may well have been illusory though, the tentacles of e-mail and other modern means of communication reaching into the NIAS campus too. But if the institute had lost some of its monastic splendour, the illusion was still powerfully at work, inducing a sense of not having to get involved mentally in events beyond the borders of Rijksdorp. In lighter vein, there was a downside for some fellows who took cycling for an alien way of getting around. They came to view Rijksdorp as one of the most isolated places in the Netherlands – cut off from the rest of the country by dunes and the North Sea on one side and, on the other sides, by a non-existent rail link and a





bus service whose meandering routes lent Leiden and The Hague the allure of far-flung places.

Being in a place where I could think and write without having to contend with a stream of outside distractions did not make me feel intellectually isolated, locked into my own cocoon, as it were. On the contrary, I had a strong sense of being a member of a community of kindred spirits linked to each other by a flow of stimulating ideas, fresh perspectives, intriguing suggestions and probing questions, expressed in talks, lectures, seminars and informal discussions. The competitiveness that colours much of ordinary university life was refreshingly absent from the way in which fellows interacted with one another. Indeed, the easy interaction spilled over into the social sphere, with fellows also supporting one another emotionally when things went less than well.

NIAS Fellows, then, don't have to compete or crusade for what they need – a wonderful experience indeed. Like other fellows, I was the recipient of a kind of all-inclusive institutional support that academics can only dream about. This support did not include only the provision of a superb infrastructure for research in the social sciences and humanities. It also covered the range of needs and wishes – financial, social, cultural, recreational – that arise when academics live abroad for longer periods with their partners and families. In the



rendering of this support, Wouter Hugenholtz played an inestimable role. Particularly enriching were the splendid Dutch cultural events that fellows were able to attend thanks to initiatives by NIAS staff; here Jos Hooghuis excelled.

This incomplete account of some of the outstanding things that I experienced at NIAS allows me to capture, from today's perspective, what the Institute was and was not to me. As for the latter, NIAS was not any one of the individual experiences mentioned



above. Nor was it the sum total or some kind of amalgam of these experiences. To me, instead, NIAS was above all a state of mind: the state of feeling intellectually invigorated; of sensing that I was making meaningful progress in solving the problems by which my research was driven; of believing that I was doing work of some substance.

On just how that exhilarated state of mind came about, I can only speculate, having no competency at analysing the aetiology of mental states. Speaking generally, this state appears to be an emergent phenomenon in that it differs qualitatively from the experiences interacting in its genesis. A telling factor in that genetic process is, I would suggest, the alchemy practised by a succession of NIAS Rectors and their colleagues. Masters of their craft, these alchemists transmute KNAW-administered

funds into high quality NIAS research by creating at the institute a climate that has left generations of fellows free to “do what they are best at doing”, as Henk Wesseling aptly puts it in his Uhlenbeck Lecture. I for one happily testify that this climate was most congenial to the emergence of the state of mind with which, for me, NIAS is synonymous.

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Henk Wesseling, *The Idea of an Institute for Advanced Study: Some Reflections on Education, Science and Art*. Uhlenbeck Lecture 20. NIAS, 2002; Björn Wittrock, *Institutes for Advanced Study: Ideas, Histories, Rationales*. Keynote lecture on occasion of the inauguration of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Study. University of Helsinki, 2003; W. Robert Connor, “Why we need independent Centres for Advanced Study”, *European Review*, Vol. 11, No. 3, 2003, pp. 293-97; Geoffrey Galt Harpham, “The National Humanities Center as an Institute for Advanced Study”. September 2004.



## Wassenaar, Princeton, Berlin: Some Comparisons

by Leonid Zhmud

*Leonid Zhmud was NIAS Fellow in 2006/07. He conducted a research project entitled “A history of early Pythagoreanism”. This project concerned the analysis of every major aspect of Pythagorean activity against its own background: religious, political, philosophical and scientific. Currently, he is Professor at the Institute for the History of Science and Technology at the Russian Academy of Sciences.*

It so happened that I spent 1999/2000 at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton; 2002/03 at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Wiko); and 2006/07 at NIAS. Thus I can compare my experience of working and living in Wassenaar with my memories of the two sister institutions. Writing at some temporal distance from these events and *not* in a genre of the end-of-the-grant-report prevents both the risk of taking a too reverential tone and from the need to assume one's own immense productivity.

I started my year at NIAS with a month's delay and not under good auspices. For a purely bureaucratic reason, the Dutch immigration authorities denied a visa for my partner and her daughter, so I came alone with my eight year old son. This unhappy decision changed my schedule for the whole year and immensely contributed to increasing the independence of

my son. The idea of an international school in The Hague was abandoned in favour of the nearby Dutch school, and in four months Pavel could speak Dutch; alas, he completely forgot it on our return. I must confess, Wassenaar is a wonderful place to increase a child's independence, certainly comparable to Grunewald in Berlin, and in some senses better than Princeton; life on campus becomes boring for a child. Still, for me it meant only being able to work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. as two hours after school was the maximum that I allowed Pavel to be on his own, minus all weekends and all vacations. This had different consequences, some of them quite predictable, some not. When the question of time becomes crucial you are particularly unwilling to waste it. In this sense, life at NIAS was organised very well. There were no obligatory talks-plus-discussions every week, as at Wiko, only five minute talks at the





beginning plus many interesting evening events, most of which I failed to attend. Of those which I did attend I remember two lectures, one by Pieter van der Horst on the myth of Jewish cannibalism, and the other by Jonathan Israel on Dutch Enlightenment, delivered in The Hague. The second was more successful, but the first was more vividly discussed. Due to subsequent talks with Mona Abaza (Egypt), Mohammad Bagheri (Iran), Yoad Winter (Israel), Sadik Al-Azm (Syria) my perception of Israel became more critical than it originally was.

Different than Princeton and similar to Berlin, lunch was obligatory, and I really enjoyed this relaxing time while I got to know my colleagues much better. The kitchen at NIAS was slightly less exquisite than at Wiko with its new Italian chef, but the tables were bigger which made our table talks more diverse – we rarely talked about the weather. Friendly discussions with fellow historians Henk van Nierop, Judith Pollmann, Gerhard Hirschfeld, Annelou van Gijn, Anne-Marie Legaré, and Jonathan Israel made lunch time truly intellectually rewarding. With many of them I maintain friendly relations. I even played the role of a Russian Mafioso in a film by Annelou's husband Nigel Langdon. In general, social life in Wassenaar was more intense than in Princeton or Grunewald, mainly due to the 'grassroot initiatives' of our very energetic female fellows, Mona Abaza, Gül Ozyegin, Anne-Marie Legaré, Ellen DuBois, Mineke Bosch

and others (note the sound gender policy of NIAS!). I could participate mostly in the events which allowed Pavel's presence, among which was a wonderful trip to the Amsterdam exhibition on Rembrandt and Jews, organised by Ellen DuBois. As a single parent, I got a lot of support and sympathy from these and many other fellows, which made our life much more pleasant. Paul van den Broek and his wife Christine kindly hosted Pavel during my visit to Moscow. At Wim Blockman's request I brought a Russian samovar for the weekly tea ceremonies at the Institute. Due to the excessive leisure time that I had against my will, we travelled with my car almost every weekend, visiting museums and old churches in Leiden, The Hague, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Haarlem, Delft and so on. Conveniently, The Netherlands is much smaller than the United States of America and even smaller than Germany. Judith Pollmann accompanied us on our trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, and Mariola Sułkowska accompanied us to the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp. Never before have I seen so many wonderful paintings in one year. And at the end of the year Pavel asked me: "Will we come back to Wassenaar?" Well, probably later, in five or ten years ... But I would have liked to be in the Netherlands as a child!

My original project was to revise my 1994 book on Pythagoras and the Pythagoreans for an English translation. But regardless of where you are, whether it is Princeton, Berlin, or





Wassenaar, you never fulfil your plans. Instead of revising, I started to rewrite my book completely. Accordingly, I did six chapters instead of the expected twelve and I am just about to finish my last chapter, on the Pythagorean number philosophy. I would not have dared plough into my field so deeply if I had not had the wonderful library facilities of NIAS at my disposal. The classical library in Princeton is very rich, and you can use Princeton University Library with its 1,210 km of bookshelves. The library at Wiko is famous for its fabulous efficiency in bringing books from all Berlin libraries. The NIAS library is no less efficient and in addition, it brings you books from all the libraries in the Netherlands. With my ineradicable habit of reading everything available on the topic in four major European languages, this was a very important plus.



Our three storey town house was too big for the two of us, but my friends from France, Great Britain and Israel, as well as my two elder sons with their girlfriends liked it very much. NIAS' anti-tobacco policy was stricter than in Princeton and Berlin, and I could not

smoke in my office. I thus spent many winter hours outside the front doors. Yielding to the silent (and not very silent) pressure of my healthy colleagues, who passed me by, I had to quit smoking. You never know where you lose something and where you gain something.



## Wim Blockmans and NIAS: Some Reminiscences

by Ramesh Mishra

*Ramesh Mishra is Professor of Cross-Cultural Psychology at Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi, India. The research he conducted during his stay at NIAS in the year 2007/08 demonstrated that the relationship between language and cognition is probabilistic and not deterministic, as often claimed by linguists.*

My association with NIAS is fairly recent. I heard about NIAS from John Berry in the early 1980s during my post-doctoral years with him at Queen's University, Canada. John had spent a sabbatical year there (1974/75), and had produced a widely acclaimed research monograph entitled *Human Ecology and Cognitive Style* that integrated a massive amount of data collected from 21 different cultures using a variety of psychological instruments. The freedom John had to pursue his goals the way he considered most appropriate was at first unbelievable. I belong to a developing part of the world where the institutes of higher education are highly bureaucratic in approach, and hardly allow any freedom to researchers. However, from John's description of NIAS, it seemed as though I had discovered an institute which was not only close to my ideals, but was also a place about which I started dreaming.

In 2005 I completed a major cross-cultural

study on spatial cognitive development with my colleague, Professor Pierre Dasen, from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. Both of us felt that a fair treatment of data and its integration in a book required some time away from home at a place that could provide not only physical facilities, but also an exciting academic ambiance. I remembered NIAS again, tried my luck with one of its fellowships, and was finally a winner.

I arrived at NIAS in September 2007 with my wife. That same evening the Rector, Wim Blockmans, formally met all NIAS Fellows in the Seminar Hall of the Conference Building. The fellows were asked to introduce themselves in one minute. Wim observed the same time limit for introducing himself. This was my first meeting with him. The way he conducted the whole introduction function deeply impressed me. As an Indian, I was distinct from the other fellows. I felt that Wim had not only noted some of my peculiarities,



but also sensed some of the difficulties that I was likely to encounter during my stay at NIAS, given my traditional lifestyle and peculiar food habits.

The little interaction that took place between us was enough for Wim to ask the NIAS staff to take special care of my needs. To make our life comfortable, we needed some extra pots and pans, including a hot plate; these were arranged in no time. My wife was also granted many of the privileges that were available to fellows at NIAS. She was allowed to share my office, and an extra computer was set up for her use. Like me, she could use the Institute's library and the coffee machine. For lunch, there were clear instructions for serving special vegetarian meals that we could freely eat. In spite of these arrangements, Wim still felt concerned about us, and whether we could survive at NIAS with the food we were being served. He would occasionally join us at the table to make sure that we really were eating well. We were very much impressed by these superhuman qualities. It was beyond my imagination that the Rector of an advanced institute like NIAS, would be so sensitive to the needs of a fellow like me, and be so spontaneous in his interactions. He had made for himself a very respectable place in our hearts, and we felt greatly honoured.

As an administrator Wim was unparalleled. He had created a highly conducive climate in the institute so that things would move



spontaneously without his intervention. Everyone at NIAS – whether at the reception, in the library, in the office, or even outside the office - was highly supportive to fellows. Anything needed for the promotion of one's research that was not available at NIAS, was arranged upon a single request and without delay. At one point of time, when I needed the SPSS programme for statistical treatment of my data, Wim gave the order to buy this fairly expensive programme despite knowing that I would perhaps be the only one to use it. He felt sorry that NIAS had not thought of providing this facility to its fellows earlier. Fortunately I was able to obtain this





programme from the University of Geneva through my colleague, Pierre Dasen.

My frequent interactions with Wim, and my association with many other European colleagues who visited me at NIAS from time to time, created a very positive image of NIAS for me. This resulted in a surprising invitation from Wim to deliver the NIAS lecture. The idea was noble, but probably disappointing for many others. This must have created some difficulties for Wim, but he stayed with his decision. He placed great confidence in me and in my abilities. The lecture went very well; among others Wim and his wife, who came to hear me, were extremely happy. During the party that followed the lecture he expressed his deep satisfaction by filling my glass with orange juice – my favorite drink – several times. The next morning we also found a circular conveying his expectations of other speakers who were invited for NIAS lectures. In the eyes of all the fellows of my time, Wim was a wonderful scholar. He could make expert comments on the themes that were presented and discussed at NIAS during my time there. He could also relate to even the most difficult themes of people's day-to-day lives. In his opinion, the search for knowledge without potential for its application to society was not an ideal pursuit.

In social relationships Wim was extremely cordial. When my son got married, I carried little gifts for Wim and his wife from India. A

couple of weeks later, I found Wim at the door of my office with a very special gift that he had brought us from Belgium. Our wardrobe is still full of its fragrance, which reminds me of his humane social values all the time.

During my stay at NIAS, Wim often asked about the places I had visited in Holland. He would often talk about interesting places, and suggest the ways in which one could reach them. He has a wonderful knowledge of historic buildings and monuments, including the special occasions when some of those sites might be really charming and worth visiting. We made best use of his knowledge, which really made our adventures highly fascinating. As a university student in India, I had heard many times people saying that a professor was not a person, but an institution. I have developed the same feeling for Wim after meeting him and having spent 10 highly productive months at NIAS. In his patronage NIAS has acquired a great – perhaps the highest? – name among the institutes of advanced study. People endowed with qualities like Wim's are very rare. The Royal Honours of "Knight" in the order of the Lion of the Netherlands conferred to Wim in 2008 bears an authentic testimony to his great contributions to international scholarship and society. We may hope that the traditions laid down by him at NIAS will continue even after his retirement from the Rector's position. I would love to be a visiting scholar again at any institute Wim takes over as a Rector.



## Crossing Disciplines

by Robert Rohrschneider

*Robert Rohrschneider, NIAS Fellow 2008/09, currently is Sir Robert Worcester Distinguished Professor of Public Opinion and Survey Research at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. While at NIAS he researched the political representation in Europe or, more specifically, the difficulties that parties have in representing citizens in Europe.*

What makes NIAS an intellectually vibrant institute? I have often pondered this question as I re-enter the academic world in Lawrence after my 2008/09 fellowship year. Naturally, the beautiful location contributes to the stimulating atmosphere. We treasured the pleasant yards and gardens. Everyone marveled at the aesthetically pleasing and tranquil neighborhood. Many of us appreciated the quaintness of Wassenaar. And most of us cherished the close proximity of the magnificent North Sea. Still, other institutes typically do not create the same stimulating atmosphere, despite comparable surroundings. What then, makes NIAS stand out as an interdisciplinary institute?

I can only offer a personal viewpoint in answering this question, based on observations that must necessarily be idiosyncratic. I dare say that my informal “polling” taken at NIAS during various

conversations supports my contention that NIAS’s success is in large part due to the successful blend of two conditions. First, NIAS liberates fellows from the normal obligations we usually have to deal with in our academic and personal lives. Second, the NIAS rector, Wim Blockmans, clearly understood his role not just as an administrator but also as an intellectual catalyst in fostering an interdisciplinary atmosphere at the institute. I believe that the combination of providing scarce resources – time and material security – for one year with an intellectually engaged rector constitutes the “winning” formula of NIAS. Within this context, fellows only had to do what they like doing best – talk, read, and write – to bring about the productive exchange of ideas across disciplines.

As for the first condition – resources – NIAS freed our minds from the normal chores of academic life; everything else followed from





this. We could focus on complex problems for days, not just the odd hour between classes or meetings. We had the time to pursue hunches without knowing where they would lead us. We could write a chapter, had the time to re-cast it, occasionally even re-think it from scratch, until we were satisfied. We could discuss our ideas during lunches, often receiving helpful responses from other fellows. Providing resources also extended to our personal lives. One example says it all: within a little over four hours after touch-down at Schiphol Airport, the limousine organized by

NIAS had not only transported us to our apartment in Wassenaar, but we had already unpacked the suitcases, enjoyed the breakfast that the NIAS staff so thoughtfully had put in the kitchen and – especially important for a family travelling with a teenager – laptops had been successfully connected to the internet. During the past 15 years, I have travelled many times with my wife and daughter across the Atlantic. Our settling-in period in Wassenaar was by far the shortest.

As I noted earlier, however, this alone would not have produced the productive atmosphere I encountered at NIAS. It took a catalyst to develop this potential. Here is the problem. Every year, come 1 September, the rector faces the classical situation that C.P. Snow so aptly called the “Two Cultures”. How does one break down the disciplinary walls among fellows who represent a diverse range of academic disciplines? To take one example, selected not randomly, how does one get a political scientist specializing in public opinion to talk seriously about his project to an art historian specializing in the early medieval period? The barriers to understanding the “Two Worlds” as far apart as in the above example are high. There is, then, a danger that NIAS Fellows as a group remain ‘tone deaf’ during their fellowship tenure – highly educated, very accomplished, but ‘ignorant specialists’ who cannot see the contributions made by experts in other academic fields.





But many of us, in the end, did come to appreciate many accomplishments of scholars from other disciplines. Why? Here, I think, the rector profoundly affected the group. One instrument was particularly effective. The rector managed to forge an intellectual community within a short time through the incisive questions he fired at presenters after they thought the presentation was over. Regardless of which ‘culture’ a presenter belonged to – from the Augustinian scholar to the quantitative social scientist – we quickly learned early on in the academic year that each presenter, having completed an hour-long presentation, only then faced the hardest part. The rector always opened the question and answer session. He examined premises, questioned the logic of an argument, and presented counter evidence regardless of the subject matter of the presentation. This had a twofold effect. No doubt, it helped presenters with their own research projects. Nearly all reached a point in the discussion where they confessed, more or less directly, the need to re-think some aspect of the presentation. But his probing style did accomplish much more than that. It established a common standard for judging work from a range of disciplines. It showed that logic, consistency, and clarity are

part and parcel of all disciplines. It demonstrated that one’s intuitions, which are shaped and honed mostly within one’s academic discipline, can – and should – be applied with due caution to other disciplines. And, above all, it illustrated that we as experts in one field need to be able to persuade bright people in other fields that our projects are worth pursuing. He demonstrated, in short, that we are governed by a common set of standards – dare I say *one* culture – that applies to all disciplines. This, more so than anything else, helped to reduce the barriers among scholars.

In the end, I am convinced that NIAS’s success reflects this winning combination. Its infrastructure is ideal for fellows-in-residence. But it requires leadership to bridge disciplinary divides, and to foster a sense of common purpose among fellows. In the end, only the combination of providing resources and incentives designed to break down intellectual boundaries made the fellowship at NIAS so valuable.

<sup>1</sup> C.P. Snow. 1999. *The Two Cultures* (50th Anniversary Printing). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 14.



## On NIAS, New Thinking, and Wim Blockmans

By Astrid Erll

*Astrid Erll is Professor of English Literature and Culture at the University of Wuppertal. As a 2009/10 NIAS Fellow, she is working on a publication entitled "Transcultural memories: Generationality and spaces of remembrance in Anglophone literatures and media cultures – Caribbean, Indian and British constellations".*



"Charming, distinguished, generous, wise".  
"Sage and yet comical, dignified and yet unassuming, authoritative and yet charming".  
"Winning sense of humour, finely honed intellect, restrained yet sure leadership".  
"Sharp thinking generalist, networker and supportive career coach".  
"Erudite and broad-minded. Endowed with a gentle humour and a genuine interest in the work of the fellows, not to mention an eye for the good things in life. He makes you feel very much at home".  
"Twinkling eyes, sharp remarks; charming host, omnipresent patron".  
"Ein herausragender internationaler Wissenschaftler und dann noch ungewöhnlich nett: eine Spezies, die aufgrund ihrer Seltenheit unter Artenschutz gestellt werden muss".  
"Burgundian, cosmopolitan, gentleman".  
"Tall, dapper, warm".



Three words about Wim Blockmans. This is what I asked of a dozen or so of my fellow NIAS fellows, scholars from the United States of America and Germany; from the Netherlands and Korea; writers of fiction and poetry; translators, professors of law and literary studies; anthropologists, economists, historians, and philosophers. For once, they all agreed: that the distinctiveness of NIAS resides not merely in its marvellous surroundings (the sea, the garden, the tranquillity, the owl at night); nor in the stunning all-round support offered by the highly efficient NIAS staff (sackfuls of books delivered to your doorstep, professional reanimation of dying laptops, weekly cleaning service, fresh and varied lunches); nor in the wealth of social events (memorable dinners, recitals, outings). But that all this is turned into a unique "NIAS experience" by adding yet another salient ingredient: namely the presence of a Rector who acts as a gravitational centre and creates a very specific scholarly atmosphere.

Atmosphere? Why should this, the softest of soft factors, be conducive to the kind of scholarly achievement into which the Royal Netherlands Academy invests – let's face it – several millions of Euro annually? Because one of the greatest enemies of novel, unconventional and trailblazing thinking, and this applies even to the kind of internationally renowned academics whom NIAS aims to attract, is an unhappy alliance of over-anxiety and over-confidence. Most scholars are

haunted by the fear of revealing any lacuna in their breadth of knowledge – amazing when you think of the sheer scope of phenomena covered by the humanities and social sciences today). And at the same time, there is the firm, if unspoken or unwittingly held, belief that *your* specific research object, *your* own method is the only viable way to approach the world. If we want to escape this hindering intellectual double-bind then we need to foster an atmosphere of security *and* curiosity, of relaxed interaction, social glue *and* critical openness to new and other kinds of research.

In other words, it is the very moment when you can take a sip from your glass of white wine, lean back and confess "actually, I did not know that Dutch fishermen caught more than 200 million herring each year in the 17<sup>th</sup> century" or "that the Korean constitution was written under the tutelage of the same American military authority that gave Japan its postwar constitution the year before" or "that Japanese art must be viewed from right to left", in which slumbering potentials for dialogue are awakened, collective creativity can be set free, and a kind of new knowledge which reaches beyond disciplinary, national, and linguistic boundaries can be engendered. I am firmly convinced that this type of interaction-based, dialogical thinking – which is practised at NIAS year after year and which is expressly intended to range across "the Humanities *and* Social Sciences" – is the only means by which an international academic





community can address the myriad of problems and challenges that the world is facing today; from genocide to climate change; social welfare to new technologies; or religious tradition to globalising markets.

Surely, there are different ways of bringing about that specific atmosphere which relaxes *and* stimulates, and which thus prepares the very ground on which new thinking can thrive. One way – and as the voices of my fellow fellows collected here attest, a highly appreciated one – is embodied in the personality of the current Rector. My own three descriptive words are open-minded, sociable, and intellectually ever-challenging, and we have the honour to be the last research group under his rectorship.

It might be this sense of being the 'last class' of such an outstanding Rector that has turned our responses into a blend of respect, warmth, jest, and a little proactive nostalgia. Thus, thinking about Wim Blockmans, one fellow is reminded of W.B. Yeats's verses "... the children's eyes / In momentary wonder stare upon / A sixty-year-old smiling public man". Another calls him "Our Wim, the Abbot of NIAS". And still another conceives of NIAS as a Netherlandish Hogwarts, with its own "Wim P.B. Dumbledore". There are fellows who keep wondering: "Why is Mona Lisa on his lips?" Or jot down a pangrammatic poem in honour of Wim Blockmans: "THE EASY OWL FLIES OVER QUICKLY JUMPING DOXOBOZOS".

Dear easy owl, thank you for a splendid year!  
Your gratefully jumping doxobozos.





## Research Group 2010/11

### Provisional List of Participants

#### *Willem F. Duisenberg Fellow*

Blejer, M.I.	(Buenos Aires)	<i>Economics</i>	(F)
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#### *Spinoza Fellow*

Schlink, B.	(Berlin)	<i>Public Law</i>	(A)
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#### *Distinguished Lorentz Fellow*

Gill, R.D.	Leiden University	<i>Forensic Statistics</i>	
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#### *Lorentz Fellow*

Hoorn, J.F.	VU University Amsterdam	<i>Creativity Studies</i>	
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#### *Henry G. Schermers Fellow*

Glenn, H.P.	McGill University, Montreal	<i>Comparative Law</i>	
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#### *Fellow*

Augusteijn, J. <sup>2</sup>	Leiden University	<i>Modern Irish and British History</i>	
Badenoch, A.W. <sup>1</sup>	Utrecht University	<i>Media and Cultural Studies</i>	
Bakker, P.J.J.M.	Radboud University Nijmegen	<i>History of Philosophy</i>	
Brunner, J.J.	Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago	<i>Sociology of Education</i>	(B)
Creese, H.M.	The University of Queensland, Brisbane	<i>Indonesian Literature</i>	
Daal, V.H.P. van	University of Stavanger	<i>Cognitive Psychology</i>	
Fickers, A. <sup>1</sup>	Maastricht University	<i>Cultural History</i>	(B)
Foets, M.	Erasmus University Rotterdam	<i>Medical Sociology</i>	
Fritschy, J.M.F.	VU University Amsterdam	<i>History of Public Finance</i>	
Gieskes, M.	Radboud University Nijmegen	<i>Modern and Contemporary Art</i>	
Graaf, B.A. de <sup>2</sup>	Leiden University, Campus The Hague	<i>History/Political Science</i>	
Griset, P. <sup>1</sup>	Université de Paris Sorbonne-Paris IV	<i>History of Technology</i>	(B)
Hekman, S.	University of Texas at Arlington	<i>Political Theory</i>	(A)
Högselius, P. <sup>1</sup>	Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm	<i>History of Technology</i>	(A)
Horty, J.F.	University of Maryland, College Park	<i>Philosophy</i>	(B)
Jajeśniak-Quast, D. <sup>1</sup>	Universität Erfurt	<i>Economic and Social History</i>	
Johannes, G.J.	Utrecht University	<i>History of Dutch Literature</i>	
Kaijser, A. <sup>1</sup>	Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm	<i>Infrastructure History</i>	(A)
Kaiser, W.K.W. <sup>1</sup>	University of Portsmouth	<i>European Studies</i>	(A)
Kohlrausch, M. <sup>1</sup>	Ruhr-Universität Bochum	<i>History of the Media</i>	(B)
Middell, M. <sup>1</sup>	Universität Leipzig	<i>Transnational History</i>	(B)
Oldenziel, R. <sup>1</sup>	Eindhoven University of Technology	<i>History of Technology</i>	(A)
Pekelder, J. <sup>2</sup>	Utrecht University	<i>Political History</i>	
Radder, J.A.	VU University Amsterdam	<i>Philosophy of Science</i>	



Scarpellini, E. <sup>1</sup>	Università degli Studi di Milano	<i>Economic History</i>	(A)
Schiller, N.O.	Leiden University	<i>Neurolinguistics</i>	
Schmid, A.P. <sup>2</sup>	University of St. Andrews	<i>Political Violence</i>	
Schot, J.W. <sup>1</sup>	Eindhoven University of Technology	<i>History of Technology</i>	
Sliedregt, E. van <sup>2</sup>	VU University Amsterdam	<i>Criminal Law</i>	(S)
Stroomer, H.J.	Leiden University	<i>Arabic and Berber Linguistics</i>	
Swan, C.	Northwestern University, Evanston	<i>Early Modern Art History</i>	
Szubka, T.S.	University of Szczecin	<i>Metaphilosophy</i>	
Touwen, L.J.	Leiden University	<i>Economic History</i>	(B)
Trischler, H. <sup>1</sup>	Deutsches Museum, München	<i>History of Science</i>	(B)
Weinhauer, K. <sup>2</sup>	Universität Bielefeld	<i>Social and Cultural History</i>	
<i>VNC Fellow</i>			
Leemans, I.B.	VU University Amsterdam	<i>Early Modern Dutch Literature</i>	
Verschaffel, T.R.G.	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	<i>Cultural History</i>	
<i>Writer-in-Residence</i>			
Hackett, J.	(New York)	<i>Fiction</i>	(A)
Wieringa, T.	(Amsterdam)	<i>Fiction</i>	(B)
<i>Journalist-in-Residence</i>			
Bouwman, B.	Istanbul	<i>Non-Fiction</i>	(A)
<i>Translator-in-Residence</i>			
Holierhoek, J.	(Amsterdam)	<i>French/Dutch</i>	(A)
<i>Guest of the Rector</i>			
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<i>Visiting Grant Scholars</i>			
Baeva, V.G.	Institute of Folklore, Sofia	<i>Folklore Studies</i>	(S)
Lipińska, A.	University of Wrocław	<i>Early Modern Sculpture</i>	(F)
Stejskal, J.	Palacký University, Olomouc	<i>Medieval History</i>	(W)

1: Nucleus "Inventing Europe. A Transnational History of European Integration"

2: Nucleus "Terrorists on Trial. The Court Room as a Stage in the Struggle for Publicity, Public Support and Legitimacy"

(A): denotes 1st semester (1 September 2010 - 31 January 2011)

(B): denotes 2nd semester (1 February 2011 - 30 June 2011)

(F): denotes Fall 2010

(W): denotes Winter 2011

(S): denotes Spring 2011

## Books written at NIAS

Received October 2009 - March 2010

Besamusca, Bart, Remco Sleiderink and Geert Warnar, Eds. (2009). *De boeken van Velthem: auteur, oeuvre en overlevering*. Hilversum, Verloren.

Casteren, Joris van (2008). *Lelystad*. Amsterdam, Prometheus.

Clifton, James and Walter S. Melion, Eds. (2009). *Scripture for the eyes : Bible illustration in Netherlandish prints of the sixteenth century*. New York, Museum of Biblical Art.

Cnossen, S. (2009). *Hoe beschaafd is Nederland?: een fiscale kosten-batenanalyse*. Amersfoort, Sdu Uitgevers.

Dabrowa, Edward (2010). *The Hasmoneans and their state: a study in history, ideology, and the institutions*. Kraków, Jagiellonian University Press.

Delft, Dirk van (2005). *Heike Kamerlingh Onnes: een biografie: de man van het absolute nulpunt*. Amsterdam, Bert Bakker.

Grob, Gerald N. and Allan V. Horwitz (2010). *Diagnosis, Therapy, and Evidence: Conundrums in Modern American Medicine*. New Brunswick, New Jersey, Rutgers University Press.

Hoedeman, Jan and Remco Meijer (2010). *Willem IV: van prins tot koning*. Amsterdam [etc.], Atlas.

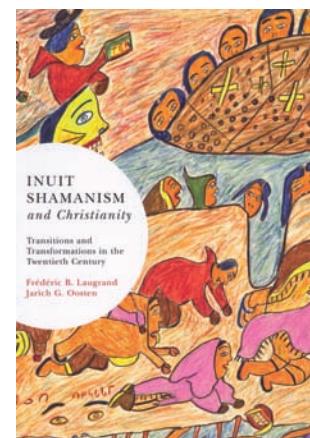
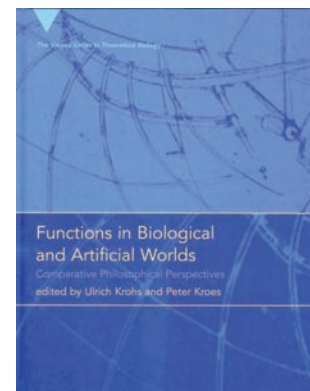
Katkova, Irina (2009). *Pami'a'tnik malāi skoī literatury "Tukhfat ar-ragibin fi baian khakikat al-iman" ("Dar zhazhdushchim v ob'i'a'snenie istinnosti very") kak istochnik po istorii sufizma na Malāiskom arkhipele*. Sankt-Peterburg, Peterburgskii gos. universitet.

Kloek, Els (2009). *Vrouw des huizes: een cultuurgeschiedenis van de Hollandse huisvrouw*. Amsterdam, Balans.

Kossmann, E. H. and H. L. Wesseling (2010). *Briefwisseling 1976-2003*. Amsterdam, Prometheus.

Krohs, Ulrich and Peter Kroes, Eds. (2009). *Functions in biological and artificial worlds : comparative philosophical perspectives*. Cambridge, Mass; Londen, MIT Press.

Laugrand, Frédéric B. and Jarich G. Oosten (2010). *Inuit Shamanism and Christianity: Transitions and Transformations in the Twentieth Century*. Montreal [etc.], McGill-Queen's University Press.



Melion, Walter S. (2009). *The Meditative Art: Studies in the Northern Devotional Print, 1550-1625*. Philadelphia, Saint Joseph's University Press.

Mysliwski, Wieslaw and Karol Lesman (2009). *Over het doppen van bonen* [vert. uit het Pools door Karol Lesman]. Amsterdam, Em. Querido's.

Nellen, Henk J.M. and Edwin Rabbie, Eds. (2007). *Hugo Grotius, theologian: essays in honour of G.H.M. Posthumus Meyjes*. Leiden, Brill.

North, Michael (2008). *Material delight and the joy of living: cultural consumption in the age of Enlightenment in Germany* [translated from German by Pamela Selwyn]. Aldershot, Ashgate.

Oostindie, Gert Jan (2010). *Postkoloniaaal Nederland: vijftenzestig jaar vergeten, herdenken, verdringen*. Amsterdam, Bert Bakker.

Paperno, Irina (2009). *Stories of the Soviet experience: memoirs, diaries, dreams*. Ithaca, London, Cornell University Press.

Swart, Henriëtte de (2010). *Expression and interpretation of negation : an OT typology*. Dordrecht, Springer.

Szécsényi, Endre (2009). *Szépség és Szabadság: Eszmetörténeti Tanulmányok*. Budapest, L'Harmattan.

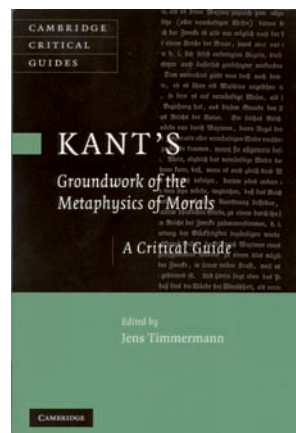
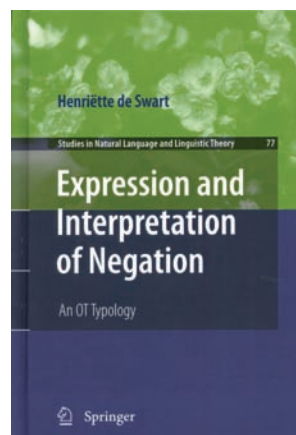
Timmermann, Jens, Ed. (2009). *Kant's 'Groundwork of the metaphysics of morals': a critical guide. Cambridge critical guides*. Cambridge [etc.], Cambridge University Press.

Tokarczuk, Olga (2009). *Prowadź swój pług przez kości umarłych*. Kraków, Wydawnictwo Literackie.

Towse, Ruth (2010). *A textbook of cultural economics*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Wolters, Gereon (2010). *Ambivalenz und Konflikt: Katholische Kirche und Evolutionstheorie*. Konstanz, UVK Universitätsverlag Konstanz.

Zwartjes, Otto, Ramon Arzápalo Marín and Thomas C. Smith-Stark, Eds. (2009). *Missionary Linguistics IV/ Lingüística misionera IV: Lexicography : selected papers from the fifth international conference on missionary linguistics, Mérida, Yucatán, 14-17 March 2007*. Amsterdam [etc.], Benjamins.





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## Personal News

**Fred Bachrach**, NIAS Fellow 1972/73, died on 18 December 2009 at the age of 95. He studied English at the University of Amsterdam and received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Oxford for a dissertation on Sir Constantine Huygens and his role in the cultural exchange between the Dutch Republic and Britain in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. He was Professor of English Literature at Leiden University from 1953 until his retirement in 1980. One of his fields of research was English – Dutch relations, for the study of which he founded the Sir Thomas Browne Institute in Leiden in 1960. This institute was known for its own publication series. Another focus of his research was Shakespeare. Fred Bachrach not only published on these topics but also organised important exhibitions such as “The Orange and the Rose” (V&A, London, 1964) and several exhibitions on the age of Shakespeare. After his retirement he played an important role in the organisation of the tricentennial commemoration of William and Mary’s “Glorious



Revolution” in 1989. His research at NIAS concentrated on the painter William Turner. The result was his book *Turner and Rotterdam 1817-1825-1841* (1974). Fred Bachrach was Commander in the Order of the British Empire and Knight in the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands.



**Hans Blom**, NIAS Fellow 1993/94, will hold the Cleveringa Chair at Leiden University in the academic year 2010/11. This chair was established in 1970 and is named after Professor Rudolph Cleveringa who, in November 1940, publicly protested against the dismissal of Jewish university professors by the German authorities. Hans Blom is a specialist in the field of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and had final responsibility for the investigative report on the Srebrenica Massacre in 1995. The inaugural lecture by the Cleveringa Professor traditionally takes place on 26 November.

**Danièle Bourcier**, NIAS Fellow 1993/94, was appointed permanent member of the

French Research Ethics Committee of the National Centre for Scientific Research (COMETS) on 14 December 2009. She is Director of Research at CNRS and Associate Professor of Law, Governance and Technology at the Université de Paris I.

**Christoph Burger**, NIAS Fellow 1993/94, retired from the Chair of Church History at the VU University Amsterdam. He delivered his valedictory lecture entitled *Laat mij zien hoe jouw beeld van Augustinus eruit ziet, en ik zal je zeggen wat je bezielt* (Show me your image of Augustine, and I will tell you what inspires you) on 21 May 2010. That same day a symposium was held in his honour entitled “The Reception of Augustine in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times”.



**Annick De Houwer**, VNC Fellow 1995/96, was appointed University Professor of Language Acquisition and Language Teaching, and Director of the Language

Center at the Universität Erfurt. While she gave up her position at the University of Antwerp she continues to be Collaborative Investigator at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the United States of America.

**Frans Hüsken**, NIAS Fellow 1988/89 and a member of the 1988/89 research theme group "Agrarian/Economic Processes of Development in South-East Asia in Historical Perspective" and NIAS Fellow 2008/09, died unexpectedly on 28 April 2010 at the age of 64. He was Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology at Radboud University Nijmegen and Professor of Anthropology at the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research at the University of Amsterdam. His formative years in university were highly promising, as he earned his B.A., M.A. and his Ph.D. degrees all *cum laude*. He first held positions as lecturer at the universities of Nijmegen and Amsterdam. From 1975 to 1978 he was Research Associate at the Satya Wacana University in Salatiga, Indonesia. A NWO/WOTRO research grant enabled him to do fieldwork on rural change in Central Java. In later years his research focused on social change in the Comal District (Central Java), and on social security and social policy in Indonesia. During his NIAS

Fellowship in 2008/09 he worked on a project on the local history of communism in Java. At NIAS Frans Hüsken will be remembered not only by his warm personality and lively participation in the scholarly debate but also by his perfect performance as the 2008/09 year group's Sinterklaas.

**Femme Gastra**, NIAS Fellow 1992/93 and coordinator of the 1992/93 research theme group "In Memoriam Van Leur: On the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as a Category in Asian History", will retire as Professor of Maritime History at Leiden University. He will give his valedictory lecture entitled *Scheepsvolk* (Maritime folk) on 11 June 2010.

**Annelou van Gijn**, NIAS Fellow 2006/07, was appointed Professor Extraordinary of Material Culture Studies at the University of Groningen. She gave her inaugural lecture entitled *Oude voorwerpen en nieuwe inzichten: het belang van materiële cultuurstudies voor onze kijk op het verleden* (Old objects and new insights: the importance of material culture studies for our view of the past) on 30 March 2010.

**Jaklien Gillis**, NIAS Receptionist from 1996 to 2003 gave birth to a healthy boy named Koen on 22 February 2010. Koen is the son of Henry Zijlmans and brother to Marieke and Bas.

**Christine Goettler**, NIAS Fellow 2004/05, was appointed to the Chair of Art History of Early Modern Times at the Universität Bern in April 2009. Previously, she was Professor of Art History at the University of Washington in Seattle. She was also awarded a Senior Fellowship at the International Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna from March to June 2010 to carry out research on the collection of the Portuguese merchant-banker and scientist Manuel Ximenes.

**Angela Jansen**, NIAS Staff member from 2002 to 2005, successfully defended her doctoral thesis entitled *Fashionably Traditional: The Development of Moroccan Urban Dress in the Last Five Decades* at Leiden University on 16 February 2010. At NIAS Angela Jansen was a member of the Fellows Support Group.



**Rudy Kousbroek**, Writer-in-Residence 2003/04, died on 4 April 2010 at the age of 80. He was born in the Dutch East Indies where he was interned in a Japanese camp during the Second World War. After the war he studied Mathematics and Physics in Amsterdam, and

Chinese and Japanese in Paris. He was one of the founders of the literary movement 'Beweging van Vijftig' (the fifties movement). Rudy Kousbroek wrote poems and a novel but was foremost known by his essays, many of which were published in the *Anathema* series. He reached a wider audience with his booklet *De aaibaarheidsfactor* ("The Strokeability Factor", 1969) which was a demonstration of his love and deep respect for cats, and by his *Het Oostindisch kampsyndroom* ("The Dutch East Indies Camp Syndrome", 1993). In his essays he touched on virtually every thinkable subject, drawing upon his knowledge of the humanities and sciences. While at NIAS he worked on several projects, some of which were not completed. Rudy Kousbroek held an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Groningen and was recipient of the Jan Hanlo Essay Prize and the P.C. Hooft Prize. He was a Knight in the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands.



**Theo Kuipers**, NIAS Fellow 1982/83 and 1996/97, Guest of the Rector 2009/10 and

member of the Scholarship Committee since 2002, retired from the Chair of Philosophy of Science at the University of Groningen. He began his scholarly career at the same university in 1975. Theo Kuipers gave his valedictory lecture entitled *Waarheidsbenadering in theorie en praktijk* (Truth approximation in theory and practice) on 1 March 2010. A symposium in his honour entitled "Realism, probability, truth approximation" was held on 28 February 2010.

**Walter Melion**, NIAS Fellow 2008/09 and a member of the 2008/09 research theme group "Discourses of Meditation and Self-reflection in Art and Literature, 1300 – 1600", was appointed Foreign Member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences on 12 April 2010. His field of research is Art of the Low Countries from 1400 to 1700.

**Henk Nellen**, NIAS Fellow 2004/05 and a member of the 2004/05 research theme group "*De lure Praedae* and the Grotian Concept of Rights", was appointed Professor Extraordinary of the History of Ideas in the Early Modern Period on behalf of the Dr. C. Louise Thijssen-Schoute Foundation at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He gave his inaugural lecture *Op zoek naar een vreedzame wereldorde: Hugo de Groot*

(1583-1645) over natuurlijke godsdienst, natuurrecht en rechtvaardige oorlog ("In Search of a World Order in Peace: Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) on Natural Religion, Natural Rights and Just War") on 26 March 2010.

**Jürgen Osterhammel**, NIAS Fellow 2001/02, was awarded the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize 2009 by the German Research Council, DFG. The prize was awarded for his advancement of global themes in German historiography, more in particular for his groundbreaking publications on European and outer European historical topics, and his original approach to the historiography of contemporary globalisation and its political, economic and cultural aspects. The prize carries an amount of 2.5 million euros for research projects in the coming seven years. Jürgen Osterhammel received the Leibniz Prize in Berlin on 15 March 2010.

**Jan Pen**, member of the NIAS Board on behalf of the University of Groningen from 1980 to 1987, died on 15 February 2010, one day before his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was Emeritus Professor of Political Economy and Public Finance at the University of Groningen. As an Economist he was a strong supporter and propagator of the theory of John Keynes. He also was influential as a Social



Democrat. His best known book was an introduction to macro-economics, *Moderne economie* (modern economy, 1959). During Jan Pen's membership of the NIAS Board the Institute went through a critical period as a result of a major retrenchment operation (1983-1988). This led to the termination of NIAS as an inter-university institute. Since 1 January 1988 NIAS has been an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.



**Thomas Rosenboom**, Writer-in-Residence 2006/07, will be Writer-in-Residence at Leiden University in the Fall trimester of the academic year 2010/11. He will give seminars on creative writing and deliver the Albert Verwey Lecture. The topic of his lecture will be colonial literature.

**Mark Rutgers**, NIAS Fellow 2007/08, was appointed to the Chair of Philosophy of Public Administration at the University of Amsterdam as of 15 April 2010. From 2010 to 2015 he will act as Dean of the Graduate School of Social Sciences.

**Lewis Siegelbaum**, NIAS Fellow 2007/08, was awarded the 2009 Ed Hewitt Prize by the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies for his 'NIAS book' *Cars for Comrades: The Life of the Soviet Automobile* (2008). The book was qualified as "an outstanding publication on the political economy of the centrally planned economies of the former Soviet Union and East Central Europe and their transitional successors". The prize was bestowed on Lewis Siegelbaum at the annual convention of the association in November 2009.

**Jacques Thomassen**, NIAS Fellow 1988/89 and a member of the 1988/89 research theme group "Parties and Voters", and NIAS Fellow 2002/03, will retire as Professor of Political Science at the University of Twente. His official farewell will take place on 24 September 2010.

**Rineke Verbrugge**, NIAS Fellow 2006/07, coordinator of the 2006/07 research theme group "Games, Action, and Social Software" and a member of the Lorentz Interdisciplinary Board, was appointed Professor of Logic and Cognition at the University of Groningen. She gave her inaugural lecture entitled *Denken over denken over denken: logica en sociale cognitie* (Thinking about thinking about thinking: logic and social cognition) on 25 May 2010.

**Douglas Walton**, NIAS Fellow 1987/88 and 1989/90 and a member of the 1989/90 research theme group "Fallacies as Violations of Rules for Argumentative Discourse", was appointed to the Assumption University Chair in Argumentation Studies at the University of Windsor. In 2009 he received the Dean's Special Recognition Award from the University of Windsor in recognition of excellence in research, scholarship and creative activity.

**Henk Wesseling**, Rector of NIAS from 1995 to 2002, NIAS Fellow 1983/84 and Honorary Fellow at NIAS from 2002 to 2009, was honoured by President Nicolas Sarkozy of the French Republic with the award of Commander in the Order of the *Légion d'Honneur* in recognition of his efforts to advance the French – Dutch rapprochement. Henk Wesseling was Vice-chair of the French-Dutch Cooperation Council from its inception until 2009. This council, set up in 2003, is pivotal in the bilateral political relations between France and the Netherlands. It is chaired by the Foreign Ministers of both countries. The decoration was bestowed on Henk Wesseling by the French Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Jean-François Blarel on 15 April 2010 in The Hague.

NFA Members are kindly requested to send details about developments in their scholarly career or personal life that might be of interest to other current or former NIAS Fellows. Please send your information, including specifics about date and place of the reported event to [Hooghuis@nias.knaw.nl](mailto:Hooghuis@nias.knaw.nl).

***‘Address unknown ...’***

NIAS and the NFA like to keep in touch with all the NFA Members. This is difficult when NIAS is not informed of NFA Members’ changes of address. We are very grateful to the NFA Members who responded to our request for updated addresses in earlier issues of the NIAS Newsletter. It was helpful in locating former fellows whose addresses were unknown.

Below is a new list of members whose addresses are unknown. If anyone knows of their current whereabouts or their current addresses, this information would be greatly appreciated.

Saskia Voets (NIAS Staff), last known address in Oosterhout, Netherlands.

## **NIAS Publications**

In 2009 and in the first few months of 2010 the following titles were published by NIAS. These publications can also be found on the NIAS website, under [www.nias.knaw.nl/en/new\\_3/](http://www.nias.knaw.nl/en/new_3/)

- Robin Kinross, *A4 and before: towards a long history of paper sizes*, KB Lecture 6 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2009), ISSN 1871-1480
- Annual Report 2008 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2009), ISBN 978-90-71093-61-6
- NIAS Newsletter 42 / Spring 2009 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2009), ISSN 1572-2902
- NIAS Newsletter 43 / Fall 2009 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2009), ISSN 1572-2902
- Anna-Maria Brandstetter, *Contested Pasts: The Politics of Remembrance in Post-Genocide Rwanda*, Ortelijs Lecture 6 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2010), ISSN 1570-7482
- Michael C. Burda, *Paying for Social Security in the Long and the Short Run*, Duisenberg Lecture 2 (Wassenaar, NIAS, 2010), ISSN 1876-3014