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NIAS Newsletter

SPRING 2012



- *NIAS from an International Perspective*
- *Making Europe: Technology and Transformations*
- *Studying the Brain, Exploring the Limits of Human Culture*



NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE
FOR ADVANCED STUDY
IN THE HUMANITIES
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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*Institute of the Royal Netherlands
Academy of Arts and Sciences*

*Meijboomlaan 1
2242 PR Wassenaar
Telephone: +31- (0)70 - 51 22 700
Telefax: +31- (0)70 - 51 17 162
E-mail: nias@nias.knaw.nl
Internet: www.nias.knaw.nl*



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Newsletter Editors:
Jos Hooghuis, Kahliya Ronde
communication@nias.knaw.nl

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Word from the Rector: NIAS from an International Perspective

NIAS is one of the research institutes under the umbrella of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). However, NIAS is in fact quite different from the other KNAW Institutes. Firstly, NIAS differs in that it is truly *international*: each year half of the fellows at NIAS come from outside of the Netherlands. This academic year (2011/12) was no exception: from the 55 Fellows staying at NIAS, 29 of them are non-Dutch, originating not only from Western Europe and the US, but also from Africa, South-America, New Zealand and Eastern Europe, including Russia. But it is not only diversity with respect to regional background that NIAS strives for; we also aim at diversity regarding gender and age. This year has been very successful in this respect: 19 Fellows are female; ages range from 30+ to 60+; 29 Fellows work on subjects outside what is traditionally defined as the Humanities.

Such a diverse, international academic community creates a very special atmosphere and generates specific dynamics in the interactions amongst Fellows. For example, a Russian maritime historian working on the transfer of Dutch technologies in the 17th and 18th century gets unexpected ideas and new perspectives from conversations with an anthropologist working on contemporary Cameroon. Or linguists studying bilingualism based on research of expat communities in Western Europe profit from the input of Fellows from an apparently completely different situation in multi-lingual societies in Western Africa. Many more examples could be given: serendipity is the key word for what happens at the lunch table at NIAS, where Fellows share not only food, but also, more importantly, thoughts and experiences. Consequently unexpected new ideas emerge

and blossom. That makes NIAS truly unique in the Netherlands.

Secondly, NIAS differs from the other KNAW Institutes in that it is a *granting* organisation: it finances and supports short term research projects. NIAS has no permanent research staff, nor a specific research topic or programme. Neither is it the locus of an important collection of books or other data, as opposed to e.g. IISG and NIOD, two other famous KNAW Institutes. Researchers stay at NIAS for a couple of months only, ten at the most, and they either work alone or in small (theme) groups on the topic of their own choice. There are, however, three broadly defined, interdisciplinary research areas that NIAS prioritises in the coming years: *Cultural*



Aafke Hulk, Professor of French Linguistics, is Rector of NIAS since August 2010.

Heritage & e-Humanities, Brain & Cognition and *Global Society & Identity*. These research domains were chosen after careful consultation with our Scholarship Committee and we hope this focus will contribute to our aim to facilitate Dutch top researchers working in an international context. This academic year, 25 of the 55 Fellows carry out their research project in one of these domains.

Whereas NIAS is unique in the Netherlands, it is not at all internationally: other countries also have institutes for advanced study similar to NIAS. In fact, 42 years ago, NIAS was founded as a result of the international experience of Professor E.M. Uhlenbeck (a linguist at Leiden University, who later on came to be the first Chairman of the NIAS Board). Uhlenbeck was very much inspired by the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California, where he had spent a year as a fellow. Since then, a large number of new institutes for advanced study have been founded all over the world, some as university dependent institutes, others as institutes with a more independent character, like NIAS. Principal aim of all these various institutes was to be a place for the most highly specialised

research, yet provide an atmosphere open to intellectual exchange across all disciplinary boundaries.

Since the foundation of NIAS in 1970, a number of international networks of institutes were formed, cooperating in many different ways. NIAS participates in two of these networks: in the international network of SIAS (Some Institutes for Advanced Study), and in NetIAS, a European organisation of institutes for advanced study. In this newsletter, focussing on NIAS from an international perspective, you can read more about these networks.

Talking about international networks, there is one last initiative to mention here, and that is the start of a NIAS community on LinkedIn. We have created a NIAS Fellows Group to keep in contact with all of you, our former Fellows from around the world. Please join us, give us your input and suggestions, and contribute to making NIAS the academic *beehive* it wants to be. I hope to see and speak many of you there and elsewhere!

Aafke Hulk

NIAS News

Henk Barendregt is Distinguished Lorentz Fellow 2012/13

Henk Barendregt, Professor of Foundations of Mathematics and Computer Science at Radboud University Nijmegen, has won the fourth Distinguished Lorentz Fellowship. He received the Award from the Chair of the Lorentz Board **Alexander Rinnooy Kan** at an Award Ceremony on 27 March 2012. At NIAS, Henk Barendregt will explore the discrepancy between human perception, commonly perceived as continuous, versus the actual discrete underlying mechanisms. Human perception is often experienced as continuous and holistic but the underlying fundamental mechanisms are in fact discrete and compartmentalized. These underlying mechanisms may become unexpectedly visible in people suffering from stress or other psychological conditions. *Vipassana* meditation and other phenomenological methods intentionally investigate these boundaries of perception. Becoming aware of the fundamental mechanisms often feels unfamiliar and strange in comparison to common day-to-day experience and can induce aversion and avoidance. Barendregt will explore the ways in which mindfulness training could enable people to domesticate this aversion and avoidance reaction, so that they can live a more harmonious life.

The Fellowship includes an international workshop at the Lorentz Center, in which Barendregt will bring together cognitive neuroscientists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and mindfulness trainers. The Distinguished Lorentz Fellowship is awarded to eminent researchers who can bridge the gap between the Humanities, the Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. The Fellowship is an initiative of NIAS and the Lorentz Center and is



Left to Right: Alexander Rinnooy Kan, Henk Barendregt, Aafke Hulk (Rector of NIAS), Arjen Doelman (Director of the Lorentz Center)

supported by the KNAW and NWO. Recently, NIAS and the Lorentz Center received funding from the KNAW *Strategiefonds* to intensify their cooperation and develop new interdisciplinary initiatives.

KB Lecture by Eberhard König

Eberhard König, NIAS-KB Fellow and Professor of Art History at the Freie Universität Berlin, has held the annual public KB Lecture on 19 January 2012. He received the first copy of the accompanying publication, *Devotion from Dawn to Dusk: the Office of the Virgin in Books of Hours of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague* (also available online at the NIAS website).

At the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague, König presented the results of his research on medieval manuscripts in the KB's collection, in particular on Dutch Books of Hours. These collection of Christian prayers for recitation were intended for laymen, for individual use at home. The expensive, handwritten books became increasingly popular in the fifteenth century. One of König's most remarkable



Eberhard König

findings is related to the exceptional development of Books of Hours in the Northern Netherlands. Whereas most Books of Hours in medieval Europe were written in Latin, a language most laymen did not grasp, Books of Hours from the Northern Netherlands were translated into Dutch. Being written in a language that laymen could understand, the need for elaborate images and miniatures decreased, resulting in Books of Hours quite different from those produced in the rest of Europe. With his visual analysis of the Dutch Books of Hours, König does not only reveal the international context in which these works were made, but also traces important changes within the realm of Biblical interpretation and religious worshipping.

Publication of Objective Law and Subjective Judges

NIAS started its second semester with the introduction of 21 new Fellows and an enlightening lecture on gossip and rumors in Classical Antiquity by Professor **Ineke Sluiter** (NIAS Theme Group Coordinator), followed by the official book presentation of *Objective Law and Subjective Judges*. This publication was written by **Bernhard Schlink**, former Spinoza Fellow, and **Geert Corstens**, President of the Netherlands Supreme Court, and was the result of a public debate at the Peace Palace in

2010. It addresses the role of judges in society and whether the future of our legal system lies with politicised judges or impersonal law. At the opening event, Geert Corstens was interviewed by Professor of Law **Leonard Besselink**, Henry G. Schermers Fellow 2011/12. The book was published by Cossee.



Geert Corstens and Leonard Besselink

New Fellowship for Women in Life Sciences

Even though women increasingly attain the highest academic levels, they are still under-represented at the top levels of scientific research. On International Women's Day, 8 March 2012, NIAS, L'Oréal, UNESCO and the LNVH (*Landelijk Netwerk Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren*) launched the first Dutch Fellowship For Women in Science. With the introduction of this Fellowship, NIAS commits to promoting the scientific careers of deserving, committed and talented young women scientists, active in the field of life sciences. Each year, two women scientists at the post-doctoral (*Vidi*) level will be awarded a residential fellowship at NIAS for 3 or 5 months. Candidates for the fellowship must already be engaged in pursuing research in one or allied fields of life sciences including biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, agriculture, medicine, pharmacy and

physiology at a Dutch university or Research Institute. The deadline for applications for the Research Year 2013/2014 was closed on 15 May 2012. The winners of the For Women in Science Fellowship will receive the award during the Pump your Career Event in October 2012. More information about requirements and the application procedure for 2014/15 can be found at www.forwomeninscience.nl.



Book Presentation: Bulgarian Scholars at NIAS

On 3 October 2011, **Aafke Hulk** visited Sofia to hold a Q&A session with **Bulgarian scientists**. The discussion on the Dutch system of scientific research took place at the Institute of Balkan Studies. Bulgarian NIAS Fellows and representatives of academic and scientific institutions took part in the debate. The discussion was followed by the presentation of the book *A Place, a Time and*



an Opportunity for Growth, written by 13 Bulgarian scholars who studied at NIAS and edited by **Katya Stoycheva** and **Alexandre Kostov**. The contributions in the book show that from the early 1990s onwards, the Bulgarian Fellows have been actively involved in the academic community at NIAS, to their own profit and that of the other Fellows. The publication developed from a series of lectures, held on the Education Day of Holland 2010, and is supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Sofia.

Shortlisted Horizon Applicants at NIAS

This year NIAS has opened its doors to scholars who have been shortlisted for Horizon, a prestigious subsidy programme run by NWO, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research. The Horizon focuses on scientific innovation in humanities disciplines and finances research programmes that have the potential to determine the agendas for future humanities research. This requires a coherent approach within a broad research programme.



The six groups of researchers that were shortlisted for Horizon, were invited to NIAS for a number of days to write and discuss the final version of their proposals. The grant has a maximum size of € 2 million, and will be awarded in June 2012.



Poem by Maria van Daalen



Wall Poem from NIAS Alumni

The previous NFA Day on 9 June 2011 was not only an interesting event, featuring **Johan Heilbron's** Uhlenbeck Lecture "But What About the European Union of Scholars?", it was also a very festive one at which the NFA presented NIAS with a gift to mark NIAS's 40th anniversary. The gift consisted of a wall painting of the poem @NIAS by **Maria van Daalen**, Writer-in-Residence 2009/10. It was painted by **Hendrik Ribot** on the west wall of the NIAS Conference Building. The English translation of Maria van Daalen's poem can be found on the back cover of this newsletter.

Uhlenbeck Lecture by Nancy Stieber

Nancy Stieber, Art Historian and NIAS Fellow 2007/08, holds the annual Uhlenbeck Lecture. On 30 May 2012 she will present her ideas on *Metaphor and Metropolis*. "Dutch architect

Rem Koolhaas provocatively declared that the city no longer exists. He argued that we now live in generic cities, that yearning for cities with identity, character, and landmarks is mere nostalgic romanticism while cities that maintain an aura of distinctiveness, like Amsterdam, Paris, or Istanbul, have devolved into museums for touristic consumption," Stieber writes. Her lecture presents an alternative interpretation of urban identity by examining our tendency to view cities as organisms and personages, as theaters, as paths, as metonymic icons. By probing the ways metaphorical images have been used to make sense of the metropolis, it investigates the multifarious efficacy of the cultural work achieved by our imaginations when grappling with the complexities of urban experience. Stieber: "Our metaphors may be illusory, but they allow us to contend with metropolitan space and time in a visceral fashion. Indeed, construing the space of the city is often tantamount to construing its place in time." Nancy Stieber is an Associate Professor in the Art Department of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, where she teaches architectural history. Specialized in the history of housing and urbanism of the twentieth century in the Netherlands, her research has examined the ways in which the city of Amsterdam was represented in a variety of media at the turn of the century.



Nancy Stieber at NIAS in 2007/8

Deadline NIAS Fellowships 2013/14

Whereas competition for NIAS Fellowships for scholars affiliated to non-Dutch universities and research institutes is closed by now, it is still open to scholars with a position at a Dutch university. The selection criteria and application forms can be found on the NIAS website under <Fellowships>. Application deadline is 15 August 2012.

Deadline EURIAS Fellowships 2013/14

The European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme is an international researcher mobility programme offering fellowships in one of the 14 participating Institutes: Berlin, Bologna, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Cambridge, Helsinki, Jerusalem, Lyon, Nantes, Paris, Uppsala, Vienna, or Wassenaar. The Programme welcomes applications worldwide from promising young scholars as well as from leading senior researchers. Applications are submitted online via www.eurias-fp.eu and the application deadline is 7 June 2012.

Organising a Workshop at NIAS

To stimulate innovative (Dutch) top research within the humanities and the social sciences, NIAS facilitates and finances small-scale, international research workshops. These may be initiated by NIAS Fellows, researchers at KNAW institutes or researchers at Dutch universities. NIAS offers unique facilities for academic workshops of one, two or three days. In 2011/12 NIAS hosted about 25 workshops, offering not only conference facilities, but also accommodation and catering. The academic programme of these workshops reflected the research areas focused on in NIAS's academic policy (Cultural Heritage & e-Humanities, Brain & Cognition

and Global Society & Identity) or were aimed at developing new (interdisciplinary) themes. More information about the application procedure and deadlines can be found on the NIAS website under <workshops>.

NFA Members and the NIAS Network

NIAS is proud of its former Fellows and wishes to keep them informed of current and future research, interesting events, and new developments. As announced in the *NIAS Newsletter* of Spring 2011, NIAS increasingly will use digital means of communication. We therefore requested you to provide us with your e-mail address to this end. Many of you were kind enough to do so. This year for the first time the invitation for the annual NIAS Fellows Association Day on Wednesday 30 May 2012 was sent by e-mail only. If you did not receive this invitation it might very well be that we do not have your current e-mail address. In that case, please send a message to nias@nias.knaw.nl indicating your current preferred e-mail address. Communication by e-mail is in line with the sustainability policy of NIAS. NIAS publications such as the *Uhlenbeck Lecture* and the *Annual Report*, will not be sent in printed form anymore since digital versions are available from the NIAS website under <Publications>.

NIAS and LinkedIn

Increasingly, professionals are a member of the business-related LinkedIn network. And so are many (former) NIAS Fellows. We therefore will set up a LinkedIn NIAS Company Page as well as a LinkedIn NIAS Discussion Group. This way we can intensify the network of NIAS and its (former) Fellows, and create possibilities to benefit from each other's experience. More information about NIAS and LinkedIn will be provided on the NIAS website.

SIAS: Some Institutes Visiting NIAS

by Aafke Hulk

Each year, the Directors from various international Institutes for Advanced Study meet to discuss common initiatives, best practices and policy matters. In June 2011, they visited Wassenaar.



SIAS Directors visiting NIAS. From left to right: Jos Hooghuis (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study), Luca Giuliani (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Robert Scott (Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University), Eliezer Rabinovici (Institute for Advanced Studies Jerusalem), Joachim Nettelbeck (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Judith Vichniac (Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study), Geoffrey Harpham (National Humanities Center in North Carolina), Björn Wittrock (Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study), Peter Goddard (Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton), Stephen Kosslyn (Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University), Aafke Hulk (Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study).

The international network of SIAS (Some Institutes for Advanced Study) was created in 1991 by, indeed, some, institutes for advanced study. All six founding institutes were modelled after the Princeton Institute for

Advanced Study, and they felt the need to share ideas and experiences. Today the following institutes are participating in SIAS: the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford

University, the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton, the National Humanities Center (NHC) in North Carolina, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) in Uppsala, the Institute for Advanced Study (WIKO) in Berlin and The Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In the past, SIAS has been involved in a number of common initiatives, aiming on the one hand at helping scholars from regions where access to scientific resources is not easy, by either creating special prizes and programmes to become a fellow elsewhere or by giving support to start an IAS in their own country. On the other hand, the SIAS institutes share experiences not only with respect to new academic activities (interdisciplinary summer schools, new international contacts) but also in dealing with the increasing demand for accountability by society today in all kinds of respects. This is also a very valuable aspect of these network meetings.

SIAS Directors meet each year at one of the institutes. Last year, in June 2011, this annual meeting took place at NIAS. On the agenda were topics such as quality indicators for an IAS, the relevance of the humanities in the contemporary world, and alumni policies. Bob

Scott and Julia Fremon, from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford, presented their project of a comparative study of the selection procedures of the different Institutes for Advanced Study to unravel best practices. Joachim Nettelbeck from the Institute of Advanced Study in Berlin, who is also the informal Secretary of the SIAS network, discussed the selective fellowships of the Volkswagen Stiftung, an independent, non-profit organization that has been funding research projects in Germany and elsewhere. The other Directors agreed upon introducing these fellowships in their own institutes in the coming years. The meeting ended with a visit to the KNAW headquarters in Amsterdam, where the Directors were shown around in the very interesting and beautiful building in which the KNAW resides, learning more about the history of canal house buildings. More importantly though, they were informed about Dutch national policy matters regarding the financing of academic research, in the present and in the past, and its consequences for the KNAW and its Institutes. This visit was very much appreciated by the SIAS Directors – it allowed them to gain more insight in the national context of NIAS, which shows both similarities and differences with the national context of their own institutes.

NetIAS: European Cooperation and New Fellowships

by Kahliya Ronde

NetIAS, a European network of Institutes for Advanced Study, has been the driving force behind the successful EURIAS Fellowship Programme, funded in part by the European Commission. This year NIAS has been home to the very first generation of EURIAS Fellows.

A beehive. That is what NIAS aims to be. It is the metaphor chosen in NIAS's most recent policy paper to describe its envisioned role and function in the academic world. For NIAS to be a successful academic beehive – a place where ideas and knowledge get transferred and exchanged – it needs explorer bees; the kind of bees that travel far, discover new grounds, meet other bees from distant territories, and search for new nectar to feed the colony back home. Since this is no easy task, NIAS and its department of explorer bees (the Directorate) have teamed up with other colonies to create a number of international networks.

One of these international networks is NetIAS, an informal network of European Institutes for Advanced Study. The network brings together 17 Institutes for Advanced Study across Europe. It was created in 2003 to stimulate a dialogue on IAS practices and possible forms of cooperation. “The various national contexts in which these institutes operate, are actually very different from each other,” says Jos Hooghuis, Head of Research Planning and involved in NetIAS's foundation. “We gratefully learn from these differences.”

Besides being a platform for sharing experiences, NetIAS was also created to join forces in finding new nectar – the sweet smell

of European nectar. Part of NetIAS's aim is to pursue a structured dialogue with the European Commission. “One of the early NetIAS meetings was held here in Wassenaar: a representative from the European Commission was invited to inform us on procedures and possibilities. It was an interesting meeting: nobody quite understood the contents of what she said, she seemed to speak an entirely different language,” says Hooghuis. “Unfortunately the first application for EU funding got rejected in 2007, but gladly, the second time around, two years later, the application proved to be more successful. The grant, awarded by an institution known to spend circa 90 percent of its budget on the exact sciences, is considered to be an acknowledgement of the continuing importance of the humanities and the social sciences.”

With the financial support of the European Commission, NetIAS was able to develop the European Institutes for Advanced Study (EURIAS) Fellowship Programme, an international researcher mobility programme offering residencies in Institutes in Berlin, Bologna, Brussels, Bucharest, Budapest, Cambridge, Helsinki, Jerusalem, Lyon, Nantes, Paris, Uppsala, Vienna or Wassenaar. Considering the large number of applications and the high quality of the applicants'

academic work, this programme is regarded as being a great success.

Funding for the EURIAS Fellowships is secured until 2013/2014. The coordinating bureau in Paris, another one of these academic beehives, is currently working on another application to be handed in to the European Commission, hoping to be able to continue this form of international scientific exchange and cooperation.

In the Spotlight: EURIAS Fellows

This year NIAS has opened its doors to the first generation of EURIAS Fellows. Four academics – three junior and one senior – were selected from a list of 699 academics applying for a fellowship at one of the 14 European institutes. All four EURIAS Fellows have arrived in September, staying for a 10 months period.

Tracy Adams on Medieval Diplomacy and Silence

Tracy Adams (USA) is an Associate Professor in French Literature and History at the University of Auckland. She is specialised in medieval (French) literature, particularly in relation to feminist theory and the anthropology of love, laughter and romances. As a Senior Fellow at NIAS she planned to work on the role of women's networks in the history of European diplomacy.

“As I was trying to understand how women in the fifteenth century saw themselves as rulers and regents, I suddenly realised there's actually a book to be written about the writer who gave these women all of their ideas: Christine de Pizan. She was one of Europe's first women writers, connected to the court of Charles V of France. Starting out as a love poet, she moved on to write political treatises.



Tracy Adams

It is my idea that her love poetry is also about politics, because the way you understand love has all to do with the way you understand power relationships. So now I am in this situation of writing two books simultaneously. But I really want the book on Christine de Pizan to be finished, because in this field, once you start presenting ideas in public you want to get the book out quickly.

One of my colleagues told me about NIAS's wonderful location, not only in terms of the beautiful surroundings, but also because of the major libraries around here. Moreover I really wanted to come to the Netherlands because I wanted to learn Dutch. Many of the women I'm studying were actually Burgundian, speaking Dutch, and a lot of material is in that language too, so I thought it would be important to be able to read modern literature from Dutch scholars. Actually the former Rector of NIAS, **Wim Blockmans**, is a very well-known scholar in my area; his picture is right here in the hallway, across the coffee machine, staring at me to remind me of my tasks...

I cannot imagine a better environment for working. By getting ten months to concentrate, you get so much more work done. And unexpected cooperation develops too; together with **Michael Potegal** I wrote an article on anger in the Middle Ages, in which he commented on the topic from a modern psychologist's perspective. Without our conversations at lunch, this collaboration would not have come about. Sometimes it is a bit lonely, sitting in your room, silently, just working, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. It is an experience I wish everyone could have."

Jan Hoff on the Need for Theoretical Reflection

Jan Hoff (Germany) defines himself as an intellectual historian, shaped by a background in philosophy. His Ph.D. research, carried out at the Freie Universität Berlin, focussed on the international reception of the critique of political economy since the 1960s. At NIAS, he is working on his Habilitation Thesis on the world-system theory.



Jan Hoff

"The world-system theory tries to grasp the modern world as an encompassing whole, emphasising global economic formation processes, global power structures and international links. I focus on the world-system theory on the one hand from an epistemological standpoint, and on the other hand from a historical perspective, bringing in research on intellectual transfer processes. So I will be tracking and analysing the formation of ideas and the development of intellectual debates.

There is one period that I find especially interesting, partly because of its parallels with the present time. This is the period from 1870 to 1914, a phase of intense globalisation on the economic level, starting with a major economic crisis in 1873, turning into a long economic depression. On the political level, this period saw the birth of the so called anti-systemic movements. And it is also a period of large scale global migration; not only from Western Europe to Northern America but also between for example the Middle East and Brazil, and between the different countries of the Eastern Mediterranean. I basically look at how this period is interpreted within the discourse of world-system theory. It is necessary to take these theoretical approaches seriously, I think, in these times of economic crisis and globalisation we need theoretical explanations.

I applied for a EURIAS Fellowship at NIAS for several reasons, one of them being the weight these institutions put on interdisciplinary research. I was also happy to see that NIAS has a very interesting list of former fellows, like **Matthias Middell**, working on comparative transnational history, **Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie**, a scholar from *L'École des Annales*, and **Etienne Balibar**, one of the most important figures in present day political philosophy. These scholars all play a role in the discourses I am studying, and they form part of my own intellectual development.

For me, it is difficult to judge the impact of my stay at NIAS. I will need more time to really assess its influence and to fully understand how this phase will fall into the puzzle of my intellectual formation process.”

Nadège Lechevrel on Language and Interaction

Nadège Lechevrel (France) is a linguist working on an interdisciplinary project, engaging with biology, ethology and cognitive science. She received her Ph.D. from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, where she studied ecological approaches to language from a historical perspective.



Nadège Lechevrel

“During this fellowship I continue my research on the relationship between life sciences and language sciences. There are different biological models in circulation in linguistics, from strict eco-evolutionary models, used by

linguists wanting to create a dialogue between for example population genetics and linguistic typology, to very metaphorical ecological models, used more in the sense of ‘preservation of linguistic diversity’. I am tracing these different models and methodologies from the 19th century until now. Besides this historical research, I am also doing empirical research, for example on human-animal communication.

One of the main reasons to apply for a EURIAS Fellowship was the academic freedom that it offered. Resorting to biological models to analyse language change and language evolution can be quite unpopular. In France, for example, some linguists are rather reluctant to use biological metaphors, because of the social sciences’ problematic history with evolutionary theories since the 19th century. However, the concepts used by contemporary biologists are of a very different nature than those circulating in the 19th century, as biologists have profoundly changed their perspective on life and diversity.

The time so far has been quite successful in terms of connecting with other researchers. I have exchanged perspectives, examples and references with **Ianthi Tsimpli**, who is working on language acquisition, **Rik van Gijn**, who is working on the Bolivian language of Yurakaré, and with **Enoch Aboh**, who is doing fieldwork on Creole languages. The lecture series on Human Evolution, organised by **Ronald Noë**, was also very fruitful. Perhaps one of the best things that already came out of the fellowship is my recent affiliation with the *Laboratoire d'Histoire des Théories Linguistiques* in Paris. My EURIAS Fellowship already has and will undoubtedly give more visibility to my work and forthcoming publications, which makes me all the more optimistic for future developments.”

Elijah Taiwo on Educational Rights and Small Beds

Elijah Tawo (Nigeria) is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He received his doctoral degree in law from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in South Africa, where he specialised in human rights law. At NIAS, he is researching the right to education.



Elijah Taiwo

“I am doing a comparative study of educational rights in Nigeria and South Africa. The South African constitution is one of the most progressive in the world, that states the right to education as an enforceable right. But in the Nigerian case, education is categorised under

the directive principle of state policy, which means it is not considered a fundamental human right. The government may provide education when practicable. So it remains under the discretion of the state whether it provides education or not. Unlike in South Africa, where the law states that the government shall provide education, which makes it mandatory. On my return to Nigeria, I will have written a book, but also a recommendation for the Nigerian government and national assembly, on how to incorporate the right to education as a fundamental human right under Nigerian law.

I was reminded of the EURIAS Fellowship by a colleague, who asked me to write a recommendation letter to support her application. But I got so interested, I applied myself as well. I chose to come to NIAS, not only because of the available facilities and resources, but also because of the historical link between the Netherlands and South Africa. South African law is a form of Roman-Dutch law, and coming here would make me gain more insight into this particular legal tradition.

So far my stay has been very engaging and productive: you interact not only with lawyers with their legal perception on educational rights, but also with psychologists, political scientists, anthropologists and historians. One way or the other, these perspectives are incorporated into my reasoning and writing. Besides these academic exchanges I will remember NIAS for its wonderful, spacious offices, and, in contrast – I find this very funny – its small studio-beds.”

Studying the Brain, Exploring the Limits of Human Culture

by Kahliya Ronde

“Some people think languages and cultures differ from each other in entirely unpredictable ways,” says Johan Rooryck, NIAS’s Distinguished Lorentz Fellow 2011/12. “But in fact, I don’t believe that’s true.” By researching innate cognitive skills, Rooryck is trying to find patterns in diversity.

Johan Rooryck is a man of rules, patterns, and systems. Once, on the way from the office to lunch, he mentioned his fondness for etiquette – for holding the door open for women, for letting older people pass the bridge first. “It’s not so difficult, is it? Women before men, old before young. A simple rule that can make social life so much easier.” It is not just rules governing social life that please Rooryck. In his academic career he is also engaged in a quest for rules, for the underlying mechanisms that make us speak, see, learn and interact the way we do. He is trying to grasp and untangle the rules, patterns and systems – located somewhere in our brain – that seem to define our understanding of the world around us. Originally trained as a linguist, Johan Rooryck has broadened his interests to include research into *core knowledge systems*.

“Core knowledge systems are hard wired, innate cognitive abilities that are task specific, language independent, and non-species specific,” Rooryck explains. There are at least four known core knowledge systems: one for the representation of objects, one for the representation of agents, one for numbers and one for geometry. Each system has its own specific principles and properties. “A good example is the system that determines how we represent objects in space. Even newborn babies know that objects move as bounded



Johan Rooryck received his education in Romance linguistics and philosophy from the K.U. Leuven, where he also wrote a Ph.D. on aspects of infinitival complements. After five years of research and teaching in the US, he was offered a Professorship in French Linguistics at Leiden University in 1993. He primarily works on theoretical syntax and generative grammar. He has been involved in various research projects funded by NWO and the ERC, ranging from aphasia and cochlear implants to evidentiality. With Guido Vanden Wyngaerd, he recently published Dissolving Binding theory (2011, Oxford University Press).

entities. Experiments have shown, for example, that infants know that if a ball disappears behind another object, it will reappear at the other end. So they realise that these objects are units, that they move on a continuous path, and that they interact when they come into contact with each other. And, I find this very striking, infants can only apply this knowledge to about three objects at the time. If the number of objects to be kept into view becomes too large, they can't keep track of them anymore. So size limit is also a property of the core knowledge system for object representation."

So babies are pretty smart, being able to predict how their toys will reappear behind their mothers' back. However, it is not only humans that possess this knowledge. "It can be observed with animals as well. Experiments have shown that even little chicks, fresh out of the egg, know how entities move. That's why it is assumed that this knowledge is in fact innate." According to Rooryck, we are born with knowledge of how to understand things, animals, people, shapes and numbers. Evolutionary speaking, that seems to make sense: in order to survive, we and other animals need to know how food, loved ones and enemies behave. The ones that understood quickly had a better chance of survival. After thousands of generations, this knowledge seems to have been inscribed, somewhere. But where? "The core knowledge systems



Our understanding of objects, shapes and numbers might be based on innate knowledge.

must have a physical place in our brain. Neuroscientists have been trying to localise the different systems, but we do not know exactly where they are yet. There are some indications, but it needs to be looked at more."

"Johan Rooryck is an academic in the true sense of the word. He is highly interesting to talk to, because of his erudition, intelligence and open mind. Our interests overlap in the area of the evolution of language and the functional explanations for the language faculty. My own research focusses on the things primates do despite their lack of language: they show complex forms of cooperation in spite of not being able to conclude binding contracts, to influence each other's reputation etc. Johan studies the role of language, while I look at how far one can get without it."

Ronald Noë, biologist and Lorentz Fellow 2011/12.

"Johan Rooryck belongs to the generation of linguists with both global and detailed knowledge of intrinsic properties of human language. He enjoys linguistic formalization, implements it but does not get carried away by it. His adventurous quest into other core knowledge systems of human cognition reflects the new direction linguistics should take."

Ianthi Tsimpli, psycholinguist and Guest of the Rector 2011/12.

That, however, will not be Rooryck's research project. At NIAS, one of Rooryck's aims is to write a big project studying the relationship between music, language, the visual arts, and core knowledge systems.

"What you see is that properties of core knowledge systems are reflected in language. Take, for example, the core knowledge system for numbers. Developmental psychologists have shown that this system breaks down into two subtypes: one that counts small numbers, and one that only compares approximate numbers. So one part of our brain counts "1, 2, 3", and another part knows that 8 is approximately bigger than 4, but there is no precise distinction between 7, 8 or 9. Animals do this too; it is not a matter of having words for them. However, in the case of the human species, you see reflections of these properties in language. Language typically treats the words for 1, 2, and 3 in very different ways than the higher numbers, from 4 upwards, so to speak." For instance, *first*, *second* and *third* (the ordinal numbers for 1, 2, and 3) have a very different shape than the ordinal numbers for 4 onwards. After 4 the ordinals become

regular, so *fourth*, *fifth*, *sixth*, etc. "This suggests the smaller numbers have a different status in language. You see this across languages, all over the world."

The fact that there are some characteristics in language that people from all over the world seem to share in one way or another, seems to suggest we are born with a system for language in our brain as well. Rooryck thinks we are. "I look at language as a capacity that is innate. It's what we call, in generative linguistics, after Noam Chomsky, the language faculty. What is interesting to me is to see which aspects of that language faculty are related to aspects of core knowledge. It is clear that it interacts with core knowledge, because you see various properties of core knowledge systems reflected in language. So far, it seems to be a one-way street. This is not entirely surprising of course, since, evolutionary speaking, core knowledge systems are much older. The exact relation between language and core knowledge systems is still up for grabs. We need to find out."

Rooryck plans to find out by carrying out a number of studies. Some are theoretical and typological (e.g. studying the differences between the higher and the lower numbers in the systems of various languages in the world), some are experimental (e.g. studying how Dutch children acquire ordinal numbers). Some are even moving beyond the realm of language. "I'm co-writing projects on music, poetry, and the visual arts. Our idea is to relate various domains in the humanities to core knowledge. What properties does music have in common with core knowledge systems? Can we explain geometrical patterns in the visual arts through its relation to innate knowledge? These are very exciting questions, I think."

Exciting, but not always easy. Rooryck encounters quite a bit of resistance to the idea that innate cognitive skills might determine



*Photograph of the human brain, taken at the NIAS Seminar on Brain Mechanisms of Aggression and Emotion, given by NIAS Fellows **Dick Jennings** and **Michael Potegal** (October 2011). Brain & Cognition is one of NIAS's prioritized research domains.*



At the end of May, Rooryck will hold his Lorentz workshop. "It is an exciting meeting, because developmental psychologists, neuroscientists and all these people from various traditions in the humanities will come together to work on core knowledge systems."

the nature of music, poetry and art. "The humanities are used to look at cultural production from a what I would call an external point of view: simply put, the idea that human cultural diversity is without limit. The best we can do is describe and record the variation that we find. But the point of view that I'm adopting is a much more internalist point of view, namely that we have certain capacities that are innate, and given that they are innate, there must be limits on them. The question is: what are the limits? What makes humans unique? But also, what are the invariant elements of this uniqueness? What is the underlying system of various cultural traits? Some people from the humanities and linguistics don't like this point of view. They think languages and cultures differ from each other in entirely unpredictable ways. But in fact, we don't think that's true. Some cultural traits are more common than others, so that means that some cultural diversity seems to be constrained. We try to see patterns in diversity."

Exploring the limits of human cultural diversity sounds like a rather encompassing project. "It is an ambitious project, and the interdisciplinarity is what I consider the most ambitious part. It is challenging, because you have to be very open and, in a sense, modest, because others do not necessarily speak your own language. All parties need to be very willing to try and translate what they mean by certain things for the people working in other research traditions. Fortunately, you always find people of good will everywhere."

The questions that Rooryck tries to answer, have been eloquently raised by the French biologist Jacques Monod: "En me posant la vaste question: qu'est qui fait que l'homme est l'homme? Je constate qu'il y a sa culture d'une part et son génome de l'autre, c'est clair. Mais quelles sont les limites génétiques de la culture? Quel est leur bloc génétique? Nous n'en savons absolument rien. Et c'est dommage car celui-ci est le problème le plus passionnant, le plus fondamental qui soit." (Jacques Monod, *De Homine*, Rivista dell'istituto di Filosofia, Roma 53-54, 1975, p. 131.)

Making Europe: Technology and Transformations

by Ruth Oldenziel

Ruth Oldenziel is Professor of American-European History at the Eindhoven University of Technology. As a NIAS Fellow in 2010/11 she was a member of the Theme Group “Inventing Europe. A Transnational History of European Integration.”

My contribution could be entitled, how to collaborate with 15 scholars writing six books in one year at NIAS and still be friends afterwards. Large-scale research projects have a long-standing tradition in the sciences, but in the humanities, where writing is still considered a craft practiced by individuals, such a multi-author collaboration is a challenge. Our group also undertook to cover a historical period of a century and a half of Europe in a global context. If that is not enough, our NIAS Theme Group project, under the working title “Making Europe: Technology and Transformations, 1850-2000”, aims to reach an audience beyond our academic peers – a ‘crossover’ book. Nobody can really say what makes for a successful crossover book, other than it is a scholarly work that educated people – your family, local politicians, newspaper readers, or your colleagues for that matter – actually enjoy reading. Granted, that is not saying much. We have invested a lot of time and energy in collating a rich portfolio of illustrations across Europe, in building a website that brings museum collections digitally into the conversation and, of course, in the writing. For, despite these lofty ideals, writing is something between you and the blank page. And here NIAS has proved to be a true blessing. There are no escape routes: no laundry to fold, no teenagers to discipline, or partners to please. Just that simple announcement: “Dear Fellows, it is time for lunch,” that makes you work as if your life depends on it. And write we did.

The premise of the six-volume project “Making Europe” is that by looking through the lens of the history of technology, we discover new ways in which Europe was constituted. The volume that I co-author with Mikael Hård presents a bottom-up history. It looks at how ordinary people have appropriated technologies into their daily lives or subverted them into new directions, in both conventional and exceptional ways. Now and then, technology debates are played out on the political stage; they can even take on dramatic forms.



Anti-ACTA protester wearing a Guy Fawkes mask on 25 February 2012 in Frankfurt am Main (Germany)



Members of the Polish Ruch Palikota Party wear masks in Poland's parliament in Warsaw January 26, 2012

In January 2012, exactly two centuries after the British House of Lords discussed the destruction caused by Luddite machine breakers, Polish parliamentarians held up Guy Fawkes masks to demonstrate against their country's ratification of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). On the day the European Parliament adopted ACTA, the French Socialist member of and special rapporteur to the parliament on this measure, Kader Arif, resigned in protest, saying the legislation was "wrong in both form and substance" (Jolly 2012). He felt negotiations about the agreement in 2007 had misled legislators and ignored the needs of ordinary software users: "Voilà, that's the masquerade that I denounce," he declared. In over two hundred European cities, hundreds of thousands of computer users took to the streets to protest ACTA in the name of freedom against corporate and state control of the Internet (Reuters 2012). Similar remonstrations erupted in the United States over the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the

Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PIPA), two analogous measures that also aimed to provide a legal framework against piracy.

The protests in the political arena are just the latest round in pitting US based software corporations against European user groups defending free access to the new technology. Activists in Europe believe national and European Union anti-piracy laws are 'harmonized' in order to serve US media corporations seeking to protect their market. Earlier, in 2006, pirate parties in Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Switzerland resolutely moved the defence of user software rights away from the subcultural backrooms of hackers into the official arena of politicians. These pirate parties have mobilized a young electorate who feels the legal measures initiated by the US record and film industry threaten their daily practice of copying, sharing, pasting, tinkering, and

tweaking, which they believe is their right and their way of life. In our book, we call this phenomenon a ‘technology user movement’: people who organize themselves around a specific technology and rally against corporate power and state control.

The 2012 defence of user rights coalescing around technologies like computers and the Internet is not a historical novelty. In the past we see several examples where the practice of piracy (to its opponents) or copying (to its proponents) has been contested. In the nineteenth century, the French *Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture* sought to protect its monopoly against the copying of fashion in ways that remind us of the ACTA case. By the 1920s, French industry targeted the major piracy offenders through court cases and publicity campaigns. Nineteenth century French *haute couture* ateliers and twenty-first century US software companies share the same contempt of piracy. Some companies, however, have realized that the practices of technology user movements also function as a market wedge in setting standards, creating dependency, and ultimately ensuring greater profits. Similarly, while seeking to keep competitors at bay through legal measures, the French fashion industry also wanted to keep the profitable foreign markets of Britain and the US involved: it did not dispute the vibrant international women’s culture of hacking *avant la lettre*, copying and tinkering with *haute couture* on a small scale and for personal use. Couturiers were well aware that this copying of French designs in cities from Madrid and Budapest to Istanbul and New York only enhanced the reputation of Paris as Europe’s and indeed the world’s fashion capital (Stewart 2005). Ordinary women, like the young computer users of today, exhibited enormous ingenuity and skill in copying the French role-models by adopting novel techniques such as fashion plates, sewing machines, and paper patterns.



Early twentieth century French haute couture ateliers allowed women to copy designs for personal use

The practices of endless copying, pasting, and tinkering take center stage in our book. We focus on users and their everyday activities – be it their making of fashionable clothing, their riding on trains or bicycles, their preparing of foodstuffs, their recycling of old materials, or their sharing of computer knowledge and skills. And if you would like to know more: Palgrave Macmillan will publish the series between 2013 and 2014.

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The Last Refuge for the Soul: A Day at NIAS

by Christiaan Weijts

Writer-in-Residence Christiaan Weijts spent a semester at NIAS, the secluded research institute secreted behind the dunes of Wassenaar. This is a day in the life of a Fellow at this last refuge for the soul.

Thursday 1st December 2011

8.45 – Every morning I am awestruck as I arrive on the campus: the grand villa, the surrounding grounds with towering trees that have been changing their colours each day and are now losing their leaves. If the weather is dry, I cycle from The Hague through the dunes on my racing bike, which I park in the brand new cycle shed. The Rector, Professor of French Linguistics, Aafke Hulk, announced its completion by striking the gong during lunch (later more about these lunches). Everything here is done with a sense of celebration and ceremony.

NIAS is modelled on the famous 'IAS': the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton – home to twenty-seven Nobel Prize winners. For example, Einstein worked there, as did J. Robert Oppenheimer, father of the atom bomb.

The physicist Edward Witten (alias 'high priest of string theory' and 'Einstein's successor') recently described in *De Groene Amsterdammer* what a day at an IAS looked like: "Often you will come in the morning... spend the day staring at a blank sheet of paper, not really knowing what you are going to do. Perhaps if you are lucky, you might get a glimmer of inspiration just before the day draws to a close. A tiny flash of insight and your day was worthwhile. Or no inspiration – and you go home and begin again the next day where you left off".

The Dutch cousin restricts itself to the Humanities and Social Sciences and only has temporary *Fellows*, about forty researchers who have taken leave to work on their research project for three, five or ten months. But otherwise there are a great number of similarities. In fact, Witten's experience also holds for writers, which may be why the Dutch Foundation for Literature has been given the opportunity to put forward a *Writer-in-Residence*.

I could merely reiterate Witten's description of a workday – blank sheet, glimmer of inspiration, better luck tomorrow – were not for the fact that the other aspects of NIAS are so enjoyable that they merit a full description, even if only to stir the envy of those less fortunate.

9.30 – Near the printer in the hallway, two girls suddenly appear with a camera on a tripod. A lot of giggling and goings on in corridors where, normally, concentrated silence reigns, the sound track for profound thought. I walk across the soft carpet back to my room at the end of the hallway. Room 106 is bigger than the average student's digs, about 16m²; it looks out over the woods and has a history. On the narrow sofa, Kees 't Hart and **Tommy Wieringa** will both have taken an occasional nap. **Thomas Rosenboom** once smuggled in a clandestine pet rabbit. And on this very keyboard, **David Van Reybrouck** wrote his AKO prize-winning novel *Congo*.



Christiaan Weijts (front, rightside) with his fellow Fellows during a walk in the dunes

I am working on a chapter set in the autumn of 1991, so I listen to Nirvana's *Nevermind* on my headphones and nearly miss the call for lunch.

12.26 – “*Dear Fellows, it’s time to go for lunch*”. These words are heard every day via the telephone loudspeakers in the studies from which the Fellows now obediently emerge. ‘Like Friars being called to afternoon Prayer’, said **Johan Rooryck**, Professor of Linguistics in Leiden.

12.30 – The Fellows leave the main building and traipse over to the *Ooievaarsnest Restaurant* via a narrow bridge that crosses a shallow canal. At lunch – fish soup followed by ‘Limburger sour meat’, as Paul, our chef, intriguingly describes it on the menu board –

I hear that the camera two-some spotted earlier were here to see **Jan Willem Bos**, my neighbour across the hallway. He is translating a Romanian book of megalomaniac proportions and said that the girls were there as part of their finals.

12.40 – The tables slowly fill up. The group, like all groups over a certain size, has begun to splinter into a number of subgroups, each with a special fondness for a particular table. The lawyers congregate around the salad bar, next to an international group of linguists, psychologist, philosophers who also meet, organize film nights in the common room and have their children at the same international school.



Celebrating Sinterklaas at NIAS

The *Basso Continuo* accompaniment to these lunch conversations is the financial crisis. We have several economists in the group but the non-economists are not in any way embarrassed about imparting their views. It is a safe topic for discussion, to which every academic discipline can contribute, from psychologist to human rights lawyer.

The trials and tribulations of university life is also a favoured topic. What is wrong with the policy decisions; who said what in which committee; the abominable English of the Chinese students. Anyway..... I was editor of Leiden University's weekly magazine, the *Mare*, for eight years so I am accustomed to such litanies.

13.00 – The reason for the menu item 'Limburger sour meat' soon becomes clear: a delegation of about twenty people burst in, all wearing little rucksacks, strangely enough. A few investigative questions reveal that they are from the Meertens Institute and are taking part in a workshop in the Conference Building aimed at exploring 'local identities' – that of Limburg in particular.

Erik Bähre, a Cultural Anthropologist, born and bred in Limburg was sitting next to me at the table. "Sour meat was originally made with

horse meat", he explained. "Preferably a grey horse?" I enquire. Only the evening before, Erik had ridden onto the campus on the back of such a beast, while wearing a Bishop's mitre, a full beard, carrying a crozier and aided by his trusty head 'Black Peter', **Jo Spaans** (Theologian at the University Utrecht). It was the first time in my life that the real world was exactly the same as the storybook version, complete with a crescent shaped moon shining bright through the bare branches of the trees.

There was supposed to be a lecture about 'Black Peter' yesterday but it was cancelled due to illness. I presume that the annual discussion about the racist character of *Sinterklaas* celebrations would have been raised again.

We have several fellows from Nigeria and Cameroon and that my two-year old son immediately assumed they were 'Black Peters' was embarrassing but forgivable. But when we collectively began singing about the Sint and 'Black Peter' knocking on our doors we all found ourselves mumbled uncomfortably, "*Even though I am black as coal, I always mean well*".

For the African Fellows NIAS is a heaven on earth. **Ayo Ojebode** (from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria) wrote a series of articles about

his experiences for the Radio Netherlands Worldwide website called – ‘Africans going Dutch’. He stands staring at our cycle paths and pavements in utter amazement: “We don’t have walkways in most cities and so, animals, beggars, pedestrians, cyclists (okada), car drivers, bus drivers, tanker drivers struggle over the same piece of poor road. (...) In Holland students ask each other, ‘How’s study?’ In Nigeria, students ask, ‘How are you surviving?’ As if life is warfare or a plague.”

13.20 – The Meertens Institute workers have finished their soup and have started to help themselves to the sour meat. “They look like characters straight out of Voskuil’s book *The Bureau*” I say. Erik notes, “I suppose we had all better be careful what we say with you around as well”.

13.45 – Back in room 106 I stare out the window for half an hour watching rain drizzle gently on the woods. High in the trees, most of which reach up far above the building, doves hop from branch to branch. I continue working on a scene that is set in an army barracks swimming pool.

Suddenly a team of tree surgeons appear in front of my window carrying climbing gear and equipment to cut away dead wood with axes and electric saws swinging on their belts. This spectacle tumbles seamlessly straight into my novel.

That’s how things work in an environment such as this: there is always something that you can use. Here I have access to people from almost all disciplines imaginable in case I need information. For example, on Friday, Professor **Ronald Noë**, a primatologist/psychologist from Strasbourg, gives a lecture about human evolution. There has been a seminar about the European debt crisis and I also ventured to run a workshop on writing.

Now December has arrived and restlessness is starting to take hold. In February, many Fellows will have to return to normal life and their project will go down under the weight of teaching commitments, administrative duties, supervising Ph.D. students and meetings. The *vita contemplativa* that used to be the essence of university life has long been replaced by a business approach that has made universities alarmingly like ordinary work places. This dune Campus is the last refuge for the soul.

16.48 – Once more I cross the little bridge on route to the *Ooievaarsnest*, but this time to play the piano. I am accompanying the choir that has been formed especially for the Christmas celebrations. The driving force behind this is Jos Hooghuis, Head Research Planning and Communication is his official function. He reminds me of a Head Butler, the kind you see in films about the British aristocracy. He is the only person here who is absolutely impeccably dressed. Even for the short walk between the Main Building and *Ooievaarsnest* he always wears a black fedora.

In the meantime, Paul is preparing dinner for the Meertens crowd. That man works so hard, perhaps harder than any of us. Or perhaps, in the midst of all these thinkers, his work is the most *visible*. Yesterday evening he prepared pea soup with *Glühwein*, and made pancakes for the children. Now the kitchen is a hive of activity again, while four fellows boom *O Come all ye faithful* in the stairway with its beautiful stained glass windows.

18.15 – I return to room 106 through the darkness, reread the swimming pool scene, delete four lines and then reinstate them. No, nothing more is going to happen today. Maybe tomorrow.

This article was first published in *Mare*, Leiden University’s weekly magazine (8 December 2011). Translation by Petry Kievit-Tyson.

Africans Going Dutch: an African Perspective on Dutch Simplicity

by Ayobami Ojebode

In the autumn of 2011, Nigerian communication scholar and NIAS Fellow Ayobami Ojebode followed the highs and lows of living in the Netherlands in a weekly blogpost. The series, called “Africans going Dutch”, was published on the website of Radio Netherlands Worldwide (RNW). In this fragment, Ojebode reflects on status, wealth and simplicity. “In Abuja, it's easier to have a word with God than to see a senator. Here MP's go to parliament by bicycle.”

The Dutch share a number of qualities that I find very attractive. One of which is simplicity. I come from a country where the only way people show their wealth is by vulgar display. In 1997, when my friend returned from a one-year sabbatical in Germany and bought a small second-hand Toyota car, friends thought he was crazy. Big cars, big houses, loud parties, loud honks, many wives or boyfriends: this is what Nigerians think a good life should look like. A 2003 study showed Nigerians to be the happiest people on earth. Well, I think the researchers took noise and showing off for happiness!

I first experienced Dutch simplicity in February 2010 at Leiden Centraal Station. My friend pointed at a man and said, “That's Diederik Samsom.” I was shocked. Diederik Samsom? The young, articulate and very intelligent parliamentarian with an M.Sc in nuclear physics? His passion was environment and energy policies. And there he was, a face in the crowd, waiting to board a train, wearing a pair of jeans, carrying his own suitcase, alone, without an entourage.

Then he entered the train and took a seat in the second class cabin! In Nigeria, local

government chairmen (among them high school dropouts who can't spell 'Nigeria'), wear white flowing agbadas, have an entourage, do not carry their own document bags and ride in big cars, all paid for by a country where over 60 percent live below the poverty line. (Hypothesis One: the poorer a people are, the more decadent its politicians are likely to be).

In Holland, I have experienced things that are unthinkable in Nigeria. A few examples. My Dutch professor asked me to sit back and relax while he cooked me dinner, and served it. During outings, me, my colleagues and my superior at university, all rode bicycles. And on occasions, I shared the same lunch table and had long chats with a judge of the International Court. There were no policemen to protect him. In Nigeria, even ordinary magistrates have police guards, drivers and servants, paid for by government. In Holland, MP's go to parliament by bicycle! This way they stay close to the people they represent. In Abuja, it's far easier to see the invisible God and have a word with Him than to see a senator.

At Leiden, where I stayed a couple of years ago, before coming to NIAS, my landlord and



Ayo Ojebode is a Lecturer in the Department of Communication and Language Arts, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. He was at NIAS in the first semester of 2011/12, where he was completing research on media and the memory of dictatorial rule. To him, Holland and its people are a pack of paradoxes: simply complicated, lavishly frugal, attractively disgusting. Therefore, they attract keen attention and frank comments.

landlady were a simple and nice couple. They had their own house and three bicycles. That was all! I thought they were simple because they didn't seem to be important people. But one day, my landlord and I went cycling around Leiden. He slipped a remark: "When I was Deputy Mayor of Leiden..." I said, "What? You were a Deputy Mayor?!" In Nigeria, that would have meant having many cars, houses in choice locations, foreign bank accounts and long titles: High Chief (Prince) Dr. (Apostle)

Engineer Zebrudaya Okoroigwe Nwaogbo (JP, JP). As I said, I come from a country of vulgar display.

I think instead of exporting Shell to Nigeria, the Dutch should have exported their simplicity.

This is Part Seven of "Africans Going Dutch", first published on rnw.nl (25 November 2011). The complete series can be found at www.rnw.nl/africa.

Going Local: Wassenaar meets NIAS

Whereas many academic institutes in the Netherlands are located in relatively large university towns, NIAS is situated in a quiet residential area of Wassenaar, a village with just over 25.000 inhabitants. Being part of the local community, it is of great importance to NIAS to be visible. This year we were fortunate enough to attract the attention of Annette Kalkman, reporter with the local newspaper. She started a series on NIAS Fellows to share their ideas, concerns, and activities with the local community.



Annette Kalkman (right) photographing Aafke Hulk, Eberhard König, Jos Hooghuis and Petry Kievit-Tyson at the Royal Library, The Hague

“As a reporter for *De Wassenaarse Krant* I am interested in everything that happens in this village, so naturally I am also interested in NIAS and the work of its distinguished scholars from all over the world.

The articles on the Fellows and their research are short and geared towards a general audience. I realise that I am ‘cherry picking’; I can only highlight a few facts or ideas, and I will not be able to do full justice to the farmer and the tree, let alone, the orchard.

In his lecture at the opening of the academic year, NIAS Fellow **Arjo Klamer** stated that scientists should be more visible in society. As far as the village of Wassenaar is concerned, I am happy to contribute to that.

I was able to help one of the first Fellows I interviewed. I saw him being accosted by a Wassenaarder who warned him: ‘Je mag hier niet fietsen!’ (‘You are not allowed to cycle here!’). After that was straightened out, the Fellow asked me the way to the library.

‘The library is right here’, I said, ‘and don’t worry, it is me you have the interview with. You see, this really is a village.’”

Annette Kalkman is a reporter for *De Wassenaarse Krant* and also teaches Dutch as a foreign language.



Matthew Cohen

hanskaart op het NIAS voor even, als ook professor inter- versiteit van Londen. In Eng- niet alleen over politiekun- te karriere behoort.

scineer. Matthew hie deel van twaalf jaar oude voorstellingen 'bij de tijd'. Het is een vorm van continu- verheid, vooral een belang- van politieke commu- geeft het voorbeeld van de ligo president Soekarno die lid door middel van poppen- aan zijn medewerkers wille- lijfjes.

ikken je als toerist de wijng- flingen vaak tegen, als wis- amatie, maar ook in de dref. De Java is dat in mis- de gesel, aangrijpende wijng-

traditie door niet strookt met de hee- srale moslimspelingen. Matthew speedt dat ook van een 'bedreide landbouw', die op het Maatschic- voutland al na- dwaren.

Matthew geeft lingen in het moment is hij voorstelling in hij is ongetro- voor een pub- 7000 mensen, schenkt de vo- gen. Zijn klein NIAS heeft a dilemma van de Of hij ook in V kan, aan stu- geven? Absolu- informatie T-1 NIASgms.ora



NIAS-KB fellow Eberhard König

Dese werk is Eberhard König, professor kunsthistoriek aan de Vrije Universiteit Berlijn en autoriteit op het gebied van middeleeuwse hand- schriften, afkomstig van het Instituut van het NIAS. Zijn 'NIAS-KB fellowship' Keninklijke Bibliotheek en plaatsen. In een afslui- teekte hij zijn instichten.

is daarbij een steun van adjuvante illustraties, de Hij laat zien van de hand

was vergelijkbaar met de situatie aan het Engelse hof waar Frans gespro- ken moest worden, vindt hij. Alleen in de koninklijke Nederlandse Naak de illustratie over geïllustreerde in het Latijn zo groot, dat de vertaling van Groot Groot halverwege de 14e eeuw een bestseller werd. Opvallend is, dat het aantal illustraties van overvloedig afneemt. Waar het belang

Opening nieuw onderzoeksjaar NIAS

De prettige spanning aan het begin van het onderzoeksjaar voor Arjo Klemmer her ontsloot, herbevestigde hem aan zijn meegestroomd werd op uitdagingen en niet precies wat wat er is - en dat geldt voor alle 'fellows', die in dit jaar aan het NIAS zijn en daar onder Aafke Blok afgelegen dunderdennidig verveelkomt.

Door Annette Kalkman



NIAS fellow Erik Bähre over 'Wassenaarse schulden'

Met zijn masterstudenten heeft econoom Erik Bähre in Wassenaar een kleinschalig onderzoek gedaan naar de vraag 'Hoe gaan mensen met geld om?' en 'Waarom gaan ze zoveel schulden aan?' Een en ander blijkt naar voren te komen met je terugkijken: 'We zijn sociale wezen en willen er graag bij horen.'

Door Annette Kalkman

Het fenomeen dat mensen meer uitgeven dan ze hebben en meer consumeren dan ze nodig hebben, is niet nieuw. Link verneemt dat overdadige consumptie zich ook voordoe van het einde van de 19e eeuw, zij het alleen bij de gegoede klasse. Het verschild met die periode is dat dit gedrag nu niet meer beperkt is tot een kleine groep, maar algemeen geaccepteerd lijkt.

Vroeger werden de waarden in de samenleving nog bepaald door een ietland deugd, zegt hij, er was respect voor de onderwer, de dominant. Erik aan niet meer naar die tijd terug willen, maar het is interessant om te al te vragen welke dwingende waarden mensen tegenwoordig ervaren. Het lijkt nog maar om een naam te gaan en dat is het prijskaartje. Gro-uitkomst bijvoorbeeld wordt geassocieerd met geld, maar of dat effect heeft op de omgang met het midde?

Wat Erik met zijn studenten tegen kwam was dat de hoeveelheid geld waas- over mensen beschikbaas voor hun positie niet veel uitmaakt. Ook heugende speelt volgens hem een omvangsschik rol. Als vol- erger nog dat om ach- niging in inkomen ervaren mensen het verlies van succes aanzien. Deze fact- is volgens Erik de belangrijkste reden waarom mensen zich in de schulden blijven steken en te veel consumeren.

Wat is ook het uitgangspunt van waarbij hulp geboden was moeten worden, financiële schuldhulpverlening alleen is niet genoeg. 'Prakt met, kennend die schulden leeft ook over zijn sociale contacten,' zegt hij. Mensen lijken verpe- ren dat je 'sociaal sanction' ook willessenwerk te doen of een illet helpt ook niet dat geld te zennet kost geld,' is volgens E- lijkheden om geld te lenen st- op de wereldwijde financiële ber gaan antwoorden, dat het kritiek die ze vaak doen en d- Het VPRO wetenschapspog- andere over dit onderzoek, d- de Londen Universiteit, het a- soerlijke ervaringen.



Erik Bähre, NIAS fellow, over de wereldwijde financiële ber gaan antwoorden, dat het kritiek die ze vaak doen en d- Het VPRO wetenschapspog- andere over dit onderzoek, d- de Londen Universiteit, het a- soerlijke ervaringen.



NIAS fellow Erik Bähre op Wi-

NIAS fellow Marijke van

Ze is al bekend als ingehurperd. Ze zingt bij Vocaliter en is lid van de Open- Zeeze Bibliotheek, zodat ze weer thuis kan raken in de Nederlandse litera- tur. De in Delft geboren Marijke van der Veen woont inmiddels al ruim een- nig jaar in Engeland, waar zij als professor in de archeologie verbonden is aan de universiteit van Leicester.

Door Annette Kalkman

Marijke heeft zich als archeoloog



In de voorstelling aan de Universiteit van Leiden, een oude Romeinse rug. Marijke van der Veen de afgevoerd, een fraaiheid die de Romeinse hoo- vers- oenderen. Foto: Annette Kalkman

gespecialiseerd in werkel. Haar moeders ervaring op dat gebied was wel het onderzoek dat zij verrichte van de Rode Zeeze in de Egypti- sche woestijn. Een kad om niet ver- noeden dat Quasi al-Qadiri in de Romeinse tijd een belangrijke havenstad was, maar als archeologe bakent Marijke een gebied aan de kleine haven in het landschap, waarmee afgehangen en de mini- male restanten van oude muren. Voedselresten in dit deel van Europa zijn veelal verloren, maar in de woestijn draagt alles uit. Een van de meest interessante van Marijke was een halve eeuwen, waarvan de sporen van het imporen nog waren al te lezen. Het onderzoek in Egypte leidde tot een publicatie over de Romeinse handel tussen India en Europa via de Rode Zee en bracht haar uiteindelijk naar haar huidige onderzoek. Vaak heeft zoveel afgeleid, ver- tellt ze. Aan series bijvoorbeeld kan je aflezen hoe mensen samen leef-

Ayobami Ojebode, research fellow aan het NIAS

Een attente Wassenaarder stept hem als hij de Langstraat in fietst. Hoe kan hij ook afleiden van het verangingsbord, dat hij er niet nog Bienen? Een foto met een kruis omhoog is duidelijk, zegt de universiteit docent Media Studies van de universiteit van Ibadan in Nigeria.

NIAS fellow Hans Schoots

doet niets zo graag als onderzoek en het verspreiden publiceren van je- tingen. Dankzij het Fonds voor Bijzondere Journalistieke Projecten Schoots zich vijf maanden lang verdiepen in het reilen en zeilen van de provincie Zeeland, als 'journalist in residence' aan het NIAS.

Door Annette Kalkman

et, Hans had inderdaad een inspirerende geschiedenis- begin zijn carrière als hoofd- zede geschiedkundige, met- kel over de Spaanse Burger- lijk is geboren in het Zeewse en heeft enkele jaren in Aal- d. Dat hij in Zeeland heeft- e schep weliswaar een band, is waar niet wel te noemen, dat het meer objectief tegesover- ren staan.

waaronder hij bij het NIAS in- werkt gaat heten 'Mensen Dijk'. Hans wil met zijn- de als het ware een brug van- den de Zeewse en het ver- linge 'vasteland'. Tot de- zocht in 1955 leefden de- vreed als 'vluchtelingen', ge- zinnen, gezinschappen, ligs streng protestants. Ande- zamen waren vreed 'die van- kaar' - en dat geld over en

Delftwerken kwam daar ver- in, in fische dit, maar nog- in de beleving van de Zee- l. Zo kent de wakenomroep- als voort in de persoonlijke- lens van voor Zeewse, is- voring en maakt deze onder- van de verspreiding en kloos- e de huidige generatie is- tel- diverse rapporten uitgebrac- al dan niet laten onderlopen- t. Het is een ander. Maar mer

betreft die vastgesproken plan na- werkelijk van de Zeewse? Hans wil in zijn boek de uitkomsten van de rap- porten en de heersende Zeewse opvattingen met elkaar in verband- brengen. 'Hoewel de Zeewse' natu- lijks niet bestaat,' zegt hij, met een knipog naar Moerna.

Hij heeft op verschillende represen- tatieve plaatsen in Zeeland onder- zocht en interviews afgenomen om- hoeden waar te krijgen wat er aan- leeft. Zo bleek dat het onderwerp 'Herengelder' een serieuze zaak is- voor veel Zeewse en ook van medi- ooraal beladen onderwerp.

Het onderwerp is 'verpindeld' vindt hij en moet gewend van kerk- len- rijn denken, waardoor een goede oplossing, met name voor degenen die- het betreft, steeds verder in het zicht- dreigt te raken. In zijn boek wil hij- daar ook naar helderheid over- ver- schaffen.

Het volledige portret van de Zeewse- provincie, waarin naast de Hefwep- polder nog meer onderwerpen worden- behandeld, verschijnt in 2013 bij uitge- verij Balans in Amsterdam.



NIAS fellow Hans Schoots. Foto: Annette Kalkman



Ayobami Ojebode, NIAS fellow, over de wereldwijde financiële ber gaan antwoorden, dat het kritiek die ze vaak doen en d- Het VPRO wetenschapspog- andere over dit onderzoek, d- de Londen Universiteit, het a- soerlijke ervaringen.



NIAS fellow Ayobami Ojebode op Wi-



NIAS fellow Ayobami Ojebode op Wi-

atie tussen- rijk en- Wat Tracy onder- zocht, is tussen de- omzet met- jlding aan- vent Tracy- e Europese- op te hel-



Marijke van der Veen, NIAS fellow, over de wereldwijde financiële ber gaan antwoorden, dat het kritiek die ze vaak doen en d- Het VPRO wetenschapspog- andere over dit onderzoek, d- de Londen Universiteit, het a- soerlijke ervaringen.

The Research Group 2012/13

The research group 2012/13 consists of three research theme groups, a few special fellowships and a number of individual fellows.

The research theme group “European Elections, Public Cynicism and the Media” taps into a long-standing debate on the role of elections in either generating support or in undermining support for a political system, more specifically, in the case of the European Union. The European Union (EU) was created by political elites, and until the late 1990s this elite-driven project has experienced little opposition from citizens. However, during the last decade the European project has been increasingly opposed by citizens who obstructed the Treaty of Nice, the Constitutional Treaty and the Lisbon Treaty in referendums in the Netherlands, France and Ireland; three ‘Europhile’ countries. The NIAS theme group consists of scholars from the interdisciplinary research group that organises the European Elections Studies as well as scholars involved in research on EU political communication and research on the Europeanization of the public sphere. The group consists of political scientists, methodologists, sociologists and communication scientists. The theme group runs for the entire academic year.

In addition, there will be two theme groups for one semester. “Terrorscape. Transnational Memory of Totalitarian Terror and Genocide in Postwar Europe” will critically analyse the various ways in which key sites of twentieth-century terror and mass violence within Europe present, interpret, and represent the past, and the way these presentations, interpretations, and representations operate as vehicles of local, national, continental and global identity building. The research project aims at a comparative assessment of symbolic sites of

terror and mass violence during 20th century European history. The research theme group will be affiliated to the NWO project “Terrorscape in Postwar Europe”, and be at NIAS in the first semester. It consists of experts in various fields of cultural and heritage studies.

The research theme group “Dutch Atlantic Connections. The Circulation of People, Goods and Ideas in the Atlantic world, 1680-1800” builds on the NWO programme with the same title which ran from 2008 to 2012. The purpose of the theme group at NIAS is to expand the regional, temporal and thematic framework. The central question is to examine how the Dutch networks in the Atlantic developed and functioned between c.1680 and 1800, both internally and externally, and to analyse changes in the Dutch broker’s function both between three continents and between the other national Atlantic empires. This research theme group will be in residence in the second semester of the research year, and consist of scholars with a broad comparative expertise on Atlantic and wider imperial and global history.

A group of fellows who are not thematically related are the EURIAS Fellows. For the second time NIAS will host one senior and three junior EURIAS Fellows. These fellowships are a result of a joint programme of fourteen European Institutes for Advanced Study co-funded by the European Commission. The special fellowships in 2012/13 will further include a Distinguished Lorentz Fellow for interdisciplinary research connecting the humanities or social sciences and the natural sciences, a Van Doorn Fellow in the field of sociology and public administration, a KB Fellow, a Henry G. Schermers Fellow in the field of international law, and one or two HUGO Fellows, working on

dispute resolution. The year group will also include two Writers-in-Residence, a Journalist-in-Residence, a Translator-in-Residence, a Mellon Fellow, and two Guests of the Rector. A number of regular NIAS Fellows and a Visiting Grant Scholar will complete the composition of the year group 2012/13.

The definitive list of the year group 2012/13 will be published on the 'Current Fellows' webpages this summer. More information about NIAS's special fellowship programmes and NIAS's partners can be found on the 'Fellowships' and 'About us' pages of the website.

Provisional List of Participants Research Group 2012/13

Theme Group "European Elections, Political Cynicism, and the Media"

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Adam, S.C. | University of Bern | <i>Political Communication</i> |
| Boomgaarden, H.G. | University of Amsterdam | <i>Communication Science</i> |
| Brug, W. van der | University of Amsterdam | <i>Political Science</i> |
| Franklin, M.N. | European University Institute, Fiesole | <i>Political Science</i> |
| Kritzinger, S. | University of Vienna | <i>Political Science</i> |
| Maier, J. | University of Koblenz-Landau | <i>Political Communication</i> |
| Maier, M. | University of Koblenz-Landau | <i>Political Communication</i> |
| Markowski, R. | Polish Academy of Sciences / Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities | <i>Comparative Politics</i> |
| Vreese, C.H. de | University of Amsterdam | <i>Communication Science</i> |
| Vries, C.E. de | Université de Genève | <i>Political Science</i> |

Theme Group "Dutch Atlantic Connections"

| | | |
|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ben-Ur, A. | University of Massachusetts, Amherst | <i>Jewish History</i> |
| Davids, C.A. | VU University Amsterdam | <i>Economic and Social History</i> |
| Games, A.F. | Georgetown University, Washington DC | <i>History</i> |
| Heijer, H.J. den | Leiden University | <i>Maritime History</i> |
| Klooster, W.W. | Clark University, Worcester, MA | <i>History of the Atlantic World</i> |
| Oostindie, G.J. | Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden | <i>History of the Caribbean</i> |

Theme Group "Terrorscape"

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Laarse, R. van der | University of Amsterdam | <i>Heritage Studies</i> |
| Mazzucchelli, F. | University of Bologna | <i>Semiotics of Culture</i> |
| Pelt, R.J. van | University of Waterloo, ON | <i>History of the Holocaust</i> |
| Schmidt, B. | University of Washington, Seattle | <i>Early Modern History</i> |
| Till, K.E. | National University of Ireland, Maynooth | <i>Cultural Geography</i> |
| Verbeek, G.J.M. | Maastricht University | <i>Contemporary History</i> |

Special Fellowships

Distinguished Lorentz Fellow

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Barendregt, H.P. | Radboud University Nijmegen | <i>Foundations of Mathematics and Computer Science</i> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|

KB Fellow

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cook, H. | Brown University, Providence | <i>History of Medicine</i> |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------------------|

EURIAS Senior Fellow

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wakeman, R. | Fordham University, New York | <i>History / Urban Studies</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|

EURIAS Junior Fellow

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mojahedi, M.M. | Mofid University, Qom | <i>Political Science</i> |
| Trémon, A.C. | Université de Lausanne | <i>Social Anthropology</i> |
| Zabka, M. | Comenius University, Bratislava | <i>Music Theory</i> |

Mellon Fellow

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Verdes, C.O. | University of Bucharest | <i>Literature</i> |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------|

Guest of the Rector

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bod, L. | University of Amsterdam | <i>Computational Humanities</i> |
| Demszky, G. | (Budapest) | <i>Political Science</i> |

Fellow

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Berrebi, S. | University of Amsterdam | <i>History and Theory of Art</i> |
| Gelderblom, O.C. | Utrecht University | <i>Economic History</i> |
| Jasper, J.M. | City University of New York | <i>Sociology</i> |
| Jones, T.S.W. | Curtin University, Perth | <i>Indonesian Studies</i> |
| Jonker, J.P.B. | Utrecht University | <i>Financial History</i> |
| Kreike, E.H.P.M. | Princeton University | <i>Environmental Science</i> |
| Molendijk, A.L. | University of Groningen | <i>History of Christianity</i> |
| Monteiro, M.E. | Radboud University Nijmegen | <i>Religious and Cultural History</i> |
| Reydams, L.H. | University of Notre Dame | <i>Political Science / Law</i> |
| Röttger, K.E. | University of Amsterdam | <i>Theatre & Performance Studies</i> |
| Smits, I.B. | Leiden University | <i>Cultural Studies</i> |
| Stark, D. | Columbia University, New York | <i>Economic Sociology</i> |
| Verhagen, J.W.H.P. | VU University Amsterdam | <i>Archaeology</i> |
| Verstraete, G.E.E. | VU University Amsterdam | <i>Cultural and Media Studies</i> |
| Werfhorst, H.G. van de | University of Amsterdam | <i>Sociology</i> |

Writer-in-Residence

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------|
| Joris. L. | (Amsterdam) | <i>Non-fiction</i> |
|-----------|-------------|--------------------|

Translator-in-Residence

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Golüke, G.L.P.P. | (Amsterdam) | <i>English / Dutch</i> |
|------------------|-------------|------------------------|

Visiting Grant Scholars

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fono, L.A. | University of Douala (CM) | <i>Fuzzy Decision Making</i> |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|

Books Written at NIAS

Received March 2011 - March 2012

Anrooij, Wim van. (2011). *De mond der waarheid: de Bocca della Verità te Rome in woord en beeld van Middeleeuwen tot heden*. Haarlem: Gottmer.

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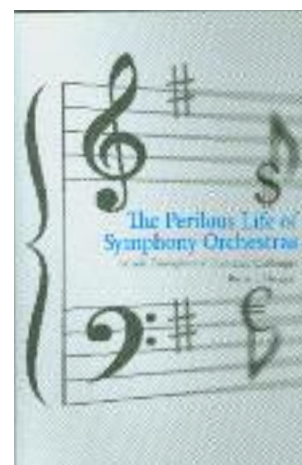
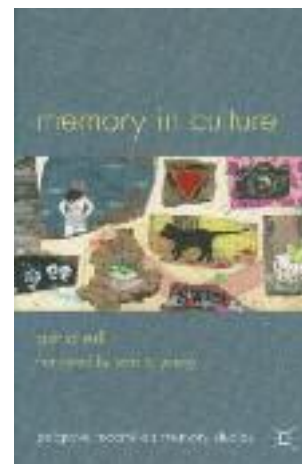
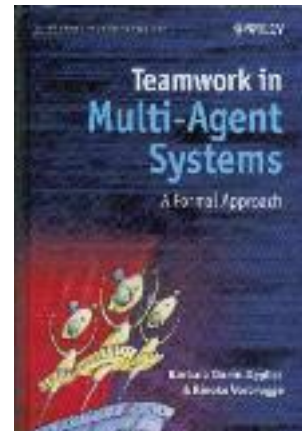
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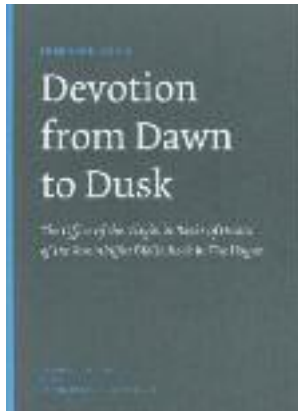
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Time and an Opportunity for Growth: Bulgarian Scholars at NIAS. Veliko Tarnovo: Faber.

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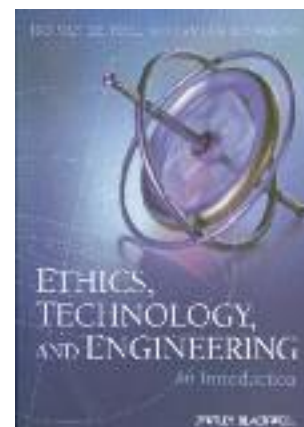
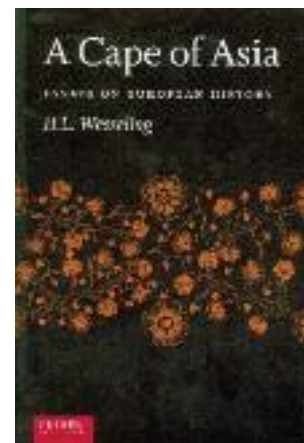
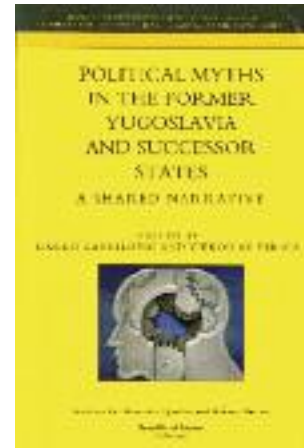
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Books Discussed at NIAS

Books are not only read and written at NIAS, they are also discussed. At the NIAS Book Café, established in 2010 and held twice a year, recent books by current and former Fellows are put on display in the library. Its authors are invited to attend, and three of them give a short introduction to the topic of their book. In November 2011, Alec Badenoch, Barber van de Pol and Gloria Wekker discussed their writings.



Gloria Wekker presenting at the NIAS Book Café.

“On November 10, I presented *The Politics of Passion; Women’s Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*. The book came out in 2006 (Columbia University Press) and won the Ruth Benedict Prize of American Anthropological Association in 2007. The book traces the constructions of sexuality of working-class Afro-Surinamese women in both Suriname and the Netherlands, who draw on both European and West-African cultural heritage to do so. Central to my work is an old but thriving phenomenon, called the *mati* work, in which women engage in sexual relations with both men and women, either simultaneously or consecutively. It was a challenge to present the topic in the short time that was available (six minutes) and still do some kind of justice to the material and its significance, but I enjoyed introducing the book to the NIAS audience.”

Gloria Wekker, Professor of Gender and Ethnicity at Utrecht University and NIAS Fellow 2011/12

Appointments and Awards

Willem Adelaar, NIAS Fellow 1999/2000, **Beatrice de Gelder**, NIAS Fellow 1978/79, and **Yosef Kaplan**, NIAS Fellow 1990/1, are the recipients of an Advanced Grant of the European Research Council, ERC. ERC Advanced Grants allow exceptional established research leaders of any nationality and any age to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk projects that open new directions in their respective research fields or other domains. The grants were awarded in September 2011. **Willem Adelaar** received a grant of € 2,6 million for his research into the relations between Central and South American Amerindian languages. **Beatrice de Gelder** received a grant of € 2,5 million for her research on emotions and body language. **Yosef Kaplan** received his grant for his project "A Diaspora in Transition – Cultural and Religious Changes in Western Sephardic Communities in the Early Modern Period". The success rate in 2011 was 13%.

David Baragwanath, HUGO Fellow 2011/12, has been elected President of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber on 10 October 2011. At NIAS he made an important



David Baragwanath

contribution to P.R.I.M.E. Finance, a tribunal devoted to settling the world's most complex and contentious financial cases which was officially opened in The Hague on 16 January 2012.



Esther Benbassa

Esther Benbassa, NIAS Fellow 2004/05, was elected a member of the Senate of the French Republic on 25 September 2011. She is a senator for the region Val-de-Marne (Ile-de-France) on behalf of the Ecologists Party.

Hans Blom, NIAS Fellow 2004/05 and coordinator of

the research theme group "De Iure Praedae and the Grotian Concept of Rights" has accepted the DAAD Professorship of History at the University of Potsdam as of 1 March 2011. DAAD, the German Academic Exchange Service, is the German national agency for the support of international academic cooperation. Hans Blom is also Associate Professor of Political Philosophy at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Peter Boomgaard, NIAS Fellow 1988/89 and a member of the research theme group "Agrarian/Economic Processes of Development in South-East Asia in Historical Perspective", NIAS Fellow 1999/2000, and 2003/04 and coordinator of the research theme group "Environmental History of Southeast Asia, 1500 – 2000", retired as Senior Researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden. He delivered his valedictory lecture on 26 August 2011.

Deirdre Curtin, NIAS Fellow 2007/08, and a member of the NIAS Scholarship Committee, gave her inaugural lecture entitled "Top Secret Europe" at the University of Amsterdam on 20 October 2011. She was appointed Professor of

European Law at the University of Amsterdam in 2008.



Deirdre Curtin

Pearl Dykstra, NIAS Fellow 2002/03 and a member of the 2002/03 research theme group “Older adults’ life strategies in preparing for the future”, NIAS Fellow 2008/09, and Secretary of the NIAS Fellows Association from 2005 to 2011, gave her inaugural lecture entitled “Families: In alle staten?” on 27 January 2012 in Rotterdam. She was appointed to the Chair of Empirical Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam in 2009. On 26 September 2011 she was officially installed as Vice-President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences to which position she was elected earlier.

Jan van Eijck, NIAS Fellow 2006/07, was appointed Professor Extraordinary of Computational Semantics at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation of

the University of Amsterdam on 1 December 2011. At NIAS he was coordinator of the 2006/07 research theme group “Games, Action and Social Software”.

Philip van der Eijk, NIAS Fellow 2000/01 and a member of the research theme group “Rethinking the History of Medicine: ‘Rationality’ and ‘Magic’ in Babylonia and the Graeco-Roman World” was elected *Correspondant étranger* of the *Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres*, AIBL. The AIBL was founded in 1663 at the initiative of Colbert, and is one of the five academies of the *Institut de France*. It is primarily devoted to historical, archaeological and philological scholarship.

Meindert Fennema, NIAS Fellow 2000/01, retired from his position at the Department of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam. He gave his valedictory lecture entitled “Help! De elite verdwijnt” on 11 May 2011 in Amsterdam.

Wantje Fritschy, NIAS Fellow 2010/11, retired as Professor of the History of Public Finances in the Early Modern Period at VU University Amsterdam. She gave her valedictory lecture entitled “Schulden als leerschool? De Unie der Zeven Verenigde Provinciën en de Europese Unie” on 27 January 2012.

Beatrice de Graaf, NIAS fellow 2010/11 and a member of the research theme group “Terrorists on Trial”, received the LNVH Anniversary Prize from the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) on the occasion of its ten-year anniversary on 6 October 2011. The aim of the LNVH Anniversary Prize, which carries an amount of € 5,000 is to generate extra attention for the wealth of female academic talent in the Netherlands.



Beatrice de Graaf

Jeanne Holierhoek, Translator-in-Residence at NIAS in 2010/11, is the winner of the European Literature Prize 2011 awarded by the Dutch Foundation for Literature. The prize was awarded for *Drie sterke vrouwen* (Trois femmes puissantes) by Marie NDiaye. The European Literature Prize is an award both for the author and the translator of the best European novel which was published in Dutch translation in 2010. The winning author receives an amount of € 10,000, the translator an amount of € 2,500. The award

ceremony took place on 3 September 2011 in Amsterdam. Among the shortlisted authors were novels by two NIAS Writers-in-Residence: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet* (De niet verhoorde gebeden van Jacob de Zoet) by **David Mitchell**, Writer-in-Residence 2005/06, translated from the English by Harm Damsma and Niek Miedema, and *Chladnou zemí* (De werkplaats van de duivel) by **Jáchym Topol**, Writer-in-Residence 2004/05, translated from the Czech by Edgar de Bruin.



Jeanne Holierhoek

Manfred Horstmanshoff, NIAS Fellow 2000/01 and a member of the research theme group "Rethinking the History of Medicine: 'Rationality' and 'Magic' in Babylonia and the Graeco-Roman World", and NIAS Fellow 2008/09, was awarded a fellowship at the *Internationales Kolleg Morphomata* of the University of Cologne. The fellowship

runs from October 2011 to October 2012.

Marijke Klokke, NIAS Fellow 2006/07, was appointed Professor Extraordinary of the Art and Material Culture of South and Southeast Asia on behalf of Dr. Hendrik Muller's Vaderlandsch Fonds at Leiden University. She delivered her inaugural lecture on 27 June 2011.



Maria Koinova

Maria Koinova, NIAS Fellow 2011/12 and a member of the research theme group "The Real and the Imagined in the Contemporary Balkans" was awarded a Starting Grant by the European Research Council in September 2011. She received the grant for her project "Diasporas and Contested Sovereignty: Transnational Diaspora Mobilization in Europe and Its Impact on Political Processes in the Balkans, the Caucasus and the Middle East". ERC Starting Grants are intended for early-career top researchers of any nationality and age, with 2 to 12 years of experience after Ph.D. to carry out their pioneering research. The

funding consists of up to € 2 million per grant for up to five years. The success rate in 2011 was 12%.

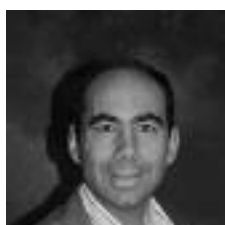
Koenraad Kuiper, NIAS Fellow 2002/03, was made Professor Emeritus by the Council of the University of Canterbury on his retirement from his position in Linguistics on 22 February 2011. He currently also holds a three year position as Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney.

Inger Leemans, VNC Fellow 2010/11, gave her inaugural lecture entitled "De beurs als bijenkorf. Naar een natuurwetenschap van economie en samenleving, rond 1700" on 28 October 2011 at VU University Amsterdam. She was appointed Professor of Cultural History at VU University in 2010.

Jan van Leeuwen, the first Distinguished Lorentz Fellow in 2009/10, retired as Professor of Informatics at Utrecht University. A symposium on "From the world of algorithms to algorithms for the world" was held in his honour on 20 December 2011. Later that day Jan van Leeuwen delivered his valedictory lecture entitled "Digitale en andere werkelijkheden".

Charles-Edouard Levillain, NIAS Fellow 2007/08, was awarded the Prix Guizot by

the *Académie française* for his 'NIAS book' *Vaincre Louis XIV: Angleterre – Hollande – France, histoire d'une relation triangulaire 1665 – 1688*. This prize was established in 1994 for outstanding publications in the historical sciences.



Charles-Edouard Levillain

Thomas Noble, NIAS Fellow 1999/2000, won the 2011 Grundler Prize for his 'NIAS book' *Images, Iconoclasm, and the Carolingians*. The prize was awarded to him at the 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May 2011. In April 2011 he also won the Charles Sheedy Prize for Distinguished Teaching of the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Julia Noordegraaf, NIAS Fellow 2009/10, was appointed Associate Professor of Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Previously, she held the

position of Assistant Professor at the same university.

Thomas Pettigrew, NIAS Fellow 1984/85, received the Career Achievement Award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in January 2010. This marked his tenth career achievement award. In August 2011 he received the 2011 William Foote Whyte Distinguished Career Award from the Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.



Aura Reggiani

Aura Reggiani, NIAS Fellow 1991/92 and a member of the research theme group "Europe on the Move" has been elected a Fellow of the Regional Science Association International, RSAI, in recognition of her outstanding

research in the field of regional science, spatial economics and economic geography. The fellowship was awarded to her at the North American meeting in Denver in November 2010.

Annemiek Richters, NIAS Fellow 2007/08 and coordinator of the 2007/08 research theme group "Coming to Terms with a Shattered World: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Mediations of Violence in Africa" retired as Professor of Culture, Health and Disease at the Leiden University Medical Centre of Leiden University. She gave her valedictory lecture entitled "Weer Mens Worden". Over Geweld, Sociale Pijn, het Sprekende Lichaam en Zorg voor Iedereen" on 30 September 2011.

Esther-Mirjam Sent, NIAS Fellow 2002/03, was elected a member of the First Chamber (Senate) of Dutch Parliament on behalf of the Labour Party on 7 June 2011. On 4 November 2010 she delivered the Verwey-Jonker/SER Lecture on knowledge economy entitled "Kennis + Economie = Kenniseconomie?" at the Social Economic Council (SER) in The Hague.

NFA Members are kindly requested to send details about developments in their scholarly career 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 j.hooghuis@nias.knaw.nl.

Patti Valkenburg, a member of the NIAS Scholarship Committee, and Professor of Youth and Media at the University of Amsterdam, was one of the three recipients of the Spinoza Prize 2011 of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The prize carries an amount of € 2,5 million and is the highest award in Dutch academia. Patti Valkenburg has developed a unique inter-disciplinary research field on the boundaries between education, psychology and communication science. She is one of the most cited communication scientists in Europe. The official presentation of the prize took place on 9 September 2011. Patti Valkenburg was also awarded the Dr. Hendrik Muller Prize for Behavioural Sciences



Patti Valkenburg (centre) receives Spinoza Prize from Halbe Zijlstra (Dutch State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science)

of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition of her pioneering research on the influence of the media on children's imagination. The prize carries an amount of € 25,000 and was handed over to her on 12 September 2011 in Amsterdam.

NIAS also publishes the *NIASbrief*. If you are interested in receiving this digital Dutch newsletter, please write to communication@nias.knaw.nl.

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*How the tree-shadows cross the lawn
ambling, encircling, never stopping. Standing
still like a beech among bushes. The will
to grow is a Law: of living, but what*

*do we know of the birds that nestle between leaves
and branches within us? Is there tender
happiness ready to hatch? It strains
to emerge here where the sun's slanting rays embrace us.*

*Between us eggshells drop
to the earth. To ken the seasons
is as impossible as bearing the crown:*

*do you feel our heart flexing with each gust of wind?
Getting used to the renewed every morning.
Endure. A storm is brewing. Do not fail.*

Maria van Daalen

*Translation by Maria van Daalen and Petry A. Kievit-Tyson