



An Imagined Past?
The Politics of History Making

Programme Book

Welcome to the virtual Annual NIAS Lecture

Welcome to the virtual **Annual Lecture 2021** by The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. The Institute is one of the oldest Advanced Study Institutes in Europe, which facilitates interdisciplinary and curiosity-driven research for established and early career scholars. It is an intellectual haven where scholars, artists, writers and journalists come together in a collaborative environment.

NIAS was set up in the seventies with the intention of creating a “scholars’ paradise” in the Netherlands, in response to chock-full classrooms, greater administrative demands and the perceived lack of international and interdisciplinary cooperation. Though some circumstances have changed, the need for an institute that promotes independent and curiosity-driven research in a slow-science environment is as urgent as fifty years ago.

This year, in 2021 we celebrate our **50th Anniversary**. It is a landmark which firmly establishes that for the past fifty years NIAS has been committed to promoting curiosity-driven research, facilitating interdisciplinary science, and creating communities and networks of scholars where the pursuit of knowledge is central to the advancement of society.

To mark this anniversary NIAS is conducting an exploration on the theme of **Belonging**. It is a connecting thread to show how, institutionally, NIAS belongs to the academic landscape in the Netherlands and abroad, and to celebrate how, more personally, people, scholars, networks and partners belong to the institute and each other. The upcoming **NIAS conference** aims to collaboratively explore and map the field of Belonging as an academic study.



NIAS Director, Jan Willem Duyvendak, and Head of Academic Affairs, Fenneke Wekker, look back on NIAS’ history and introduce the anniversary year.

On the Annual NIAS Lecture Trilogy

Annual NIAS Lecture 2021

An Imagined Past? The Politics of History Making



Annual NIAS Lecture 2018

VIOLENCE *and* *the* HISTORY of INEQUALITY



Annual NIAS Lecture 2019

Decolonization and the Political Use of History



History has become the battlefield of our times. And one of the symbols has been the fight, pro and against, around statues of prominent figures. One end of the spectrum wants to be proud of the past and is deeply nostalgic, whereas mobilisations like Black Lives Matter show that there isn't much to be proud about and demand reparations. A lot of the political struggles of the moment are about interpretations of the past and that is why this year's Annual Lecture is about history and politics.

The Annual NIAS Lecture 2021 is the last in a trilogy on history and politics, and the diversity of the speakers show that it is more than a scholarly enterprise. NIAS wants to contribute to a meaningful and constructive discussion on history, to do justice to the past and present.

The Annual NIAS Lecture offers new perspectives in ongoing public debates. On the occasion of NIAS' 50th Anniversary, this year's topic is part of a longer exploration on the theme of [Belonging](#).

"We live in a polarized time, where the past has become the battlefield of the present. Apart from getting the historical facts right, we urgently need a shared understanding of that past as well. To bridge the schisms of the present."

- Professor Jan Willem Duyvendak



An Imagined Past? The Politics of History Making

15.30 Artistic Programme

Sites of Memory

Amsterdam Museum

16.00 Annual NIAS Lecture 2021

Welcome word by Fenneke Wekker, Head of Academic Affairs NIAS

Introduction by Jan Willem Duyvendak, Director NIAS

Jennifer Tosch, Founder of Black Heritage Tours

Christophe Bertossi, Director of Center for Migration and Citizenship,
The French Institute of International Relations

Femke Halsema, The Mayor of Amsterdam

17.00 Q&A

Jeangu Macrooy

17.30 The End

Annual NIAS Lecture 2021

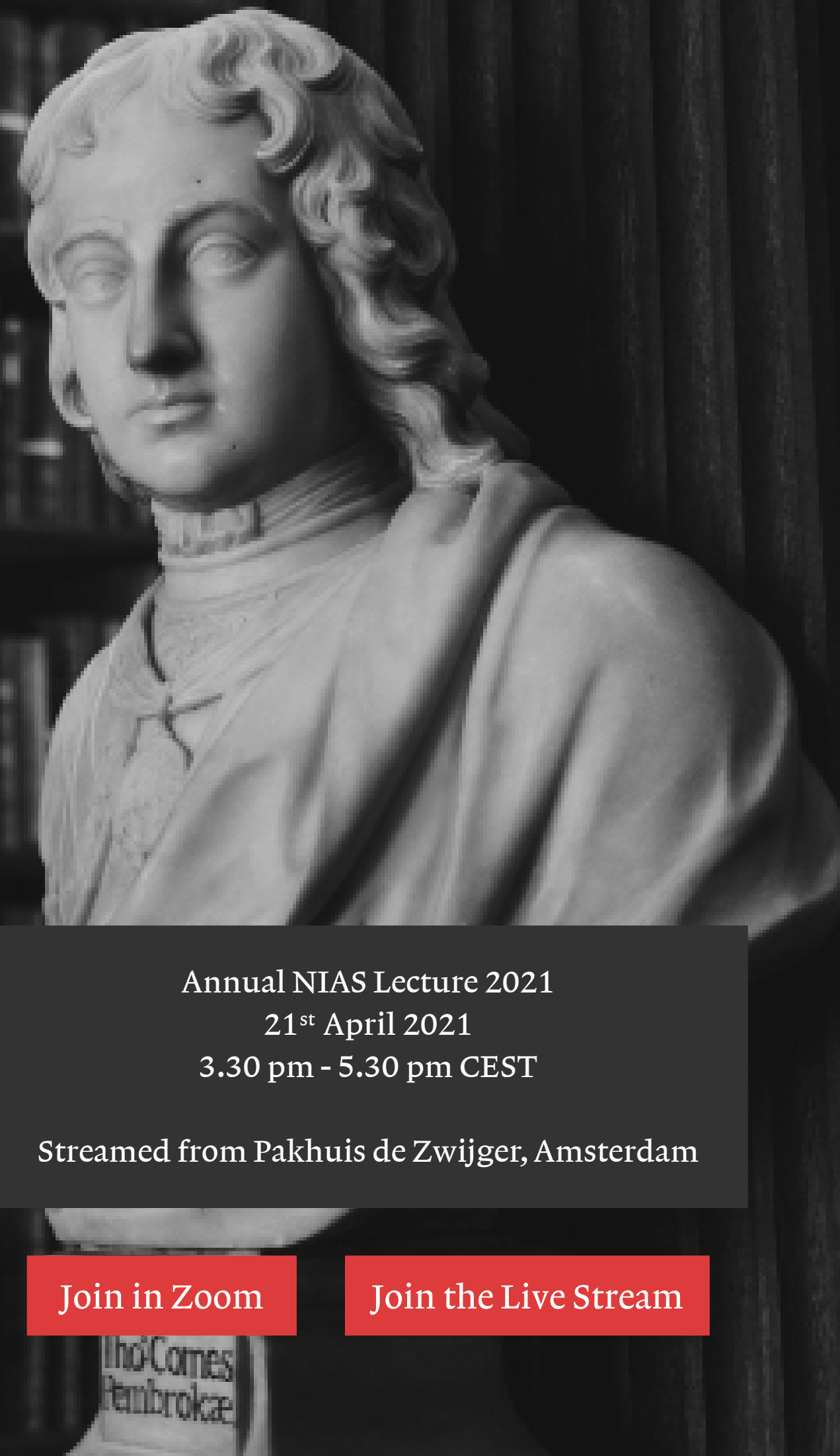
21st April 2021

3.30 pm - 5.30 pm CEST

Streamed from Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam

[Join in Zoom](#)

[Join the Live Stream](#)



About the Speakers



Jennifer Tosch is a Cultural Historian, founder of Black Heritage Tours in Amsterdam and New York, and co-founder of the Sites of Memory Foundation. Her tours make the cities' 'hidden' histories visible as you explore their early Black presence and colonial history. She is a Co-author of *Amsterdam Slavery Heritage Guide* and *Netherlands Slavery Heritage Guide*, which highlights histories of black presence in Amsterdam and beyond.

Jennifer Tosch



Christophe Bertossi is a Political Scientist, and Director of the French Institute of International Relations – Ifri's Center for Migration and Citizenship. His research focusses on migration and citizenship, nativism and belonging, and European immigration policies.

Christophe Bertossi

Further Reading

Femke Halsema is the Mayor of the City of Amsterdam, and has written several books including on migration titled *Nergensland: nieuw licht op migratie* (2017) as well as *Pluche* (2017) and *Geluk! Voorbij de hyperconsumptie, haast en hufterigheid* (2008) and *Zoeken naar vrijheid* (2010).

Femke Halsema

Benedict R. Anderson (1991) *Imagined Communities : Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "*The Danger of a Single Story*" Ted Talk, in July 2009

Christophe Bertossi (2020): *Uses of history as a cultural process: integration, citizenship and the boundary-making in contemporary France*, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

Christophe Bertossi, Jan Willem Duyvendak & Nancy Foner (2020) *Past in the present: migration and the uses of history in the contemporary era*, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies.

Jan Willem Duyvendak (2020) *Nativist understandings. The presence of the past in contemporary Dutch debates on national identity*, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. For a pdf of the articles please [mail us](#).

Jennifer Tosch et al. (2018) *Amsterdam Slavery Heritage Guide*.

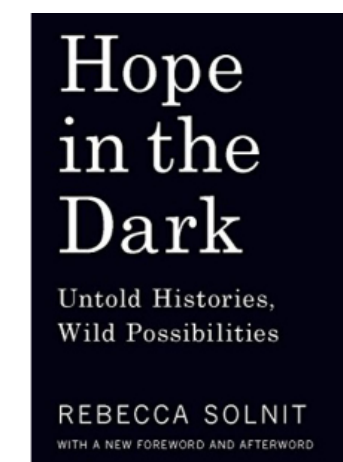
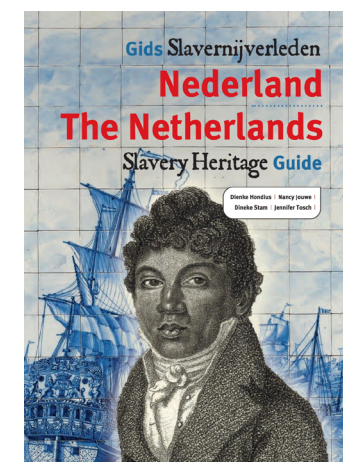
Jennifer Tosch et al. (2018) *Netherlands Slavery Heritage Guide*.

Margaret MacMillan (2010) *The Uses and Abuses of History*.

Michael Rothburg (2019) *The Implicated Subject*.

Pepijn Brandon et al. (2020) *De slavernij in Oost en West: het Amsterdam-onderzoek*.

Rebecca Solnit (2004). *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities*.



Conference on Studies of Belonging

As NIAS celebrates its 50th Anniversary, a recurrent theme within NIAS has been the topic of Belonging, who belongs and who does not? The temporality and spatiality of belonging are continuously at play. Issues of inclusion versus exclusion, of borders and boundaries, of (in)equality in a globalizing world show Belonging to be a timely and important, yet underexplored topic of academic study.

The [NIAS Conference](#) in June aims to set the agenda for future interdisciplinary and international collaborations on this topic.

Setting the tone of the conference, we're delighted to announce the speakers for the Key note lectures. As it is a celebratory year for NIAS, the key-note lectures remain open to all.



Gloria Wekker, NIAS Alumna and Emeritus Professor Gender and Ethnicity, University of Utrecht. will mention some foundational starting points for it as a field of study. She will draw upon real-life moments to illustrate and analyse, particularly moments when she felt like she belonged, and distinctly felt that she did not.

9 June, 19.30- 21.30 pm CEST

[Register here](#)



Amin Ghaziani, Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia will speak about the emplacement of belonging. How does the conceptualisation of belonging change as a function of where we locate it - from neighborhoods to night-time venues?

10 June , 19.30- 21.30 pm CEST

[Register here](#)



Nadim Rouhana, NIAS Alumnus and Professor of International Affairs and Conflict Studies, Tufts University, will speak about the promises and pitfalls of the notion of homeland, particularly in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

11 June, 19.30- 21.30 pm CEST

[Register here](#)

We look forward to
welcoming you

to the
Annual NIAS Lecture 2021
on the 21st April



[Sign up](#)

for the latest NIAS News and Events
with our monthly Newsletter