

Fellows 2023/ 2024

Fellows 2023/ 2024



Netherlands Institute
for Advanced Study
in the Humanities and
Social Sciences



Fellows 2023-2024

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Introduction | <u>p.4</u> |
| NIAS Theme Group: The Future of Progressive Politics | <u>p.10</u> |
| NIAS Theme Group: Re-imagining Security Labor | <u>p.20</u> |
| NIAS-Lorentz Theme Group: Connecting Urban Inequality to the Built Environment | <u>p.28</u> |
| Supported Individual Fellowships | <u>p.36</u> |
| NIAS Individual Fellowships | <u>p.50</u> |



Jan Willem Duyvendak is director of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (NIAS-KNAW) since 2018. Moreover, he is distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. He received his masters' degrees in both sociology and philosophy at the University of Groningen. His main fields of research currently are citizenship, belonging, and nativism. In 2021 he was elected member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and in 2022 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent book, with Josip Kesic, is *The Return of the Native. Can Liberalism Safeguard us from Nativism?* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Welcome to NIAS

It is with great joy that I announce our NIAS fellows for the academic year 2023/2024. The variety, intellectual rigor and creativity that is brought together at NIAS promises an inspiring year. Besides our theme groups on subjects like security labor and the future of progressive politics, we will host many fellows pursuing individual research, some co-sponsored by our partners. In this cohort, as in recent years, women are again well represented, as are other groups that are still underserved in science.

This academic year we welcome the first artists in the Nouveau Grand Tour, a contemporary form of the eighteenth-century Grand Tour tradition which enabled young Europeans to travel from city to city discovering their heritage.

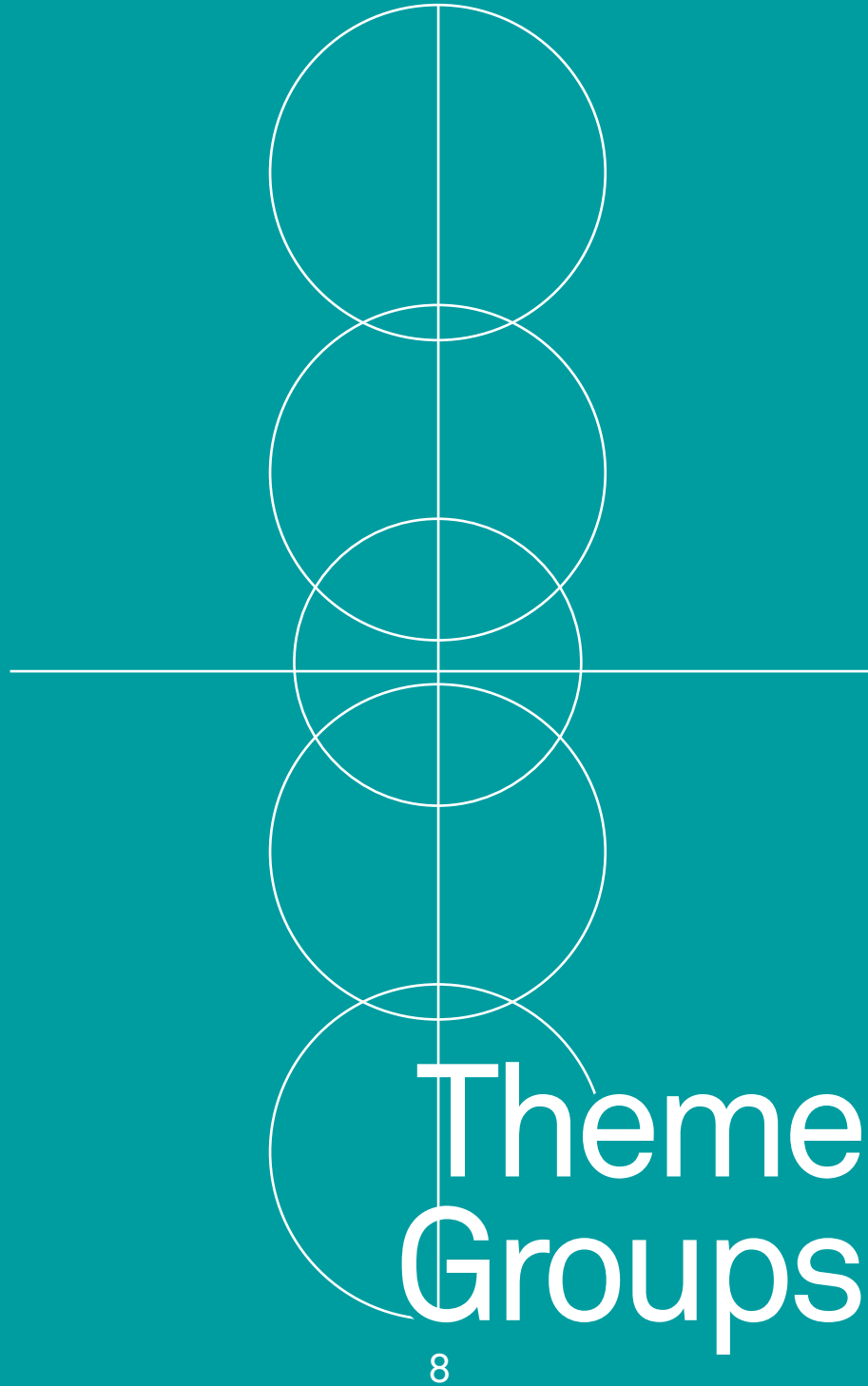
The coming together of scientists, artists, writers and journalists produces a unique interplay. We look forward to the dynamism and vibrant dialogue it creates among all our fellows.

At NIAS, we strive to challenge the culture of speed in academics. We take pride in facilitating slow science, offering our fellows a long dive into curiosity, reconsideration, doubt and insight. Slow science is not about being slow, it is about having time and opportunity to create better science. We are all too aware of the rarity of this space, and we believe in the necessity to bridge at least part of the gap between universities and institutes for advanced study. We expect that all who get a taste of this inspiring free space inevitably become advocates for slow science. So welcome to slowing down, asking new questions, forging unknown paths and leading the way to new discoveries.

Jan Willem Duyvendak
Director NIAS

For more information about our fellows and their research projects, please visit nias.knaw.nl.





In Theme Groups, scholars of different backgrounds with specific expertise work together daily to advance knowledge on a particular theme.

The Future of Progressive Politics



NIAS
Theme Group

Exploring the dynamics of progressive politics within European democracies is the focus of this theme group. What transformations have European politics undergone, particularly with regard to elections, political parties and representation? Given the fundamental challenges facing European democracies, such as climate change, immigration and digitalization, it is crucial to reach a closer understanding of the political context.



Abou-Chadi Tarik

THEME GROUP COORDINATOR
tarik.abou-chadi@politics.ox.ac.uk



Explaining Social Democratic Party Decline

AFFILIATION

Associate
Professor in
European Union
and Comparative
European Politics,
Department of
Nuffield College,
University of
Oxford

SEMESTER

September 2023-
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

politics,
progressivism,
policy,
polarization,
social
democracy, social
demographics,
voter behavior,
Europe

As coordinator of the theme group, Tarik Abou-Chadi (together with member Markus Wagner) aims to provide a comprehensive explanation for the variation in support of Social Democratic parties in Western Europe in the past twenty years. This research focuses on different types of voters and how their changing behavior can explain electoral decline and continued electoral support of Social Democratic parties.

AFFILIATION

Assistant
Professor
Political Science,
Constitutional
Law and
Philosophy of Law
at University of
Barcelona, Spain

SEMESTER

September 2023-
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

progressivism,
politicizing,
fragmentation,
polarization,
compromise,
popular support,
Europe



Macarena Ares

THEME GROUP MEMBER
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You win some, you
lose some: building
policy compromise
in polarized
democracies

As a member of the theme group, Macarena Ares aims to advance our understanding of when and why citizens are willing to support political and policy compromise. Her approach considers individual and contextual explanations of support for compromise, with a special focus on the role of political parties in politicizing negotiations and concessions. An encompassing understanding of when citizens will support policy concessions and pacts is valuable in a context of high party fragmentation and polarization.



As a member of the theme group, Stefanie Reher investigates public attitudes towards disabled election candidates, focusing on how candidates communicate their disabilities and how voters' own experiences and relationships with disability and ableism influence their attitudes. About 20 percent of our society is made up of people with disabilities. However, disabled people are underrepresented in politics, which may impact the representation of their interests in public policy and perpetuate their marginalization.

Stefanie Reher

THEME GROUP MEMBER
stefanie.reher@strath.ac.uk

AFFILIATION

Reader
 Government &
 Public Policy
 at University
 of Strathclyde,
 United Kingdom

SEMESTER

September 2023-
 January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

politics,
 progressivism,
 policy, disability,
 ableism,
 representation,
 Europe

Public attitudes
 towards disabled
 politicians

AFFILIATION

Associate
 Professor
 Political Science
 at University
 of Amsterdam,
 Netherlands

SEMESTER

September 2023-
 January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

politics,
 progressivism,
 policy,
 polarization,
 arts-based
 intervention,
 tolerance, Europe

As a member of the theme group, Matthijs Rooduijn aims to investigate the potential of narratives promoting empathy and tolerance in bridging societal divides. These divisions pose a significant threat to the social fabric of societies and the foundations of liberal democracy. Rooduijn will examine whether arts-based interventions, such as reading books, watching movies, or experiencing theatre plays, can foster positive attitudes towards outgroups and thereby strengthen democracy.



Matthijs Rooduijn

THEME GROUP MEMBER
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Theatre and
 democracy:
 Can narratives
 of empathy and
 tolerance reduce
 prejudice and
 polarization?

Markus Wagner

THEME GROUP MEMBER
markus.wagner@univie.ac.at

As a member of the theme group, Markus Wagner (together with Tarik Abou-Chadi) aims to provide a comprehensive explanation for the decline of Social Democratic parties in Western Europe. Previous accounts have primarily focused on policy factors, such as economic ideology, immigration, or social liberalism, while others emphasize declining social cleavages. This research will incorporate a fundamental understanding of voter decision-making.

Explaining Social Democratic Party Decline

AFFILIATION

Professor,
Department of
Government at
the University of
Vienna, Austria

SEMESTER

September 2023-
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

politics,
progressivism,
policy,
polarization,
social
democracy, social
demographics,
voter behavior,
Europe



Re-imagining Security Labor

An abstract graphic featuring five overlapping circles arranged in a cross pattern. A horizontal and vertical line intersect at the center, forming a crosshair. The circles are light blue and overlap in the center and at the midpoints of the lines.

NIAS
Theme
Group

How can a deeper understanding of individuals in the security labor force shape the future of security work? There are myriad examples of how, in general, descriptions of security labor in the media tend to villainize or heroize the workers, criticising them as aggressive, lazy and uneducated, or celebrating them as patriotic and brave. This NIAS Theme Group will bring their own deeply informed practices and varied viewpoints regarding the global security enterprise to our collaborative investigation.

fellows 2023/24



Foto: Politie

Re-imagining Security Labor

Ed Schwarzschild

THEME GROUP COORDINATOR
eschwarzschild@albany.edu

Stories of Security at Work

As coordinator of the theme group security labor, Ed Schwarzschild aims to begin to reveal and organize the stories government-related security laborers around the world tell themselves and others about their working lives. Creating, organising and writing about an archive of these first-person narratives will lead to insights that can help illuminate and analyze this growing sector of our society.

AFFILIATION

Professor English at University at Albany, State University of New York, Unites States of America

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Creative Writing

KEYWORDS

security work, workers, first-person narratives, meaning



As a member of the theme group, Tessa Diphooorn is particularly interested in the experiences of the security laborers themselves. She aims to critically examine the effects of technologization and modernization on security labor by investigating how the increased use of technology impacts the demand, interest, and experiences of security workers, as well as exploring the types of relationships that emerge with the adoption of new technologies.

Tessa Diphooorn

THEME GROUP MEMBER
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AFFILIATION

Associate professor Social and Behavioral Sciences at Utrecht University, Netherlands

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Current Anthropology

KEYWORDS

security work, workers, media, perception, technology, modernization, socio-economic impact

Experiencing Security Technologies

AFFILIATION

Associate Professor Anthropology at University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Anthropology of Security

KEYWORDS

security work, industry, narrative (re)construction, marketing, customers, Israel

As a member of the theme group, Erella Grassiani will explore how security narratives are (re)constructed within the Israeli security industry through its marketing, the organization of security fairs and other events it plans for potential customers. She will especially look at the role of the people working in this industry in the construction of these narratives.



Erella Grassiani

THEME GROUP MEMBER
e.grassiani@uva.nl

Security Narratives

Winifred Poster

THEME GROUP MEMBER
wrposter@gmail.com

The Security Labor of Managing Digital Bodies: Women's Techno-Affective Work for the State in the US and India



AFFILIATION

Director and Founder, Labor Tech Research Network

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Labor Studies, Science and Technology Studies, Sociology

KEYWORDS

security work, state, technology, digital bodies, techno-affective labor, women, US, India

As a member of the theme group, Winifred Poster aims to explore how and why women are often recruited to do the labor of handling digital bodies. Despite the fact that tech and military domains have been traditionally dominated by men, women are brought in to be the interface between them. Winifred argues it reflects formations of techno-affective labor for the state. Specifically, it represents the convergence of databased strategies in the security industry, with women's historical rootedness in interpersonal tasks, identity management, and dirty work for the state. Implications lie in the way their labor assists the surveillance of borders themselves. Evidence from the US and India, and the security industries across them, provides material for this analysis.

Connecting Urban Inequality to the Built Environment

The NIAS-Lorentz Theme Group members work together as a team on a research topic that bridges the humanities and/or social sciences and the natural and/or technological sciences. It is part of the NIAS-Lorentz program, which is a collaboration between NIAS and the Lorentz Center in Leiden. The center supports scientific communities by organizing innovative international workshops.

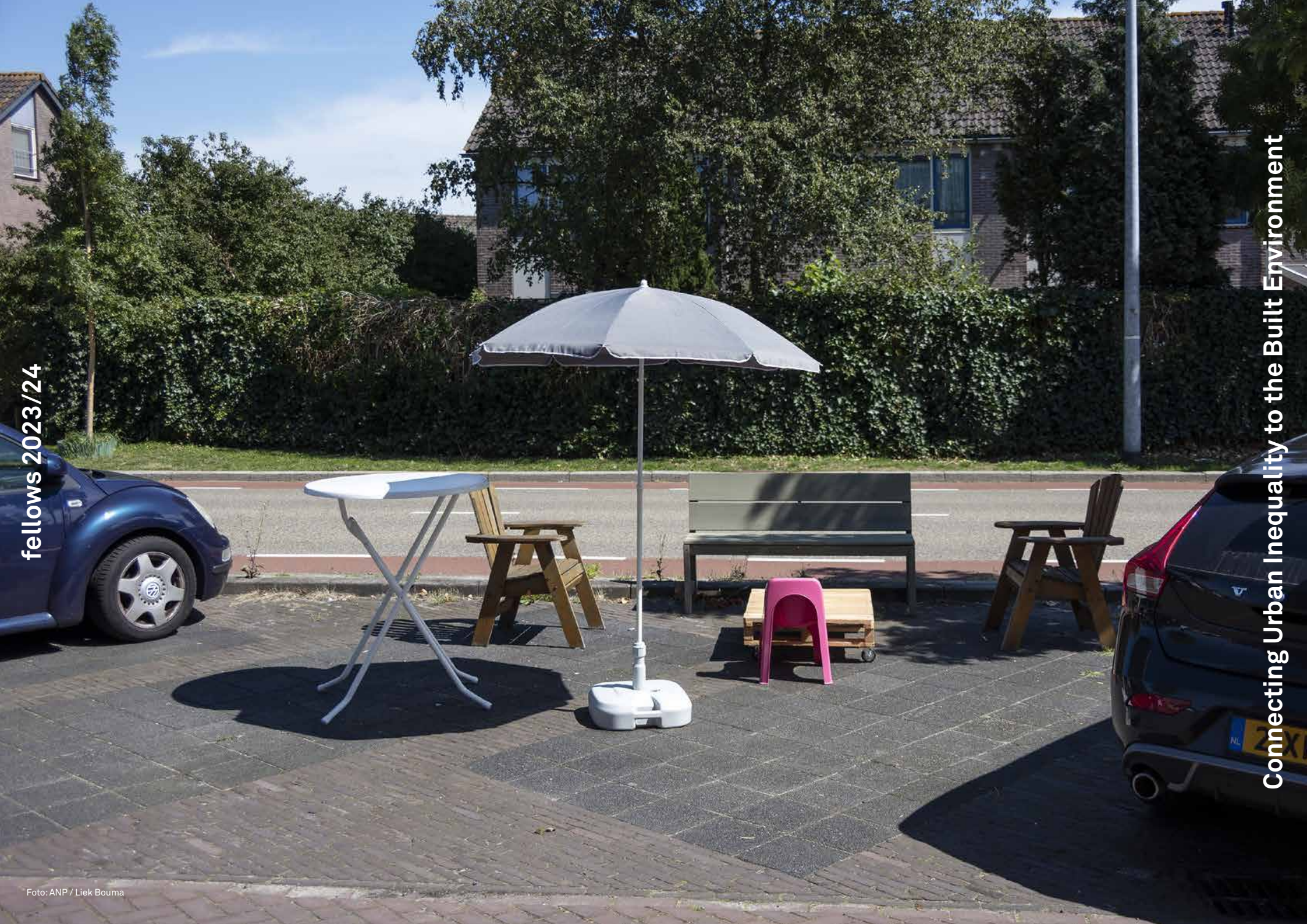
The Spatial Segregation of Neighborhood Organizations and Entrepreneurs: Connecting Urban Inequality to the Built Environment



NIAS-Lorentz
Theme Group

Local organizations and entrepreneurs play a crucial role in urban neighborhoods, connecting and empowering residents. Through an integrated interdisciplinary approach, the NIAS-Lorentz Theme Group explores the mechanisms underlying the relationship between the built environment, social processes, and local organizations and entrepreneurs. Amsterdam provides the ideal setting for this research, considering its demographic context and data availability.

follows 2023/24



Connecting Urban Inequality to the Built Environment

Floris Vermeulen

THEME GROUP COORDINATOR
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As the coordinator of the group, Floris Vermeulen will further develop a conceptual framework for understanding community-based organizational action in deprived urban areas. He focuses on multiple aspects, such as minority perspectives, competitive ecological organizational processes, spatial dimensions, and the impact of the built environment on community-based organizational vitality.



AFFILIATION

Associate Professor
 Political Science
 at the University
 of Amsterdam

SEMESTER

February - June
 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

cities, space,
 community,
 activism,
 deprivation,
 minorities,
 ecology

AFFILIATION

Assistant Professor
 Entrepreneurship
 and Innovation
 at the University
 of Amsterdam
 Business School

SEMESTER

February - June
 2024

DISCIPLINE

Management -
 Business

KEYWORDS

cities, space,
 segregation,
 social
 organizations,
 businesses

As a member of the Theme Group Spatial Segregation: Connecting Urban Inequality to the Built Environment, Laura Dupin will explore the relationship between neighborhood organizations/entrepreneurs, the social environment and the built environment. Untangling this complex relationship and identifying causal effects is crucial, particularly as businesses and cities reassess their involvement with the built environment due to sustainability concerns and social inequality.



Laura Dupin

THEME GROUP MEMBER
l.e.dupin@uva.nl

Spatial
 Segregation:
 Connecting Urban
 Inequality to the
 Built Environment

AFFILIATION

Associate
Professor in
Geospatial Data
Science at the
University of
Glasgow, United
Kingdom

SEMESTER

February - June
2024

DISCIPLINE

Geospatial Data
Science

KEYWORDS

cities, space,
organizational
vitality, social
networks,
quantitative
analysis, spatial
modeling,
machine learning

As a member of the group, Mingshu Wang aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the built environment's features and establish quantitative connections between these characteristics and various aspects of organizational vitality and social networks. He will utilize diverse geospatial data at various scales, combined with spatial models and explainable machine learning techniques.



Mingshu Wang

THEME GROUP MEMBER

mingshu.wang@glasgow.ac.uk

Spatial Segregation:
Connecting Urban
Inequality to the
Built Environment



Supported Individual Fellowships

NIAS cooperates with partners to offer scholars working in specific disciplines or research areas fellowships that reach certain fields or encourage and support a particular research goal.

Matthew C. Wilson

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Factitious Frames: The Interconnected Futures of AI, Synthetic Biology, and Film

TYPE

Artist in
Residence

AFFILIATION

Artist, filmmaker

SEMESTER

February - June
2024

DISCIPLINE

Film, Visual Arts

KEYWORDS

AI, biology, film,
imagination, scifi,
future

The Artist in Residence is co-funded by the Akademie van Kunsten – KNAW to strengthen the relationship between art and science. This Academy of Arts is committed to represent the voice of the arts in Dutch society – including politics – and to promote interaction between the arts themselves, art and society, and between science and art.



How can the interconnected feedback loop of artificial intelligence, synthetic biology, and film shape the future of scientific innovation? How will it form our understanding of the relationship between technology, nature, and culture, and the dynamics between natural and artificial selection? Will it potentially give rise to a new form of (co)evolution? Matthew Wilson draws on approaches from experimental film, speculative documentary, and future fiction to envisage this convergence.

Curiosity is an essential aspect of human cognition. Despite centuries of psychological interest, it remains poorly understood. Eveline Crone aims to investigate the emergence of curiosity during adolescence, a critical period for stimulating curiosity. She seeks to answer key questions such as the factors facilitating its development, and its impact on biological, individual, social, and societal domains. The overarching goal of the project is to propose a new theory on emerging curiosity.

Eveline Crone

crone@essb.eur.nl

Understanding Curiosity

TYPE

Distinguished NIAS-
Lorentz Fellow

AFFILIATION

Professor of
Developmental
Neuroscience
in Society at
Erasmus University
Rotterdam

SEMESTER

September 2023-
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Neurocognitive
Developmental
Psychology

KEYWORDS

development,
curiosity,
adolescence

The Distinguished NIAS-Lorentz Fellowship is awarded to an eminent scientist working on research that brings together perspectives from the Humanities and/or Social Sciences on the one hand and the Natural Sciences and/or Technology on the other. The fellowship is part of the NIAS-Lorentz Program, a collaboration between NIAS and the Lorentz Center in Leiden. The center supports scientific communities by organizing innovative international workshops.



Volha Chukhutsina

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Photosynthesis
in extreme
temperatures: from
single proteins to
whole organisms



Photosynthetic organisms play a crucial role in sustaining life. However, temperature changes can impose significant stress on their light-harvesting process, necessitating successful adaptation for survival. Failure to adapt to temperature changes can lead to ecological disasters. Volha Chukhutsina investigates photoregulation in response to temperature changes, spanning from individual proteins to entire organisms. By unraveling the mysteries of temperature-dependent photoregulation, we can gain insights into the resilience and adaptability of photosynthetic organisms in a changing climate.

TYPE

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO
For Women in
Science Fellow

AFFILIATION

Assistant
professor
Biophysics of
Photosynthesis
at Vrije University
Amsterdam

SEMESTER

September 2023 -
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Biophysics of
Photosynthesis

KEYWORDS

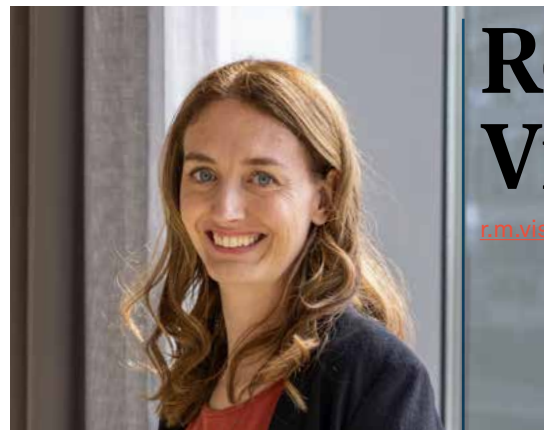
biology, climate,
adaptation

The Dutch L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship program promotes the scientific career of talented young women in Life Sciences with the aim of increasing the number of female professors in the Netherlands. The fellowship is a national initiative within the international For Women in Science program, sponsored by L'Oréal and UNESCO and supported by the National Network of Women Professors (LNVH).



Renée Visser

r.m.visser@uva.nl



The interplay
of olfaction and
emotional memory
in conditions of
health and disease

TYPE

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO
For Women in
Science Fellow

AFFILIATION

Assistant Professor
in the Amsterdam
Emotional Memory
Lab at the University
of Amsterdam,
Netherlands

SEMESTER

September 2023 -
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Clinical Psychology

KEYWORDS

smell, memory,
trauma, therapy

The Dutch L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship program promotes the scientific career of talented young women in Life Sciences with the aim of increasing the number of female professors in the Netherlands. The fellowship is a national initiative within the international For Women in Science program, sponsored by L'Oréal and UNESCO and supported by the National Network of Women Professors (LNVH).



Smell has received little attention in cognitive science, despite its significance in emotional learning, memory, and mental disorders. Renée Visser aims to integrate knowledge from various disciplines to understand the interplay between olfaction and emotional memory in human health and disease. Modifying emotional memory is essential in addressing psychological disorders. As odor cues can be administered unobtrusively for extended periods, this opens avenues for studying consolidation, retrieval, and modification of emotional memories, with societal implications.

In 2021, the Netherlands shifted to a voluntary work scheme for prisoners. This might be considered preferable to compulsory prison labor, but there are serious concerns regarding the rights of captive workers. Those doing low-paid work in prison are in a vulnerable position because of their limited freedom of movement, inability to change jobs, and limited labor and social security rights. Hadassa Noorda's research provides a framework to consider what rights working prisoners should have.



TYPE
.....
Instituut GAK Fellow

AFFILIATION
.....
Assistant professor Criminal law, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

SEMESTER
.....
September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE
.....
Philosophy of Law

KEYWORDS
.....
prison, captive workers, labor rights, social rights, The Netherlands

The Institute Gak Fellowship offers researchers the opportunity to work on topics in the field of social security and labor market policy with the aim of producing new scientific knowledge or working on solutions to practical issues. This fellowship is a collaboration between Institute Gak and NIAS. Instituut Gak is committed to contributing to the quality of social security and the labor market in the Netherlands by investing in social projects, research, chairs and professorships.



Hadassa Noorda

h.a.noorda@uva.nl

The Labor and Social Security Rights of Captive Workers

Verena Seibel

v.m.k.seibel@uu.nl

Explaining Variation in Access to Welfare Services and Benefits among Migrants in the Netherlands: The Role of System Knowledge



TYPE
.....
Instituut GAK Fellow

AFFILIATION
.....
Assistant Professor for Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, Utrecht University

SEMESTER
.....
February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE
.....
Sociology, Migration and Society

KEYWORDS
.....
migration, social services, social benefits, system knowledge, The Netherlands

The Institute Gak Fellowship offers researchers the opportunity to work on topics in the field of social security and labor market policy with the aim of producing new scientific knowledge or working on solutions to practical issues. This fellowship is a collaboration between Institute Gak and NIAS. Instituut Gak is committed to contributing to the quality of social security and the labor market in the Netherlands by investing in social projects, research, chairs and professorships.



Despite being eligible, research consistently shows that migrants have lower rates of utilizing welfare benefits than natives. Equal access to welfare services and benefits is vital for social security. Verena Seibel aims to enhance our understanding of the relationship between system knowledge and welfare behavior in domains like healthcare, childcare, pensions, and unemployment benefits. By identifying the main barriers she seeks to inform policy development to eliminate obstacles and enhance integration opportunities for migrants.

In 2018 the Dutch government created an interdepartmental 'Taskforce' to try and redefine aspects of orthodoxy and Salafism as 'problematic behavior', to subsequently counter it. The first significant case it took up, was that of the Islamic secondary school The Haga Lyceum (est. 2017). Kasper van Laarhoven aims to integrate the intelligence, politics and events surrounding the school into a compelling narrative about the way our nation treats minorities despite rising tensions and suspicions.



TYPE

Journalist in Residence

AFFILIATION

Journalist at NRC Media

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Narrative Journalism

KEYWORDS

Islamophobia, orthodoxy, Salafism,

Islamic school, intelligence agency, anti-terrorism, minority rights, Amsterdam, Netherlands

The Journalist in Residence Fellowship is for journalists with a keen interest in scholarly research who need an extended period of time to focus on a longer piece of journalistic work. The programme is a collaboration between NIAS and the Fonds Bijzondere Journalistieke Projecten – Foundation for Special Projects in Journalism. This independent foundation aims to support journalists and authors working on time-consuming and in-depth journalistic publications.

FONDS BIJZONDERE JOURNALISTIEKE PROJECTEN

The Cornelius Haga Lyceum, orthodoxy in times of Islam criticism

k.vanlaarhoven@nrc.nl

The historical antagonism between Turks and Armenians over the Armenian genocide (1915) has also reached the Netherlands. In the recent past, two Armenian-Dutch memorials for the genocide were established by Dutch Armenians, and both were vehemently protested by Dutch Turks. Aysenur Korkmaz investigates how the moral and emotional legacy of the Armenian genocide permeates contemporary heritage politics in the Netherlands, particularly at the nexus between Turkish and Armenian diasporic communities and the Dutch state.



TYPE

Meertens-NIAS Fellow

AFFILIATION

Independent researcher

SEMESTER

September 2023 - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Historical Anthropology

KEYWORDS

Armenian genocide,

commemoration, contestation, memorials, heritage politics, Netherlands

This ten-months fellowship for international scholars of Dutch language and culture is a collaboration between NIAS and The Meertens Institute. The Meertens Institute studies and documents language and culture in the Netherlands and Dutch language and culture in the world.



Aysenur Korkmaz

aysenur.korkmaz@outlook.com

Heritage of Violence: Cultural Contestation among Turks and Armenians in the Netherlands



Miriyam Aouragh

m.aouragh@westminster.ac.uk

Looking Back - Looking Forward: A reflection on 20 years "Online Communities"

TYPE

Urban Citizen Fellow

AFFILIATION

Professor of Digital Anthropology at the University of Westminster, United Kingdom

SEMESTER

October 2023 - August 2024

DISCIPLINE

Media Anthropology

KEYWORDS

technology, society, politics, internet, activism, tech-solutionism, Palestine, diaspora

In collaboration with the City of Amsterdam, the Urban Citizen Fellowship was established to promote the use of advanced research in political deliberation and public policy making for the city of Amsterdam. The program focuses on digital urban citizenship.

✕ Gemeente
✕ Amsterdam
✕

For over two decades Miriyam Aouragh's research has focused on the social and political implications of information and communication technologies, particularly in Palestine and amongst the Palestinian diaspora. By examining new infrastructural developments, evolving political contexts, and different internet user generations, she aims to deepen our ethnographic understanding of the dynamic relationship between technology, society, and politics in the digital age - and to theoretically explore the development of technology in social life throughout the short history of the internet.

TYPE

Urban Citizen Fellow

AFFILIATION

Associate Professor Law & Policy, Luiss Guido Carli University, Italy

SEMESTER

October 2023 - August 2024

DISCIPLINE

Law & Policy

KEYWORDS

self-organization, collective action, urban infrastructure, design, multicultural interaction, Amsterdam

In collaboration with the City of Amsterdam, the Urban Citizen Fellowship was established to promote the use of advanced research in political deliberation and public policy making for the city of Amsterdam. The program focuses on digital urban citizenship.

✕ Gemeente
✕ Amsterdam
✕

Christian Iaione

ciaione@luiss.it

Co-Amsterdam: create urban citizenship partnerships for vulnerable neighborhoods in Amsterdam

As part of the Co-Amsterdam platform and methodology, Christian Iaione aims to investigate how self-organization and collective action can serve as design principles for a local digital and institutional architecture that facilitates smooth interaction among multicultural communities in vulnerable neighborhoods of Amsterdam. He seeks to enable the creation and self-organization of diverse urban pools through partnerships designed to share the use, management, and ownership of essential urban infrastructure, such as digital, transport, energy networks, and housing.





Listening is not necessarily what our digital platforms and media encourage, quite the opposite. But now that everyone in the post-digital world can express themselves without any problem, who is actually listening? And if ‘smart’ devices secretly listen to everything we say, isn’t it important to counter that with a different kind of listening? Under the title “Listening Exercises”, Miriam Rasch is working on an essay collection that attempts to uncover the potential solutions that listening provides.

Miriam Rasch

miriam@miriamrasch.nl

Listening Exercises

TYPE

Writer in Residence

surveillance,
resistance,
listening

AFFILIATION

Philosopher,
essayist

The Writer-in-Residence programme is a cooperation between NIAS and Nederlands Letterenfonds - the Dutch Foundation for Literature. The foundation is committed to contribute to a well-read, intelligent and creative society in which the role of literature, writers and translators, is recognized and valued. This fellowship aims to allow writers of fiction and non-fiction to work within an international, interdisciplinary academic community.

SEMESTER

September 2023 -
January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Philosophy,
Writing

KEYWORDS

digital age,
self-expression,

Nederlands
letterenfonds
dutch foundation
for literature



NIAS Individual Fellowships

NIAS offers individual fellowships to scholars who wish to conduct independent research in the humanities and social sciences. For five or ten months, fellows are given time and space to work on their own research project in an interdisciplinary community.

Peter Achterberg

p.achterberg@tilburguniversity.edu

The scientific confidence gap in advanced knowledge societies



AFFILIATION

Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Greenwich, United Kingdom

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Linguistics, Spanish

KEYWORDS

migration, language, acquisition, development

What enables us to tell stories and express ourselves? A good ability to narrate stories and explain facts is the clearest manifestation of an adequate language attainment. María J. Arche seeks to establish the pathway of acquisition of the linguistic gears of narrative structure (temporal and information structure), focusing on children with a migrant background. The aim is to arrive at tangible indicators to plot narrative ability, giving precise testing grounds to any sorts of assessment materials.



María J. Arche

m.j.arche@greenwich.ac.uk

Charting out the linguistic underpinnings of narrative abilities

Studies conducted in the United States and The Netherlands have revealed the existence of science confidence gaps, wherein individuals exhibit trust in scientific methods but simultaneously express distrust in scientific institutions and experts.

Peter Achterberg aims to trace the root cause of some of the resistance to science and show how the advancement of even more scientific reason and information will ultimately cause apparent problems with its legitimacy to fade out altogether.

AFFILIATION

Professor of Sociology at Tilburg University, Netherlands

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Cultural Sociology

KEYWORDS

science, trust, knowledge society, US, The Netherlands

The moral imperative of “Never again” has been extensively utilized in public discourse following numerous instances of violent conflicts and political violence in the 20th and 21st centuries. Museums and memorials have become key sites for institutionalizing the “never again” assertion within public spaces. But with which means and to what ends? In order to understand their educational potential, Tamara Banjeglav explores how memorial museums teach about violence and how violence is represented in museum exhibitions.

Tamara Banjeglav

banjeglavt@gmail.com

Educational Role of Memorial Museums in Critical Thinking and Learning about the Violent Past



AFFILIATION

Independent researcher

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Cultural Studies

KEYWORDS

violence, representation, memorial museums, education



AFFILIATION

Lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

SEMESTER

September 2023 - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Yorùbá Studies

KEYWORDS

climate, environment, sustainability, religion, Nigeria

Olúwábùnmi Bernard

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The gods are wise: environmental sustainability in the Yorùbá sacred orature

Recent studies on environmental degradation in southwest Nigeria have shown the negative impact of climate change on the environment, leading to floods, wildfires, desertification, and low agricultural yields. How can the present generation meet its material and economic needs while also ensuring that future generations can do the same? Oluwabunmi Tope Bernard explores the relationship between Yorùbá sacred orature and environmental sustainability practices in southwest Nigeria, with specific focus on the deities Ifá, Sàngó, and Oya.



Democracy is often celebrated for its benefits, but there is a darker side to it. Rule by the people can lead to conformity, uniformity, groupthink, populism, and even mob-rule. Dissent is crucial for preserving a diversity of opinions and fresh discourse, yet dissenters are often marginalized and labelled as losers. Costică Brădăţan aims to explore the philosophical significance of dissent and argue that it is essential for the health of a community's civic, intellectual, and cultural life.

AFFILIATION

President's Excellence in Research Professor at Texas Tech University, United States

DISCIPLINE

Interdisciplinary Humanities/Philosophy

KEYWORDS

democracy, trust, conformism, dissent, viewpoint diversity, academia

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

Costică Brădăţan

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Swimming against the Stream. A Study in Dissent

Greg Burris

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Nordic Palestine: Transnational Circuits of Conflict and Culture



The Nordic states' involvement in the Middle East is commonly known through official channels, such as diplomacy, negotiations, and agreements like the Oslo Accords. However, the impact of Nordic filmmakers, artists, and cultural workers on Palestinian issues has not received enough scholarly attention. Burris aims to critically interrogate the cinematic connections between Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Palestine and explore the various social, political, and cultural implications of these connections.

AFFILIATION

Program Director and Associate Professor at American University of Beirut, Lebanon

DISCIPLINE

Media Studies

KEYWORDS

film, conflict, cultural exchange, social impact, Palestine, Scandinavia

SEMESTER

February - June 2024



AFFILIATION

Professor,
Language Use
& Cognition
and English
Linguistics at
Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam,
Netherlands

SEMESTER

February -
June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Cognitive
Sciences

KEYWORDS

non-verbal
communication,
cognition,
adaptation

Alan Cienki

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Modeling the
dynamics of
communicative
resources used in
interaction

Linguists and communication researchers are increasingly paying attention to the varied means of communication used in face-to-face interactions, such as gestures, non-lexical sounds, and facial expressions. However, a model to explain the complex processes involved in switching between communication means is lacking. Alan Cienki aims to develop a theoretical framework that will help us better understand how humans adapt their communication in response to changing conditions that may impact their audibility, visibility, and mobility.

Dmytro Fedchyshyn

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Food security,
organic production
and their impact
on right to health
in Ukraine and the
EU in the context of
Russian invasion

It is essential to develop a competitive and high-quality food complex in Ukraine, including a viable organic sector that promotes food and environmental security. With this project Dmytro Fedchyshyn aims to address food security challenges and the impact of the Russian invasion on organic production in Ukraine and the EU. The project will focus on issues such as the lack of proper regulations, inadequate state control, low producer awareness, and the need for a balanced organic policy.

AFFILIATION

Senior lecturer
of Civil Law at
Zaporizhzhia
National
University,
Ukraine

SEMESTER

February -
June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Agricultural Law,
Environmental
Law, Land Law

KEYWORDS

food security,
organic
agriculture,
environment,
Russian invasion,
regulation, policy,
Ukraine



Trust has emerged as a central concern in contemporary societies due in part to the influential, yet opaque, role played by algorithmic decision-making. Jessica Feldman's thesis is that "collective trust" is ontologically different from private trust (individual-to-individual), and essential to democratic practice. Her research project combines comparative philosophy, ethnographic work, and values-in-design analysis, to contribute to her work on collective-based access control design, a related artistic project, and a forthcoming book on trust and algorithms.



AFFILIATION

Assistant Professor Communication, Media, and Culture at the American University of Paris, France

DISCIPLINE

Media and Communication Studies

KEYWORDS

AI, algorithms, democracy, trust, governance

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

Jessica Feldman

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Collective Trust?
Comparative
Commons-Centric
Design for AI and
Algorithmic Trust

Tetiana Gardashuk

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Environmental
Peacebuilding:
Methodology
and Applicability
for Post-War
Restoration in
Ukraine

The Russian aggression in Ukraine destroys lives and infrastructure, but also landscapes, ecosystems, habitats, and populations of species. Tetiana Gardashuk considers the war to be an anti-vital phenomenon, and thus a crime against life and "the world as a community". How can the biophysical environment, nature, and natural resources serve for cooperation, peaceful coexistence, and sustainability? Gardashuk aims to produce new directions for Ukraine's post-war restoration and development, focusing on the concept of environmental peacebuilding (EPB).



AFFILIATION

Head of Logic and Methodology of Science, H. Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

DISCIPLINE

Ecophilosophy, environmental ethics, Philosophy of Science

KEYWORDS

Russian invasion, environment, biophilia, restoration, sustainable development, peacebuilding, future

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

SPACE

Ukraine



Guangtian Ha

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From Baghdad to Canton: Sailors, Slaves, and Global Blackness in Medieval Maritime Asia



AFFILIATION

Assistant Professor at Haverford College, United States

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Religion Studies

KEYWORDS

slavery, shipping, trade, blackness, Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, middle ages

Enslaved black sailors were the lifelines of medieval seafaring and the human infrastructure that welded the Indian Ocean to the South China Sea. Guangtian Ha aims to uncover the history of medieval trans-regional seafaring from the perspective of black sailors. By analyzing Arabic, Persian, and Classical Chinese sources alongside recent archaeological discoveries in Southeast Asia, he seeks to reclaim the silenced voices of these sailors and reconceptualize the idea of global blackness beyond Africa and its diaspora.

Egor Isaev

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1993. The Black October

AFFILIATION

Guest researcher RUB School at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Media Studies

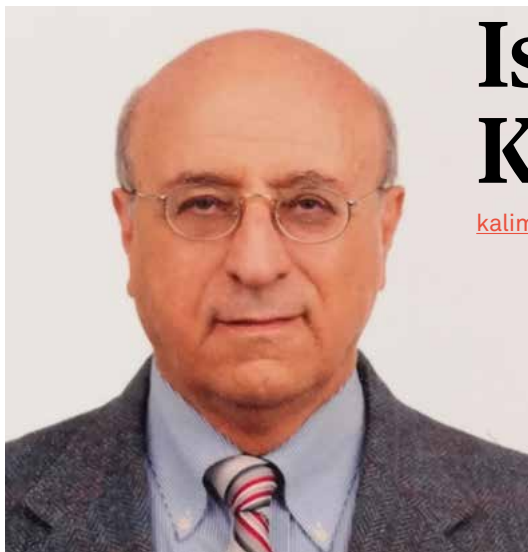
KEYWORDS

Boris Yeltsin, Alexander Rutskoi, Moscow, authoritarianism, opposition, Russia



In September and October 1993 a political conflict unfolded in the Russian Federation between Russian President Boris Yeltsin's government and opponents led by Vice President Alexander Rutskoi, culminating in "the Shelling of the White House" and at least 157 dead and 384 wounded. These events, never fully investigated, mark the authoritarian turn in Russian history. Egor Isaev aims to shed light on the causes and consequences of the events, and to analyze its lasting impact on Russian politics.





Isaac Kalimi

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AFFILIATION

Professor in International Relations at University of Warwick, United Kingdom

DISCIPLINE

Politics and International Studies

KEYWORDS

migration, identity, temporality, politics, engagement, Europe

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

The way time structures everyday activities and long-term strategies of migrants affects their political engagement. The interest in studying time and temporalities in migration studies has grown with the advent of mobility studies. Existing studies mostly follow the implications of time on migrants' everyday lives, not their political activism. Maria Koinova takes this discussion further and examines how diasporas interpret time and how it affects their identities and political practices in different global locations.

The Book of Esther: A Commentary

AFFILIATION

Professor (em.), Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Germany
Senior Fellow, the University of Chicago, USA

DISCIPLINE

Ancient Israelite History and Historiography, Biblical Studies, Jewish Studies

KEYWORDS

Hebrew Bible, Old Testament, historiography, ancient, Israel

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

The book of Esther is a highly contentious writing within the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. While the Jews hold the book in high esteem it does not feature in Christian religious culture, and has often been ignored or even condemned. Isaac Kalimi aims to shed new light on Esther from literary, historical, and theological perspectives and provide a comprehensive and innovative reference work for generations of scholars, teachers, students, Jewish and Christian clergy, intellectuals, and interested laypeople

Maria Koinova

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Time and Temporalities in Diaspora Politics



This project explores the role of gender in politically violent organizations, examining how militant groups leverage gendered narratives and images in their public messaging to shape external perceptions of their movements. Specifically, this project asks how both women's participation in militant groups and violence targeting women civilians shape militant publicity and propaganda strategies aimed at domestic and international audiences. While taking a cross-organizational approach, Meredith Loken currently focuses in-depth on militant organizations previously active in Northern Ireland.

AFFILIATION

Assistant Professor at University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Political Science

KEYWORDS

gender, political violence, propaganda, PR, Northern Ireland

Meredith Loken

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Gendering Rebel Legitimacy in Civil War



AFFILIATION

Professor Visual Arts at Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Installation, Painting and Cinema, Practice of Fundamentals of Visual Language

KEYWORDS

authoritarianism, art, protest movements, Situationist International, Latin America

In recent years, numerous authoritarian regimes have been installed, reminiscent of the dictatorships of the mid-20th century. Various collective initiatives have emerged to protest against these governments, drawing on aesthetic strategies that can be related to the actions of groups of artists and activists from the 1960s. Dora Longo Bahia aims to investigate the social role of the contemporary artist, having as a starting point the supersession of art claimed by the Situationist International.

Dora Longo Bahia

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Art after the supersession of art

Lozzi Martial Meutem Kamtchueng

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Language and healthcare provision in health centres in multilingual northern Cameroon



AFFILIATION

Associate Professor at University of Maroua, Cameroon

SEMESTER

September 2023 - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Linguistics

KEYWORDS

healthcare, multilingualism, accessibility, Cameroon

Official language-illiterate patients and healthcare providers in multilingual Far-North Cameroon face language-related issues. Drawing on data obtained from healthcare centres in this region, Lozzi Martial Meutem Kamtchueng will investigate which languages are used in healthcare centres in the region, and why. He aims to arrive at proposals for the development of a language policy in the Cameroonian health sector, especially for areas where populations show a significant lack of communicative skills/proficiency in the official languages.

Kenneth Reynold Mills

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The Journey of Diego de Ocaña

AFFILIATION

J. Frederick Hoffman Professor of History at University of Michigan, United States

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

History

KEYWORDS

Diego de Ocaña, Spanish empire, mission, Catholicism, Peru, early modern

A friar dispatched by his Hieronymite monastery in Extremadura, Spain, in 1599, Diego de Ocaña travelled to Peru on a journey of alms collection, sacred foundation, and correction. Kenneth Mills aims to humanize a history often lost beneath abstract notions of *spiritual conquest*, *mission*, and *conversion*. Through Diego de Ocaña, he explores how Catholic Christianity spread and pluralized in the early modern Spanish world and what this might reveal about the inner workings of an aspirant global empire.



Kayode Ogunfolabi

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Trauma, Silences,
and the Making
of 21st century
Nigerian Women's
Fiction



AFFILIATION

Senior Lecturer at
Obafemi Awolowo
University, Nigeria

DISCIPLINE

Anglophone
Postcolonial
Fiction

SEMESTER

February - June
2024

KEYWORDS

literature,
postcolonial
fiction, trauma,
gender inequality,
women,
emancipation,
Nigeria

Nigerian literature has traditionally focused on war trauma, ignoring trauma that occurs in non-war contexts. However, at the turn of the century, a shift occurred with Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche's Purple Hibiscus. Kayode Ogunfolabi aims to explore the emergence of insidious trauma in Nigerian 21st Century fiction as a new literary practice. He seeks to awaken both men and women to the perceptions of women at various levels of society and culture, where subordination and women's suffering are normalized.

AFFILIATION

Associate
Professor
Linguistics,
University College
London, United
Kingdom

DISCIPLINE

Linguistics

KEYWORDS

language,
development,
impairment,
diagnostics,
Williams,
Down, former
Yugoslavia,
UK

SEMESTER

February - June
2024

Cross-syndrome and cross-linguistic comparisons are crucial in our quest to establish reliable diagnostic indicators of language impairment in different cultural and socio-economic contexts. Building on the achievement of the ATLAS group in the Covid cohort of 2021-2022, Aleksandra Perovic aims to map out a picture of late developing phenomena in English and in Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, in populations with developmental disorders such as Williams syndrome and Down syndrome. Can such comparisons help us establish reliable diagnostic indicators of language impairment?



Alexandra Perovic

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Exploring late
language development
through cross-
syndrome
comparisons: The
search for universal
markers of language
impairment

A majority of deaf children are born into hearing families, resulting in delayed exposure to sign language and partial exposure to spoken language. This delay in language acquisition has been understudied, resulting in important gaps in our knowledge of language development in hearing-impaired individuals.

Josep Quer examines two phenomena as markers of delayed development in both hearing and hearing-impaired populations: the linguistic expression of counterfactual thoughts and the ascription of beliefs with the interaction of verbal mood.

Josep Quer

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Exploring new markers of late language development in young speakers and signers

AFFILIATION

Research professor Translation and Language Sciences, ICREA & Pompeu Fabra University, Spain

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Linguistics

KEYWORDS

language, development, impairment, diagnostics, hearing-impaired



Elena Rabkina

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Tracing Home: An Interactive Exploration of Migrant Sentimentality

How can we use objects and stories to trace the emotional and sentimental attachments that migrants have to their homes? Elena Rabkina aims to combine academic, journalistic, and artistic approaches to create Tracing Home - an interactive installation that seeks to explore the emotional and sentimental dimensions of the migratory experience, particularly in relation to the concept of *home*, inviting visitors to touch and interact with objects that are meaningful to migrants and to listen to their stories.

AFFILIATION

Artist and journalist

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

DISCIPLINE

Interactive Art, Photography

KEYWORDS

migration, home, belonging, playtronica, Belarus



Blair Rutherford

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The *social work* of work:
The gendered dependencies of rural livelihoods in southern Africa

How can the gendered claims on income and resources in rural Africa contribute to re-evaluating dominant, international perspectives on rural work? Blair Rutherford aims to challenge prevailing notions of rural work in southern Africa by examining the cultural politics of rural livelihoods over the past thirty years. He argues that conventional framings, such as the dichotomy between the *informal* and the *formal*, overlook the intricate gendered social relations that underpin rural labor practices in the region.



AFFILIATION

Professor of Anthropology at Carleton University, Canada

DISCIPLINE

Anthropology

KEYWORDS

rural labor, cultural politics, gender, social relations, economic classification, Southern Africa

SEMESTER

September 2023 - January 2024

Luisa T. Schneider

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Living intimacy without privacy: houselessness and the individualisation of social suffering



AFFILIATION

Assistant professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

DISCIPLINE

Anthropology

KEYWORDS

houselessness, privacy, intimacy, policy, Germany

SEMESTER

February - June 2024

In international human rights law, privacy and intimacy are considered fundamental rights. Privacy encompasses the home and private life, while intimacy includes emotional and sexual aspects of one's life. These rights are based on the assumption that the private and public spheres are separated by the walls of one's home. Luisa Schneider explores the impact of houselessness on privacy and intimacy, analyzing the institutional, legal, and social aspects of the lives of over three hundred houseless individuals in Germany.

AFFILIATION

Assistant
Professor at
University of
Amsterdam,
Netherlands

SEMESTER

February -
June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Literary and
Cultural Analysis

KEYWORDS

incarceration,
prisons, camps,
detention centres,
colonialism, The
Netherlands,
Colonies of
Benevolence,
Westerbork, Ter
Apel

In the Netherlands, carceral imaginaries tend to cluster into three seemingly unrelated strands: the prison as spectacle, the horrors of WWII camps, and precarious living in migrant detention centres. Such depictions tend to overlook formative colonial histories. Hanneke Stuit studies three specific Dutch detention sites - the Colonies of Benevolence, camp Westerbork, and the asylum centre in Ter Apel - and seeks to shed light on the often unacknowledged influence of Dutch colonialism on imprisonment, both at home and abroad.

Hanneke Stuit

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The Carceral Idyll:
Imperial Legacies,
Domestic
Colonisation and
the Will to Confine
in the Netherlands



The New Southbound Policy (NSP), introduced in 2016, is the flagship initiative of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party. Its primary objective is to enhance bilateral relationships with countries in South and Southeast Asia, reducing Taiwan's economic dependence on the Chinese market. Ting-Fai Yu seeks to address the lack of sustained scholarly investigation into the role of cultural production and creative practices in facilitating Taiwan's ambitious outbound project for global relevance, particularly in the context of Southeast Asia.

Ting-Fai Yu

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Global Taiwan via Southeast Asia: Cultural Politics of the New Southbound Policy

AFFILIATION

Adjunct Faculty
at Monash
University,
Australia

SEMESTER

September 2023 -
June 2024

DISCIPLINE

Anthropology

KEYWORDS

international
relations, regional
diplomacy, visual
arts, cultural
export, identity,
Southeast Asia





Locations

fellows 2023/24

NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY NIAS
KORTE SPINHUISSTEEG 3

HUMANITIES CLUSTER KNAW
KORTE SPINHUISSTEEG 3

SPUI25 ACADEMIC-CULTURAL PODIUM.
SPUI 25-27

ROYAL NETHERLANDS ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (KNAW)
KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 29

NIAS FELLOWS HOUSE
KLOVENIERSBURGWAL 23

APARTMENTS STADIONPLEIN
STADIONPLEIN 148, 1076 PA AMSTERDAM
STADIONPLEIN 166, 1076 PA AMSTERDAM

APARTMENTS PANTOGRAAFSTRAAT
PANTOGRAAFSTRAAT 8, 1019 XX AMSTERDAM
PANTOGRAAFSTRAAT 37, 1019 XX AMSTERDAM
PANTOGRAAFSTRAAT 48, 1019 XX AMSTERDAM
PANTOGRAAFSTRAAT 51, 1019 XX AMSTERDAM
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Locations



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NIAS



Netherlands Institute
for Advanced Study
in the Humanities and
Social Sciences



KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE
AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

The Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS) provides fellowships for talented scholars – renowned and promising researchers alike – offering them time and space to reflect and interact. This booklet presents the research group for the academic year 2023/2024.

The institute is an intellectual haven for international researchers, writers, journalists and artists. A place where fellows, relieved from their daily duties, can allow themselves time and space for curiosity. They work on their research or projects, collaborate in an interdisciplinary environment and share their knowledge with society.

NIAS is the Netherlands' first and only independent institute for advanced study. Founded in 1970 in leafy Wassenaar and now located in the academic center of Amsterdam, it was the first of its kind in Europe and the third in the world - after Princeton and Stanford. NIAS is an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.