

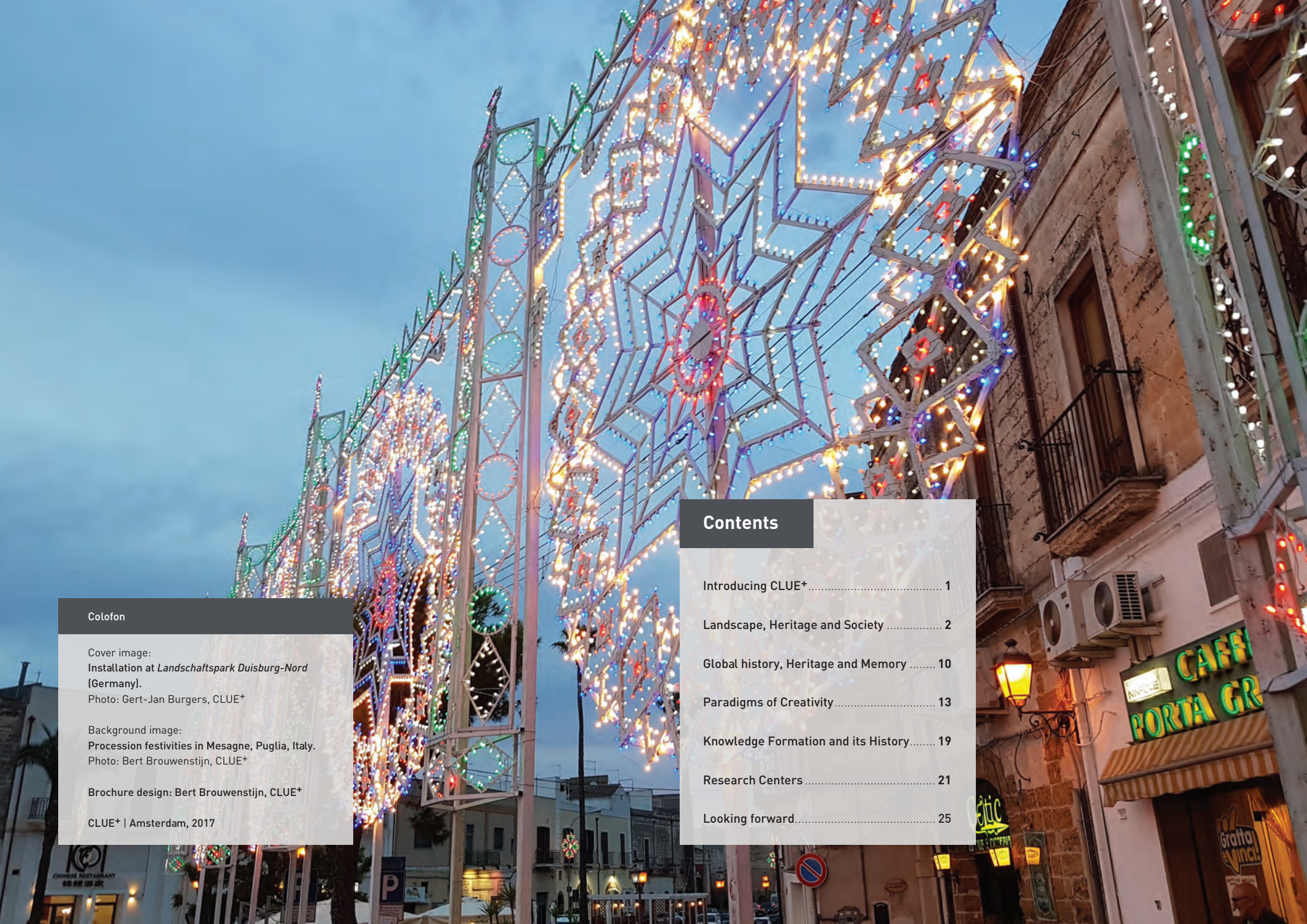
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

CLUE⁺

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR
CULTURE, COGNITION, HISTORY AND HERITAGE



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM



Colofon

Cover image:
Installation at *Landschapspark Duisburg-Nord*
(Germany).

Photo: Gert-Jan Burgers, CLUE⁺

Background image:
Procession festivities in Mesagne, Puglia, Italy.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE⁺

Brochure design: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE⁺

CLUE⁺ | Amsterdam, 2017

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INTRODUCING CLUE+

CLUE+ is the interfaculty research institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Its acronym stands for Cultural Landscapes and Urban Environment, which constitutes the focus of the original CLUE-institute, started in 2008. Drawing on the success of the first lustrum, the institute made a new start as CLUE+ in 2015, ambitiously widening its scope and increasing its staff with researchers from a range of VU faculties. The new CLUE+ research fields of culture, cognition, history and heritage are of central concern to contemporary society, of relevance to all social domains and on all geographical scales. The institute brings together researchers in various phases of their research careers, and from a wide variety of academic disciplines, to jointly investigate these concerns, reflect upon societal challenges and formulate strategies for addressing those challenges. Positioning itself within the Vrije Universiteit profile themes, CLUE+ focuses on challenges in the realm of global connectedness, sustainability and governance, in particular on the role of culture, knowledge, history and heritage in processes of

digitization, globalization, migration and urbanization. With projects addressing these topics in novel ways and with innovative methodologies, CLUE+ aims to provide an inspiring research climate that attracts and nurses world-class researchers as well as talented young academics, and that is open to partnerships with fellow research institutes and public and private organizations throughout Europe and beyond.

The present annual report concerns the calendar year 2016, the first year under the new CLUE+ Policy Plan, which sets targets and defines strategies for the coming years. This policy plan functions as guideline for the various CLUE+ research groups, which have organized themselves under the umbrella of four central overarching thematic programmes. These are:

- 1 Landscape, Heritage and Society
- 2 Global History, Heritage and Memory
- 3 Paradigms of Creativity
- 4 Knowledge formation and its History

These research clusters have been carefully delineated to accommodate

Research unit	2015	2016
<i>Funding:</i>		
Direct funding	€ 223	€ 223
Research grants	€ 1.412	€ 2.496
Contract research	€ 825	€ 1.136
Other	€ 0	€ 1.003
Total funding	€ 2.460	€ 4.858

CLUE+ Funding

interdisciplinary and diverse research groups; in this report, they will present the 2016 results, as well as their ambitions and plans for the future. The report shows that with its new start the institute has successfully explored and set new agendas; it has managed to keep up the highest standards and even to acquire more external funding than ever. We sincerely thank all CLUE+ staff members who have contributed to this success.

Gert-Jan Burgers,
Director CLUE+



Tunnel art at Amsterdam Central Station.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

LANDSCAPE, HERITAGE AND SOCIETY

This CLUE+ programme is focused on the heritage, historical development and present-day transformation of regions, cultural landscapes and urban environments, on the historical background of current spatial and environmental issues and on the changing role and meaning of cultural heritage in our living space and in society in general. Governance policies and economic strategies related to heritage and cultural landscapes are also central concerns, in particular those aiming at sustainable societies. Relatedly, in this programme spatial digital techniques are studied, such as remote sensing, 3D modeling and geodesign tools. The programme is coordinated by Gert-Jan Burgers. In 2016, research was further grouped around the following subthemes:

- **The connected ancient world.**

Research conducted in the context of the Amsterdam Center of Ancient Studies and Archaeology, from text-based studies of ancient taxation systems to archaeological surveys of interconnectivity and early urbanization.

- **The history and archaeology of European landscapes.** Research projects that take a landscape approach with a broad and coherent view on socio-economic, technological and ecological developments, on the history of religions, mentalities and values and on changes in organization, administration and politics.

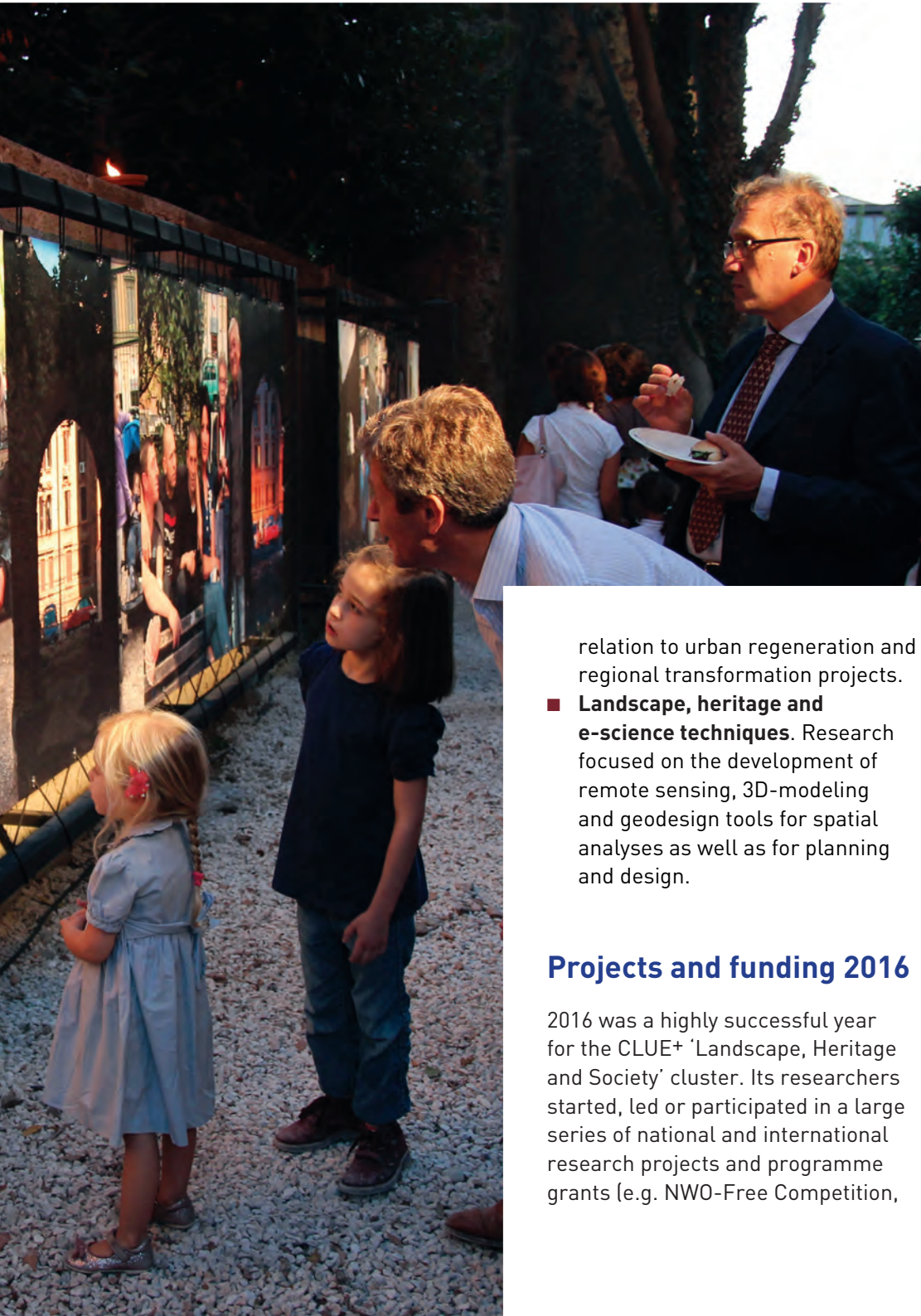
- **Heritage landscapes.** CLUE+

members are at the forefront of international research into critical heritage studies: they investigate 'landscapes of war and trauma' to raise awareness of sites of painful WWII heritage, they study the role of airports in triggering socio-economic development in urban networks, or they analyse the economic value of heritage in modern metropolitan cities.

- **Designing with history.** These groups study and participate in governance structures, advisory boards and planning committees, in particular with regard to the reuse and redevelopment of monuments and cultural landscapes and, more generally, in



The Challenging Testaccio Project (It).
Photo collage by Dutch artist Krien Clevis.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+



relation to urban regeneration and regional transformation projects.

- **Landscape, heritage and e-science techniques.** Research focused on the development of remote sensing, 3D-modeling and geodesign tools for spatial analyses as well as for planning and design.

Projects and funding 2016

2016 was a highly successful year for the CLUE+ 'Landscape, Heritage and Society' cluster. Its researchers started, led or participated in a large series of national and international research projects and programme grants (e.g. NWO-Free Competition,

NWO-VIDI, NWO-Investment Grants Large and Medium, EU-KP7, EU-Marie Curie Individual Fellowship), with consortia that also include public bodies and private partners, apart from academic partners. Most of their output concerns joint papers and conference proceedings, software and data exchange, policy development and consultancy.

One of the new projects started in 2016 is *Hericoast. Management of Heritage in Coastal Landscapes*, funded by the European programme Interreg. This project aims to improve regional policies for heritage management in maritime and fluvial regions. In the context of this project, CLUE+ postdoc Linde Egberts (Faculty of Humanities) is investigating how heritage and tourism are related in coastal regions in Europe. Also focusing on the management of heritage landscapes, the VU Spatial Information Laboratory (Spinlab; School of Business and Economics) is a partner in the EU project *Hercules. Sustainable Futures for Europe's Heritage in Cultural Landscapes* (EU 7th Framework Programme, led by Humboldt-Universität Berlin), as well as in the

NWO-project *Mapping the Via Appia* (NWO Investment Grant Medium; led by Radboud University Nijmegen). The aim of the first project is to increase understanding of drivers, patterns, and values of European cultural landscapes. The *Mapping the Via Appia* project aims at a thorough inventory and analysis of Roman interventions in the suburban landscape of the Roman Via Appia. In both cases, Spinlab's contribution is in the field of spatial digital techniques. Likewise operating under the umbrella of the EU's 7th Framework Programme, Gareth Davies of the VU Faculty of Science is one of the Principal Investigators in the ERC Synergy project *NEXUS 1492. New World Encounters in a Globalising World* (led by Leiden University), investigating the impacts of colonial encounters in the Caribbean.

In 2016, CLUE+ archaeologists obtained substantial new grants for a series of projects. Nico Roymans and Stijn Heeren were awarded a NWO Investment Grant Large, for their project *Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands*. Lieve Donnellan was awarded a EU Marie Curie Individual Fellowship for her project



Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550–330 BC).

© Ggia: wikimedia commons

Urbanet, on early urbanization in Italy and Gert-Jan Burgers started the project *Valorizzazione e fruizione dell'insediamento messapico di Muro Tenente* (funded by the EU Regional Development Fund for Apulia and the Italian Ministry of Culture MIBACT), planning a landscape reserve around a major archaeological site in southern Italy. Ongoing archaeological projects include Philip Verhagen's NWO/VIDI *Finding the limits of the Limes*, which, with two PhDs, aims to apply spatial dynamic modelling to reconstruct and understand the development of the cultural landscape in the Dutch part of the Roman Limes. Since 2015, Jan Paul Crielaard has been at the head of the NWO Free Competition project

on *The Sea and Landroutes of Southern Euboia, ca. 4000–1 BC. A case study in Mediterranean interconnectivity*. Together with three PhD candidates, he seeks to give a firmer empirical basis to the Mediterranean interconnectivity model and to critically examine some of its basic tenets.

Ancient historians have been equally successful. In 2016 Kristin Kleber was awarded a NWO/VIDI grant for her project *Paying for All the King's Horses and All the King's Men – A Fiscal History of the Achaemenid Empire*. The goal of this project is to achieve a new understanding of taxation, administration and the spending pattern of the Persian Empire. Another, ongoing ancient historical

project is that led by Bas ter Haar Romeny, on *Fitting in/Standing out. Comparing Majority and Minority Dress Codes among Egyptian Muslims and Christians* (NWO/Free Competition). Apart from these programme-driven projects, ongoing individual NWO and Archon funded Phd projects include:

- *Buried Landscapes of War: The Archaeology and Heritage of World War II in The Netherlands* (Max van der Schriek);
- *Keeping in touch in a changing world* (Kimberley van der Berg);
- *Living Neolithization. Micro histories and grand narrative in Neolithic Anatolia and Southeast Europe* (c. 7000-5000 BC) (Elisha van den Bos);

- [new in 2016] *'Inland pathways towards societal complexity: A science-based analysis of Final Neolithic to Early Bronze Age ceramics from Geraki, Southern Greece (ca. 4100-2000 BC)'* (Ayla Krijnen) .



Students Mediterranean Archaeology during the excursion to Crete in 2016.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+



Dutch eighteenth century architecture: Felix Meritis, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

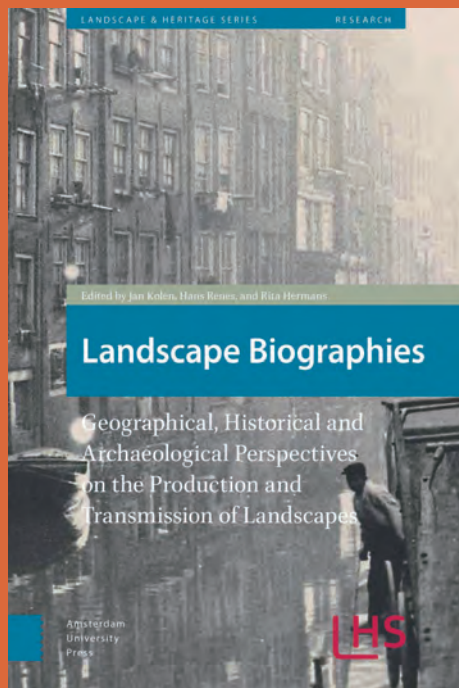
Major publications

- Burgers, G.-J. Kluiving, S., Hermans, R. 2016: *Multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research in Landscape Archaeology. Proceedings of the 3rd International Landscape Archaeology Conference LAC2014*, <http://lac2014proceedings.nl/>.
- Kolen, J., Renes, H., Hermans, R. 2015: *Landscape Biographies. Geographical, Historical and Archaeological Perspectives on the Production and Transmission of Landscapes*, Landscape and Heritage Studies, Amsterdam University Press.
- Kolen, J., Egberts, L.R. 2016: Building on Ruins: Transformation of Legacies in Europe." In *A Critical Biographical Approach of Europe's Past*, edited by Dirk Callebaut. E-name: Provinciaal Archeologisch Museum, 2016.
- Kootker, L.M., Davies, G.R. 2016: "Bones, teeth and invisible tracers. The current state of human bioarchaeological isotope geochemistry research in the Netherlands." In S. Kluiving, L. Kootker & R. Hermans (Eds.), *Interdisciplinarity between Humanities and Science; A Festschrift in honour of Prof. Dr. Henk Kars*, Amsterdam: Sidestone Press.
- Schmidt, F. 2016: *Passion and Control: Dutch architectural culture of the eighteenth century*, Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

In the spotlight

Kolen, J., Renes, H., Hermans, R., 2015: *Landscape Biographies. Geographical, Historical and Archaeological Perspectives on the Production and Transmission of Landscapes*, Landscape and Heritage Studies, Amsterdam University Press.

This volume explores the long and complex histories of landscapes from personal and social perspectives. As an essential part of human life-worlds, landscapes have the potential to absorb something of people's lives, works, and thoughts. But landscapes also shape their



Cover of the *Landscape Biographies* publication.
© Amsterdam University Press

own life-histories at different timescales, transcending human life-cycles and generating their own temporalities and rhythms. It comes as no surprise, therefore, that the co-scripting of landscapes and people figures prominently in the (auto-)biographical works of writers and attracts the interest of geographers, archaeologists,

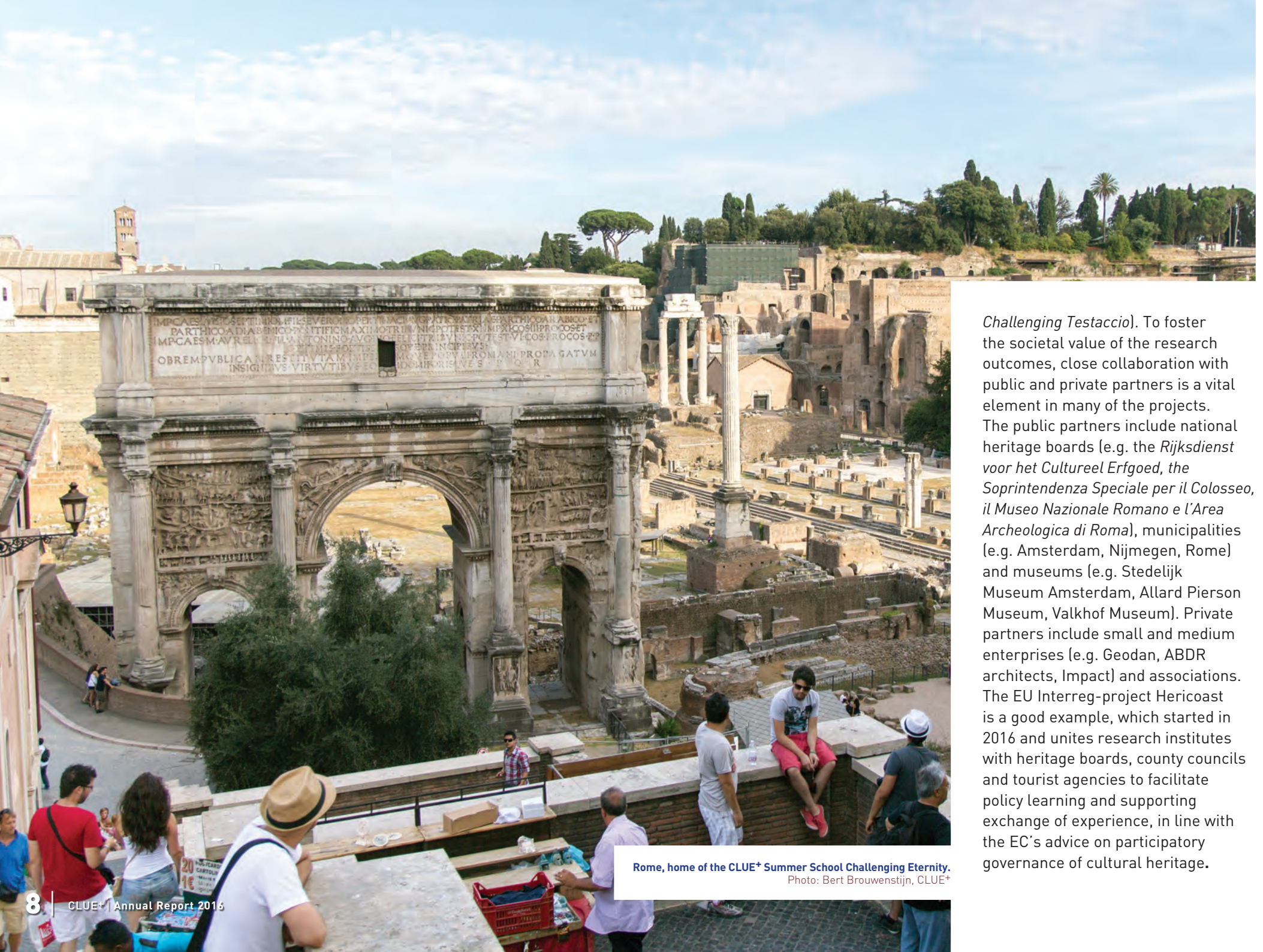
historians, and anthropologists. This has even resulted in a new genre in landscape research, rapidly gaining in popularity, under the heading of 'landscape biography'. In *Landscape Biographies*, twenty geographers, archaeologists, historians, and anthropologists investigate the diverse ways in which landscapes and monuments have been constructed, transmitted, and transformed from prehistory up to the present, from Manhattan to Shanghai, from Iceland to Portugal, and from England to Estonia.

Valorization

In 2016, much of the research carried out in the context of the CLUE+ programme 'Landscape, Heritage and Society' was inspired by societal themes and challenges, whether on connectedness and globalization in antiquity (e.g. *Euboa project*; *Urbanet*), on modern policies of landscape development (e.g. *Hercules*; *Hericoast*), on concentration camps (*Terrorscapes*) or on the social and economic value of heritage in modern cities (e.g.



Street art in Mesagne, Puglia, Italy.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+



Challenging Testaccio). To foster the societal value of the research outcomes, close collaboration with public and private partners is a vital element in many of the projects. The public partners include national heritage boards (e.g. the *Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed*, the *Soprintendenza Speciale per il Colosseo*, *il Museo Nazionale Romano e l'Area Archeologica di Roma*), municipalities (e.g. Amsterdam, Nijmegen, Rome) and museums (e.g. Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Allard Pierson Museum, Valkhof Museum). Private partners include small and medium enterprises (e.g. Geodan, ABDR architects, Impact) and associations. The EU Interreg-project Hericoast is a good example, which started in 2016 and unites research institutes with heritage boards, county councils and tourist agencies to facilitate policy learning and supporting exchange of experience, in line with the EC's advice on participatory governance of cultural heritage.

Rome, home of the CLUE+ Summer School *Challenging Eternity*.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

Poster on the Archaeological Park Muro Tenente,
Mesagne, Italy

Similar methods of collaboration are present in the Hercules project, which aims to use the knowledge produced by the project to develop, test, and demonstrate strategies for the protection, management, and planning of European rural landscapes. Likewise, the Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands (PAN)-Project aims to create an online database of coin finds in the Netherlands, making it available to heritage experts and urban planners. Linked to these projects are outreach activities, ranging from informative meetings to educational workshops open to the public and in particular local communities. The *Ecomuseo della Via Appia* (highlighted) explicitly addresses the participation of local communities in decision making.

Individual staff members of this cluster have participated in governance structures, advisory boards and planning committees, in particular with regard to the reuse and redevelopment of monuments and cultural landscapes and, more generally, in relation to urban regeneration and regional transformation projects.

In the spotlight

In 2016, Gert-Jan Burgers led a EU-funded project aimed at converting an archaeological site into a landscape reserve open to the public. At this 52ha site, called Muro Tenente, CLUE+ archaeologists have been involved in excavations for over 20 years. Since 2009, they have also dedicated their efforts to the conservation, development and management of this important regional heritage site. They have now created a landscape reserve in this area, open to the public, for recreation and tourism, but also for agriculture and for social events such as festivals. After years of experimenting, the EU funding, which is administered by the two adjoining municipalities, has now allowed to establish a so-called ecomuseum, named EVA, *Ecomuseo della Via Appia*, and conceptualized as a kind of living heritage lab, which encourages local groups to participate in the creation of this landscape reserve

COMUNE DI MESAGNE VU VOLTE UNIVERSITÀ DI TARANTO UNIVERSITÀ DEL SALENTO Ministero della Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo *eva* ECOMUSEO DELLA VIA APPIA COMUNE DI LATIANO

Muro Tenente

parco archeologico

SABATO 23 LUGLIO H. 21.00
"PEPPINO E IL TESORO DEI BRIGANTI"
di e con
Giuseppe Ciciriello - Piero Santoro
musiche dal vivo di Piero Santoro
Spettacolo vincitore Earthin Festival di Torino

H. 18.30 / 20.30 - Cantieri aperti: apertura Parco archeologico e visite guidate
TUTTE LE INIZIATIVE SONO LIBERE E GRATUITE - NON OCCORRE PRENOTAZIONE
PER INFO: INFO@COOPIMPACT.IT MURO TENENTE CELL. 329 4016998
STRADA VECCHIA LATIANO-MESAGNE AD 1 KM DA LATIANO
COORDINATE GOOGLE MAPS: 40.842229 17.736179 (ECOMUSEO MURO TENENTE)

impact BIBLIOTECA CIVICA "LEONARDO" LATIANO PROLOCO TAVOLI TERRA DEI MESSAPI Spigno di San Giovanni SPIN LAB idea Radio W altraweb

and of future development plans for the larger district. The CLUE+ archaeologists play a key role in managing this process.



Prof Dr. Nico Roymans (left) on Dutch primetime television show *De Wereld Draait Door*.
© Vara DWDD

CLUE+ in the media

CLUE+ researchers have frequently featured on major news channels, both in the Netherlands and abroad. Most attention was awarded to Nico Roymans' unique discovery of the location where the Roman general and statesman Julius Caesar massacred two Germanic tribes in the year 55 BC. This location, which Caesar wrote about in detail in Book IV of his *De Bello Gallico*, was unknown to date. It is the earliest known battle on Dutch soil. The conclusions are based on a combination of historical, archaeological, and geochemical data. CLUE+ archaeologist Roymans reported on these conclusions in

many newspapers, as well as on the primetime Dutch television show *'De Wereld Draait Door'* (dewerelddraaitdoor.vara.nl/media/350887); It is the first time that the presence of Caesar and his troops in Dutch territory has been explicitly proven. The finds from this battle include large numbers of skeletal remains, swords, spearheads, and a helmet. The two Germanic tribes, the Tencteri and the Usipetes, originated in the area east of the Rhine and had explicitly appealed to Caesar for asylum. Caesar rejected this request for asylum and ordered his troops to violently destroy the tribes in what we would now label an act of genocide.

GLOBAL HISTORY, HERITAGE AND MEMORY

This CLUE+ research cluster, coordinated by Karel Davids, is concerned with the question how large-scale social, economic, ecological and political changes, such as the rise of global markets, industrialization, urbanization, climate change, the rise of world religions or transformation processes with respect to colonial and postcolonial state and nation building, resonate in heritage formation and memory politics. These overarching themes are being studied in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas in relation to practices of memory and processes of heritage formation from Late Antiquity up to the present postcolonial times.

Some of the major questions studied by researchers in the CLUE+ 'Global history, heritage and memory' cluster include: to what extent do large-scale social, economic, ecological and political changes have a different impact on heritage and memory? How can these variations in time and space be explained? In what respect do postcolonial historiographies of nation building differ from, or feed into heritage politics? The research in this CLUE+

cluster follows several lines, grouped by subthemes or working groups which cooperate with partners inside and outside Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Within these subthemes, cultural historians, political historians, economic and social historians, historians of religion, historians of knowledge, literary scholars and experts in other fields work closely together. The subthemes include:

- **Global history and heritage in a (post)colonial world:** this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as world heritage sites and stories; transnationalism in cultures; (extra)territoriality and identity; colonialism and historiography; memory politics; information on its projects and activities can be found on www.ghhpw.com. The subtheme links up with the cross-cutting CLUE+ theme 'Terrascapes', which studies transnational memory of totalitarian terror and genocide.
- **Slavery and the slave trade:** history and heritage: this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as the economic impact, memories and geographies

of slavery and the slavery trade; the subtheme includes the NWO-funded research project 'Slaves, commodities and logistics', in cooperation with the International Institute of Social History and the University of Leiden, and the Werkgroep Slavernijstudies, which cooperates with NINsee, the Amsterdam Museum and the Bijlmer Parktheater in the Platform Slavernijverleden (funded by the Municipality of Amsterdam) and the Mapping Slavery project (<http://www.clue.vu.nl/en/projects/current-projects/mapping-slavery/index.aspx>).

- **Literature and transnationalism:** this subtheme studies life-writing and literature in times of war or cultural/political/economic crisis in a comparative and transnational perspective. It links up with the international expert group 'Unhinging the national framework: Platform for life-writing and transnationalism' (www.clue.vu.nl/en/projects/current-projects/Unhinging-the-National-Framework/index.aspx) and with 'Literature and society', (literatuurensamenleving.nl/onderzoek/).
- **Religious groups: Cultures and sacred geographies:** this subtheme is concerned with subjects such as national and global bible belts; religious landscapes; religion, civil

society and nation states. It links up with the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History (ACRH) (www.acrh.eu/), the Digibron project (www.digibron.nl/), the VU-Centrum voor Nederlandse Religiegeschiedenis (RELIC, www.religiegeschiedenis.nl/rg/index.jsp) and the Biblebelt Network (www.dutchbiblebelt.org/).

- **Globalization, urbanization and knowledge:** this subtheme is concerned with interrelations between globalization and the creation, transmission and appropriation of knowledge in an urban context; imperialism and science; researchers collaborate with the research group 'Knowledge and the city, ca. 1450 – ca. 1800' (Descartes Centre/ Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte Berlin) and the project 'Urbanizing nature' at the University of Antwerp. This subtheme links up with the cross-cutting CLUE+ theme of the Stevin Centre for History of Sciences and Humanities (www.stevincentre.com/).
- **Living with water:** researchers of this subtheme at human survival strategies in relation to water from a comparative approach; natural disasters; harvesting from the sea; harbours and water fronts; maritime labour. The subtheme links up with the National Maritime Museum in



The Amsterdam Maritime Museum.
Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

Amsterdam, the Vereniging voor Waterstaatsgeschiedenis, the NAP visitor center, the University of Utrecht in the 'Poldermodel' project and the crosscutting CLUE+ theme 'Environmental humanities' (<https://environmentalhumanitiescenter.com/>).

Members of the research cluster 'Global history, heritage and memory' regularly discuss ongoing research in seminars, notably the Global History Seminar and the seminars under the aegis of the *Werkgroep Slavernijverleden*, the Stevin Center for History of Sciences and Humanities, the Amsterdam Center for Religious

History and the Environmental Humanities Center. Researchers of this CLUE+ cluster have been successful in obtaining external funding for projects, networks and conferences and naturally strive actively for valorization.

Projects, funding and valorization

- NWO - VENI grant for Pepijn Brandon for his postdoc-project *Naval shipyards: Laboratories of capitalism*. This project focuses on the impact of war industry, state intervention and forced labour



Westelbeers, The Netherlands. Aerial bombing practise site of the Luftwaffe.

© Photo: Max van der Schriek

on industrial development. In his project, Brandon will make a comparison between the naval shipyards of Amsterdam, Plymouth (UK), Havana (Spanish Cuba) and Norfolk (Virginia).

- NWO - *Duurzame Geesteswetenschappen* for a PhD project by Miel Groten on *Imperial places. Built manifestations of imperial culture in Europe, 1815-1945*. This project deals with structures and institutions such as government buildings, ports and docklands, museums, industrial facilities and shops or the headquarters of missionary societies that became nodes of imperial crossroads and representations of imperial culture in Europe. By focusing on these 'imperial places', the project aims to contribute to a better understanding of Europe's imperial history.
- NWO - Internationalization grant for Fred van Lieburg's network project on *European Bible Belts: understanding strong religion, social*

cohesion and cultural integration in Europe. This network project aims to investigate group cultures and regions that are known as Bible Belts in various European countries. The network will prepare a fully elaborated research proposal for the Horizon2020 Call 'Religious diversity in Europe: past, present and future'.

- Start of a CLUE+-funded international expert group *Unhinging the National Framework: Platform for Life-Writing and Transnationalism*: The affiliated researchers investigate the lives of men and women whose life-work, including the building of socio-cultural and professional networks, questioned and transgressed the national boundaries that existed or emerged during the twentieth century. As part of this collaborative project, the platform aims to establish a dialogue between PhD candidates and senior researchers currently working on

biographies, and biographers who published work on comparable transnational historical figures between 1980 and 2015.

- An international conference on *Stevin Inside Out: New Perspectives on Simon Stevin* in Amsterdam, 16 and 17 December 2016. Organized by the Stevin Centre for History of Sciences and Humanities, and funded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the dr. C. Louise Thijssen Schoute Stichting and CLUE+.
- An expert meeting 'on *Theology after Gulag* in Amsterdam on 19 May 2016, organized by dr. Katya Tolskaya on the problems and possibilities for developing a "post-traumatic" theology in the post-Soviet context.
- A symposium in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the re-organization of the *Dutch Reformed Church* organized by Fred van Lieburg (RELIC) together with dr. Joke Roelevink on 28 and 29 April

2016 in the Kloosterkerk in The Hague. For more information, see www.huygens.knaw.nl/ramp-of-redding-200-jaar-algemeen-reglement-van-bestuur-van-de-nederlandse-hervormde-kerk/.

- A symposium on *Black History & Gender* on 9 December 2016, organized by VU PhD candidate Lonneke Geerlings in order to present the 2016 theme issue of *Historica*, the Dutch journal for gender history, on 'Black Gender'. The symposium connected women's history and gender history with recent research on racism and Black History.
- A symposium on *Dutch churches and the War in Indonesia, 1945-1950* at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on 16 November 2016, organized by the Historical Documentation Center for Dutch Protestantism at the Vrije Universiteit, in cooperation with the Archive- and Documentation Center Kampen, the Catholic Documentation Center at Radboud University Nijmegen, and the Royal Netherlands Institute of South East Asian and Caribbean Studies [KITLV].

PARADIGMS OF CREATIVITY

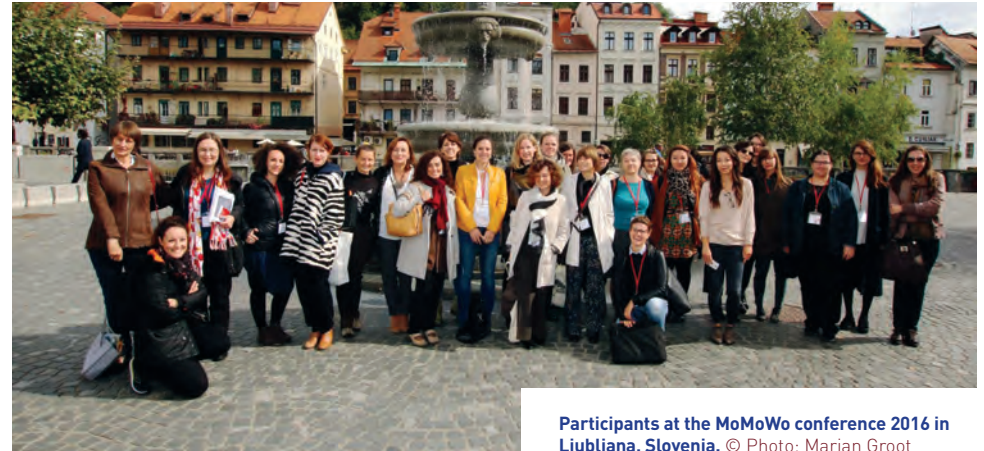
Major publications

- Boter, B; Sinke, S.M. 2016: 'Adjusting and fulfilling masculine roles: the epistolary persona in Dutch transatlantic letters', *History of the Family*, 21, 337-349.
- Pepijn, B. 2016: 'Shrewd Sirens of Humanity': The changing shape of pro-slavery arguments in the Netherlands (1789-1814)', *Almanack*, 14, 3-26.
- Davids, K. 2016: 'The Longitude Committee and the practice of navigation in the Netherlands, c.1750-1850'. In R. Dunn and R. Higgitt (Eds.) *Navigational Enterprises in Europe and its Empires, 1730-1880* (Palgrave Macmillan, London) 32-46.
- Legêne, S., Kamp, J., Rossum, M. van and Rümke, S. 2016: *Geschiedenis schrijven! Wegwijzer voor historici* (Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam).
- Lieburg, F. van 2016: *De eeuwen der eeuwen: Religiegeschiedenis op lange termijn* (inaugural lecture VU) (Dordrecht).



This programme, coordinated by Katja Kwastek, focuses on the question how cultural production and exchange have developed over the last centuries in a context of "creativity." Creativity is investigated not only in terms of the individual producer's search for inspiration, authenticity and art, but also in terms of the social-political surroundings in which innovation and originality have been recurrently promoted as key aspects of an industrial and post-industrial society. The theme is interdisciplinary from the outset: while a focus on mediation affords close cooperation with anthropology, audience research, and psychology, the societal and institutional embedding of creativity is researched in cooperation with organization science, law, and economics. In this programme, the following subthemes were developed further in 2016:

- **Intermediality and (re)mediation:** Investigates the convergences between different media and their respective forms of mediation and preservation, including practices of appropriation, reenactment,



Participants at the MoMoWo conference 2016 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. © Photo: Marjan Groot

versioning and translation, in physical as well as digital spaces.

- **Network publics:** The diverse audiences of creativity and their respective practices, as well as the changing definitions of amateurs and professionals, producers and consumers, of private and public spheres and what it means to participate in culture. The exchange between individual actors, commercial and cultural systems as contexts and locations of creative practice.
- **Self-creation:** The particular ways in which individuals, communities, institutions and nations have

attempted to shape themselves materially and symbolically, and how cultural products in turn inform these constructive processes and the connected social, economic, and political fields.

- **Mobility and temporality:** The influence of the increasing mobility of actors and objects on concepts of creativity, including the interplay of different layers of temporality which challenge our spatial and temporal concepts of history, including genealogies of art, communities and political geography.

Compared to other clusters that can already look back on a longer history in the former CLUE research institute on the history and heritage of the cultural landscape, the 'Paradigms of Creativity' cluster is still young (officially launched in 2015) and is still in a process of development. In 2016, major steps were taken to intensify research cooperation between cluster members and to strengthen the bonds with national and international partners. In addition to encouraging monthly research colloquia to foster regular exchange between cluster members in general, several focus areas and research groups were identified and established.

First of all, Design Research has developed into a key aspect of the cluster's activities and output. As a new and crucial cornerstone of research, the research cluster started hosting the project "Women's creativity since the Modern Movement" (MoMoWo) in April 2016 led by Marjan Groot, associate professor Design Studies at the VU. This large-scale cooperative EU research project, which has a total budget of 231K euro and partners from Italy, France, Portugal, Slovenia,



The Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.
© Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

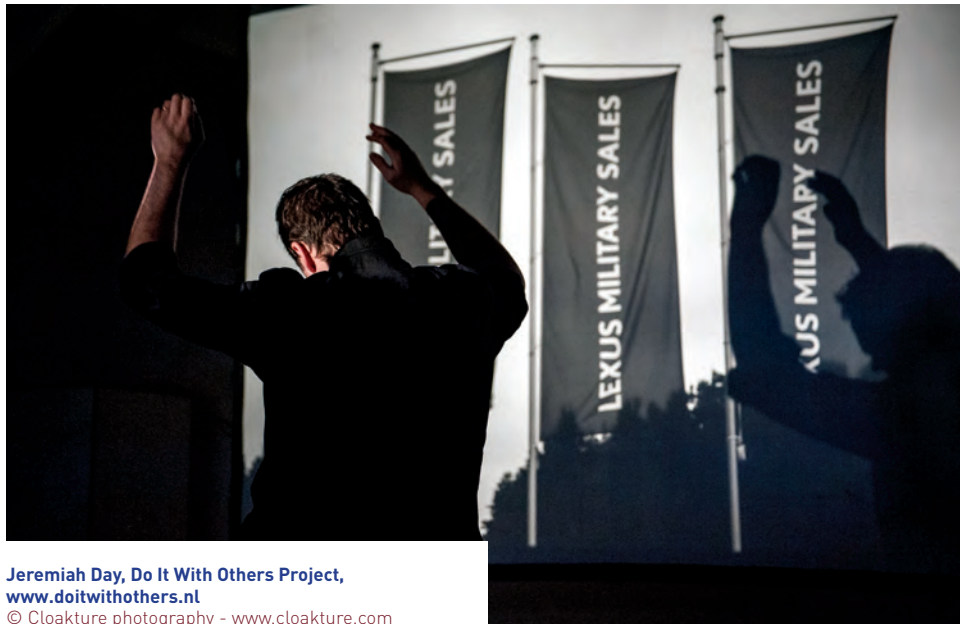
and Spain, focuses on the diverse contributions of women in the design professions, concerning both their cultural and economic significance, enhancing the understanding of the history and heritage of design professions, as well as of European cultural diversity. Moreover, at the 10th conference for Design History and Design Studies (ICDHS), in Taipei, which explored 'global', 'world' and 'transnational' design histories and design studies, the VU was present through CLUE+ researcher Javier Gimeno Martinez, assistant professor of Design Studies, as well as through the papers presented by three recent VU graduates, all of whom have gone on to do a PhD. Javier Gimeno Martinez also had a themed issue on 'Dutch Design in an age of Globalization' published by the *Journal of Design History* and saw the publication of his very well-received book on "Design and National Identity" in 2016.



View over the Amsterdam Harbour. Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

Challenges of Globalization in the context of creative practice and its mediation are the focus of a new cooperative project with the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Together with Katja Kwastek, Jelle Bouwhuis from the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam,

was awarded a prestigious NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research) Museumbeurs, to help conduct research in the museum about modern and contemporary art in the perspective of globalization. The central questions in this project



Jeremiah Day, Do It With Others Project,
www.doitwithothers.nl
 © Cloakture photography - www.cloakture.com

is how the museum conceives its social role with respect to issues raised by globalization, how that idea takes shape in museum policy, and what the results of these policies are, particularly with regard to the museum's exhibitions.

Furthermore, the cluster hosts various research initiatives exploring the cross-medial and multisensory qualities of cultural artifacts, and the role contemporary digitality can play here. On the one hand, the cluster is home to ACCESS, the Amsterdam Centre for Cross-Disciplinary Emotion and Sensory Studies, which provides a platform for cooperation between scholars from the humanities, the social sciences, and the life sciences. In the framework of ACCESS, as an

example, Caro Verbeek is conducting a NWO KIEM-funded PhD research project dedicated to the research of smell, with a focus on Futurism. The cluster also hosts the very successful endowed chair of organ studies, filled by Hans Fidom, approaching the organ as a specific item of sound heritage requiring a broad research perspective which combines sound studies and reception research. Digital media and their impact on both creative and scholarly practice were the topic of the cluster's 2016 lecture series. After the cluster's successful inaugural 2015 lecture series on 'The Creative Imperative', organized in cooperation with the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, in 2016, Ginette Verstraete, professor of Comparative

Arts and Media, organized a lecture series entitled 'Cultural Approaches to Digital Humanities', in cooperation with the Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision (Hilversum) and the Brakke Grond. Speakers included Victoria Szabo, Associate Research Professor of Visual and Media Studies at Duke University, Christian Nold, designer and teacher at Bartlett, University College London, and José van Dijck, president of the KNAW and Professor of Comparative Media Studies at the University of Amsterdam. For the academic year 2017/2018, the cluster intends to continue this tradition with a lecture series on Material Culture Studies.

Methodologically speaking, the cluster also aims to explore new pathways, especially concerning integrated research bridging theory and practice and exploring new experimental forms of humanities research. Reaching out both to curatorial and artistic research, the cluster aims at exploring the possibilities of integrated research between artists, curators, and university scholars of all disciplines. The first important steps taken

to shape this included the active participation of cluster members in the activities around the establishment of a National Research Agenda, within which a specific route is dedicated to 'art, research and innovation in the 21st century'. Parallel to this, together with the Amsterdam Hoogeschool voor de Kunsten, the University of Amsterdam, and the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, the VU humanities faculty (led by cluster members) founded a new network organization named ARIASnl (Amsterdam Research Institute of the Arts and Sciences), to give impulses to joint research projects and grant applications in the area of artistic research and facilitate artistic PhD projects. The VU has an important role in this process, hosting one of the first NWO-funded artistic PhD projects (Jeremiah Day, supervised by former VU professor Wouter Davidts and current VU professor literature studies, Diederik Oostdijk) and being involved in the supervision of a second of these candidates (Jonas Stahl, co-supervised by cluster member Sven Luticken).

The active support of Young Talents is another important cornerstone of the cluster 'Paradigms of creativity'.

Detail from *The art gallery of Josephus Augustinus Brentano*, painting by Adriaan de Lelie, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam.
© Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

In June 2016, Diederik Oostdijk and Roel van den Oever, professor and assistant professor of English Literature, organized the 22nd annual *Amerikanistendag* at VU Amsterdam, providing a forum for talented bachelor's, master's, research master's, and PhD students as well as recent graduates to present their research projects in the field of American Studies. This year, 26 students presented on a wide variety of topics, ranging from history to politics to cultural analysis. Furthermore, the cluster's research activities on mediatization and intermediality were extended in 2016 through a new NWO-funded PhD position. In addition to ongoing research by Angela Bartholomew on mediation in art exhibitions of the 1980s and 1990s and Caro Verbeek on the role of smell in historical and contemporary art and culture, Steyn Bergs joined the team of young researchers to study the commodification of digital art works. In the context of an *Aspasia* project of Ingrid Vermeulen, associate professor of Early Modern Art History, on "The artistic taste of nations", Huigen Leeflang, curator at the Rijksmuseum,



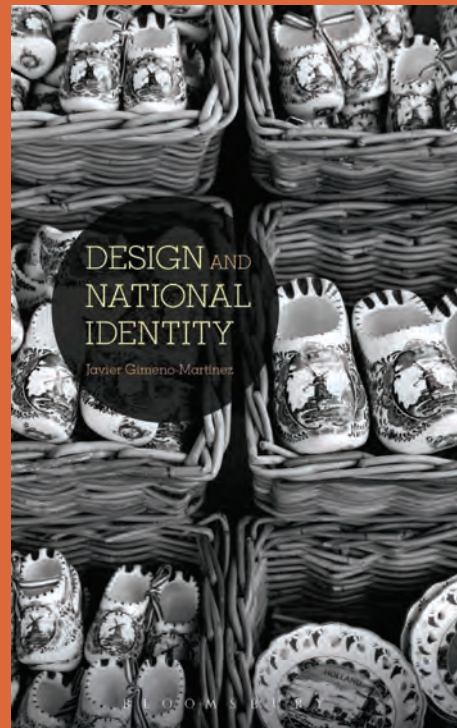
started a PhD project on the art collections of Pieter Cornelis Baron van Leyden. Furthermore, two Early Career Funds were awarded within this cluster, one to Daantje Meuwissen, assistant professor of Early Modern Art History, for preparatory research on an early modern sketchbook as a hybrid of art and science, and one to VU RMA student Marlies Peters, to support her highly promising research plans on 'generative design'.

Last but not least, we are very proud that Associate Professor of English literature at the VU, Kristine Steenbergh, has been nominated to be a member of the prestigious Young Academy of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, and that the cluster could welcome two new endowed professors in 2016, Alec Badenoch, on a chair endowed by the Institute of Sound and Vision, with a focus on Transnational Media, and Wayne Modest, on a chair endowed by the Netherlands National Museum of World Cultures dedicated to Material Culture and Critical Heritage Studies, who will help strengthen and intensify the research pathways initiated by the cluster.

Major publications

- Blom, I. 2016: 'Het tweede leven van Alma-Tadema's schilderijen', in: E. Prettejohn and P. Trippi (eds.), *Alma-Tadema. Klassieke verleiding*, Leeuwarden/Munich/Zwolle: Fries Museum/Prestel/WBOOKS, pp. 186-199.
- Kwastek, K. 2016: 'Postdigitale Bilddiskurse als emergente Hyperarchive', in V. von Flemming, D. Berndt, Y. Bialek (eds.): *(Post) Fotografisches Archivieren. Wandel Macht Geschichte*, Marburg: Jonas, pp. 178-190.
- Lutticken, S., 2016: "Posthuman Prehistory," In M. Hlavajova and S. Sheikh (eds.), *Former West: Art and the Contemporary after 1989*, Utrecht/Cambridge MA: BAK/MIT Press, pp. 225-241.
- Oever, R. van den, 2016: "Masculinities." In R. C. Hoogland (ed.), *Gender: Sources, Perspectives, and Methodologies*, Macmillan Reference USA, pp. 181-91.
- Vermeulen, I., 2016: 'Reproductions of Art: Humbert de Superville's Observations in the Leiden Print Room', in: J.

Cover of *Design and National Identity* by Javier Gimeno-Martínez.
© Bloomsbury Academics



Schaeps, E. Kolfin, E. Grasman and N. Bartelings, *For Study and Delight. Drawings and Prints from Leiden University*, Leiden: Leiden University Press, pp. 260-281

- Verstraete, G., 2016: 'Here we Are Now.' Amsterdam's North-South Metro Line and the Emergence of a Networked Public." In S. Jordan and C. Lindner (eds.), *Cities Interrupted: Visual Culture and Urban Space*. London: Bloomsbury, pp. 121-139.

In the spotlight

Gimeno-Martínez, J., 2016: *Design and National Identity*, Bloomsbury Academics.

This important study introduced the key theories of national identity, and relates them to the broad fields of product, graphic and fashion design. Javier Gimeno-Martínez approaches the interrelationship between national identity and cultural

production from two perspectives: the distinctive characteristics of a nation's output, and the consumption of design products within a country as a means of generating a national design landscape. Using case studies ranging from stamps in nineteenth century Russian-occupied Finland, to Coca-Cola as an 'American' drink in modern Trinidad and Tobago, he addresses concepts of essentialism, constructivism,

geography and multiculturalism, and considers the works of key theorists, including Benedict Anderson, Eric Hobsbawm and Doreen Massey. Joep Leersen, renowned Professor of European Studies at the University of Amsterdam, who also came to the VU for the book presentation, praises the book as "a rare treat", offering "a wealth of interesting and well-chosen cultural detail, grounded in broad-based theoretical finesse"

Valorization

Valorization is a natural aspect of the cluster's activities, with museums and the creative industries being the main public cooperation partners. In 2016, the cluster's researchers also cooperated in a large number of exhibition projects or public programs of exhibitions and other cultural institutions. Main activities in this context were the large exhibition on *Living in the Amsterdam School* at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, which was organized in cooperation with CLUE+ design historian Marjan Groot. Another example was the very successful exhibition *Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity*, on Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema (1836-1912), at the

Fries Museum in Leeuwarden, which was co-curated by Ivo Blom, assistant professor of Comparative Arts and Media at the VU, who was responsible for the film exhibits. The exhibition won the prestigious 50K euro award of the Turing Foundation. Next to curating exhibitions, the cluster's key valorization activities include lectures and the co-organization of public programs in museums and 'presentatie-instellingen'. To give just a few examples, Ginette Verstraete gave the annual Rebirth Day Lecture at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp in December 2016, with a talk on participatory urbanism and a new politics of media, art and design, Jos ten Berge gave several lectures on the topic of Outsider Art in Dutch Museums (Kunsthal Rotterdam, Hermitage Amsterdam) and Angela Bartholomew organized a public discussion around the much-debated closure of the Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam. The Amsterdam Orgelpark, run by CLUE+ special professor Hans Fidom, offers a further important link of the cluster to the broader cultural scene of Amsterdam.

Performance during the Aromatic Art Reconstructed symposium and exhibition at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (below) and one of the banners (right) presented at the exhibition organized by Caro Verbeek (CLUE+).

Photo and banner design: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+



In the spotlight

To illustrate the fact that the cluster is dedicated specifically to cooperating with more experimental, off-the-grid institutions, we would like to draw special attention to the activities of CLUE+ PhD candidate Caro Verbeek. Complementing her PhD research on the history of smell with art & culture, under the title 'Odorama', she regularly organizes smell events at

Mediamatic, a cultural institution located in the Amsterdam harbour area, dedicated to new developments in the arts, attracting a broad and very diverse audience from all academic disciplines but also far beyond academia. She also appeared at TEDx Groningen, and together with ACCESS board member Inger Leemans, at the Universiteit van Nederland.

Scent of the Battle of Waterloo (2016)

BIRGIT SIJBRANDS
(senior perfumer at IFF)

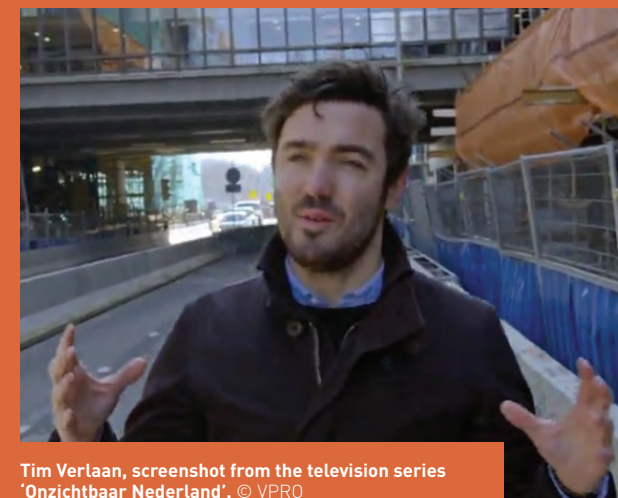
Olfactory reconstruction of the Battle of Waterloo (1815) based on the painting *The Battle of Waterloo*, Jan Willem Pieneman, 1824, collection Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

War is not only extremely violent and clamorous. Soldiers often report the devastating effect of the compound of pungent smells that are unescapable and omnipresent. Here one can distinguish the smell of fear, horses, gun powder, but also of Eau de Cologne, which Napoleon allegedly used in vast amounts.



CLUE+ in the media

In the context of the valorization activities mentioned, cluster researchers featured frequently in local and national newspapers, broadcasting and television. Ivo Blom, for example, gave several interviews in the context of the Alma Tadema exhibition and Tim Verlaan took part in the television series 'Onzichtbaar Nederland', discussing the redesign of the Utrecht Station Area, including innovative visualization methods.



Tim Verlaan, screenshot from the television series 'Onzichtbaar Nederland'. © VPRO

KNOWLEDGE FORMATION AND ITS HISTORY

Research in this cluster lies, broadly speaking, in the areas of philosophy and theology, broadly conceived and with many interdisciplinary aspects. This year's report will especially highlight research in which philosophers are in the lead, but it should be remembered that there is a very large body of interdisciplinary work in this cluster in which theologians are in the lead (20,43 fte). That work will be especially highlighted in next year's report.

Research in this cluster is organized in three groups: (I) Epistemology, Philosophy of Science and Metaphysics; (II) Ethics and Political Philosophy; (III) Historical Philosophy.

■ **Group (I)**, led by René van Woudenberg, takes on key-issues in epistemology and the philosophy of science. It focusses on the following themes: (a) scientism and the limits of science; (b) scientific understanding; (c) the epistemic responsibilities of the university, and academic integrity; (d) democracy and knowledge formation; (e) the nature and relevance of the Humanities. The

research fte of this group was 7,7 fte in 2016, some 80% of which was externally funded. The group counts 7 funded PhD students, published 4 peer-reviewed books, 36 peer-reviewed papers, and gave over 160 conference presentations and talks all over the world. The group hosted 6 conferences and workshops and obtained 7 grants, some of which are very large and prestigious. One of its members, Jeroen de Ridder, was made a member of the the Young Academy (DJA). The group works mainly from within the analytical tradition of philosophy.

■ **Group (II)**, led by Martin van Hees, works on issues in ethics and political philosophy, with a particular emphasis on (a) fairness and justice of economic and political decision making; (b) moral responsibility in a bio-ethical contexts; (c) moral responsibility in policy areas ("nudging"); (d) moral responsibility within institutions and in the context of democratic decision-making. The group stands firmly in the so-called analytical tradition of moral and

political philosophy. The research of this group aligns with the new international PPE Ba-programme (Philosophy, Politics, and Economy). The group obtained various grants.

■ **Group (III)**, led by Marije Martijn, works on the history of philosophy and focuses on the following themes and topics: (a) 'One' as a transcendental category; (b) the philosophy of late ancient Neoplatonism; (c) medieval Arabic philosophy and its Latin reception; (d) 19th-century German Idealism and Jewish philosophy; (e) 20th-century phenomenology and hermeneutics of the body.

Interdisciplinarity

Research in this cluster is interdisciplinary in two different respects. First, philosophy has many subfields, and within this cluster we see a number of projects that connect two or more philosophical subfields. For example, epistemology and ethics merge in the work of Van Woudenberg, Peels, Wieland and De Ridder (See key publication 1). Also, research on scientism blends

together epistemology and philosophy of science—an example is key publication 4.

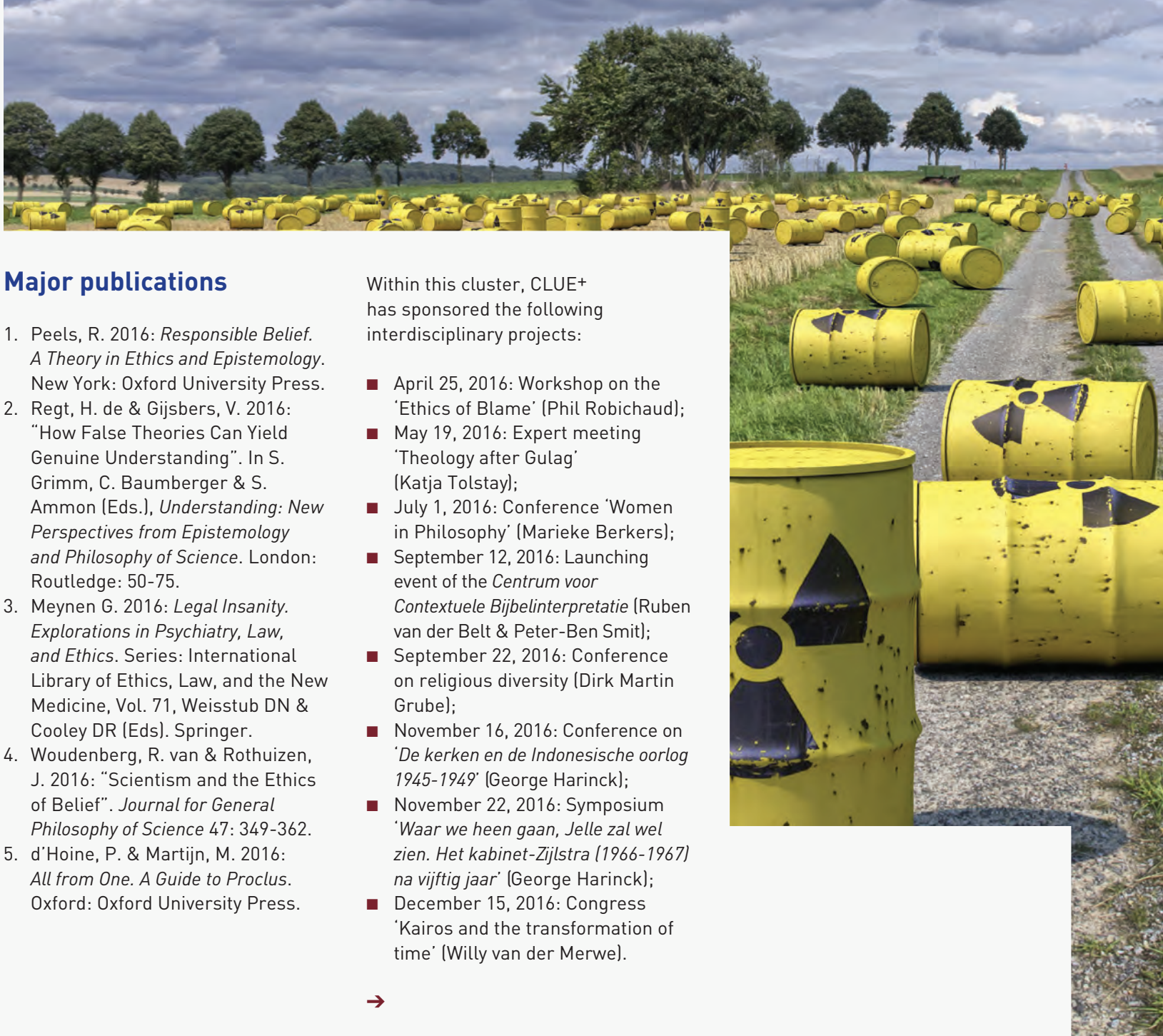
Secondly, research in cluster 4 is also interdisciplinary in that philosophical and various special sciences interact, such as philosophy, brain science and psychiatry in the work of Meynen and Glas (See key publication 3). Philosophy and political science come together in the work of Van Hees, Robichaud, Anderson, and De Ridder. Philosophy and legal theory are united in the work of Meynen and Veraart, philosophy and race studies in the work of Ludwig, and philosophy and economics in the work of Buijs.

Research on academic integrity blends together epistemology and social scientific research, as performed by Bouter and Mulder.

Given that interdisciplinary work should be firmly grounded in serious disciplinary work, this cluster also is home to a number of disciplinary projects, such as some projects by De Regt, Martijn, Munk, Leonelli, Krijnen, Van Woudenberg and Peels. Examples are key publications 2 and 5.

Background picture for the Nuclair Waste Weeks organized by the Environmental Humanities Center.

© Photo: rabadirkwennigsen / Pixabay



Projects and funding (running and new; grants obtained in 2016 are marked with an asterisk *)

- “Science Beyond Scientism” (Templeton World Charity Foundation), director René van Woudenberg, in collaboration with Gerrit Glas, Gijsbert van den Brink and Jeroen de Ridder.
- * “The Epistemic Responsibilities of the University” (Templeton World Charity Foundation) directors René van Woudenberg, Rik Peels, and Jeroen de Ridder.
- * “Knowledgeable Democracy” (NWO Vidi), Jeroen de Ridder
- “Race, Gender, Ontology” (NWO Veni) David Ludwig.
- * “Inclusion and Exclusion in Philosophy” (German Research Foundation), David Ludwig.
- “Nudging Responsibility” (NWO Veni), Philip Robichaud.
- * “Fair for All” (NWO Veni), Ben Ferguson.
- * “The Morality of Markets” (Templeton World Charity Foundation), director Govert Buijs.

Major publications

1. Peels, R. 2016: *Responsible Belief. A Theory in Ethics and Epistemology*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Regt, H. de & Gijsbers, V. 2016: “How False Theories Can Yield Genuine Understanding”. In S. Grimm, C. Baumberger & S. Ammon (Eds.), *Understanding: New Perspectives from Epistemology and Philosophy of Science*. London: Routledge: 50-75.
3. Meynen G. 2016: *Legal Insanity. Explorations in Psychiatry, Law, and Ethics*. Series: International Library of Ethics, Law, and the New Medicine, Vol. 71, Weisstub DN & Cooley DR (Eds). Springer.
4. Woudenberg, R. van & Rothuizen, J. 2016: “Scientism and the Ethics of Belief”. *Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 47: 349-362.
5. d’Hoine, P. & Martijn, M. 2016: *All from One. A Guide to Proclus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Within this cluster, CLUE+ has sponsored the following interdisciplinary projects:

- April 25, 2016: Workshop on the ‘Ethics of Blame’ (Phil Robichaud);
- May 19, 2016: Expert meeting ‘Theology after Gulag’ (Katja Tolstay);
- July 1, 2016: Conference ‘Women in Philosophy’ (Marieke Berkers);
- September 12, 2016: Launching event of the *Centrum voor Contextuele Bijbelinterpretatie* (Ruben van der Belt & Peter-Ben Smit);
- September 22, 2016: Conference on religious diversity (Dirk Martin Grube);
- November 16, 2016: Conference on ‘De kerken en de Indonesische oorlog 1945-1949’ (George Harinck);
- November 22, 2016: Symposium ‘Waar we heen gaan, Jelle zal wel zien. Het kabinet-Zijlstra (1966-1967) na vijftig jaar’ (George Harinck);
- December 15, 2016: Congress ‘Kairos and the transformation of time’ (Willy van der Merwe).





RESEARCH CENTERS

CLUE+ is happy to host a number of affiliated research centers and laboratories, amongst which are the Stevin Centre for History of Science and Humanities, ACCESS (Amsterdam Centre for Cross-Disciplinary Emotion and Sensory Studies), the Amsterdam Centre for History and Heritage of Protestantism, SPINLAB (the Spatial Information Laboratory), ACASA (Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology), the *Historisch Documentatiecentrum voor het Nederlands Protestantisme*, EHC (Environmental Humanities Center), CCBI (the Centre for Contextual Biblical Interpretation) and ACRH (Amsterdam Centre for Religious History). For an overview of the activities of these centers, see the respective websites. Here, we move in on the latter three centers, which were inaugurated in 2016. With their explicitly interdisciplinary character, they significantly contribute to the central goals of CLUE+.

Environmental Humanities Center

The environmental humanities respond to pressing concerns about climate change, environmental crises, waste and sustainability, or animal rights, from the perspective of the humanities. Combining methods and theories from several disciplines to confront the multifaceted problems of the Anthropocene, the growing and dynamic field is grounded in the realization that the humanities possess key tools and insights to approach environmental problems.

To facilitate interdisciplinary approaches to the relation between culture and the environment in teaching as well as research, the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has established an Environmental Humanities Center, embedded in CLUE+. The Center was founded in November 2016. Its current focal points are ecological history, literary ecocriticism, archaeology and landscape studies, environmental art, sustainable design, and religion and ecology. The board consists of four researchers and four

students from different disciplinary backgrounds. Institutionally, the Environmental Humanities Center is embedded within CLUE+. We also work closely together with the Faculty of Humanity's Graduate School in providing a platform for a new generation of researchers in the environmental humanities.

The Center aims to:

- 1 facilitate the cooperation and exchange of knowledge between humanities scholars and between social and natural scientists;
- 2 cooperate and exchange knowledge with national and international environmental humanities initiatives, centers, and associations;
- 3 organise the co-teaching of cross-disciplinary courses in the environmental humanities;
- 4 facilitate the cooperation and exchange of knowledge with those working in the field of sustainability, ecology, landscape management, environmental NGOs, etc.;
- 5 make our research findings and teaching experiences available to the general public in public events,

Oostvaardersplassen, Almere, The Netherlands.

Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+



excursions, publications and other accessible formats.

In the first half year, the Environmental Humanities Center attracted 140 members who receive our regular newsletter. Apart from launch event in November, in 2016 we organized two more interdisciplinary events on environmentally pressing topics, i.e. on Environmental Humanities in Practice (4 November) and on Environmental Humanities & Landscape (2 December). For each event, we invited speakers from a range of different disciplines, from within and outside the humanities. Each event attracted an audience of circa forty people: students and researchers from a range of different faculties and universities, professionals interested in a humanities approach to the environment (GG& GD Amsterdam, architects and designers, artists, green finance).

In addition to these interdisciplinary events, we also organized keynote lectures by prominent international figures in the field (e.g. Libby Robin,

Erle Ellis), smaller workshops at which early career researchers presented their work, and excursions (Oostvaardersplassen, Waste Management Site Amsterdam).

Because Research Master students have indicated that they are particularly interested in courses in the Environmental Humanities, we have set up a cross-cutting theme Environmental Humanities in the new Vrije Universiteit Humanities Research Master. All Research Master students will take a course in Digital and Environmental Humanities, after which students interested in EH can specialize by taking a number of different (existing) courses on offer in the different disciplinary tracks (history, literature, critical art studies), or in Geology in the Man and Climate course open for Humanities students (MSc).

In order to reach a broad audience, we published two articles, one in *The New Scientist*, and one in *Elsevier*. We opened a YouTube channel which features recordings of a selection of our lectures and events, and our student board members recorded a podcast with interviews of

researchers and designers working on waste and sustainability.

Amsterdam Centre for Religious History: From Babel to Bible Belts

On 27 October 2016, the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History (ACRH) was launched as an expertise community within the CLUE+ institute. Colleagues from the faculties of Theology and Humanities specialising in the study of religion throughout history joint together in order to make research groups, projects and activities at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam more visible at an international platform. Partners include the Peshitta Institute, the Paul van Moorsel Centre for Christian Art and Culture in the Middle East, and the Historical Documentation

Center for Dutch Protestantism after 1800 (HDC).

Current projects of ACRH researchers concern topics ranging from the production and reception of religious texts in Antiquity and in Early Medieval Christianity, the origins and impacts of early modern revival movements, to the social and intellectual contexts of Neo-Calvinism and similar challenges of religion and modernity. In short, ACRH covers history from Babel to the Bible Belt, as Bas ter Haar Romeny nicely put it when he delivered his inaugural address in association with Hagit Amirav on the same day as mentioned above. Some months before, on 1 April 2016, Fred van Lieburg accepted his chair in Religious History by a lecture on what might be considered three catch points of the new centre: religion as a human and cultural phenomenon, its power for long-term traditions of knowledge

and practices, and its challenge for global circulation and influence. Digital humanities, that means computer-assisted methods, are in particular pursued by affiliates with ACRH.

ACRH members continued to pursue several research programmes funded by the European Union, the NWO organization for scientific research, or private funds. Two PhD-positions on the history of Christian newspapers were funded. A new endeavour was granted by NWO in order to establish an international network for comparative studies of so-called Bible Belts in Europe, meaning regions in which cultures of pious Protestantism or strong religion deal with developments of secularization, globalization, and radicalization. After an initial expert meeting in Amsterdam on 17 January 2016, a first international conference was held in Kristiansand on 13-14 October 2016.

HDC director and professor of Neo-Calvinism History George Harinck was successful again in valorization of many issues of Dutch religious history to the public, not the least in TV documentaries on

Abraham Kuyper and his late 19th century travels to the Mediterranean Area and the United States as well. HDC received a grant in 2016 to digitise and make available for research hundreds of Dutch letters and documents in the personal papers of Jenö Sebestyén in Budapest. A next project, undertaken by Fred van Lieburg owing to a substantial grant of the Kuyperfonds in 2016, will digitise the names and data of all 470,000 Dutch signers of a Popular Petition for Christian education in 1878 through a crowd-sourcing facility on the internet.

ACRH organises monthly seminars and regular conferences. In addition, the centre is involved in the course programmes of History, Theology and Religious Studies, the supervision of many PhD projects and in hosting foreign researchers or visiting scholars. The CLUE+ environment helps to stimulate further exchange of ideas from several academic networks, disciplines, and approaches.

Amsterdam Centre for Religious History

Welcome to the website of the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History. ACRH unites a large number of scholars and students, affiliated with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, especially the faculties of Humanities and Theology. They are working in several fields of the history of religion in the world, including the thematic subsections featured above. On this website you can find out about the activities, research projects, (under)graduate courses, and publications. ACRH organises an open research seminar every first week of the month on Tuesdays, 15.30-17.00 hrs.

Website of the Amsterdam Centre for Religious History (ACRH). © ACRH

Event | 02 November 2017

The Centre for Contextual Biblical Interpretation

The Centre for Contextual Biblical Interpretation (CCBI) IS a joint venture of the Faculty of Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Protestant Theological University (location Amsterdam). It was opened with a successful symposium on 12 September 2016. The aim of the symposium was to present the work of the newly founded centre to both the academic community and to societal partners. Dedicated as the centre is to researching the interrelationship between contextuality and interpretation, it works closely together with a range of societal partners, including churches, para-church organizations, the Netherlands Bible Society, and the Dutch military and prison chaplaincies. These institutions all constitute the contexts in which biblical interpretation by “ordinary readers” takes place and are, therefore, obvious partners for the centre. Through one of its programs, the centre also cooperates with the *VU Vereniging*. In doing so,

the centre continues the work of the former special chair of contextual biblical interpretation (Dom Hélder Câmara Chair) held bij prof. em. Hans de Wit.

The inauguration of the centre was well attended. Presided over by one of the centre’s researchers, dr Hans Snoek, the meeting was opened by the vice-dean of the Faculty of Theology, prof. dr. Eddy van der Borgh, and the rector of the Protestant Theological University, prof. dr. Mechteld Janssen. Following an outline of the CCBI’s mission and vision by one of its co-directors, prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit (professor of contextual biblical interpretation, Faculty of Theology, VU), lectures and reflections were given by a series of academics involved in contextual biblical interpretation.





Building a new Campus at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Photo: Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+

LOOKING FORWARD

One of the first challenges for the upcoming years is to guarantee the success to the many new and ongoing CLUE+ projects. Careful monitoring and quality control will be done at the level of individual research groups. At the overarching level, project and programme leaders will follow and further develop the lines as set out in the CLUE+ Policy Plan 2016-2020. Of these, the fostering of interdisciplinarity is key; to a certain degree, interdisciplinary initiatives pop up spontaneously as a result of the network-like structure of CLUE+, which facilitates close and rapid communication between the various research groups. In the upcoming years, these communication channels will be further intensified, with the aim of working towards joint research strategies on the overarching CLUE+ themes of connectivity, globalization, migration and changing environments. To that end, the focus will be on acquiring new external funding; joint project proposals are being considered for NWO's Free Competition, Innovational Research Incentives Scheme, Sustainable Humanities Scheme and Investment Grants, as

well as for Horizon 2020 (mainly the priority challenge *Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies*), Joint Programme Initiative Cultural Heritage, Creative Europe and a Marie Curie Innovative Training Network. The choice of the subthemes of the proposals will be adapted to the criteria of the calls. The research leaders will facilitate these initiatives through discussion workshops, consortium meetings and conferences.

To guarantee the continuation of this policy, talent development will be closely monitored along the lines set out in the Policy Plan. Accordingly, graduate and honours courses and summer schools will be proposed again for the coming years. Junior researchers will also be stimulated to engage prominently in the various research groups, amongst others with a CLUE+ Early Career Fund and by inviting them to organize workshops and consortium meetings and to write competitive research proposals.



About CLUE+

CLUE+ is the interfaculty Research Institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It brings together researchers from a wide variety of academic disciplines, to work on joint projects, reflect upon societal challenges and formulate strategies for addressing those challenges. With interdisciplinary teams, working in novel ways and with innovative methodologies, CLUE+ aims to provide an inspiring research climate for talented young academics as well as for senior and top researchers. Its international orientation makes it an ideal partner for fellow research institutes and for public organizations active in the arenas of culture, history and heritage, both within Europe and neighbouring regions.

Director
Gert-Jan Burgers

Chair of the board
Michel Ter Hark

Programme coordinators
Gert-Jan Burgers (Landscape and Heritage)
Karel Davids (Global History, Heritage and Memory)
Katja Kwastek (Paradigms of Creativity)
René van Woudenberg (Knowledge Formation and its History)

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