

11th Gewina Woudschoten Conference

Woudschoten, 19-20 June 2026

Normal science? Everyday knowledge practices in times of calm and crisis

We thank our sponsors:

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- ✓ *De Gruyter Brill*
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Preliminary programme

Friday June 19th:

- 9:30-9:45 **Opening**
David Baneke, Hieke Huistra, Toine Pieters, Stephen Snelders, Daan Wegener, Robert-Jan Wille (UU)
- 9:45-11:15 **Parallel Session I:**
1a: Contested public knowledge
Noortje Jacobs (EUR), *History of science and the making of moral communities*
Marieke Gelderblom (UU), *A dispute on diagrams: Epistemic conflict on the graphic method in Dutch national statistics, 1870–1890*
Elske de Waal (UU), *Mathematics education: a (constant) crisis?*
Tim Overkempe (UA), *Travelling showpeople*
- 1b: New narratives in the history of knowledge**
Marij van Strien (Radboud U), *Classical physics: Its overcoming and its creation*
Adriana Markanatonatos (FSU Jena), *Crises (of the Mind) and Resilience (of the Body). Reflections on and between Paul Valéry and Reinhart Koselleck*
Gerhard Wiesenfeldt (U of Melbourne), *Dead Scientists: Mortality in Scientific Research*
- 11:15-11:45 **Break**

- 11:45-13:00 **Creative session I: Sequencing scenes; or, drawing HPS infographics**
Gerco Hiddink (Studio Hartebeest) & Robert-Jan Wille (UU)
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-16:00 **Parallel Session II:**
- Ila: *Big Science as crisis science? Nuclear physics in early Cold War Europe*
Jos Aarts & Frans Kingma (UU), *The cyclotron that Utrecht never got: the early postwar history of the Physical Laboratory of Utrecht University*
Luca Forgiarini (UU), *Science for Europe: CERN and the conceptual construction of European Big Science collaboration*
Machiel Kleemans (UvA), *Secrecy and early Cold War atoms in Europe*
- Ilb: *Medical knowledge beyond disciplines*
Mariana Sanchez (KUL), *Everyday medicinal knowledge in the Manila Galleons*
Toine Pieters (UU), *Indonesian Enigma: Lepra bubalorum and the interdisciplinary toolbox of history of the life sciences*
Charlotte Meijer (Radboud U), *(En)countering parasitic worms at home: everyday knowledge practices in the eighteenth-century Netherlands*
Timo Bolt (EUR), *The rise of the risk factor: making sense of a concept that is transforming biomedical research and healthcare*
- 16:00-16:30 Break
- 16:30-17:30 **Creative session II: Story time; or, fiction for historians of science**
Fenneke Sysling (UL), Caroline Schep (UL), David Baneke (UU), Daan Wegener (UU)
- 17:30-18:30 Drinks
- 18:30-20:00 Dinner
- 20:00-21:00 **Creative session III: Spirit making; or, after dinner seance**
Dirk Vis & Toine Pieters (UU)

Saturday June 20th:

- 9:00-10:30 **Parallel Session III:**
- IIIa: *Salt, smoke and fermentation: cross-domain epistemics of food conservation practices in the Early Modern Low Countries*
Chair: **Marieke Hendriksen (Huygens)**
Thijs Elfrink (Huygens) *Salting Fish under Stress, Wartime Circulation of Curing Knowledge in the Early Modern Dutch Herring Fishery, 1620-1650*
Tijmen Moesker (Huygens), *Smoke in the Chimney: A Preliminary Study of Meat Smoking Practices at Farmhouses in the North of Holland (1650-1850)*
Carmen Schmechel (Huygens), *Ferments and Fermentation: Theory and Practice in the Early Modern Low Countries*

IIIb: *History of meteorology*

David Baneke (UU), *Code red! Extreme weather and changing cultures of prediction, 1860-2010*

Rienk Vermij (U of Oklahoma), *The firedragon in medieval meteorology*

David Skogerboe (UU), *Imagining Europe through Space Infrastructures: Meteorology in ESRO's Agenda, 1960-1971*

Valentine Delrue (Gent/Yale), *Like Father, Like Daughter? Helping Hands in Ezra Stiles's Journal during the American Revolution*

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30 **Parallel Session IV:**

IVa: *Twentieth Century Health Science*

Tom Saborowski (UU), *How ECSC Members Organized Knowledge Production during Prohibition*

Martijn van der Meer (EUR), *Marching in the columns - how paperwork helped preventive child health care survive*

Juliette Bouillon (Cambridge), *Advancing Adult ADHD: The Dutch production of a new European diagnosis*

Hieke Huistra (UU) *'It's what the donor would have wanted': Handling donated bodies in Dutch anatomy departments, 1970–2025*

IVb: *Global and Imperial Science*

Elían Schure (UU), *Transitioning South Africa: a history of the 'transition' framework in South African gut microbiome research*

Floris Solleveld (KUL), *Colonial language studies as 'normal science'?*

Robbert Striekwold (UL), *Naturalists in the Dutch imperial project*

Ad Maas (Boerhaave), *Rubber and the Dutch Indies*

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 **Pecha Kucha**

15:00-16:30 **Parallel Session V:**

Va: *Ocean governance*

Stephen Snelders (UU) *Scientists on the High Seas: The Janus Face of Science in Regard to Whaling, 1950s-2010s*

Erik de Lange (UU), *Frontlines of the Deep: Oceanography, Law and Submarine Telegraph Cables in Times of War*

Pieter Zhao (EUR), *Who Guards the Sea? Modern Piracy, Private Security, Knowledge Production and the Changing Norms of Maritime Violence*

Marcella Schute (EUR), *Legal Knowledge, African Indentured Labor Migration and Ocean Governance in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*

Vb: *Twentieth Century Technoscience*

Robert van Leeuwen (UvA), *The "beginning of the end of physics" and the closure of Cold War science*

Chaokang Tai (UvA), *The Workflow of Astrophotographic Research at Leiden Observatory, 1920-1960*

Ab Flipse (VU), *War and Peace at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: the case of polemology*

Abel Streefland (Delft), *Too Unscientific? The Electronic Music Studio at TH Delft (1957-1960)*

16:30-1645 Closing words

David Baneke, Hieke Huistra, Toine Pieters, Stephen Snelders, Daan Wegener, Robert-Jan Wille (UU)