

TABULA
FRISIAE, GRONINGHAE
et
TERRITORII EMBENSIS
nec non circumjacentium
Regionum puta
Transsalanae, Bentheimae, Westphaliae,
et Oldenburgi.
auctor. summa cura et studio edita.
a
Nicolaio Iohanne Biscatore
A. 1633.

OCEANUS GERMANICUS

Posthumus Conference 'Regional History in a Global Context'

Leeuwarden, 23-24 May 2024
Hosted by the Fryske Akademy

Notularum
explicatio
■ Urbes
■ Praesidia
■ Castellae
■ Fortes

Dc



Der Schellinck

Amelandt

TRANSISALANAE

PARS



GRONINGENSES



HINDLOPEN

The Posthumus Conference 2024 is hosted by the Fryske Akademy

FRYSKE  AKADEMY



on behalf of the N.W. Posthumus Institute, currently hosted by
Utrecht University, posthumus@uu.nl



With special thanks to:

Meryem Riad, Nicolas Brenninkmeijer, Cécile Bruyet, Silke Geven,
Dinos Sevdalakis

Image cover page:

*Part of coloured map of Friesland and Groningen, based on a map originally
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Preface

Welcome to the 2024 N.W. Posthumus Conference in Leeuwarden! The N.W. Posthumus Institute and the Fryske Akademy are happy to present the programme of the 2024 edition of the annual Posthumus Conference to you.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Regional History in a Global Context'. Attention for the region as unit of research in economic and social history has been growing, as has the interaction between the regional and the global level. We are fortunate to have found professor Nikolaus Wolf (Humboldt University Berlin), prepared to kick off the conference with a keynote lecture titled 'Globalisation and Regional Inequality'. The keynote lecture will be followed by a reflection by professor Marijn Molema (University of Groningen / Planbureau Friesland).

On the following pages you will find the full conference programme. Besides the keynote lecture, it includes six PhD-sessions and six research network sessions. There is, of course, also time to meet informally and catch up over lunch, coffee, drinks and dinner. At dinner we will moreover award the PhDs who completed the Basic Training Programme their diplomas.

We are grateful to the Fryske Akademy for hosting the conference and we hope that you will enjoy it.

The Conference Hosts and Posthumus staff,

Hanno Brand
Jessica Dijkman
Rogier van Kooten
René van Weeren
Amber Verspui

Foarwurd

Wolkom by de N.W. Posthumuskonferinsje 2024 yn Ljouwert! It N.W.Posthumus Instituut en de Fryske Akademy presentearje jo graach it programma fan de edysje 2024 fan de jierlikse Posthumuskonferinsje.

It tema fan de konferinsje fan dit jier is 'Regionale skiednis yn in mondiale kontekst'. It omtinken foar de regio as ienheid fan ûndersyk op it mêd fan de ekonomyske en sosjale skiednis is tanommen, lykas de ynteraksje op regionaal en wrâldwiidnivo. Wy binne der wiis mei dat wy professor Nikolaus Wolf (Humboldt Universiteit Berlyn) ree fûn hawwe om de konferinsje te iepenjen mei de temalêzing 'Globalisation and Regional Inequality'. De haadlêzing wurdt folge troch in refleksje fan heechlearaar Marijn Molema (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen / Planbureau Fryslân).

Fierderop fine jo it folsleine konferinsjeprogramma. Njonken de haadlêzing, bestiet it programma ek út seis PhD-sesjes en seis ûndersyksnetwurksesjes. Der is fansels ek tiid om inoar ynformeel te moetsjen en by te praten by de lunsj, it kofjedrinken en it diner. By it dinersille wy de promovendy dy't it Basisopliedingsprogramma dien hawwe, harren diploma's útrikke.

Wy binne tankber dat de Fryske Akademy de gasthear is foar dizze konferinsje en wy hoopje dat jim der in soad nocht en wille oan hawwe.

Ut namme fan de Fryske Akademy en it N.W. Posthumus Insituut,

Hanno Brand
Jessica Dijkman
Rogier van Kooten
René van Weeren
Amber Verspui

Theme 'Regional History in a Global Context'

The central theme of the 2024 Posthumus Conference is 'Regional History in a Global Context'. Regional history has traditionally been in the periphery for many (although not all) social and economic historians. Economic historians have frequently tended to focus on the national level, while social historians often preferred to study local communities. Recently, attention for the region as unit of research in social and economic history has been growing. New methods for studying the economic development of regions have been developed, such as the calculation of the Gross Regional Product. Familiar topics of social history, such as labour conditions, gender and mobility were found to have regional as well as local dimensions, while for the relatively new field of the historical interactions between man and environment the region turned out to be a highly suitable level of research.

Regions, obviously, have never been isolated: they have always functioned in a wider context. Commercial and cultural exchange on an interregional but increasingly also on a global scale affected daily life and economic opportunities of regions everywhere. Relations between regions changed continuously because of shifts in commercial networks, the availability of human capital, investment policies and transport facilities, technical developments and new divisions of labour. Some regional economies grew into drivers of a global trade, or acted as focal points for migration on a global scale. Others coped with economic and demographic demise and had to adapt to global changes. As a result, borders of regions also changed, as did regional identities.

The interaction between the global and the regional level is a highly relevant issue in today's world. In keeping with the interest in 'glocal history', it also deserves the attention of social and economic historians.

Keynote lecture by Professor Nikolaus Wolf

We are happy to inform you that the keynote lecture of this year's Posthumus Conference will be delivered by Professor Nikolaus Wolf. Professor Wolf holds the Chair of Economics and Economic History at Humboldt University Berlin, where he has taught since 2010. He is an economic



historian with interests in trade, economic geography, international macro-economics and social identity. He previously held positions at the University of Warwick, Free University Berlin and the London School of Economics and is currently a Research Fellow at CEPR (International Trade and Regional Economics and Economic History). Between 2013-2019, he was Editor in Chief of the *European Review of Economic History*. In 2018, he was one of the authors awarded the Frisch Medal (joint with Gabriel Ahlfeldt, Stephen Redding, and Daniel Sturm), for the best applied (empirical or theoretical) paper published in *Econometrica* during the previous five years, for their article 'The Economics of Density: Evidence from the Berlin Wall'. According to the award report the paper 'breaks genuinely new ground in the modeling of cities and the spatial organization of economic activity'.

Co-referate by Professor Marijn Molema



The co-referate ‘Economic development from below. A reflection on the keynotes of professor Wolf’ will be delivered by Professor Marijn Molema, Professor by special appointment on ‘Regional Vitality & Dynamics’, embedded in the chair group Economic and Social History of the University of Groningen and also Program manager at the Frisian Institute of Social Research in Leeuwarden. His research and teaching explores new methodologies that connect historical studies with policies for the development of regions within the (Northern) Netherlands.



Do you want to (re)read the keynote lecture by Professor Wolf and / or the co-referate by Professor Molema? Or relive your memories of the conference?

Visit <https://posthumusconference.org/2024-retrospective> about two weeks after the conference has ended; you can also use the QR-code above to access this page directly.

Practicalities

Conference venue

All conference events except for the dinner and closing drinks will be held at the Campus Fryslân of the RUG, Wirdumerdijk 43, Leeuwarden.

Conference dinner

The conference dinner on Thursday 23 May will be held at Restaurant De Koperen Tuin (Prinsentuin 1, Leeuwarden); prior registration is required. Please make sure to be there at 18:00 pm.

Did you not register for dinner when you registered and want to join? Please check with the conference organisers whether this is still possible.

At the conference dinner the diploma ceremony for the PhDs will also be held.

Closing drinks and guided tour

On 24 May, we will (in)formally conclude the 2024 Posthumus Conference with after-conference drinks at bar 'De Bak' in the Blokhuispoort, Blokhuispoortplein 40.

At this location, those who registered for this, also a guided tour of the Blokhuispoort, a historic prison complex, will start at 15:45 sharp.

Wifi/internet

If you have an Eduroam account, you can use the Eduroam network. If not, use network ID F118096@rug.nl, password: WelkomCF3!

Phone # organisers in case of need

+31 (0)6 1850 9806

Conference schedule

Thursday 23 May

- 11:30 - 13:00 Arrival, registration and lunch
(room 0239)
- 13:00 - 14:00 Welcome on behalf of Fryske Akademy
(Auditorium 0112)
- Opening by Prof. Ewout Frankema, chair General
 Board N.W. Posthumus Institute
- Keynote lecture Professor Nikolaus Wolf
 (Humboldt University of Berlin)
 Globalisation and Regional Inequality
- Co-referate by Professor Marijn Molema
 (RUG & Frisian Institute of Social Research)
 *Economic development from below. A reflection on
 the keynote of Professor Wolf*
- 14:00 - 15:30 Parallel PhD sessions 1A, 1B
(Schuurman Zaal 0122, Living Lab 0134)
- 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee and tea break
(room 0239)
- 16:00 - 17:30 Parallel Research network sessions N1, N2, N3
(Schuurman Zaal 0122, Living Lab 0134,
 Eyse Eysinga zaal 0232-2036)
- 18:00 - 23:00 Dinner (pre-registration required)
 including Diploma Ceremony
 (**Restaurant De Koperen Tuin**, Prinsentuin 1)

Conference schedule

Friday 24 May

- 09:00 - 09:30 Arrival and registration
(room 0239)
- 09:30 - 11:00 Parallel PhD sessions 2A, 2B
(Schuurman Zaal 0122, Living Lab 0134)
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee and tea break
(room 0239)
- 11:30 - 13:00 Parallel Research network sessions N4, N5, N6
(Schuurman Zaal 0122, Living Lab 0134,
Eyse Eysinga zaal 0232-2036)
- 13:00 - 14:00 Lunch, including Research Network Lunches
(room 0239)
- 14:00 - 15:30 Parallel PhD sessions 3A, 3B
(Schuurman Zaal 0122, Living Lab 0134)
- 15:45 - 16:30 Guided tour (pre-registration required)
(**Blokhuispoort**, Blokhuispoortplein 40, main reception desk)
- 15:45 - 17:30 Informal drinks
(**De Bak**, Blokhuispoort, Blokhuispoortplein 40)

PhD Sessions schedule 1A & 1B

Thursday 23 May, 14:00-15:30

1A - Schuurman Zaal (0122)

Mark Raat (Fryske Akademy) – *A revision of the Frisian eighteenth-century political debate on peat extraction*

chair: Suzan Abozyid, peer: Chris Vlam, senior: Petra van Dam

Reinder Klinkhamer (University of Groningen / Ghent University) – *Cutting sods, cutting growth: Rural economic growth and labour productivity in Eastern Guelders, c. 1460-1560*

chair: Chris Vlam, peer: Suzan Abozyid, senior: Jan Luiten van Zanden

1B – Living Lab (0134)

Alberto Concina (KU Leuven) – *Reconstructing total household income in Early Modern Piedmont: wealth, land and assets*

chair: Matthias Van Laer, peer: Martijn Collijs, senior: Bruno Blondé

Bas Spliet (University of Antwerp) – *'Bad and old': Why did paintings go out of fashion after the Dutch Golden Age?*

chair: Martijn Collijs, peer: Matthias Van Laer, senior: Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk

PhD Sessions schedule 2A & 2B

Friday 24 May, 09:30-11:00

2A - Schuurman Zaal (0122)

Pichayapat Naisupap (Leiden University) – *Between material and symbolic: Dutch management of elephants in early modern Ceylon*

chair: Silke Baas, peers: Sam Miske & Marin Kuijt, senior: Luc Bulten

Silke Geven (University of Antwerp) – *Untangling the threads: A historical analysis of Ghent's tourism promotion network (1880-1980)*

chairs: Sam Miske & Marin Kuijt, peer: Silke Baas, senior: tba

2B – Living Lab (0134)

Sieben Feys (University of Amsterdam / Ghent University) – *The geography of power: mapping seigneuries in late medieval Brabant*

chair: Claudia Hacke, peer: Maartje A.B., senior: tba

PhD Sessions schedule 3A & 3B

Friday 24 May, 14:00-15:30

3A - Schuurman Zaal (0122)

Vany Susanto (University of Amsterdam) – *The people's aftermath of the Chinese massacre in 1740 Batavia*

chair: Leen van Hirtum, peers: Lise Bevernaegie & Ivana Zecevic, senior: Anjana Singh

Dinos Sevdalakis (University of Groningen) – *The onset of infant mortality declines in urban Senegal: The case of colonial Saint-Louis, 1880-1921*

chair: Lise Bevernaegie, peer: Leen Van Hirtum, senior: Ewout Frankema

3B – Living Lab (0134)

Max-Quentin Bischoff (University of Antwerp) – *Future orientation in trade*

chair: Boike Teunissen, peer: Maartje A.B., senior: Gijs Dreijer

Maartje A.B. (Radboud University) – *Absent but still involved? Functions of (sub)regional meetings between Hansetowns in the Third of Cologne (1447-1619)*

chair: Ivana Zecevic, peer: Boike Teunissen, senior: Jessica Dijkman

Network Session N1

23 May, 16:00-17:30 | Schuurman zaal (0122)

Research network 'Life-courses, Family, and Labour'

Health in the city

Presentations

Mayra Murkens (Radboud University)

A competing risks analysis of victims and survivors: the impact of different socioeconomic factors on cause-specific early childhood mortality risks in Amsterdam, 1856-1865

Matthias Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, Björn Quanjer (both Radboud University), and Kristina Thompson (Wageningen UR)

The impact of maternal death on the survival of enslaved children in Suriname, 1830-1863

Isabella Devos (Ghent University and Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve) and Hilde Greefs (University of Antwerp)

The 1866 cholera epidemic in Antwerp and Brussels: a comparative analysis of the epidemic's trajectory and public health responses

Arlinde Vrooman (Tilburg University)

The effect of colonial rule on disease and health care in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (c. 1900-1955)

Network Session N2

23 May, 16:00-17:30 | Living Lab (0134)

Research network 'Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in Comparative Perspective'

Flows between town and country in the pre-industrial period

Presentations

Frederik Buylaert and Thijs Lambrecht (both Ghent University)

Lordship, towns, and economic change in the Low Countries, c. 1350-1650

Marjolein 't Hart (VU Amsterdam)

Warfare, cities and countryside. The impact of the Dutch Revolt on urban-rural relations

Wout Saelens (University of Antwerp)

From rift to shift: energy transition, metabolic expansion and urban agency in the early modern Low Countries

Network Session N3

23 May, 16:00-17:30 | Eyse Eysinga zaal (0232-0236)

Research network 'Inclusion, Exclusion, and Mobility'

Analysing the migrants' life cycle: from the postcolonial period to contemporary times

Presentations

Swantje Falcke (Utrecht University)

Naturalisation, citizenship and mobility in the migrant life course

Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (Leiden University)

Coming to terms with the colonial legacy by professionalising social care

Andrew Shield (Leiden University)

Queer migration history: archiving past & present narratives

Network Session N4

24 May, 11:30-13:00 | Schuurman zaal (0122)

Research network 'Routes and Roots in Colonial and Global History'

Commodity frontiers

Presentations

Michiel de Haas (Wageningen UR)

How well do we understand cotton imperialism in Africa? Metropolitan interests, local conditions and diffuse outcomes

Luc Bulten (Leiden University and Radboud University)

Commodifying cinnamon: Lankan planters gaining access to the global spice market, 1771-1795

Allan Souza Quieroz (Ghent University)

From Quilombo dos Palmares to Operation Zumbi dos Palmares: a long-term perspective on free and unfree labour in the Brazilian sugarcane plantation

Network Session N5

24 May, 11:30-13:00 | Living Lab (0134)

Research Network 'Societies in Context: Interactions between humans and rural-urban environments'

Institutions and development in the (post)colonial Global South

Presentations

Aditi Dixit (Wageningen UR)

Raw cotton markets, industrial strategies, and trade organization in India and Japan, c. 1890-1940

Vigyan Ratnoo (Utrecht University)

Seasonality and development in colonial India

Katharine Frederick (Utrecht University)

Economic ideologies and colonial legacies: comparing industrialization strategies in early post-colonial Kenya and Tanzania

Network Session N6

24 May, 11:30-13:00 | Eyse Eysinga zaal (0232-0236)

Research network 'Globalisation, Inequality and Sustainability in Long-Term Perspective'

Histories of globalisation, inequality and sustainability in regional contexts

Presentations

Alexandra M. de Pleijt (Wageningen UR), Jan Huiting, and Jan Luiten van Zanden (both Utrecht University)

30,000 wages and the Tiny Divergence, 1300-1800

Hanno Brand (Fryske Akademy)

Shifts and specialisation in 17th-century Frisian overseas wood transports

Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Connected microhistories of soy

Mila Davids (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Sustainable challenges in the global semiconductor supply chain: Coordination and cooperation between stakeholders in Dutch and Taiwanese high-tech regions

Abstracts PhD Presentations

(in alphabetical order)

Maartje A.B. (Radboud University)

Absent but still involved? Attendance at general Hanse diets versus (sub)regional Hanse meetings of towns in the Third of Cologne (1447-1559)

From the thirteenth to the seventeenth century, merchants and town councils originating from the large area ranging from the Zuiderzee to the Baltic Sea worked together in what became known as the German Hanse. Commitment of town councils to the Hanse differed from time to time, causing discussion on the Hanse's constellation ever since the late fourteenth century. Historians often take presence at general Hanse diets, where the Hanse in general was represented, as an indicator for commitment to and participation in the Hanse. Vice versa, long-term absence from these diets is considered a sign for decreased interest and weak commitment. This paper questions this assumption by focusing on meetings between Hanse towns in the Third of Cologne, one of the regions in which the area with Hanse towns was divided by the Hanse itself. It takes the towns of Guelders as a case study, and compares their representation at general Hanse diets to involvement in meetings of different scopes in the Cologne region. The paper shows how focusing on deliberation on a regional level may improve our understanding of the functioning of the Hanse.

Future orientation in trade

After a rather technical analysis of types of future statements in the Tucher correspondence (ch. 1) and a closer analysis of the dimensions of control, certainty, desirability and the temporal structure of the future horizon (ch. 2), this chapter focuses on the core of the Tucher company's activities: trade. I will explore how the Tuchers developed and continuously adapted expectations and plans, how important these were and how they were embedded in the particular temporal structures and rhythms of different trading goods. The focus will be on the two dominant kinds of trade in the letters:

1. the speculative trade with saffron and, by extension, other spices;
2. The ordinary flow of orders the Tucher factors received from Nuremberg and executed continuously over the year.

While the former was, on the one hand, highly dependent on meticulous expectation-formation and planning, it was, on the other hand, embedded in highly regular natural and social cycles, which granted a predictable frame to the highly speculative nature of spice trade. In contrast, the Tucher factors constantly dealt with very specific, comparatively small-scale orders of goods to be sent to Nuremberg. This aspect of trade was less future-oriented in the sense that expectation formation and planning were less important and less detailed, but, at the same time, it was highly open and followed no predictable rhythms.

Alberto Concina (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

Reconstructing total household income in Early Modern Piedmont: wealth, land and assets

Research into historical welfare levels has largely relied on the use of wage series. While useful for highly marketized contexts, the source has been criticized as non-representative enough for the pre-modern period. Pre-modern households did not rely solely upon wage labour for their livelihood but several economic assets contributed to household wealth beyond the market. Studies based on wages thus eschew many crucial components of households' economy and tend to portray areas characterized by high marketization as comparatively more prosperous.

This paper proposes a more comprehensive approach for evaluating welfare levels through total household income in the pre-modern period. Two different kinds of rural societies will be compared in order to gauge the difference in welfare levels across social groups. Juxtaposing a market oriented society with a peasant one will provide an assessment of the impact of economic growth across societal strata. Several components of income will be analyzed based on academically recognized sources. Household wealth as in stock of material goods and financial assets will be reconstructed through probate inventories. Estate and agricultural resources will be studied through land registers. Cattle distribution through cattle counts.

By bringing together crucial components of rural households' economy, it is possible to reconstruct income capabilities across social groups and over the long period. This will allow to determine what kind of socio-economic arrangement provided higher welfare levels across social groups.

Sieben Feys (University of Amsterdam / Ghent University)

The geography of power: mapping seigneuries in late medieval Brabant

Elite institutions such as the seigneurie (Dutch: 'heerlijkheid') dotted the European landscape during the ancien régime. The main feature of these seigneuries was that the local lord or lady had been granted some degree of jurisdiction over a demarcated area and its inhabitants. At the same time, they acted as the governing authority, exercising rights of justice, administration, and taxation over their estate. My PhD explores this authority (commonly referred to as 'lordship') and its exercise between 1400 and 1550 in the Duchy of Brabant, one of the biggest and densely populated principalities of the medieval Low Countries. As most seigneuries also happened to be fiefs, the extensive feudal administration created by the Brabantine dukes and their Burgundian successors provides information on the nature and characteristics of these estates, but also provides direct information about the number of seigneuries within the Duchy. Drawing from these sources, I created a virtually exhaustive corpus of roughly 650 seigneuries in total. These estates have been plotted in QGIS (a geographic information system), enabling a survey of the geography of power in Brabant for the first time.

Silke Geven (University of Antwerp)

Untangling the threads: a historical analysis of Ghent's tourism promotion network (1880-1980)

In 1908 the city council of Ghent established the Commissie voor Ruchtbaarheid, an organisation intending to enhance the image of the city of Ghent as a tourist destination by effective advertisement and publicity campaigns. However, for the local

restaurant and hotel owners, shopkeepers and bakers, travel agencies and museum curators the installation of this organisation was not immediately apparent. At the time the city of Ghent was also the home of two other tourism organisations Gent-Voorwaarts (Gand-en-Avant) and Gent-Aantrekkelijkheden (Gand-Attractions), alongside numerous organisations, institutions and individuals engaged in city promotion. This diverse array of initiatives engaged in showcasing Ghent to a broad spectrum of travellers, both domestic and international. While historical research has outlined the shift from these local grassroots tourism initiatives to more government-driven organizations during the interwar period, this paper seeks to delve deeper into this transition to untangle the intricate network of local, regional, and national stakeholders, organizations, and institutions involved in the promotion of the city of Ghent as a tourism destination between 1880 and 1980. It investigates the interplay (competition and cooperation) between them. Drawing upon a diverse range of sources, such as yearly reports of the local tourism organisations of Ghent, correspondences with other local, regional and national tourism organisations and parliamentary discussions, this paper will show which stakeholders tried to promote the city of Ghent to a domestic and international audience. It looks at the processes of internationalisation, democratisation and professionalisation within the field of tourism promotion.

Reinder Klinkhamer (University of Groningen / Ghent University)

Cutting sods, cutting growth: rural economic growth and labour productivity in Eastern Guelders, c. 1460-1560

Recently, Chris Wickham and Shami Ghosh argued that the economic stagnation of pre-modern societies was mainly due to limited demand. Although both authors disagreed about why demand was finite they seem to agree that economic growth would

follow upon increased demand. In this paper I test this hypothesis by focusing on a case study in the fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Low Countries as one of Europe's most dynamic regions in a period of general economic stagnation. My case study concerns a lordship known as the Land van den Bergh, located on the fringes of the Low Countries' dynamic economy in eastern Guelders. Based on indicators of agricultural productivity (tithes, rents, prices and wages) I show that even within a relatively small locality arable agriculture stagnated while large scale livestock farming was a growth sector. By zooming in on these sectors, I argue that the difference between stagnation and growth was not primarily due to demand, but to the way producers dealt with the production factor labour in relation to local ecological conditions and regional population growth. In the end, the difference between stagnation and growth is presented as a question of labour productivity.

Pichayapat Naisupap (Leiden University)

Between material and symbolic: Dutch management of elephants in early modern Ceylon

After taking over Ceylon from the Portuguese in the middle of the seventeenth century, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) started to exploit one of the vibrant and prevalent natural resources on the island: elephants. The VOC used elephants in trade and also in gift-giving diplomacy with Asian kingdoms and empires. This paper investigates the processes before those two activities, looking into how the VOC managed its elephants across the island. Dealing with these gigantic and charismatic animals required tremendous effort from indigenous men not only in capturing them from the wilderness but also in knowing, categorising, preserving, and taking care of them for the future uses. Historiography has argued that early-modern European trading companies had a hand in

transforming the emblematic ways of conceiving and classifying nature into empirical manners. By looking at the VOC knowledge and management of Ceylonese elephants that were entangled to a high degree with Asian elephant traditions, this paper argues that elephants were materially and intellectually dealt with through occult systems, destabilising the dichotomies between symbolic versus empirical, superstitious versus scientific, and East versus West.

Mark Raat (Fryske Akademy)

A revision of the Frisian eighteenth-century political debate on peat extraction

From 1750 onwards, dozens of entrepreneurs from the province of Overijssel began to systematically extract peat from parts of the Frisian low bog area. They used the slagturf method, which had not yet been used in Friesland. This activity had a major impact on the landscape, especially in the municipalities of Haskerland and Schoterland. After the dredging, all that was left were large pools of water. This impacted Frisian water management and damaged neighboring properties and roads. These and other long-term consequences were the subject of intense political debate in the years 1765-1768. A special commission of inquiry recommended the regulation and taxation of peat extraction. The States of Friesland, however, decided to let the dredging continue. In order to explain this divergent decision, previous studies have referred, among other things, to the personal interests of a number of members of the States.

However, a detailed analysis of the debate shows that the debate was first and foremost a clash of ideologies. Most Frisians considered the muddy soil as an inferior landscape. This view had prevailed for centuries. Political support for the peat entrepreneurs came from the general economic growth and

prosperity that they had brought. They also pointed out that the ponds could later be converted into polders. Several lakes that were created after peat extraction were eventually drained and cultivated in the nineteenth century. This article argues for a revision of the political debate. This was one of the first examples of a socio-political polemic about the long-term future of the Frisian peatlands, in which financial interests were not the decisive factor.

Konstantinos Sevdalakis (University of Groningen)

The onset of infant mortality declines in urban Senegal: The case of colonial Saint-Louis, 1880-1921

While the phenomenon of the mortality transition has been analyzed empirically at great lengths from historical perspectives that cover much of the globe, certain regions remain understudied. Whole swaths of sub-Saharan Africa represent such overlooked areas, for which mortality rates estimates before the 1950s are meagre. Despite the lack of reliable historical mortality data, historians and demographers have speculated on the causes of mortality declines, with many arguing for the primacy of improved (access to) medicine. This position runs against the more commonly held views in historical demography that place public health infrastructure improvements, such as clean water supply and sewage disposal systems, and better in nutritional status, at the center of the debate. This paper leverages birth and death registration sources for the town of Saint-Louis, Senegal to generate infant mortality rate estimates for 1880-1921. Moreover, for the years 1880, 1891, 1904, 1912, and 1920, the paper collects individual-level data from all 5,250 registered births and about 1,300 infant death certificates to assess the determinants of mortality differences in infant mortality by using a Cox proportional hazards model. To disentangle some of the drivers of

mortality declines in the context of Saint-Louis, the paper investigates if the benefits of lower infant mortality rates were spread across the town's population, or if it benefitted specific segments of the urban fabric. Three different metrics are used to analyze the differences based on social standing across time, literacy, occupational class, and neighborhood of birth.

Bas Spliet (University of Antwerp and Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

What is real? Consumer prices, living standards and inequality: Amsterdam, 1600-1800

This article answers a simple question: Who or what pulled the rug from underneath the demand for Dutch paintings in the second half of the seventeenth century? Previous explanations – diminished purchasing power, overproduction, depleted social distinction potential, budget and space constraints – are tested with a unique database of Amsterdam probate inventories but found insufficient. Following scholars like Jan de Vries and Bruno Blondé, I maintain that the downfall of the painting industry is best explained within the framework of the consumer revolution, on which this case study offers a fresh perspective by arguing that the ascent of fashion gave rise to a consumer version of creative destruction. The modernity of Holland's burgeoning consumer society was borne out of the fact that Dutch burghers simply lost interest.

Vany Susanto (University of Amsterdam)

The people's aftermath of the 1740 Chinese massacre

Citing concerns over Chinese overpopulation in the largest Dutch colony in Asia, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) government ordered the extermination of about 10,000 Chinese settlers, leading to the infamous 1740 Chinese Massacre. While historians

have explored sources such as the VOC archive, a Malay epic, a Javanese chronicle, German travel diaries, Chinese memoirs, and letters to the Emperor to examine the causes of this first anti-Chinese violence, its consequences on Batavian society remained largely unknown because none of these sources contain the voices of the victims, survivors, the enslaved, and other cross-cultural citizens of Batavia. This paper delves into the fates of the inhabitants rather than focusing solely on the Company and its high-ranking officers. It presents the perspectives of 642 petitioners across a diverse range of ethnicities, gender, social classes, and occupations. The viewpoints of town officials, tax-farmers, free burghers, indigenous soldiers and their families, VOC sailors and surgeons, and the Chinese newcomers enrich the Eurocentric historiography of this tragedy and present 1741 Batavia as a land of opportunity in the midst of an economic crisis.

Abstracts Research Network Sessions

N1. Research network 'Life-courses, Family, and Labour'

Health in the city

Mayra Murkens and Tim Riswick (both Radboud University)

A competing risks analysis of victims and survivors: the impact of different socioeconomic factors on cause-specific early childhood mortality risks in Amsterdam, 1856-1865

Socioeconomic disparities in health in modern day society are high on the research agenda, as they appear to be omnipresent. Young children have often been overlooked when studying the historical roots of health inequalities, while they were the ones who predominantly succumbed in large numbers to a variety of infectious diseases before the health transition started. Our study examines what determined cause-specific early childhood mortality in mid-nineteenth century Amsterdam (1856-1865). By doing so, it addresses how different socioeconomic factors played a role in determining who died from which disease and who survived from age one to age five. Our results demonstrate that socioeconomic inequalities existed, regardless of the specific measure of socioeconomic status that was used. However, some of the inequalities are expressed mainly in particular diseases: tuberculosis, diphtheria and measles were causing the overall social gradient among airborne diseases. In addition, the stronger social gradient among the unknown causes of death implies that medical consumption of the lower classes was lower compared to the higher classes. The underlying causes of early child mortality were different from those of infant mortality, indicating that they provide different insights into the causes of inequalities in health.

Matthias Rosenbaum-Feldbrügge, Björn Quanjer (both Radboud University), and Kristina Thompson (Wageningen UR)

The impact of maternal death on the survival of enslaved children in Suriname, 1830-1863

Studies have shown strong relationships between maternal mortality and children's survival outcomes in historical and contemporary low-income contexts. However, this relationship has never been studied among an enslaved population, who encountered extremely harsh living conditions. Examining this relationship among different populations may reveal similarities and differences across contexts. The present study addresses this gap, by examining the life courses of children born between the years of 1830 and 1863 and enslaved in Suriname (n=18,946). Maternal death's relationship to children's hazard of death from age 6 months to twelve years was analysed with Cox proportional hazards models. For all children, experiencing maternal death was associated with 1.85 times the hazard of death (95% CI: 1.59 – 2.15), relative to not experiencing maternal death. This relationship was largest among infants, and decreased as children aged. We found that mothers were critical to childhood survival among people who were enslaved in Suriname. This was especially the case when children were infants, likely due to the importance of maternal care and breastfeeding on survival. These findings closely align with those of other studies, and reflect the importance of maternal care on childhood survival across time and space.

Isabella Devos (Ghent University and Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve) and Hilde Greefs (University of Antwerp)

The 1866 cholera epidemic in Antwerp and Brussels: a comparative analysis of the epidemic's trajectory and public health responses
Traditionally, historical research into epidemics has focused on the overall impact of an outbreak (total number of victims, areas,

and groups most affected), but rarely on how an epidemic develops on a daily or weekly basis. In this paper, we examine the trajectory of the severe cholera epidemic of 1866 as it unfolded in Antwerp and Brussels, then Belgium's largest cities, with 117,000 and 158,000 inhabitants respectively. Linking individual-level data from cholera case registers, cause-of-death registers, death certificates, and cadastral censuses, we can reconstruct a fairly complete picture of the epidemic's trajectory in Antwerp and Brussels, from the first death until the last death (2960 cholera deaths in Antwerp, and 3469 in Brussels). First, we examine how the epidemic unfolded across the city. As the graph shows, the epidemic in Antwerp was shorter and evolved more rapidly compared to Brussels where the curve was flatter. Which population groups (age, sex, occupation) were affected first, last, and most, and were some houses infected repeatedly? In which neighbourhoods did the epidemic persist the longest? And did these patterns differ in Antwerp and Brussels? Second, we juxtapose our findings with the actions taken by the city governments of Antwerp and Brussels, using city, provincial, and national government reports, as well as accounts of medical commissions. Did Antwerp and Brussels differ in the timing and type of measures implemented? And did these shape the trajectories of the epidemic in both cities differently? Through this comprehensive analysis, we aim to shed better light on the interplay between an epidemic's path and public health responses.

Arlinde Vrooman (Tilburg University)

The factors behind the spatial diffusion of colonial health care facilities in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire: c. 1900-1950

This paper analyses the factors influencing the spatial diffusion of the locations of colonial health care facilities in Ghana and Côte

d'Ivoire in the first half of the 20th century. Using a mixed methodology, it integrates analyses based on existing literature, historical sources, and econometric estimation. The literature review identifies several factors of this process, including the presence of Europeans and economic motives. However, the historical source analysis based on colonial medical reports shows that British and French colonial policymakers considered a more diverse range of factors (including geography, the development of railways and the effect on the local population) than previously recognized, that these factors changed over time, and that a greater variety of factors mattered in Côte d'Ivoire than in Ghana. Using a new dataset on the locations of colonial health care facilities to assess this process quantitatively, the results of the econometric analysis confirm these findings. Overall, this chapter contributes to the literature by offering a comparative perspective over time, and by providing nuanced insights into the potential determinants of the spatial diffusion of colonial health care facilities through a mixed methodology. In doing so, it highlights the importance of considering local conditions within countries when evaluating colonial health policies.

N2. Research network 'Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in Comparative Perspective'

Flows between town and country in the pre-industrial period

The time in which towns were once seen as 'islands in a rural sea' is already long gone. In the last couple of decades historians have recognised the interconnectedness between town and country, between industry and agriculture, and between consumption and production. Cities and a both local and global countryside have always stood in a 'metabolic' relationship with one another. Not only have cities always needed a great deal of natural resources for manufacture, construction and infrastructure, they have also

relied upon flows of labour and migration. The people working in the city as well as the goods processed and consumed in it often came 'from the outside' and required complex relationships with an immediate and remote hinterland. Yet, the town-country metabolism has known important rifts and shifts throughout history. Processes of urbanisation, commercialisation and globalisation, while increasing the pace of interaction within town-country metabolisms, have, paradoxically, also brought about a 'distancing' between core and periphery – a process that gained in speed during the later Middle Ages and Early Modern Period. In this session we will bring the pre-industrial city and countryside back together. What impact did cities have on their (local and global) surroundings? And how have, conversely, ecological hinterlands, commodity frontiers and other flows between town and country shaped the history of the pre-industrial city?

Frederik Buylaert and Thijs Lambrecht (both Ghent University)

Lordship, Towns, and Economic Change in the Low Countries, c. 1350-1650

In this paper, we present a team-based project on the political economy of lordship at Ghent University that engages with long-standing debates on seigneuries as extractive institutions that may have impinged significantly on pre-industrial economic development, up to the point that some historians have suggested, for example, that one of the root causes for the efflorescence of seventeenth-century Holland owed much to the relative absence of feudal institutions. This project explores seigneurial lordship as a factor to explain the emergence of different economic trajectories in the Low Countries between c. 1350 and c. 1650 with survey studies of seigneurial landscapes in Flanders, Brabant, Hainaut, Holland, Zeeland, and Guelders and comparative legal studies of the regulatory frameworks articulated in seigneurial regulations, village customals, and so on.

The project pays special attention to the role of towns, both as lords in their own right and as political actors that could intervene significantly in the power relations between rural lords and their seigneurial subjects.

Marjolein 't Hart (VU Amsterdam)

Warfare, cities and countryside. The impact of the Dutch Revolt on urban-rural relations

The Dutch Revolt had an enormous impact on the relationship between cities and countryside. In political respect, urban political power increased, whereas the power of landed elites declined. Warfare strengthened the defences of the towns, yet the countryside lay open to passing and marauding soldiers. Urban-based politics and strategies decided upon military ventures such as scorched earth campaigns and military inundations with devastating consequences for the farming population. As a result, peasant smallholders suffered and were forced to migrate. Larger farmers managed to maintain and extended their holdings. Urban based land ownership increased and stimulated larger farms. Certain districts, such as the Meierij in Brabant, declined in population and only recuperated after decades.

Wout Saelens (University of Antwerp)

From rift to shift: energy transition, metabolic expansion and urban agency in the early modern Low Countries

In energy history, pre-industrial (urban) economies are often viewed as inherently constrained by their immediate surroundings. Fuel had to come from nearby and usually was in short supply. Only until the transition to modern fuel in the form of coal appeared, a rift occurred in economies' close connection with the local hinterland, allowing them to expand and shift around their 'metabolic' reach towards more remote areas. This,

in turn, enabled the economy to grow in unprecedented proportions. Supply-side approaches and the role of 'geographic luck' in being blessed with energy endowments usually prevail. An energy transition had to occur before there could be an economic transition. In this paper I wish to stress more strongly the role of 'urban agency' in the expansion of energy metabolisms in the early modern period. I will do so by comparing the energy metabolisms of Ghent and Leiden – two highly similar textile cities but differing from one another on one crucial level: one made a quick transition to coal and the other did not. I will argue that early modern cities were not so much the result of their immediate environment. Instead, they were responsible in making a hinterland of their own, by internalising energy from ever-more distant areas and by externalising the burdens of this energy to the expanding ecological hinterland.

N3. Research network 'Inclusion, Exclusion, and Mobility'

Analysing the migrants' life cycle: from the postcolonial period to contemporary times

Swantje Falcke (Utrecht University)

Naturalisation, citizenship and mobility in the migrant life course

With citizenship acquisition migrants acquire a stable legal status that guarantees the right to stay and allows full political participation in the host country. Therefore, the literature has traditionally viewed citizenship acquisition as one of the final steps in a broader settlement process of immigrants. Given the focus on settlement, the relationship between citizenship acquisition and mobility is, theoretically and empirically, highly underresearched. In this paper we argue that citizenship acquisition may not always be a step in the settlement process but

can also be part of a mobility strategy. Citizenship acquisition may encourage migrants to intermittently travel to their origin country and back, or migrate onwards to their ultimate destination. We therefore analyze (1) whether and (2) for whom naturalization is a catalyst for further transnational mobility using register data from the Netherlands in which we track migrants that arrived in the Netherlands between 1990 and 2023.

Andrew Shield (Leiden University)

Queer migration history: archiving past & present narratives

Sexual and gender identities are seen as something personal and private. Yet sexual and gender norms are circumscribed from 'above' in many ways: including in journalistic, political, and media debates about migration. The most prominent example might be asylum for LGBTI people. The UNHCR's definition of 'persecution' and of a 'particular social group' have increasingly applied to sexual and gender minorities over the past decades. These policy changes are the results of decades of discussion between lawmakers, politicians, queer activists, and migrants themselves, who have often encountered hostile environments. In this presentation, I argue: 1) Migration history must seriously consider sexuality and gender identity: not only how SOGI-minorities have utilized migration policies – or have been restricted by them – but also how norms about sexuality and gender are built into the foundation of institutions dealing with migration; 2) Researchers need to do archival work before conducting new oral histories with queer migrants.

Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (Leiden University)

Coming to terms with the colonial legacy by professionalising social care

The passionate promoter of the professionalisation of social work in the Netherlands Marie Kamphuis mentioned Eileen Younghusband), dame of the British empire, as a great example for her own professionalising efforts in social work in her memoirs of 1986.

In the same period, they were both active in the building of a structured education curriculum of social work and the introduction of a new method of social work: social casework in their respective home countries the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. They had a large international network of primarily female social workers, whose meaning in terms of emancipation has never been explored. And very importantly, they were both active in social work when the first large groups of postcolonial migrants after the second world war from the former colonies arrived: Indo-Europeans in the Netherlands and primarily coloured people from the West Indies in the United Kingdom. The aim of this paper is to analyse the similarities and differences between the development of social work in the 1950s and 1960s in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, the role of Marie Kamphuis and Eileen Younghusband in that process, and the impact of the arrival of postcolonial migrants.

N4. Research network 'Routes and Roots in Colonial and Global History'

Commodity frontiers

Michiel de Haas (Wageningen UR)

How well do we understand cotton imperialism in Africa? Metropolitan interests, local conditions and diffuse outcomes

This paper explores efforts by European colonizers to export cotton from Africa in return for finished textiles. I investigate trade patterns between colonies and metropolises, and discuss how

Germany, Britain, France, Belgium, and Portugal sought to increase cotton production in their African colonies. I trace the evolution of a widely supported doctrine of “cotton imperialism” among European colonial circles in the 19th century, investigate the extent to which this doctrine was translated into actual policy efforts, and evaluate the extent to which these efforts resulted in the intended outcomes. I find a large rift between colonial rhetoric and realities on the African cotton frontiers. I argue that scholars should be careful not to replicate self-congratulatory and overly optimistic assessments by early colonial officials to develop a coherent and effective colonial economic strategy, nor invert such assessments by stating that cotton in Africa was a complete failure. Instead, outcomes were diffuse, driven by a range of local factors and unanticipated contingencies.

Luc Bulten (Leiden University and Radboud University)

Commodifying cinnamon: Lankan planters gaining access to the global spice market, 1771-1795

From the very moment the first European colonisers inserted themselves into the markets and economies of the Indian Ocean World, they attempted to restrict access to both the production of and trade in commodities that were in demand globally. Whether it was nutmeg, coffee, tobacco, sugar, black pepper, or cinnamon, colonial powers did their utmost to keep local producers and merchants at bay. Colonial policy in this regard, however, was not in unison. In some contexts, local farmers could grow so-called ‘cash-crops’ in return for – as the name suggests – money. In such cases production was local, but trade and access to the global market was still firmly in the hands of colonial powers. In others, however, these powers did everything they could to physically ban anyone from accessing lucrative products bar the (forced) labourers producing them. Interestingly, in the case of cinnamon production in late eighteenth-century Sri Lanka, the latter

scenario was replaced by the first, and in a relatively short time Sri Lankan plantation owners gained access to not just the product, but also to the market. In this paper I will explore the tactics deployed by Lankan planters after the Dutch colonial government alleviated their monopoly on cinnamon production and trade from 1771 onwards. Subsequently I will reflect on the consequences of this change in policy and economic activity, particularly in relation to our contemporary ideas of the history and genealogy of global capitalism and trade.

Allan Souza Quieroz (Ghent University)

From Quilombo dos Palmares to Operation Zumbi dos Palmares: a long-term perspective on free and unfree labour in the Brazilian sugarcane plantation

This presentation examines the continuities and changes in the labour regime on Brazilian sugarcane plantations. From enslaved to wage labour, the labour question on the plantations displays a continuum of unfreedoms and the use of mechanisms to immobilise and fixate workers while denying them rights and protections. In particular, the retention of documents, the system of punishments and rewards, and political repression are key elements of the current labour regime on the plantations. Despite legal freedoms, these coercive practices and dehumanisation have been a means of exploiting the workforce in recent years, so much so that workers use the grammar of slavery to characterise these relationships. But these continuities have been accompanied by social struggles. Historical forms of resistance from the colonial plantation to modern capitalist agribusiness underscore workers' struggles for land, autonomy, labour control and alternatives to capitalism. From a legacy (of slavery and colonialism) to a central feature of capitalism – from a long-term perspective – I argue that coercive labour practices or this continuum of unfreedoms remain a feature of modern sugar commodity production and that they continue to face great resistance from workers.

N5. Research network 'Societies in Context: Interactions between humans and rural-urban environments'

Institutions and development in the (post)colonial Global South

Organisers: Katharine Frederick and Wouter Ronsijn

Aditi Dixit (Wageningen UR)

Raw cotton markets, industrial strategies, and trade organization in India and Japan, c. 1890-1940

This paper examines differences in access to raw cotton markets between India and Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Raw cotton contributed significantly to total production costs. The significance of access to appropriate quality of raw cotton—expressed by its length, grade, and character—however had more substantive implications than value shares suggest. Longer stapled varieties of cotton were priced higher in global markets but compensated for these costs with gains in productivity and by affecting the choice of longer-run technological adoption. These factors meant that textile industries with stable and cost-effective access to appropriate quality raw cotton were better equipped to deal with the vagaries and dynamism of competition that had by the end of the nineteenth century become entrenched in the global textile market. This paper thus argues that the relationship between raw cotton markets, industrial strategies, and trade organisation was a significant factor in the differences in long-run development of the textile industries in India and Japan.

Vigyan Ratnoo (Utrecht University)

Seasonality and development in colonial India

Does climate explain regional development patterns in colonial India? We use new station-level rainfall and temperature data to construct a measure of seasonality that captures the long run levels of aridity and humidity in different parts of the subcontinent. We find significant relationships between the length of seasons and income, literacy and mortality rates. The paper shows that irrigation infrastructure did not affect the sensitivity of development to climate during the colonial period, and we propose low investment as well as technological backwardness as explanations for this finding. An analysis of cropping patterns shows that for many regions geographical constraints were binding at the end of the colonial period.

Katharine Frederick (Utrecht University)

Economic ideologies and colonial legacies: comparing industrialization strategies in early post-colonial Kenya and Tanzania

During the post-colonial 1960s and 1970s, the governments of newly independent African nations sought to stimulate economic development and modernization by encouraging rapid industrialization, particularly in the textile sector. The former British settler colony of Kenya embraced capitalism and welcomed foreign investment, while also incorporating import-substitution strategies; meanwhile, neighboring Tanzania, formerly a German-turned-British non-settler colony, adopted a socialist model including state ownership of key industries and eschewing foreign investment. Using trade and industry reports, policy statements and correspondence between industrial actors and government ministries, this paper traces and compares Kenyan and Tanzanian industrial strategies in textile manufacturing to explore the

causes, characteristics, and implications of their respective capitalist- and socialist-oriented policies in the decades following independence. This paper also considers how interactions between Kenya and Tanzania affected their respective strategies as they observed and competed with the other for regional markets.

N6. Research network 'Globalisation, Inequality and Sustainability in Long-Term Perspective'

Histories of globalisation, inequality and sustainability in regional contexts

This session unravels the interconnectedness of historical developments and phenomena, and in an interregional context. The session presents four papers of ongoing and recently started research. The papers vary in scope from early modern to modern history. The sessions takes us from a the long term perspective of the regional 'Tiny Divergence' in the (Northern) Netherland, via shifts in wood resourcing regions of the early modern Frisian wood processing industries, to modern day entangled histories of soy between Brazil and the Netherlands and high tech supply chain cooperations between the Netherlands and Taiwan.

Alexandra M. de Pleijt (Wageningen UR), Jan Huiting, and Jan Luiten van Zanden (both Utrecht University)

30,000 wages and the Tiny Divergence, 1300-1800

The late Medieval period saw the rise of Holland as the leading economic region in the Northern part of the Low Countries. Traditionally, Utrecht had been the biggest city, the urban center, north of the Great Rivers, but the Eastern Netherlands, in particular the IJssel valley which was integrated into the Hanze network of international trade, had also prospered in the late

Medieval period, with Deventer as perhaps the leading city, but Arnhem, Zutphen, Kampen and Zwolle as almost equally prosperous nodes in the network of international trade. Holland was still a marginal part of the Netherlands in 1300, but the next three centuries witnessed its rise to dominance – a position it arguably already achieved at about 1500, when it had become the most urbanized and dynamic region in the Northern Netherlands.

Much has been written about – what we would like to call – the Tiny Divergence that occurred in the Netherlands between 1300 and 1600, which created the foundation of the ‘Golden’ 17th century. One part of the debate focuses on the links between the Black Death of 1348, which supposedly was relatively mild in the Northern Netherlands, and the kickstart of Holland’s economy in the same period. The ecological crisis that struck Holland in the same period resulting from the subsidence of its peat soils is another theme in the debate. The problem with these and other explanations of the divergent development paths in the Northern Netherlands is that the empirical basis of the economic historical research has been rather thin, and, perhaps even more importantly, is almost entirely limited to quantitative data concerning the County of Holland.

This paper is the first product of a large project to chart and analyse the three trajectories of economic development – Holland, Utrecht and the Eastern Netherlands – between 1300 and 1800. We concentrate on data taken from the accounts of cities, churches and state institutions that are abundantly available for this period, and that contain massive numbers of quotations of wages and prices. Working on the collection of these data we were overwhelmed by the richness of these sources; in total, for example, more than 30,000 wage observations were collected, which created another challenge: how to process such a large dataset and draw conclusions from such abundance. The paper discusses these methodological problems, and proposes ways to analyse the large dataset in a systematic way, at the same time

addressing some of the 'big question' of the economic history of the Netherlands.

Hanno Brand (Fryske Akademy)

Shifts and specialisation in 17th-century Frisian overseas wood transports

During the early modern period Dutch maritime transport within north-western Europe was largely in the hands of Frisian skippers. By the end of the 17th-century Frisia provided for over 40% of all Dutch shipping capacity towards the Baltic. The region was therefore crucial for the imports of primary (bulk) goods, among which wood, in the Low Countries. Because of its multiple applications demand of processed and non-processed wood was sustained and represented a prime import commodity of the Low Countries. During the 17th century delivery markets for wood shifted from the Norwegian coast to the Eastern Baltic. Overseas wood transport was marked by trends of specialisation in both routes and brands. This paper tries to unravel these various trends while focusing on the share of Frisian shipping in notably the second half of the 17th century. It touches upon questions that relate to the dependency on the Amsterdam market, shifts in volumes of both cargoes and shipping, trends of specialisation among the Frisians seafaring towns and on the broad spectrum of production markets. The paper also attempts to clarify how within a cluster of Frisian maritime harbours trends of specialisation and flexibility came to the surface. Research into the long term trends in the Baltic Region is heavily based on the Sound Toll registers. Relations with Norway are investigated on basis of short range accounts, combined with observations that relate to changing market conditions and Norwegian trading policies.

Erik van der Vleuten (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Dutch nitrogen crisis and Brazilian deforestation crisis: connected sustainability histories, futures, and knowledge politics

This contribution presents some of the intellectual ambitions and points of departure of the NWO-OC program SOY STORIES. Bringing into conversation the histories of the Dutch Nitrogen Crisis and the deforestation crisis in several Brazilian bioregions, it raises several questions for discussion. First it explores how a connected histories perspective (starting out from ‘the connected’ rather than ‘the connection’) may help study a plurality of place-based or community-based sustainability histories, that nevertheless developed in mutual interaction. Second, these connected histories imply that both regions’ futures are also connected. The presentation explores relevant ontological and epistemic politics of others’ and our own historical narratives, engaging with scholarly debates on transformative and transdisciplinary research.

Mila Davids (Eindhoven University of Technology)

Sustainable challenges in the global semiconductor supply chain: coordination and cooperation between stakeholders in Dutch and Taiwanese high-tech regions

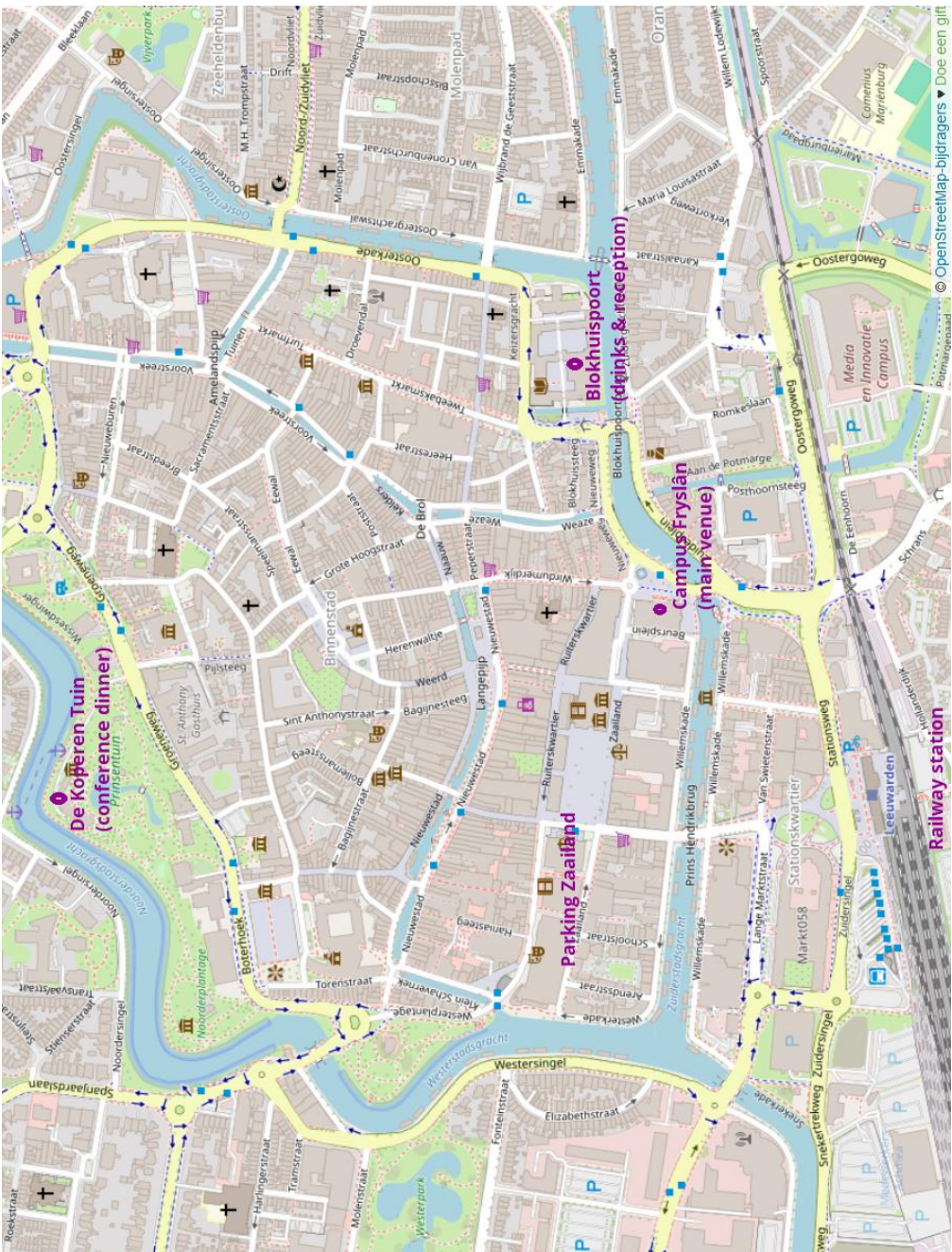
Although small and often invisible, chips are essential in our current society. Semiconductors are critical components for your computer and smartphone, even your toaster, car, electric bicycle, and heating system. It is not for nothing the IC industry is considered the new oil industry. A significant characteristic of the semiconductor industry is its complexity and interdependence of the various stakeholders in the chain, which only grew over time.

The importance of cooperation and coordination between the players in the semiconductor industry has, therefore, only grown over time.

From its early days, the industry has, with Moore's law as an important driving force, focused on miniaturization and increasing chip power and energy efficiency. Since the beginning of the 21st century, industry has begun to pay attention to its environmental sustainability. It became increasingly clear that collaboration in research, development, and manufacturing processes along the production chain became even more essential.

This paper outlines these developments and shows what this meant for key Taiwanese and Dutch players in the high-tech regions; Dutch Brainport and Hsinchu in Taiwan. Think of companies like TSMC, ASML, as well as research institutes like ITRI and imec and universities like Eindhoven University of Technology, National Chiao Tung and National Tsing University.

Notes



Organising institutions

The **N.W. Posthumus Institute (NWP)** is *the* Research School for Economic and Social History in the Netherlands and Flanders, within which fifteen universities and research institutes cooperate. The NWP is currently hosted by the Department of History & Art History of Utrecht University. The NWP promotes innovative and advanced interdisciplinary research by providing a PhD training and a research master's programme in economic and social history, organizing an annual conference and stimulating workshops and seminars.

As a future-oriented network institution, the **Fryske Akademy** conducts, shares and facilitates scientific research on the Frisian case in an international and multidisciplinary perspective. This concerns both fundamental and applied research. The focus is on Frisian, multilingual society, regional history in an international perspective, minority languages and cultures and the development of digital infrastructures - preferably in a cross-disciplinary and comparative perspective.

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