Registration Form Valorisation Grant

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PhD Project Title: Resistance Literature during the French Regime, 1806-1813  
Start PhD project: 01/09/2011  
End date PhD contract: 01/06/2016

Please answer the question below by using a maximum of 1000 words in total.

1. What sort of activities would you like to implement and who are the stakeholders of your initiative?

This year will see the beginning of the celebrations of ‘Two hundred years Kingdom of the Netherlands’ (November 2013). During the festivities the years 1813-1815 will be commemorated as the period in which the Dutch were liberated from the Napoleonic oppressor and the sovereignty was restored. To share in these historical festivities, I would like to present a tangible and interesting historical source which can contribute to a better understanding of our cultural identity: Dutch resistance songs against Napoleon.

The Dutch archives contain a lot of folk songs in which the French armies are mocked and Napoleon is portrayed as a tyrant. Although these songs have been ignored in traditional historical research, they can add to our understanding of resistance culture and public opinions in the Napoleonic period. This project intends to show that Dutch resistance culture was omnipresent during the Napoleonic times and that ideas of national identity were continuously being constituted.

The working plan is threefold. First, collecting (a selection of ten to twelve) protest songs from the archives and placing them in their proper historical context. Second, finding the melodies of these songs and recording these songs with a band. Third, organising a congress in which the results will be presented and debated.

The activities are as follows: the output of this project, which will be presented at a congress, consists of a book which contains the songs and some historical background written for the general public. The book will contain a cd with recordings. At the congress, this historical heritage of the Napoleonic period will be debated, the songs will be performed in a live concert and the book will be presented. This way, it will be an integral part of the festivities surrounding the commemoration of the foundation of the kingdom of the Netherlands.

Stakeholders:
- Radboud University Nijmegen
- Uitgeverij Vantilt (Marc Beerens)
- Huygens/ ING: 200 jaar koninkrijk
- Meertens Institute KNAW
- Tom Brouwer’s band (musicians, who play old folk songs)
- Studio; Tom Brouwer (for recording the dc)
- High Schools
- Cultural Organisations (Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds)
- Gemeente Nijmegen en Provincie Gelderland
2. Please explain the social benefit of your project and demonstrate the knowledge utilisation of your PhD project.

National identity is one of the most contested concepts in science and politics today. The celebrations, lasting from November 2013 to October 2015, in which we commemorate that our country was transformed into a modern monarchy, is at the heart of these debates. The current historical view on the Napoleonic era (1806-1813) is that the Dutch willingly submitted to the French oppressor. However, in the last few years studies have shown that Dutch citizens did oppose the French rule. My PhD project *Resistance Literature during the French Regime, 1806-1813* focuses on the substantiation of the cultural categories of these protests and intends to show that they were embedded in a broader national discourse in which ideas of Dutchness, sovereignty and love of the fatherland play an important role. The Napoleonic period is a decisive moment in the creation of these cultural (nationalistic) elements, which were further implemented and enforced on a broader level during the nineteenth century.

This can be made very clear by examining folk songs of resistance. The songs formed a central element (together with literature) in the cultural resistance against Napoleon. My intention is to bring these sources to a broader (public) audience by showing how this protest was articulated. The songs are useful to further improve historical knowledge of Napoleonic period, because of their accessible content. Therefore, they can be used as a source for teaching activities at high schools. High schools will be asked to participate in the project, and take part in the commemoration of 1813/15-2013/15.

The songs are of a diverse nature: there are songs which call upon the House of Orange to liberate the Dutch from the French tyranny (*Vive Orange!*), songs which lament the young boys who served in the Napoleonic armies (as a result of the Napoleonic conscription), and songs about the bad economic conditions as a result of the Napoleonic wars and Continental system. The songs will be selected carefully so that the historical diversity of the period will not be ignored.

3. Please consider a detailed planning consisting of a timeline of deliverables as well as a budget plan to implement your initiative.

First an inventory has to be compiled of (possible) resistance songs. The *Liederenbank* (Meertens Institute) can serve as the starting point. Second, the songs have to be analysed in their historical context. This process can be conducted simultaneously with the analysis of (literary) sources for my PhD project. Possible research questions are: what do the songs refer to and which elements are used for articulating protest? What was the impact of the songs? Third, the melodies have to be reconstructed in order to be able to perform the songs. These songs will be recorded (both vocally and musically) with a band. Fourth: a congress will be organised at which the book will be presented, together with a performance/concert of the songs by the band in the spring of 2015.

**Output:**
A book in which the songs are introduced and contextualised, to be presented at the congress (provisional title: *Verzetsliederen tegen Napoleon*). This includes a cd with recordings of these resistance songs (intended publisher: Uitgeverij Vantilt Nijmegen).

**Timetable:**
- Analyses of resistance songs (already started as part of PhD research) and melodies: January 2014- summer 2014
- Contacting stakeholders: January- February 2014
- Writing of the book: early spring 2014 – autumn 2014 (can start after the selection process has been finished)
- Recording songs: summer/ autumn 2014
- Organising the congress: spring 2014- winter 2014
- Congress and presentation of book: spring 2015