SELF EVALUATION 2009-2014
Self Evaluation Report 2009-2014

N.W. Posthumus Institute

Research School for Economic and Social History
N.W. Posthumus Institute
Research School for Economic and Social History
in the Netherlands and Flanders

In 2009 the N.W. Posthumus Institute was established at:
University of Groningen, Faculty of Economics and Business

In 2010-2014 the N.W. Posthumus Institute was established at:
Leiden University, Institute for History
P.O. Box 9515
2300 RA Leiden
The Netherlands
Phone: 00-31-(0)71-527 2947
E-mail: nwp@hum.leidenuniv.nl
www.hum.leiden.edu/posthumus

The secretariat of the N.W. Posthumus Institute consisted of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Scientific Director</th>
<th>Education Program Director</th>
<th>Office Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Dr. H.J. de Jong</td>
<td>Dr. B. Gales</td>
<td>A. van der Veen -Mooij</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Dr. L.J. Touwen</td>
<td>Dr. A. Schmidt</td>
<td>R.J. Wensma, BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Dr. L.J. Touwen</td>
<td>Dr. A. Schmidt</td>
<td>R.J. Wensma, BA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dr. L.J. Touwen</td>
<td>Dr. A.M. Molema From 1 Sept</td>
<td>Drs. R. Boerrigter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Dr. L.J. Touwen</td>
<td>Dr. A.M. Molema From 1 Sept</td>
<td>Drs. R. Boerrigter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Dr. L.J. Touwen</td>
<td>Dr. C. J. Zuijderduijn From 1 July</td>
<td>Drs. R. Boerrigter/T. Vosters MA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participating faculties and institutes
1. Eindhoven University of Technology (TUe), Faculty of Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences
2. Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), Faculty of History and Arts
3. Ghent University (UGhent), Faculty of Arts and Philosophy
4. International Institute of Social History (IISG)
5. Leiden University (UL), Faculty of Humanities
6. Radboud University Nijmegen (RU), Faculty of Arts
7. Sociaal Historisch Centrum voor Limburg (SHCL)
8. University of Amsterdam (UvA), Faculty of Humanities
9. University of Antwerp (UA), Faculty of Arts
10. University of Groningen (RUG), Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Economics and Business
11. University of Leuven (KULeuven) (Candidate member since 2012)
12. Utrecht University (UU), Faculty of Humanities
13. Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB), Faculty of Arts
14. VU University Amsterdam (VU), Faculty of Arts
15. Wageningen University (WUR), Rural History Group
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1. Introduction

1.1 Research School for Economic and Social History
The N.W. Posthumus Institute is the Research School for Economic and Social History in the Netherlands and Flanders. It has 14 members and 1 candidate member. It embodies the cooperation between almost three hundred economic and social historians attached to 15 universities and research institutions in the Netherlands and Flanders.

The mission of the Posthumus Institute is twofold:
- The Posthumus Institute provides graduate training in economic and social history, as well as a number of Research MA courses, through interuniversity programs that meet international standards.
- The Posthumus Institute promotes innovative and advanced interdisciplinary research in economic and social history by stimulating joint research programs of universities and research institutes in the Netherlands and Flanders.

The Posthumus Institute was founded in 1988 as the Netherlands Interuniversity Institute For Graduate Training in Economic and Social Historical Research. In 1994 the Posthumus Institute was officially recognized as a Research School by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). The official accreditation was renewed in 1999, in 2004, and in 2011 each time for 6 years. The Posthumus Institute has established a durable platform for collaboration among scholars in the field of economic and social history. Since 2004 the Flemish universities of Antwerp (UA), Brussels (VUB) and Ghent (UGhent) officially became Posthumus partners. In 2012, KU Leuven joined the Posthumus Institute as a candidate member.

The Annual Reports of the N.W. Posthumus Institute since 2006 can be found at: [http://hum.leiden.edu/posthumus/about/annual-reports.html](http://hum.leiden.edu/posthumus/about/annual-reports.html)

1.2 Research and PhD projects in Economic and Social History
Economic and social history is inspired by methods and concepts from economics and the social sciences. The Posthumus Institute brings scholars together within this wide thematic field, but organizes five research themes to cluster its members with regard to their specialization. The five themes are surveyed in section 4 below, but we would like to introduce them briefly here.

In the program ‘Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in a Comparative Perspective’, the approaches of economic history and social history tend to complement each other, in the tradition of the discipline. By contrast, the theme ‘Drivers and Carriers of Globalization: Technology, Economics and Business in Transnational and Comparative Perspective’ (which includes Business History of the Netherlands, which was previously a theme on its own) is directed toward a combination of economic history and history of technology. It applies both comparative and transnational analysis. It is, in broad terms, mainly concerned with economic growth and technological change in the 19th and 20th Centuries, although in the Great Divergence debate these borders are crossed. ‘People, Space, and Places in History’ focuses on space and spatial aspects of economic and social history and takes the long-term perspective interchangeably with a
more recent focus. ‘Life-courses, Family, and Labour’ brings together those working on historical demography and labour, with an emphasis on the modern period. ‘Social History of Communities’ spans the early and modern periods, focusing on social historical themes and concepts, such as ‘civil society’. Most programs explicitly look outside Europe and attempt to develop a global perspective.

PhD students have a social-economic historical component or approach in their research project in order to be eligible to participate in the Posthumus Training. Their research projects range from medieval/early-modern markets to post-war economic policy, from labour relations in the textile industry to shipping lines during the First World War, from ethnicization in Africa to procedures for asylum seekers in the Netherlands, from early modern merchants to twentieth century industry, and from guilds to social movements. Box 1 shows a sample of Posthumus PhD projects by listing the defended dissertations of the years 2010-2012.

Former Posthumus PhD student dr. Karwan Fatah Black presents a lecture in Middelburg on 13 June 2014; Posthumus PhD student Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson presents a paper at the Social Science History Conference in Toronto, 9 November 2014.

Box 1: Examples of Posthumus PhD projects: Dissertations 2010-2012

- Martijn Lak, *Because we need them... German-Dutch relations after the occupation: economic inevitability and political acceptance, 1945-1957*. PhD Dissertation EUR (Rotterdam 2012).
- Jeroen Euwe, *'It is therefore both in the German and in the Dutch interest...’ Dutch-German relations after the Great War. Interwoven economies and political détente, 1918-1931*. PhD Dissertation EUR (Rotterdam 2012).
1.3 The LOGOS Criteria

The Dutch interuniversity research schools in the Humanities cooperate within LOGOS. The Deans of seven Dutch Faculties of Humanities and Arts (of the fifteen that are member of the Posthumus Institute) cooperate in a consultative group called DLG (UU, RU, UL, UvA, VU, RUG, EUR). In the communication with this platform the Dutch research schools in the Humanities are represented by LOGOS. On 28 January 2015, the chair of LOGOS, prof.dr. A. Lardinois agreed with the chair of DLG and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University prof. dr. H.W. van den Doel on the following criteria for the continuation of the 2011 LOGOS-DLG Agreement on research schools in the Humanities. The LOGOS/DLG agreement states that the interuniversity research schools have the following tasks:

- to provide a platform for fine-tuning local and interuniversity educational activities for PhD students and ResMA students in each discipline, and communicate these by means of a website, newsletter, interuniversity study catalogue; and commit themselves to developing new forms of education.
- to facilitate and promote mobility of PhD students between cooperating graduate schools, partly by organizing activities such as summer and winter schools, master classes, etc.\(^1\)
- to organize interuniversity educational activities for PhD students and ResMA students, which are largely taught by staff member of participating universities (graduate schools).
- to develop initiatives that promote participation by foreign PhD students in training activities.

\(^1\) The terminology may be confusing: In the Netherlands, a \textit{graduate school} is a local institution within a university that provides training for PhD students and Res MA students within the department. A \textit{research school} is an interuniversity institution providing training for PhD students and Res MA students within their (sub-) discipline. The Posthumus Institute is a research school.
• to promote and support national and international cooperation in research and provide connections across specialization aiming at focus and momentum.
• to facilitate and stimulate interdisciplinary research in appropriate areas, in addition to the graduate schools en research institutes, and function as an internal and external point of contact for the specialization / sub-discipline.

The following criteria are relevant for the evaluation of these tasks:
1. Can the complimentary or supportive role of the interuniversity research school in the education of PhD students and ResMA students in the sub-discipline be demonstrated, through annual activities and participation of PhD students and ResMA students?
2. Did the research school display a national profile through participation of scholars, PhD students and ResMA students of at least three universities?
3. Did the research school show adequate quality in performing these tasks, as shown by peer reviews of local graduate research and/or by the research schools themselves?

This report aims at providing information that answers these criteria.

2. Profile of the Research School

2.1 Leadership
The Posthumus Institute is generally regarded as a central hub for the field of Economic and Social History in the Netherlands and Flanders. It is formal constituent member of the International Economic History Association (IEHA). It is frequently addressed by NWO and KNAW for surveys, as for example in their survey on academic integrity or quality indicators for research in the Humanities. Major conferences, job vacancies, newly appointed staff, and research activities, are published in the Posthumus Newsletter, which is disseminated every two or three weeks to circa 400 subscribers, and on the Posthumus website.

2.2 Decision making procedures and management
The General Board, consisting of the holders of chairs in economic and social history at the participating institutions, takes all major decisions of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. The Deans of the Faculties of Humanities are consulted in major policy decisions, as they are responsible for the research activities of the Posthumus staff members, who are employed in their faculties. The General Board of Posthumus meets biannually.

As an interuniversity research institute the Posthumus Institute has its own budget, supporting staff, and secretariat. The institute financially supports workshops, conferences and book publications to initiate new research activities or to support the dissemination of research results.

The Posthumus Institute organizes a successful research training program for PhD students, courses for Research MA students, and stimulates interuniversity research programs. For both postgraduate students and senior scholars the Posthumus Institute provides access to a wide range of information and expertise, and it has a large interna-
tional network of experts in social and economic history.

The daily affairs of NWP are managed by a small secretariat consisting of a scientific director, an education program director and an office manager, supported by the Executive Committee of the General Board. Between 2010 and 2015 the secretariat was housed at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Leiden. The Posthumus Institute has a rotating secretariat. The secretariat was based in Utrecht University (1988-1994), Erasmus University Rotterdam (1994-1998), Radboud University Nijmegen (1999-2003) and the University of Groningen (2004-2009) before moving to Leiden.

The Posthumus Institute has two committees to monitor the quality of its teaching activities: the Education Committee and the Examination Committee. The Education Committee meets during the Annual Posthumus Conference. The Examination Committee is consulted for new applications and decisions regarding certificates and diplomas. Two to four PhD students represent the PhD students.

The eleven ‘Program Directors’ who direct the five Research Themes are introduced in section 4 below.

**Representation in LOGOS and SODOLA**

The Posthumus Institute is represented through its Scientific Director in two associations of research schools, which facilitate exchange of best practices and aim at some form of collective interest representation. LOGOS represents the research schools in the Humanities, SODOLA is the national association of research schools.

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*Lively discussions over lunch at the 2014 Research Design Course in Frankfurt; City walk during the 2013 Research Design Course in Verona.*

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**2.3 NWO Graduate Programme**

In 2010 the N.W. Posthumus Institute was awarded a block grant of €800.000 in the NWO Graduate Programme by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), for four PhD students. The Posthumus proposal for this grant combined an interuniversity Research MA Programme in Global Economic and Social History, starting in 2011, with four PhD-positions starting in 2013. In the Posthumus Research MA, Posthumus fellows cooperate to teach two or three elective courses to Research MA students from any of the member universities (see more on this below). From these stu-
four PhD candidates were recruited in an open competition in the Spring of 2013, by a selection committee consisting of Hilde Greefs (UA) Hein Klemann (EUR), Ad Knotter (SHCL), Jeroen Touwen (UL) and Eric Vanhaute (UGhent). The selected PhD candidates are Kate Frederick (WUR), Ye Ma (RUG), Tim Riswick (RU), and Liesbeth Rosen Jacobson (UL), they started in the Fall of 2013.

2.4 Strategic outlook
The Posthumus Institute is convinced that there is a strong connection between international scientific research and the organization of successful PhD and ResMA training. PhD research contributes to and participates in international academic exchange and should gain from this. The training activities need to be attuned towards the individual research projects and require input by specialists in the specific research theme. The task of bringing researchers in contact with each other and with PhD research in their field is fruitful to the development of cooperative research projects and to raising and training a new generation of skilled economic and social historians.

Facilitating PhD Students
Posthumus PhD students are introduced to existing research groups, get to know important economic and social historians, and are challenged to make themselves known. Presenting yourself and your work, receiving comments and digesting these, and participating in discussions with fellow PhD students are essential elements of a successful training. The Basic Training program has found a very effective form, based on the experience of the past twenty years. The Advanced Training is tailor-made, and has three focal points: to generate international exposure, to engage in a network, and to train in presenting a paper at a conference. Details of the programs are given below.

The Posthumus Institute evaluates every course with a survey among the participants. The results of these surveys are discussed in the bi-annual meetings of the General Board.

Alumni policy
The Posthumus Institute has the ambition to keep track of former PhD students, so as to present PhD students with career orientation, or to provide feedback when we need them on non-academic issues. In 2014, a meet & greet session was organized at the Annual Conference in Leeuwarden to facilitate orientation on the job market for PhD students. Some 300 former PhD students are connected to the Posthumus Institute through a LinkedIn-group.

The majority (more than 70%) of the Posthumus alumni currently work at a university in the Netherlands or Belgium. They fulfill functions as researcher, lecturer or (associate) professor in the field of social or economic history. Other alumni ended up in organizational and administrative functions within the university. About 20% of the alumni have a managing position in a historical institution or a research organization (for example: the agency Inbo (a company in the field of urban consultancy, urbanism, architecture and architectural engineering) or the Dutch Agronomic Historical Institute) A small part (about 7%) of the alumni works for the government. We find them at different Ministries, such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment or the Ministry of Justice, where they are employed as (senior) policy advisor.
**Societal impact (valorisation)**

Societal impact is becoming an important evaluation criterion for research project applications and in government policy regarding academic priorities. Since 2013, the Posthumus Institute has started to include information on societal impact ('valorisation') of its members' activities in the Annual Reports. These include the organization of exhibitions, radio and television interviews, public lectures, and so on.

**Assessment 2008**

In 2002 and 2008 the Posthumus Institute organized international peer reviews. Table 1 summarizes the reactions and strategic decisions that were inspired by the 2008 Evaluation Report.

**Table 1: Summary of Actions 2008-2014**

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exogenous financial problems due to Dutch policy.</td>
<td>This problem was solved in 2011. A formal government policy report was published that emphasized the importance and value of interuniversity research schools; next, the Deans of seven Faculties of Humanities (DLG) have created a pooled solution (which we hope will be extended in 2015).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In any event, we do not feel that a change in funding should imply that it should settle down at a permanent location.</td>
<td>The Posthumus Institute intends to continue rotating between universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Graduate Training.'</td>
<td>We started ResMA courses in 2012; We continued and consolidated the Basis Training for PhD students; We extended the Advanced Training for PhD students by organizing more activities (see below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more rigorous enforcement and more detailed statement of the training requirements is needed. At the moment the training program director has relatively few options except in his/her ability to inform the relevant university.</td>
<td>The secretariat maintains good relations with all social and economic historians. Generally the commitment to contribute to Posthumus training activities is large and constructive. Additional options are to ask Board Members to step in, either to mediate or to assist in person. PhD students and ResMA students evaluate all teaching activity in which they participate. Fellows, whose contribution was evaluated negatively, are not asked again for teaching purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The selection of master classes needs to fit the students' interests and requirements better and attendance should be enforced more tightly. The entire concept should be taken more seriously.</td>
<td>Master classes are actively promoted by the training program director (a) by communicating them to the PhD student through the Research Leaders and Members of the Board, and (b) through the Posthumus Newsletter. PhD students are encouraged to recruit their own 'Master', with the support of the Posthumus Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In writing the publishable article expected from students, some more assistance and advice should be given, especially geared toward the special demands and expectations of economic and social history periodicals and conferences.</td>
<td>Various initiatives address this point. At the Research Design Course (for PhD students who enter their second year) we organize a plenary lecture + workshop on publishing in peer reviewed journals. For the third and fourth year PhD students, publishing workshops have been organized in 2012, 2013, 2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The assignment of students into research groups should be more flexible, allowing students to participate in more than one group. They are invited to join research groups.</td>
<td>Since 2010, PhD students can participate in more than one group. They are invited to join research groups.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The transition into research groups must be done with care, and the linkage between groups should be strengthened.

A special problem is posed to the system by the introduction of the “research masters” into the Dutch curricula. The problem is not only that this changes the structure of graduate studies in the Netherlands but also that by all signs no such degree will be introduced in the Flemish universities, complicating the coordination with Flemish universities. We call for maximum institutional flexibility here, because it presents both a challenge and an opportunity. Clearly, if the Posthumus Institute can absorb a substantial number of graduate students who are in their 2nd year of a research Masters, these people can form the basis of a larger and possibly higher-quality constituency of researchers in economic history. This option however, will require more resources.

We think that the organization of the Annual Posthumus Conference, which includes sessions on each research theme, strengthen the exposure of fellows to different groups. The theme leaders meet annually and are also invited to a dinner, to strengthen ties.

Since 2011, the Posthumus Institute has organized courses for Research MA students, 3x 10 EC and later 2 x 10 EC, providing introductions on global comparative history and research methods in economic and social history. Flemish students who are in a one-year program are encouraged to participate (based on recommendation by their supervisor). In 2014 we replaced weekly meetings by meetings every two weeks, to reduce travelling time for participating students (especially from Flanders).

### 2.5 Researchers and other personnel

In 2007, the Posthumus Institute consisted of 33.0 fte of tenured staff, 6.9 fte of non-tenured post-doctoral researchers, and 62 fte PhD students. Since 2009, we no longer register the exact fte-component of the staff members who are Posthumus fellows. As a consequence, the Annual Reports state the names of all tenured staff members in Economic and Social History, affiliated with the Posthumus Institute by the participation of the faculty or research institute (in Appendix 7 of each Annual Report).

| Table 2: Research and supporting staff N.W. Posthumus Institute 2009-2014 |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Participating Faculties & Research Institutes | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Number of affiliated Fellows (tenured) | 109 | 110 | 109 | 120 | 121 | 114 |
| Number of non-tenured staff involved (postdocs) | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | p.m. | 49 |
| PhD students (in any stage) | 94 | 103 | 116 | 120 | 122 | 140 |
| Total number of affiliated researchers in NWP | 203 | 213 | 225 | 240 | 243 | 303 |
| Supporting staff (in fte) | 1.6 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 |

Source: Annual Reports NWP 2009-2013
The number of PhD students affiliated with the Posthumus Institute includes all those who are still writing their thesis, having finished their Basic Training and (part of) their Advanced Training. For the duration of their doctoral research, these PhD students are invited to come to the Annual Conference, to present papers at workshops and seminars organized by the research theme in which they participate, and also receive the newsletter with job vacancies and conference announcements. In each Annual Report, Appendix 6 lists the PhD candidates since 1 January 2000. Their numbers increase annually with the enrolment of new PhD students and decrease with the number that defends his or her thesis.

For 2014, we can add to these numbers 14 post-docs on a temporary position, and 35 young non-tenured staff members who work as an assistant professor on a temporary contract, or combine a temporary teaching job with a party-time research grant. (For earlier years, the number of postdoctoral researchers and temporary staff is difficult to determine but is about the same.) In addition, the Posthumus mailing list has about 50 names and e-mail addresses of colleagues who are in different disciplines, work outside the university, or have retired.

### 2.5 Financial Report

Table 3 shows the revenues and expenditures of the Posthumus Institute in 2009-2014. We highlight several aspects of the finances below.

**Revenues**

1. Revenues are based on the DLG/LOGOS agreement of 2011-2015. In 2010 the transition took place to the new system (in this year, some participating universities did not contribute to the institute). The DLG-faculties in Posthumus are the following Dutch universities: Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (RUG), Radboud University Nijmegen (RU), Leiden University (UL), Utrecht University (UU), University of Amsterdam (UvA), VU University Amsterdam (VU). Non DLG-faculties in Posthumus are: TU Eindhoven (TUE), University of Ghent (UGhent), International Institute of Social History (IISG), Sociaal-Historisch Centrum Limburg (SHCL), University of Antwerp (UA), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Wageningen University (WUR), University of Leuven (KULeuven) (candidate member). Some of these members do not pay fees per student but a higher membership contribution.

2. PhD student fees are a variable source of income, but enrollment of PhD students was quite high during the past years. Fees for PhD students at € 500 annually (either 3 or 4 years). A complication is that starting 2013 PhD students at DLG-universities can choose to spend some of their ‘financial backpacks’ elsewhere. Anticipating this we asked them about their intentions when they entered the Posthumus Training. Enrollment in the Basic Training means that € 1000 is paid from the 'rugzakje', for the Advanced Training € 500 from the 'rugzakje' is needed. This means that the PhD Student has € 500 left in for additional training activities, which may be spent elsewhere, or for additional Posthumus activities (in addition he or she can usually apply for more funds at his or her university).
Table 3: N.W. Posthumus Institute - Financial Report 2009-2014

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<th>Revenues (in € 1000)</th>
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<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Contributions of participating faculties and research institutions</td>
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<td>47.5</td>
<td>74.5</td>
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<td>2. Fees PhD students</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>3. Fees ResMA Students</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Unger Van Brero-Fonds Subsidy for RDC</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. GlobalEuroNet subsidy for RDC</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. 'Duurzame Geesteswetenschappen’ subsidy for ResMA</td>
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<td>15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. From Reserve</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>128.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>115.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>133</strong></td>
<td><strong>139.5</strong></td>
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<th>Expenditure (in € 1000)</th>
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<tr>
<td>MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Personnel: Scientific Director (compensation)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15.5</td>
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<td>2. Personnel: Office Manager</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Personnel: Program Coordinator</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Expenses Secretariat, General Board, Educational Committee, printing &amp; travel</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>57.6</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7. Basic Training: Research Design Course (RDC)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4.4</td>
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<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>20.3</strong></td>
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<td><strong>89</strong></td>
<td><strong>115.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>133</strong></td>
<td><strong>139.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>126.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Fees for ResMA students at DLG-faculties at € 250 per year (2 years). This amount may change in future years when it is only paid when courses are taken.

4.-5. The contributions of GlobalEuroNet and the Unger Van Brero Fund were specifically intended for the organisation of the Research Design Course (RDC) at a foreign university.

6. Subsidy for the organisation of Research MA educational activities.
Expenditure
5. The Research MA was organized by the NWP program coordinator in cooperation with local coordinators at each of the universities that organized an NWP ResMA course. They were refunded with € 2,000 coordination costs each, and furthermore issued travel expenses and presents to the invited speakers. The teaching load of the coordinators and invited experts was coordinated with their teaching activities at their home university. The surplus from the subsidy flows back to the Posthumus research community for the organisation of seminars and workshops and thus also benefit those who teach at the MA (see 13).

8. and 11. The annual NWP Conference plays an important role in the PhD Training. It has been accommodated under Research Activities because all NWP fellows participate (and usually present papers or comments) at the Annual Conference.

13. The research school has a financial reserve to safeguard continuation of the activities of the Research School, including a reservation for the Annual Conference and for the International Assessment in 2015.

3. Curriculum and Teaching Activities

3.1 Research MA Activities
For Research MA students, a pioneering initiative started in the Academic Year 2011/2012 with the start of the Posthumus Research Master program. In three courses a thorough survey was offered into economy and society of the pre-industrial and industrial periods, focusing on various aspects of social and economic change, such as economic growth, technological progress, mental structures, business development, group formation, social mobility, migration, and environmental hazards. Since 2013 we consolidated these into two 10 EC-courses.

The course ‘Keys to the Treasure Trove: Sources and Methods for Social and Economic Historians’ was organized in Leiden in the Fall Semester of 2011 and the Spring Semesters of 2013, 2014 and 2015. The course offers tools for conducting research in social and economic history. Knowledge of source materials and methods allowed Research MA students to develop their ideas and to plan their research. A range of Posthumus experts taught classes, some of which were taught ‘at site’ in different archives.

The course ‘Debates in Global Economic and Social History’ was taught in Utrecht in the Spring semester of 2012 and the Fall semester of 2013, and in Amsterdam in the Fall Semester of 2014. The recent debates in the dynamic field of global social and economic history, focusing on Global History, were the topic in this course. Students were required to select two debates and to write papers about these. In 2012, in addition to the course on Debates, a course called ‘Global and Local’ was organized in Amsterdam. This course focused on a number of specific case studies. We decided to merge this course with Debates from 2013 onwards. The intention is to rotate these courses every few years.
Research MA students enrolled in the Posthumus Research Master Program use these courses as electives in their home university program. They write their MA-thesis and graduate at their own university, but in this way gain knowledge of the specialization and its specialists. The students were very enthusiastic about the courses. They valued the introduction into a wide range of topics and the expertise of the teaching experts. To help the students to connect to the Posthumus community, the students also participate as discussant during the Annual Posthumus Conference.

### 3.2 The PhD Program

With its PhD training, the N.W. Posthumus Institute contributes to the successful completion of dissertation projects in the domain of Economic and Social History. The success of a PhD project is determined by the quality of the dissertation and the duration of the PhD project. Projects are designed to be completed in four years (or five years on a part-time basis).

First, the Institute wants to realize these aims by enlarging and deepening the knowledge of economic or social history as taught to the PhD students during their Bachelor and Master studies. The background knowledge of PhD students differs. A broad knowledge of the field is important in order both to contribute to scientific progress within the field of economic and social history in general and to successfully transfer knowledge to students and the general public within and outside academia. To achieve this, the institute has developed the Research MA program discussed in section 3.1.

Secondly, the N.W. Posthumus Institute supports PhD projects by encouraging PhD students to write and present their work from the start. In their first year PhD stu-
Students are expected to write a series of papers, which will be presented and criticized during seminars. Their individual projects form the main focus of the Posthumus training program. The program contributes to the development of PhD students by enabling them to become independent and self-confident researchers.

Finally, the N.W. Posthumus Institute intends to integrate PhD students into the community of Dutch and Flemish historians specializing in Economic and Social History and by stimulating them to engage in international activities (the Research Design Courses and Advanced Seminars of ESTER, summer schools, conferences) and thus become part of international networks.

The PhD training program of the N.W. Posthumus Institute covers the entire period of the dissertation project, but in practice, the program focuses on the first three years. We distinguish two parts: the Basic Training, roughly the first year, and the Advanced Training, which is tailor-made to suit the individual interests and requirements of the PhD student.

The Basic Training consists of three seminars in the course of the first 14 months:

- Seminar 1: My project in a nutshell
- Seminar 2: Work in Progress
- Seminar 3: Research Design Course

The Basic Training is concluded by an Individual Assessment, in which two fellows of the Posthumus Institute will evaluate the development of the PhD student and his/her project. In case of a positive evaluation, the PhD student receives the Basic Training Diploma during the Annual Posthumus Conference.

After the Basic Training, PhD students work individually on their Advanced Training. Once they have met the criteria, they apply for the Certificate, by handing over their personal dossier. The Education Program Director assesses this dossier. In case of doubt, he sends the dossier to the Examination Committee for a second opinion.

Seminar 1: My project in a nutshell

PhD students get to know each other during the first seminar, which lasts two days. In principle, Research MA students who are writing a PhD proposal or an application for funds can also attend this seminar. It provides a forum to present initial ideas and get feedback from both other starting researchers and from two senior Posthumus fellows. Prior to the meeting every participant writes a short research note about the state of the art and the substance of his/her project: ‘My project in a nutshell’. The aim is to position the project in the academic debate. The research notes are written in English. Participants read and discuss each other’s notes (2 EC).

Minor Paper & Seminar 2: Work in Progress

The minor paper provides a first substantial discussion of the PhD project. It positions the research project in the relevant debates, formulates the research questions and discusses the methodologies and techniques (10-15 pages A4). The minor paper is in English and has to be presented during Seminar 2: Work in Progress. This seminar lasts two days. Each PhD student presents his/her minor paper. Every participant is also discussant of the minor paper of another PhD student. A senior researcher, usually one of the fellows of the Posthumus Institute (but external experts are an option too) will function as discussant and give a second comment on the minor paper. Participants of Seminar 2 read the minor papers of all other participants and take part in the general discussion.
As said, everyone will also referee one paper specifically. If they see fit, experts can assign some reading material to the participants. The Program Director of the N.W. Posthumus Institute or a substitute will be present during the seminar (6 EC).

**Major Paper & Research Design Course**

The major paper provides an advanced discussion of the PhD project. It evaluates the major choices made regarding the structure of the research and the thesis. It also justifies these choices in the light of good academic practice. The major paper provides a well-founded formulation of the research question and sub-questions, the expected answers, the methods to be used, the steps to be taken doing research, the timing, the required information, and the (provisional) structure (chapters) of the thesis. The Research Design Course invites to reflect upon issues discussed in the theory of science literature: the scientific ambitions, the perspectives adopted and rejected, problems combining theory and empirical investigation, etc. It is expected that such issues, selected upon relevance for the particular project, are included in the major paper after studying the literature of the Research Design Course. The major paper should result in a draft version of the first chapter of the dissertation. The paper, 20-25 pages, is in English.

The Research Design Course is an international seminar lasting three to five days. It is coordinated in the Netherlands by the Program Director. At the Research Design Course the major papers are presented by their author and discussed by participants and invited experts. A workshop session of one afternoon dealing with publication strategies is part of the RDC.

The Research Design Course is open to PhD students from all over Europe and is organized by the ESTER network and its partners. It brings together an international team of qualified historians. During the seminar, PhD students present their major paper, but are also discussant of the paper of another participant and chair a session. Usually, the Research Design Course works with parallel groups. The participants read all the papers of their group and prepare the general discussion of each paper.

The application process is competitive, and enrolment is limited. Participants will be selected on the basis of the progress of their research project and their proposal should meet the minimum standards. In some cases, participation in the RDC may be substituted by participation in another activity, such as a summer school.
Individual Assessment

The Basic Training ends with an individual assessment. During this meeting of approximately one hour, two fellows of the N.W. Posthumus Institute assess, together with the PhD student and his/her supervisor, the first year of the PhD project and the expectations concerning the remainder of the project. Aim is to assess if the PhD project is likely to be completed in time. Problems and possible solutions can also be discussed. If the fellows conclude after the assessment that the PhD student will in all likelihood finish the Posthumus training with a dissertation, then the student will qualify for the Posthumus diploma, provided he/she has fulfilled all the other requirements of the Basic Training. If the fellows conclude that the PhD student is unlikely to complete his/her project, the PhD student can be asked to write an additional paper in which remaining questions must be answered. A last option that can be decided upon during the individual assessment, is the consultation of the Examination Committee regarding ending the membership of the N.W. Posthumus Institute and the advice to the supervisor that there are serious doubts about the successful completion of the project (1 EC). The PhD students submit a report beforehand reviewing the revisions and adjustments in their project.

Table 5.1: Survey of Basic Training Activities in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th># PhD's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 2008</td>
<td>Individual Assessments</td>
<td>Utrecht</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Assessments</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Assessments</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Seminar 2 'Work in Progress'</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Design Course</td>
<td>Vienna</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>30(20NWP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 2010</td>
<td>Seminar 1 'My project in a nutshell'</td>
<td>Brussel</td>
<td>1</td>
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Table 5.2: Survey of Basic Training Activities in 2011

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<th>Activity</th>
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<th>EC</th>
<th># PhD’s</th>
</tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Assessments</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Design Course</td>
<td>Evora</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>26(18NWP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohort 2011</td>
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<td>Brussel</td>
<td>1</td>
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Table 5.3: Survey of Basic Training Activities in 2012

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</tr>
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<td>24</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research Design Course</td>
<td>Ghent</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33(20NWP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohort 2012</td>
<td>Seminar 1 'My project in a nutshell'</td>
<td>Brussel</td>
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Table 5.4: Survey of Basic Training Activities in 2013

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<td>17, 22, 31 Jan 2013</td>
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<td><strong>Cohort 2012</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 and 16 May 2013</td>
<td>Seminar 2 'Work in Progress'</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-15 Nov 2013</td>
<td>Research Design Course</td>
<td>Verona</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33(24NWP)</td>
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<td><strong>Cohort 2013</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 and 17 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Seminar 1 'My project in a nutshell'</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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Table 5.5: Survey of Basic Training Activities in 2014

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<th>EC</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>4 February 2014</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 February 2014</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
<td>Utrecht</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>24 February 2014</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 March 2014</td>
<td>Individual Assessment</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Cohort 2013</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9 May 2014</td>
<td>Seminar 2 'Work in Progress’</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-17 October 2014</td>
<td>Research Design Course</td>
<td>Frankfurt</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>39(30NWP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cohort 2014</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11 Dec 2014</td>
<td>Seminar 1 'My project in a nutshell'</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Advanced Training

The Basic Training is followed by an individual curriculum. This Advanced Training aims at assisting the PhD student to position him/herself as an autonomous and known colleague among the national and international community of researchers in Economic and Social History and other relevant disciplines. The N.W. Posthumus Institute assumes that the PhD students participate in the research school on an individual basis and design their own portfolio. The portfolio must fulfill three criteria with its subsequent training activities:

- **Internationalization-criterion**: One paper in an international journal or a paper at an international conference;
- **Network engagement-criterion**: Participation at the Annual Posthumus Conference, in the second year as a commentator and in the third year as a speaker;
- **Exercise-criterion**: Presentation of a paper during two research training activities, such as a master class, seminar, workshop or colloquium organized by the N.W. Posthumus Institute or another academic institute other than the home department.

The elements mentioned above constitute a minimum level of advanced learning. PhD students can participate in Posthumus activities such as master classes or advanced seminars as much as they want. They can also participate in workshops and other activities organized by the research programs of the N.W. Posthumus Institute.
A PhD student qualifies for the Posthumus Research Certificate if he/she has fulfilled the requirements specified above. PhD students are suggested to plan master classes and write an article/paper during their second and third year, so that the certificate can be granted well before the end of their project and they can concentrate upon finishing their thesis. The PhD students are required to send articles, papers and additional documentation to the office of the N.W. Posthumus Institute.

Posthumus PhD students can participate in as many research training activities as they want. Moreover, they are actively encouraged to organize activities themselves. The N.W. Posthumus Institute’s secretariat can help anyone who wants to organize an occasion with financial as well as personal and practical aid. In order to give an idea about the practical forms that are frequently used, several activities are listed below.

Master classes (2 EC)
A master class is staged around a well-known (foreign) expert who visits Belgium or the Netherlands. A small group, up to five or six PhD students and/or Research Master students, will have the opportunity to interact intensively with the ‘master’. The projects of the participants are the point of departure. Participants have to write a paper about their research and the problems they run into, but the connection should also be made to the work of the visiting professor, for example in the discussions. Note that even though each master class can be tailor-made, a lecture or a seminar where visitors only present their papers is not a master class.

The expertise of the master defines the content of a master class. The PhD students must assess themselves whether they can profit from a particular master class. The N.W. Posthumus Institute welcomes initiatives of PhD students to organize master classes and offers financial support.

Annual Posthumus Conference 2011 in Antwerp.

Annual Conference (ECTS 2)
Together with the Program Director, the PhD representatives organize a PhD conference as part of the Annual Posthumus Conference, usually in the Spring. During this conference third year PhD students present their project and in particular the results of their research two years after the Research Design Course. These PhD students are asked to submit a paper, which is distributed to the participants. Each paper is refereed by a second year PhD student and a senior fellow of the N.W. Posthumus Institute or another
expert. The first year PhD students and Research MA students are expected to attend the conference.

Table 6: Annual Posthumus Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Leiden, Academy Building</td>
<td>21 May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Antwerpen, University of Antwerpen</td>
<td>12-13 May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Scheepvaart Museum</td>
<td>24-25 May 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Eindhoven, Technical University</td>
<td>18-19 April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Leeuwarden, Fryske Akademy</td>
<td>5-6 June 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Brussels, Royal Academy</td>
<td>11-12 June 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Program Activities
The PhD students are expected to join one of the five research programs of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. The institute invites the PhD students to take part in the conferences or other activities organized by their group. They also can and should suggest group activities that benefit their projects.

Table 7: Survey of Master classes 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>EC</th>
<th># PhD’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Master class Paolo Viazzo</td>
<td>Nijmegen</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 March 2013</td>
<td>Master class Frank Trentmann</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 PhD/1 Postdoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March 2013</td>
<td>Seminar Postcolonialism</td>
<td>Leuven</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April 2013</td>
<td>Master class Alison Twells</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April 2013</td>
<td>Workshop Artisans in the Middle Ages</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May 2013</td>
<td>How to obtain a PhD position</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>ResMa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May 2013</td>
<td>Master class Jan de Vries</td>
<td>Wageningen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 September 2013</td>
<td>Seminar Frontiers and Borders</td>
<td>Ghent</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October 2013</td>
<td>Master class James Tracy</td>
<td>Amsterdam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 November 2013</td>
<td>Master class Walter Kickert</td>
<td>Rotterdam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 December 2013</td>
<td>Master class Tim Hitchcock</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Master class Thomas Max Safley</td>
<td>Antwerp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May 2014</td>
<td>Master class Robbie Aitken</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June 2014</td>
<td>Master class Immanuel Todd</td>
<td>Utrecht</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 June 2014</td>
<td>Master class Alexander Moradi</td>
<td>Wageningen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-4 May 2014</td>
<td>Datini-ESTER Advanced Seminar</td>
<td>Prato</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 October 2014</td>
<td>Workshop publishing</td>
<td>Nijmegen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 October 2014</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet with David Parrot</td>
<td>Leiden</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ESTER
The European Graduate School for Training in Economic and Social Historical Research (ESTER) is a European collaboration of prestigious universities and institutions. The ESTER network aims at improving and internationalizing the education and training of young scholars in the field of economic and social history. The current ESTER network involves more than 60 universities throughout Europe.
The organisation of the ESTER program in 2013 was conducted by the Posthumus Institute. The activities of ESTER concentrate on the organization of the Research Design Course (see above), together with local organizers, and Advanced Seminars.

ESTER Advanced Seminars (4 EC) are organized around a particular domain of research, and are intended for advanced PhD students. PhD students who react to an international call will be brought together with a number of international experts. They will discuss exhaustively the papers and presentations of the PhD students. The Advanced Seminars will be advertised on the website of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. In 2014 and 2015 an Advanced Seminar was organized in Prato (Italy) in close collaboration with the Istituto Internazionale di Storia Economica “F. Datini”.

### 3.3 Completion Rates and Average Duration

Enrollment into the Posthumus PhD program has been substantial and contributes to the success of the research school (Figure 1). The success rate of students in the Training Program is determined by two variables: the completion rate (i.e. the percentage of completed PhD projects) and the average duration (i.e. the number of months between start and completion). We exclude the projects abandoned officially within the first training year, and include a part-time factor for those working part-time. Our mission is to increase the completion rate and shorten the average duration in months (Figure 2).

#### Table 8: Enrolment and Completion Rates N.W. Posthumus Institute 1998-2014

| Cohort | Started | Stopped early | Stopped at later stage | Compl. within 4 years | Compl. within 5 years (cumul.) | Compl. within 6 years (cumul.) | Compl. within 7 years or later (cumul.) | Completion rate on 31-12-2014 Cohorts 1998-2009* | Average duration of completed dissertation in months |
|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1998   | 10      | 1            | 2                     | 1                    | 1                             | 3                              | 6                                     | 67%                                           | 79                                     |
| 1999   | 5       | 1            | 0                     | 2                    | 2                             | 2                              | 2                                     | 50%                                           | 55                                     |
| 2000   | 9       | 0            | 1                     | 0                    | 1                             | 6                              | 8                                     | 89%                                           | 68                                     |
| 2001   | 10      | 1            | 1                     | 0                    | 1                             | 3                              | 8                                     | 89%                                           | 72                                     |
| 2002   | 12      | 1            | 2                     | 1                    | 6                             | 8                              | 9                                     | 82%                                           | 58                                     |
| 2003   | 14      | 0            | 3                     | 1                    | 5                             | 6                              | 10                                    | 71%                                           | 66                                     |
| 2004   | 13      | 1            | 0                     | 8                    | 11                            | 11                             | 92%                                   | 59                                            |                                       |
| 2005   | 5       | 0            | 0                     | 1                    | 2                             | 4                              | 80%                                   | 76                                            |                                       |
| 2006   | 12      | 0            | 5                     | 2                    | 5                             | 8                              | 73%                                   | 65                                            |                                       |
| 2007   | 32      | 0            | 3                     | 4                    | 11                            | 17                             | 20                                    | 63%                                           | 65                                     |
| 2008   | 24      | 0            | 2                     | 0                    | 3                             | 12                             | 14                                    | 64%                                           | 56                                     |
| 2009   | 19      | 1            | 1                     | 7                    | 9                             | 9                              | 50%                                   | 55                                            |                                       |
| 2010   | 21      | 1            | 2                     | 6                    |                               |                                |                                       |                                                |                                       |
| 2011   | 25      | 1            |                       |                      |                               |                                |                                       |                                                |                                       |
| 2012   | 24      | 1            |                       |                      |                               |                                |                                       |                                                |                                       |
| 2013   | 32      | 2            |                       |                      |                               |                                |                                       |                                                |                                       |
| 2014   | 20      |              |                       |                      |                               |                                |                                       |                                                |                                       |
| **Total** | **267** | **11**  | **18**                | **12**               | **57**                        | **83**                         | **86**                                 |                                                |                                       |

**Note:**
- * Percentages exclude the projects that have been discontinued during the first NWP training year. Some of these were discontinued as a result of the first-year evaluation.
- ** Several NWP PhD students worked part-time (0.8 fte). We took into account the part-time factor in the calculations of average duration in months when the information was available. Average duration is in full-time equivalent. We did not take into account extension of contracts due to maternity leave.
- *** Cohorts 2000-2002 are finished, these completion rates and average duration do not change anymore. Average duration for later years may increase if more dissertations are finished.
Completion rates show an increasing trend. Until the mid-1990s completion rates were relatively low, with 8 percent of the PhD students receiving their doctorate within 5 years, 26 percent within 6 years, and 50 percent within 7 years (cumulative percentages).

Table 9: Completion Rates N.W. Posthumus Institute 1988-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Started</th>
<th>Stopped early</th>
<th>Stopped at later stage</th>
<th>Compl. within 4 years</th>
<th>Compl. within 5 years</th>
<th>Compl. within 6 years (cumul.)</th>
<th>Compl. within 7 years or later (cumul.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988-1991</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-1997</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-2003</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2008*</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2013</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These percentages are calculated over the total number of projects 1998-2008 excluding the projects that have been discontinued during the first NWP training year. Some of these were discontinued as a result of the first-year evaluation. Numbers for 2009-2013 will increase when PhD students from recent cohorts finish in time.

To improve completion rates, the board of the NWP defined an ambitious goal in a policy statement of 2000: a desirable completion rate of 70 percent within 5 years and 80 percent within 6 years, starting from the class of 2000. The actual realization of the projects completed by the cohorts of 1998-2003 amounted to an average of 77 percent of the total after 6 years (i.e. within 7 years). The average duration of a PhD project for this group was 5.5 years (66 months). Of the PhD students starting in the period 2004-2008 on average 55% completed the dissertation within 6 years (Table 9). Those PhD students of the cohorts of 2004-2008 who finished within 7 years on average worked 64 months on their project (this is an average duration of 5.3 years). The conclusion is that both the completion rates within 6 years and the average duration continued to improve, and that the institute is heading towards its desired goals.
Figure 1: Enrollment of PhD students, 1998-2014.

Figure 2: Average duration in months, 1998-2010.
Note: Average duration in later years will increase if more dissertations are finished.
4. Research Themes
The research programs are headed by the research program directors. Below, the research program directors give an account of their plans and activities. In the Fall of 2011, the focus and coherence of the research programs was outlined in a Research Plan that accepted by the General Board. The research program directors meet each year in January in a collective meeting with the Scientific Director, to discuss their plans, initiatives, and priorities. The members of the Posthumus research groups are very productive. Table 10 surveys the numbers of publications as listed in the Annual Reports 2010-2013.

Table 10: Academic Publications by Research Theme, 2010-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I. Economy &amp; Society</th>
<th>II. Drivers and Carriers</th>
<th>III. People, Space &amp; Places</th>
<th>IV. Life-Course</th>
<th>V. Social History of Communities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in a collected volumes</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in a collected volumes</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2012</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in a collected volumes</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in peer-reviewed journals</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monographs</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles in a collected volumes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1 Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries in a Comparative Perspective

Goals and Scientific Focus
In response to the observations made by the Evaluation Committee in 2008 regarding the research program 'Economy and Society of the Low Countries in the Pre-Industrial Period', as it was called at the time, the theme of the program has been slightly adjusted. The 2008 Evaluation Committee praised the historiographical significance of the program’s general project and the quality and quantity of the research projects and publications realized by its fellows, but remarked that a greater emphasis on comparative research would be a welcome addition.
The change is already apparent from the revised title of the program. The international historiographical relevance of the medieval and early modern Low Countries is situated precisely in its many ways exceptional economy and society. The research program aims to substantially contribute to our understanding of both regional and global history by explicitly promoting comparisons of the Northern and Southern Netherlands with similar regions in Europe and beyond. In addition, the program embraces comparisons of various regions within the Low Countries.

Over the last couple of years, many members of the research program have incorporated a comparative perspective in their research. Research subjects vary widely. They cover, amongst others, the development of trade and commercial institutions, standards of living, technology and skills, human capital formation and the transfer of knowledge, investments and savings, charity, material culture, institutions for collective action, cultural industries, water management, resilience to disasters, and citizenship. But despite the great diversity of topics and interests, an increasing number of members have found that their research benefits from a comparative approach. A few examples of members’ publications that have explicitly adopted such an approach are listed below.

Activities
The importance attached to the comparative perspective, but also the evolution of the Annual Posthumus Conference into the main platform for presenting research to other members of the Posthumus community, has led us to discontinue the earlier annual Low Countries conferences specific to this program. Instead, we have promoted more focused workshops on specific themes suitable to comparative work by members of the research program. In late 2010 such a workshop took place in Brussels on Bas van Bavel’s monograph *Manors and Markets: Economy and Society in the Low Countries, 500-1600* (Oxford: OUP 2010) and in January 2014 a similar workshop in Antwerp was devoted to Oscar Gelderblom’s book *Cities of Commerce: The Institutional Foundations of International Trade in the Low Countries, 1250-1650* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2013). These books explicitly adopt a comparative approach, and both workshops have resulted in publications in special issues of the *Tijdschrift voor Sociale and Economische Geschiedenis* (Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History).

Likewise, the sessions at the Annual Posthumus Conference organized by the research program have aimed to stimulate comparisons, either by bringing together scholars working on a similar topic in a specific region—this was the case in sessions at the conferences of 2012 on cultural industries, and of 2013 on the acquisition and dispersion of knowledge in the early modern era—or by positioning the Low Countries in a wider context: at the 2014 Posthumus Conference a Round Table was organized on the theme ‘The pre-industrial Low Countries in a world history perspective’.

Academic Reputation
Our research program considers itself fortunate to be able to count a group of scholars among its ranks whose work has been widely recognized during recent years. Within each of the four fields within the social & economic history of the Low Countries that this program has carved out as its areas of focus, the impact of its members in recent years has been significant.

A first area of interest, formulated in 2008, was the ‘performance of the pre-industrial economy’ in the Low Countries. At the University of Antwerp Bruno Blondé, Bert De Munck, and their colleagues have approached the study of material culture and
consumption in the pre-industrial Low Countries as a new way of questioning the performance of the late medieval and early modern economy. This approach has resulted in several publications in the top journals in the field (including the *Economic History Review* and *Past and Present*), multiple project grants, and has become held in high regard internationally. A second inroad in this field has been to successfully examine the maritime economy of the Dutch Republic in all its aspects and consequences – including the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Particularly at the University of Groningen (Jan-Willem Veluwekamp), and at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Karel Davids) these projects have gained international repute.

The second area of interest considers specific explanatory frameworks that might help to account for the (differential) growth of the pre-industrial economies in the Low Countries. Among such explanatory factors, institutions have been the most intensively studied, and researchers working on this topic have successfully applied this framework to the economic history of the Low Countries. The entry on the ‘Low Countries’ in the recent *Cambridge History of Capitalism* presents a synthesis of these results and was written by two program members, Oscar Gelderblom (UU) and Joost Jonker (UvA). The success of this research field is also clear from the ERC Starting Grant on institutions for collective action received by Tine De Moor (UU) (2009), the VICI grant received by Oscar Gelderblom (2015), the NWO ‘Vrije competitie’ grant on political participation and representation in Dutch water boards received in 2011 by Milja van Tielhof (ING Huygens) in collaboration with Petra van Dam (VU) and Maarten Prak (UU), and the prestigious KNAW ‘Academy Professor Prize’ awarded to Jan Luiten van Zanden in 2011.

The third area of interest identified within this research program, is concerned with social stratification and structure. In this field researchers from several universities across the Low Countries have looked at various ways to study social inequalities over time. At the University of Antwerp Jord Hanus, Bruno Blondé and Wouter Ryckbosch have conducted new work on pre-industrial patterns of wealth and income inequality in Belgium, and have thus expanded upon the earlier work on Holland by Jan Luiten van Zanden. Researchers at the Universities of Ghent, Antwerp and Utrecht have meanwhile expanded this agenda into the domain of the agrarian economy in the Low Countries. As a result, the Low Countries has in recent years become one of the best-studied areas in terms of pre-industrial social structure, and has profiled itself as an ideal case study for comparisons with England and Italy.

We can certainly not take credit for any of those individual achievements, as our goals are limited to creating a stimulating and supportive environment for collaborative and comparative research. Yet, over the years the program has consistently emphasized the importance of comparison within all of the fields outlined above. Therefore, we believe that the numerous comparative research projects, the collaborations between the different research groups involved in the Posthumus Institute, and their respective successes at an international level, have benefited from the research environment on the pre-industrial economy of the Low Countries that this program has helped to foster.

**Perspectives**

The three main focal points of the program as outlined above (the performance of the real economy, institutions, and social structure) remain central to the interests of most researchers involved, but they have been complemented by the central objective to present a comparative research perspective on the study of the pre-industrial economy in the Low Countries. In the near future we expect this latter perspective to remain central,
while the three other core areas originally defined in 2008 will presumably change in relative importance and substance. Therefore, the research currently carried out by the members of the program highlights a diverse range of aspects of the late medieval and early modern economies of the Low Countries, and attempts to compare these to experiences elsewhere in the Low Countries, and to compare or juxtapose the ‘Low Countries’ experience to that elsewhere in the world.

The research on material culture carried out at the University of Antwerp is a clear example of such comparative efforts, but also the study of rural inequality undertaken at Ghent University, the study of institutions of commons and collective action, and recently even the economic history of pre-industrial intercontinental trade and colonization has been conducted increasingly in a comparative perspective (see the session organized by this program at the 2014 Posthumus Conference in Leeuwarden, for instance).

**Examples of Major Projects**
The Annual Reports provide a survey of the number and height of grants that have been awarded to researchers in this program. We mention only:

- Jan-Willem Veluwenkamp (RUG), *The ascent of the Frisians. The Dutch commercial system and the market for maritime transport, 1550-1800* (€ 600,000); *Realisatie Elektronische Databank Sonttolregisters* (1497-1857) 2008-2013 (NWO, Friese culturele fondsen, Tresoar, RUG, € 1,656,500).

**Key Publications (selection of 7)**
(The Annual Reports contain a more extensive list.)
Bavel, Bas van, *Manors and Markets: Economy and Society in the Low Countries, 500-1600* (Oxford 2010).
4.2 Drivers and Carriers of Globalisation: Technology, Economics and Business in Transnational and Comparative Perspective


Goals and Scientific Focus

This theme was formed in 2002 based on the previous Posthumus programs ‘National Accounts’ and ‘History of Technology’ (1998-2002), both of which were taking an ‘international turn’ at the time. Typically perhaps for the early phase of moving from Dutch history to European and global history, the 2003-2007 research program was – or so it seems in retrospect – quite preoccupied with where it came from, with defining its relation to national history. Milward’s *European Rescue of the Nation State* and the distinction between ‘hyperglobalists’ and ‘sceptics’ as made in Held et al.’s *Global Transformation* were key references. The program studied globalisation, regional integration, and national development as interrelated and mutually constitutive processes, and asked questions about the role and revival of the nation-state (and national history) in globalisation and Europeanization. Also typically for this early phase was that the broad and explorative approach.

A new program for the period 2009-2014 was developed in interaction (two workshops) with fellows in the NWP globalisation network. That program was less occupied with national history and less exploratory. Instead, it proposed an in-depth inquiry of important globalisation and transnational history research themes. We grouped these in two sets of research questions.

The first research question analyzes the key drivers of the world economy, the worldwide or regional integration of markets, technological systems, business systems, and politics (‘drivers of globalisation’). As a starting point, we used research agendas developed in the previous period. This part of the program asked questions such as: How did economic growth and inequality develop in the past 500 years? Focus was on collecting worldwide data on social, economic, and institutional indicators for the past five centuries, with special attention to the past 200 years. These indicators allow research into long-term development of worldwide economic growth and inequality. How can we measure the relationship between economic growth and the quality of life? What is the role of institutions in global economic development? How did institutions shape Dutch modern history in the context of globalisation? Some of us applied the theory of ‘varieties of capitalism’ on the open Dutch economy. What role did colonial institutions

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3 One of these was to continue the work by Angus Maddison in providing the academic community with state of the art estimates of income and population from the Roman times until the present.

play in the economic history of the developing world in the age of global connections? Focus was on a comparative history of colonial institutions and the economies of Belgian Congo and the Dutch Indies.

The second research question is directed towards understanding the historical shaping of cross-border connections, movements, infrastructure, and circulations (‘carriers of globalisation’)? Based on insights from the previous period, we explicitly addressed simultaneous processes of integration and fragmentation in the process of globalisation, on global, macro-regional, as well as meso-regional scales. The program investigated questions such as:

- How did globalisation integrate or fragment local communities in world history? Focus here was on a comparisons of local communities from Africa to the Andes.
- How did technological change shape European integration and fragmentation 1850-2000? Focus was on writing a new transnational history of European integration from the perspectives of transnational infrastructure connections and ruptures, and the circulation and appropriation of experts, knowledge, and consumer practices.
- How did a transnational Rhine economy develop in a politically fragmented landscape ca. 1850-2000? Focus was on the roles of firms and governments in the creation and sustaining of one of the world’s most dynamic economic regions, and how economic developments related to politics.
- How can we use transnational history to study integration and fragmentation in global and transnational history? What are the different approaches and their pros and cons? Focus was on drawing lessons across NWP research groups and programs.

**Evolution of National Business Systems**

From 2004 to 2010, a separate research project analyzed corporate governance of business in the Netherlands during the 20th century. The program directors were prof.dr. Keetie Sluyterman (UU, 2004-1010) and dr. Gerarda Westerhuis (UU, 2009-2010). In the project ‘Business in the Netherlands in the 20th Century’ (BINT) seven books and a synthesis were planned (of which in early 2015 five had been published), each dealing with a different aspect of the Dutch business system.

Some research results of the BINT program figured prominently in a special issue on ‘Varieties of Capitalism’ in the American journal *Business History Review* (2011). The Dutch contribution included an introduction on the results of the BINT program so far, and three articles discussing respectively corporate governance, cooperation and collusion, and multinationals in the Netherlands. Also, in 2015 an edited volume was published summarizing the main findings of the project: Keetie Sluyterman, ed., *Varieties of Capitalism and Business History. The Dutch Case* (London: Routledge, 2015).

For more information, see the Annual Reports 2009-2010.

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Activities
In order to address the questions and themes at hand (and in accordance with the intentions announced in the 2003-2007 evaluation), we first broadened the NWP globalization network. In 2003-2007 the NWP groups in Eindhoven, Groningen, and Leiden had been central to the program – besides individual members at different universities of course. In 2009-2014 NWP groups in Ghent, Rotterdam, Utrecht, Wageningen, and Antwerp were prominently involved.

In particular, the 2003-2007 evaluation listed under ‘threats’ the poor collaboration with Flemish researchers. This has been repaired and the Dutch-Flemish collaboration has proven extremely rewarding, even leading to joint publications. For instance, the two integrative publications of the NWP globalization theme in this period (an edited volume and a special journal issue) were co-edited by a Flemish and Dutch NWP fellow. Other universities such as Leuven could be more actively included, and steps could be taken to look across the Belgian language boundary.

As in the previous evaluation periods, the resources of the NWP Institute were severely limited, and most work was done within NWP globalization fellow research programs. The NWP globalization theme supported these fellow projects, and organized interactions between them for mutual inspiration, cross-fertilization, and to address overarching research questions.

How did globalization shape processes of integration and fragmentation on global, macro-regional, and meso-regional scales?

• Research in world history has been coordinated from Ghent. The Ghent group is especially active in the joint organization of panels at international conferences by our members. This was done with mixed success at the European Business History Association conference in Utrecht (2014) and the World History Association conference in San Jose (2014). The Ghent group will host the WHA meeting of 2016 in Ghent. It is only the third time the association comes to Europe. It gives our NWP members a unique platform to present their work before an expert audience in world history.

• Research in European history has been coordinated from Eindhoven, and was executed in the research network Tensions of Europe, which connects some 200-300 researchers in Europe and North America in studying the role of technology in European history. The network has been (co)chaired by NWP fellows in Eindhoven (Schot, Oldenziel, van der Vleuten). In 2007-2010 that network executed a research phase, facilitated by the ESF Collaborative Research Program Inventing Europe, which funded four international consortia. NWP fellows co-directed the programs on consumer practices and transnational infrastructure, while other NWP staff and Ph.D, students participated in the other funded (and unfunded) programs. The research phase was followed by a synthesis phase, which took the form of writing a 6-volume book series of co-authored books with an international author team called Making Europe. Schot was series editor and Oldenziel, Schot and van der Vleuten co-authored different volumes.

• Research on the meso-regional Rhine region has been coordinated from Rotterdam. It has especially been active in organizing a Dutch-German research network and organized five transnational Rhine economy conferences, most of which with NWP support. These were held in Rotterdam (2009), Frankfurt am Main (2010), Bochum (2011), Rotterdam (2013), and Mainz (2014).
NWP fellows have worked on the NWP Globalization network themes within these partner programs. NWP has supported these programs. In addition, the NWP globalization theme organized cross-cutting activities.

For each strand of research questions, we organized broad workshops and developed a joint publication on a selected theme:

**Colonial institutions and economic development**
- Workshop Colonial Extraction in the Netherlands Indies and Belgian Congo: Institutions, institutional change and long term consequences (Utrecht, 3-4 December 2010).
- Workshop ‘Colonial Extraction in the Netherlands Indies and Belgian Congo’ (Antwerp, October 2011).

**How can we use transnational history to study integration and fragmentation in global and transnational history?**
- Session ‘Transnational history’, NWP Congress 2010: Juxtaposing and confronting different approaches to transnational history of the groups in Ghent, Rotterdam and Eindhoven.
- Session ‘Global and transnational histories in practice’, NWP Congress 2012: Examining how different approaches work out in practice.
- Masterclass by Johan Schot (TU/e) on transnational history, Rotterdam 2012.
- Workshop ‘Frontiers and Borders in Global and Transnational History’ (Ghent, 6-7 September 2013). NWP fellows and Ph.D. students within and beyond the NWP globalization theme met and discussed the concepts of borders and frontiers to study integration and fragmentation in global and transnational history. Keynote: Thomas Hall.
- Selected papers were reworked for a joint special issue. The special issue was submitted to the *Journal of Modern European History* in the fall of 2014.

**Other activities include:**
- Session ‘Young researchers crossing borders’, NWP Congress 2011.
- Session ‘business history goes global’, NWP Congress 2013 (context: part of the NWP business history theme was integrated in the NWP globalization theme)
- Maddison lectures: Groningen-Wageningen-Utrecht fellows
- April 2013: Maddison Lecture by James Robinson (Harvard): ‘Why is Africa Poor?’

Work on measuring the development of the world economy was coordinated from Groningen and Utrecht. Key projects were and are the Maddison or Clio Infra projects, based on a global network of economic historians who, inspired by Angus Maddison (an eco-
nomic historian who collected and published data on historical global GDP), collect data on the different facets of the evolution of the world economy from 1500 to 2010.

A key event was the collaboration of Clio-infra and the OECD on the report How was Life? Global Well-Being Since 1820 (October 2014), part of the OECD Better Life initiative. The OECD and Clio Infra worked together on state-of-the-art estimates and indicators of well-being from 1820 onwards. The report represents an important contribution to the discussion about broadening the concept of welfare used to understand socio-economic development (generally GDP per capita), and illustrates the importance of measuring well-being ‘beyond GDP’. To celebrate the publication of this important report and to present it to the world, two launches were organized: one by the OECD in Paris, and one by Clio Infra in Utrecht. The data underlying the report have also been made available.

Research on ‘Varieties of Capitalism,’ on the characteristics of the Dutch business system and on comparative aspects of labour relations and the welfare state took place in Utrecht (BINT group with Keetie Sluiterman, UU, see above) and in Leiden (Jeroen Touwen, UL, Dennie Oude Nijhuis, UL).

Work on economic development in developing regions was coordinated from Utrecht and Wageningen. The influence of colonial institutions on development and whether poverty is destiny are the main questions guiding this research. Various relating sub-questions are analyzed in PhD projects.

Academic Reputation

This theme combines state-of-the-art research in economic growth and technological development. Researchers make contributions to important debates, such as the Global History debate, insights in economic and institutional development, and the Varieties of Capitalism debate. Moreover, methodological renewal is at the core of much of this work. The Clio-Infra project is the product of collaboration between NWP globalization fellows and other economic historians, who attempt to systematically chart long-term changes in the dimensions of global well-being and inequality, making use of the most recent research data of the discipline. This resulted into an cooperation with the OECD Development Centre and the publication of the OECD Report ‘How was life’. This publication has received much attention both within and outside of academia: ‘What an impressive work of economic history tells you about inequality’ (The Economist, 2014).

The NWP globalization fellows were recognized for their important contributions to the development of transnational history. A number of NWP fellows was invited to contribute to the landmark publication Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History (2009). The Tensions of Europe and Transnational Rhine Economy programs were explicitly named by leading transnational history scholars as innovative and leading contributors to the transnational turn in historiography.

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8 The report can be found on http://www.oecd.org/std/how-was-life-9789264214262-en.htm, the underlying data on https://www.clio-infra.eu/content/overview-datasets-global-well-being-1820.
9 Tensions of Europe was named as one out of two key programs in Pierre-Yves Saunier, ‘Learning by doing: Notes about the making of the Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History’, Journal of Modern European History 6: 2 (2008) 159-180. He writes: Two strands seem to me to be of special value. The first one has been pursued by historians of technology...Compare Saunier, Transnational history (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013). The Rhine program was named as ‘a possible model’ in Patricia Clavin, ‘Time,
Tensions of Europe became a well-known approach to European transnational history. We quote the jury report of the 2014 Freeman Award of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) for the book series Making Europe: 'This series reframes the grand theme of European history and identity from a technology-based perspective. Genuinely pan-European in scope. A refreshingly ambitious and original collaborative project. It reveals the interplay between the material and the social in the creation of different meanings of Europe. Shows how the lens of innovation presents a strikingly new view of the dynamics of interaction across national boundaries in the making of Europe. The work resonates strongly with Freeman’s concerns with history, innovation and politics ...’ 10

Perspectives

The NWP globalization theme is once more entering a new phase. For the coming period, we propose to mobilize lessons learned in both research strands 1 (‘Drivers’) and 2 (‘Carriers’) for investigating one of the big issues of our current time: the advent of multiple, interdependent crises. Scholars such as Ulrich Beck find it difficult to keep up, because reality and the mass media rapidly add new crises to the list - and the stagings, experiences, and conflicts of ‘the apocalyptic imagination’ rapidly transforms societies.11 This may be true. We argue that, in order to understand what is going on, we need to look at history instead.

Several NWP partner programs and fellows are already addressing crises, including periods of interdependent crises, in their work. Just a few examples: The debate on Varieties of Capitalism in Dutch history has been framed in a crisis perspective.12 Herman de Jong is researching the quality of life improvement that took place even in periods of crisis, the Interwar period. Tensions of Europe is currently entering a new phase focusing on the technological shaping of crises and transitions, because debates on what Europe is and should be are today cast through a crisis perspective (rather than the unification and enlargement perspective of the 1990s, which informed the recently concluded research cycle of that program). World historians in Ghent are co-organizing the World History Association’s 2016 conference, which can be framed as being out global crises (concerning military and peasant economies, especially).

For the period 2015-2020, the NWP globalization program proposes to capture these ongoing developments and research the economic, social, technological, and business history of global crises. The NWP Globalization theme will organize a workshop in December 2015 to gather NWP fellows working on the topic and develop a research agendas. This workshop will be used also as a stepping stone to the WHC 2016. Here we are aiming to attract European networks of global historians to partake in the event to give our members and the NWP as much international exposure as possible.


Examples of Major Projects

The Annual Reports provide a survey of the number and height of grants that have been awarded to researchers in this program. We mention only:


Key Publications (selection of 7)
(The Annual Reports contain a more extensive list.)


4.3 People, Space, and Places in History

Goals and Scientific Focus
The program People, Space & Places in History (PS&P) focuses on the spatial and regional dimensions of human life from a historical perspective. It is inspired by the research of fellows at University of Antwerp, University of Groningen, Wageningen University, Maastricht University, Utrecht University, VU University Amsterdam, Huygens ING The Hague, VU Brussels, Ghent University and more recently KU Leuven, and has a strongly international, Dutch-Flemish back-bone.

The program started in 2004 under the title Regions in space: interaction, construction and transformation directed by prof. dr. Maarten Duijvendak (RUG) and prof. dr. Ad Knotter (SHCL, UniMaas). In October 2005 dr. Anton Schuurman (WUR) replaced Knotter and the program obtained its current title. Since September 2011 dr. Paul Brusse (UU) and Tim Soens (UA) are responsible for the program. Over the years the focal points in the program have been modified slightly.

Starting from the idea that immediate surroundings and local circumstances (in the sphere of soil, landscape, environment, economy, social relations, politics and administration, institutions, religion, and culture) have a profound impact on social life, the region is a relevant point of departure for historical research. In our globalizing world ‘regions’ are increasingly considered the relevant geographical framework of analysis. In fact, this was not different during the past millennium. Over the past few years major comparative regional projects have been launched within and beyond the Low Countries (see below). PS&P offers the framework for these projects. A comparison of developments per region is essential, because only in this way the researcher can demonstrate the importance of specific regional circumstances on social and economic development and analyze how unique certain regional developments have been. Regional historical research employs by definition different geographical borders than nationally orientated research and the marked region is usually, but not necessarily, smaller than the country or countries in which the region is situated. Of course, by carrying out regional research one cannot ignore national and international developments. Hence the interaction between global and local is an important subject for regional research.

There is another reason for the relevance of the regional and spatial perspective in history. Space is not just something out there, but it is socially, economically, culturally and politically constructed. People give a meaning to space, they experience space, often they derive a part of their identity from the region or city where they live. So regional research is also about spatial differences as shaped by social practices and processes.

The time period spans the past millennium and the first decade of the new one. The program has several focal points where the regional perspective is important, such

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as: regional differences and variety, interaction between (inter)national and regional developments (between global and local: glocalisation), interaction between regions city-countryside relations, rural and agricultural history, urban history and urban networks, center and periphery, ecological history, landscape and built environment, meaning of space, and cultural heritage.

PS&P is in the first place a network of scholars working on regional history in relation to the subjects mentioned above. An aim of the directors is to maintain this network and to extend it within the Netherlands and Belgium and to encourage mutual cooperation. Another goal is to keep each other informed of the research activities of the associated fellows. The directors have the intention to expand the relations with fellows from other disciplines such as social and economic geographers, environmental scientists, and regional economists. PS&P is firmly embedded in international research networks (e.g. Comparative Rural History of the North Sea Area (CORN); the European Rural History Organisation (EURHO); the European Urban History Association (EUHA); the Rural History Network of the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC); and the Cost A35 Action). It is the ambition to stimulate the debate on the regional and spatial approach in history and also to encourage new research and to enlarge our knowledge. In order to do so the directors of PS&P co-organize activities such as workshops, conferences and Master classes.

Activities
On behalf of the maintenance of the PS&P network the directors organize at least two symposia per year. In the first place we organize a regular seminar at the Annual Posthumus Conference. At the Posthumus Conference in Amsterdam in 2012, PS&P organized a well-attended session on ‘Rural Actors, Networks and Identities’, which offered a broad survey of the different research topics of PS&P fellows and students. The other seminar we organize annually usually draws a good crowd as well. We always try to find a partner in organizing this seminar to promote our program and to attract more
People. In 2013 the seminar Hedwige-Prospelpolder: geschiedenis onder water? Ontpoldering in historisch perspectief (Hedwige-Prospelpolder: History under water? Unpoldering in historical perspective) was held in Middelburg in collaboration with the Universities of Antwerp and Utrecht and the Zeeland Library, with about 100 participants and six speakers engaging in intense debate on the crossroads of history, cultural heritage, nature and economic development. In November 2014 PS&P organized the international conference in cooperation with the Dutch Society of Agricultural History called Rural pluralities in a globalizing world. Histories from the countryside since the 1930s (with contributions of among others: Eric Vanhaute (Gent U), Anne Booth (SOAS, London), Zsuzsanna Varga (Eötvös Loránd University Hungary), Juan Pan Montojo (Autonomous University of Madrid). It is not necessary to convene more PS&P seminars than two or three per year, because the affiliated fellows often meet at other conferences where PS&P topics are discussed. For example, several staff members of PS&P (including one of the program directors) presented a paper at a workshop in Munster (Germany) in November 2014: The impact of disasters on pre-modern rural economies: Consequences for the countryside in Northwestern Europe before 1850, organized by the Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in association with CORN and Crises and Changes in the European Countryside in the long run (GDIR-CRICEC). Six staff members of PS&P (among them both program directors) participated in the workshop: Evolutions and Revolutions in Water Management (The Hague, 19-20 March 2015).

The PS&P fellows direct or participate in several large and successful research programs or projects. We will mention just some of them in this survey. In Spring 2011 the program The balance between city and countryside. De-urbanisation and the rise of an agrarian society. Zeeland 1700-1860 (led by Paul Brusse and Wijnand Mijnhardt (UU), 2006-2011) was completed with the presentation of three books in Dutch and a synthesis in English: Towards a new template for Dutch history. De-urbanization and the balance between city and countryside. In March 2014 the last of four volumes of Geschiedenis van Zeeland (History of the Dutch province of Zeeland from prehistory until present day) was published (project leader Paul Brusse, 2008-2014). The four volumes amount to 1400 pages. In 2013 the third volume in the series of the CORN program Rural Economy and Society in North-Western Europe was published (with contributions of and edited by PS&P staff members Leen van Molle and Yves Segers, University of Leuven. In 2015, the fourth volume, edited by Erik Thoen (UGhent) and Tim Soens (UA) will follow. Our fellow Milja van Tielhof (ING Huygens) is directing the research project called: The poldermodel. Participation and representation in Dutch water-boards in the pre-democratic era (the project runs from 2011 to 2016). In the scope of this project several articles have already been published in peer reviewed international and Dutch journals and there are more to come. Maarten Duijvendak and Dick de Boer (RUG) supervise an international research program Cuius Regio. An analysis of the cohesive and disruptive forces determining the attachment and commitment of (groups of) persons to and the cohesion within regions (European Science Foundation, Eurocore program, 2010-2014). Tim Soens and Erik Thoen (UGhent) direct the project Local elites in a changing society: a comparative study of power in Flemish and Brabantine villages (13th-16th centuries) (FWO, 2010-2014). Together with Peter Stabel (UA), Tim Soens also supervises The town in the countryside. Textile production and town-country-relations in the Flemish Westland (15th-16th centuries)’ (FWO-project, 2013-2015).
**Academic Reputation**

The spatial and regional approach is firmly-rooted in the Low Countries. Many historians have adopted this perspective. The danger of a regional focus is that researchers are inclined to lose sight of or neglect the national or international context. For that reason the comparative element is essential in our program. To a certain extent the PS&P program and the Posthumus program *Economy and Society of the Pre-Industrial Low Countries in Comparative Perspective* overlap, but the PS&P program bridges the gap between the pre-industrial and the industrial period, and has an explicit focus on the spatial and environmental framing of economic development, in line with the tradition of the French Annales historians (‘histoire totale’, the relation between man and landscape) and of the international well-known and so-called Wageningen School in the Netherlands (Slicher van Bath, agricultural and rural history), established in the fifties of the twentieth century.

The presence of PS&P fellows, PhD Students and post-docs at the major European and World Environmental, Economic and Rural History conferences indicates the dynamism of the research groups covered by PS&P. In the field of Urban History, PS&P mostly covers the spatial and geographic aspects of urban economic history, as witnessed by the research infrastructures developed by Hans Mol (Fryske Akademy/UL) (Hisgis.nl) and Tim Soens (GLStorical Antwerp), which use Geographical Information Systems to allow the spatial analysis of urban and regional development. These were presented at the 2013 Posthumus Conference in Eindhoven. The intention of PS&P is to support these research traditions, but also to stimulate the development of relatively new but related fields of research, such as environmental/ecological history, studies on the meaning of space and cultural heritage studies and to encourage the use of relevant theories and research methods of fields outside history, such as social and economic geography.

The ambition of the project *Cuius Regio* is to combine historical research with theoretical insights about regional formation processes. The selected regions are spread over Europe and differ in size, social and ethnic composition, geographical position and geophysical disposition. The *Sociaal Historisch Centrum voor Limburg* (SHCL, led by PS&P staff member Ad Knotter, Maastricht University) connects historical research with contemporary social problems. This project focuses on the history of the Dutch province of Limburg as a border region. SHCL is interested in cross-border connections and exchange, and in comparisons with developments in other regions in today’s Euregio Meuse-Rhine. *Geschiedenis van Groningen* (History of the Dutch province of Groningen, 2009, Maarten Duijvendak) and *Geschiedenis van Zeeland* (History of the Dutch province Zeeland, 2014) are examples of ‘histoire totale’. The books are not only about the history of two Dutch provinces, but also about their changing position in the Low Countries, Europe and the world. Thanks to the innovative structure of *Geschiedenis van Zeeland*, important themes like city-countryside relations, center-periphery and wealth-poverty antitheses could be studied in-depth.

The comparative rural history centred around the CORN-group (with Erik Thoen, Tim Soens, Bas van Bavel, Leen Van Molle, Yves Segers and involving participation of most of the PS&P-fellows and members) is widely acknowledged as one of the most dynamic rural history groups in European and world history. The regional comparison – often starting from the concept of ‘social-agro-systems’ developed by Erik Thoen (Ghent) – is at the heart of the CORN-research. In the field of Environmental History, PS&P also can offer the research framework to the new *Journal for the History of Environment and Society* (http://www.jheswebsite.com/), which succeeds the *Jaarboek voor*
Ecologische Geschiedenis. The editorial board is directed by Erik Thoen (UGhent), together with PS&P-fellows Erwin Karel (RUG) and Tim Soens.

Perspectives
The regional and spatial approach in history has justified itself and has proved to be fruitful. The perspectives of PS&P are good. The fellows of PS&P show initiative for new and innovative research. They try to find funds for their research plans.

In February 2015 Erik Thoen et al (University of Gent, GOA Project) launched a promising project called: Economic growth and inequality. Explaining divergent regional growth paths in pre-industrial Europe (Late Middle Ages-19th century). This project searches for the roots of modern economic growth using a long-term, regionally differentiated, comparative analysis of the divergent trajectories of economic growth. Regional dynamics as well as social relations, rather than national frameworks, are central to the project. A comparative analysis will be developed, using selected European regions as test areas.

The region is also central to another major research project, started in 2014: the ERC-Advanced Grant obtained by Bas van Bavel (Utrecht University), ‘Coordinating for life. Success and failure of Western European societies in coping with rural hazards and disasters, 1300-1800’, which is accommodated in both Economy and Society of the Pre-industrial Low Countries and in PS&P. In November 2015 PS&P will already co-organize a first workshop derived from this project on ‘The short and long-term responses of European societies to environmental shocks and hazards in the pre-industrial period: developing comparative research’. Individual members are continuing their projects. Many books and articles are in the pipeline. But how successful PS&P will be, that is for the future to show.

Examples of Major Projects
The Annual Reports provide a survey of the number and height of grants that have been awarded to researchers in this program. We mention only:

- Maarten Duijvendak (RUG) and Dick de Boer (RUG): Cuius Regio. An analysis of the cohesive and disruptive forces determining the attachment and commitment of (groups of) persons to and the cohesion within regions European Science Foundation, Eurocore program 2010-2013.

**Key Publications (selection of 7)**
*(The Annual Reports contain a more extensive list.)*

Bavel, Bas van, and Thoen, Erik, (eds.), 'Rural societies and environments at risk. Ecology, property rights and social organisation in fragile areas (Middle Ages-Twentieth century)', *Rural History in Europe* 9 (Brepols 2013).
Brassley, Paul, Yves Segers and Leen van Molle, (eds.), *War, agriculture and food. Rural change in Europe from the 1930s to the 1950s* (New York 2012).
Cruyningen, Piet van, 'From Disasters to Sustainability: Floods, Changing Property Relations and Water management in the South-Western Netherlands, c. 1500-1800', *Continuity and Change* 29 :2 (2014) 241-266.

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**4.4 Life-courses, Family, and Labour**


**Goals and scientific focus**

This research program combines elements from historical demography and historical sociology and addresses developments of demographic characteristics in, and social structures of population and family from the early modern period until the late 20th century. Whereas a decade ago the *Life Course, Family and Labour* program (LFL) was extremely small and in 2008 the self-evaluation report and peer assessment even feared for its continuity, by 2015 LFL has evolved into a large and mature group, with no less than 15 fellows (tenured staff and post-docs), 21 PhD students and several affiliated members, highly active at six different university and research institutions. The addition of KULeuven in 2012 as a (candidate) member of the N.W. Posthumus Institute was also beneficial to the LFL program, as it welcomed the group of historical sociologists and demographers led by Koen Matthijs. As a result, in 2015 the LFL program consists of
projects by Theo Engelen, Angélique Janssens and Jan Kok (RU), Kees Mandemakers and Richard Zijdeman (IISG), Richard Paping (RUG), Hilde Bras and Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (WUR), Isabelle Devos, Eric Vanhaute and Bart Van de Putte (UGent), and Koen Matthijs and Jan Van Bavel (KULeuven).

LFL-members are engaged in a wide range of data infrastructure projects creating and using aggregated information such as the worldwide Clariah and Clio-Infra, the Dutch Hub for Aggregated Social History (HASH) and the Flemish Lokstat (Historical Data Bank of Local Statistics). Likewise, most of them are also involved in the development of databases with micro-data (non-aggregated information) on persons, families and households such as the European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net), the Dutch Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN) and the Flemish COR-database. The program also looks at methodological issues (quantitative but also qualitative approaches) related to these datasets. Still, the main collaborations within the group result from the approach of the life course perspective, currently the main paradigm within the field of historical demography.

These datasets and methodologies are used within a set of broad-based research objectives. Program members conduct research on different population issues (from mortality, fertility, nuptiality to migration) in which they strongly emphasize a comparative perspective. The key questions refer to spatio-temporal differences in population processes and the differences in this respect between generations, gender, social stratification and mobility, and religious denominations. Most importantly, members are engaged with explaining behavioral patterns in a wide social context. In particular, they focus on (1) the study of the social and demographic implications of economic change, or vice versa (2) the impact of family and demography on social relations. Particularly relevant in this respect is the study of women’s work.

Activities
The LFL program functions mainly as a platform for academic exchange, bringing together scholars working on the historical demography of the Low Countries by organizing workshops and conferences, and writing collaborative articles, books and projects. Members of the program convene several times per year.

A major event is the Day of Historical Demography, first organized in 2008. Due to its success it became an annual workshop. As a rule, about 40 academics from Flanders and the Netherlands attend each year. The workshop takes places early December at a university in the Low Countries, is organized in collaboration with SRN Historical Demography (see below) and is dedicated to a specific theme within historical demography: the city (Tilburg, 2009), qualitative approaches (Leuven, 2010), life course (Nijmegen, 2011), gender (Leuven, 2012), vulnerable populations (Ghent, 2013) and family (Wageningen, 2014). Currently, the ninth day is in preparation and will take place in Groningen on the topic of rural-urban differences. Also, since 2010 a selection of papers from the workshop is published in Jaarboek Historische Demografie (Yearbook Historical Demography, Leuven, Acco). We are now preparing the fifth volume.

The program is always present with a session at the Annual Posthumus Conference. In recent years, LFL has used this opportunity to invite promising international scholars to present their work such as Lotta Vikstrom (Umea University), Barbara Revuelta (Lund University) or affiliated members from other research institutions in the Low Countries such as Thijs Lambrecht. Indeed, utmost importance is given to the training of young scholars. As a result, apart from the graduate training program, a number of
successful master classes for PhD students were arranged in Ghent with George Alter (University of Michigan), and in Nijmegen with Arthur Wolf (Stanford University) and Pier Paul Viazzo (Turin University). From 2014 onwards and with Richard Zijdeman as new program leader, LFL will also invest in methodological workshops. A first one was already organized in November 2014 at IISG in Amsterdam on programming in R, a result of a new cooperation effort with the Scientific Research Network Historical Demography (see below) and the International Institute of Social History. From the same perspective, LFL scholars will also be involved in organizing and teaching at the upcoming new series of international summer courses in historical demography (taking place in Cluj, Nijmegen and Lund). Several LFL-fellows also participate and teach in the NWP Research MA courses.

Another important goal of LFL is to support and stimulate the participation of Dutch and Flemish scholars in international networks and conferences. As such, many members of the program organized collaborative sessions and presented papers at the Social Science History Conferences such as the European Social Science History Conference (bi-annual) and the conference of the American Social Science History Association (annual) during the period 2009-2014. Similarly, they were present at the first European Rural History Conference in 2013 (Brighton), at the World Economic History Conferences in 2009 (Utrecht), 2012 (Stellenbosch) and 2015 (Kyoto), at the International Congresses of Historical Sciences in 2010 (Amsterdam) and 2015 (Jinan), and at the IUSSP International Population Conferences in 2009 (Marrakesh) and 2013 (Busan). Needless to stress, many were also present with full sessions and/or individual papers at the first European of Historical Demography in Alghero (2014).

During the period 2009-2014, LFL-fellows also organized a number of workshops and conferences themselves. Some of these resulted in publications such as the edited volumes by Kok and Van Bavel on demographic behaviour in the Low Countries during the Interbellum period (Leuven, 2010) and by Devos and NWP-fellows Schmidt and De Groot on singles in the cities of North-Western Europe, 1000-2000 (forthcoming Palgrave). Furthermore, LFL-scholars have acted as guest editors for a number of special issues resulting from LFL-workshops such as 'the Biological Standard of Living' (Devos, Bras, Van de Putte and Matthijs), 'International Transmission of Reproductive Behaviour' (Bras and Van Bavel) and 'Women in changing labour markets' (Zijdeman and Van Leeuwen) in the peer-reviewed international journal The History of the Family. We can also refer to a special issue reflecting on and using the HSN (Kok, Bras and Mandemakers) in the Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History.

A range of collective and co-authored academic papers were published by members of the group, among which Bras, Devos, Kok, Mandemakers, Matthijs, Paping, Van Bavel, and Van de Putte: a survey of these collaborations can be found in the bibliography in the Annual Reports of the N.W. Posthumus Institute. During the period 2009-2014, LFL-members were also involved in finalizing long term comparative projects such as Kok and Engelen who edited the fourth volume in the book series Life at the extremes. The demography of Europe and China. Devos and Vanhaute finished a comparative synthesis on family formation in the North Sea Area with an edited volume in the book series Rural Economy and Society in North-Western Europe.

**Academic Reputation**
Over the years, the Low Countries have played a key role in the development of historical demography. Following the suggestions by the peer review committee in 2008, the
merits of Dutch and Belgian scholarship have recently been discussed by respectively Jan Kok, and Isabelle Devos and Christa Matthys. Both articles link recent Dutch and Belgian research in historical demography to on-going debates and emerging trends in the field of social and economic history at large.

In actual fact, cooperation between Dutch and Flemish researchers is well developed. Apart from LFL, Flemish and Dutch historical demographers also collaborate in the Scientific Research Network Historical Demography, funded by the Flemish Research Foundation (FWO) and led by the KULeuven group of Koen Matthijs. A number of joint activities (such as the Day of Historical Demography) have been organized in recent years. Rather than overlap, the collaboration with SRN fosters an important synergy within the community of historical demographers in the Low Countries. At the same time, a number of personal appointments have enhanced opportunities for fundamental research in historical demography. In 2011, Jan Kok was appointed as Chair of Economic, Social and Demographic History at Radboud University Nijmegen and in 2014 Hilde Bras was appointed as Chair of the Sociology of Consumption and Households Group at Wageningen University. She also became a member of De Jonge Akademie (Young Academy) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science (2012-2017). Furthermore, Kees Mandemakers was appointed endowed Chair of Large Historical Databases at Erasmus University Rotterdam (2008-2012) and Angélique Janssens as endowed Chair Historical Demography at Maastricht University (2015-2020).

LFL is highly visible in the international community as well. Dutch and Flemish academics play a major role in international networks such as Kees Mandemakers as President of the European Historical Population Samples Network (2011-2016) and of the International Committee for Historical Demography (ICHD) (2011-2015), or Jan Kok as the Family and Demography Network representative of the American Social Science History Association (2011-2013). Moreover, the second conference of the European Society of Historical Demography will be organized by the LFL-fellows in Leuven in September 2016. LFL-members are also well embedded in international publication networks. Bras and Kok are editors-in-chief of the international journal The History of the Family, Devos is member of the editorial board of the Low Countries Journal of Social and Economic History (Tijdschrift voor Sociale en Economische Geschiedenis), while Matthijs and Mandemakers recently launched a new e-journal Historical Life Course Studies. From all these positions, LFL-scholars partly influence the international direction of the field of historical demography.

**Perspectives**

In recent years members of LFL have been successful in acquiring external research funding in competitive programs. Taking account of the list of awarded grant (see below), it is clear that in the coming years:

1. Fellows will continue to work on the creation of large databases for social and economic history. Jan Kok participates in Clio-infra which intends to create global aggregate

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datasets on population, economy, living standards etc. Likewise Devos and her team are collecting similar data at the local level for early modern Flanders and Brabant in the STREAM-project, while Zijdeman is now project leader on the Clariah Structured Data Hub, the successor of Clio-infra project and chief data officer at the International Institute of Social History.

2. The work on the database of historical data on Belgian municipalities (Lokstat), closely related to the Dutch project Hub for Aggregated Social History (HASH) on Dutch municipalities, has recently been finalized. These two interfaces now enable social and economic researchers to use and produce municipal maps of Belgium and the Netherlands for every date between the early 19th century and the present. Combining local and regional data in Netherlands and Flanders opens up new perspectives for research that focuses on the meso-level that is too often relegated to a contextual variable. A recent collaboration by Devos and Van Poppel with the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research on local and regional patterns of infant mortality in Dutch and Belgian municipalities shows the potential of such analyses (see Demographic Research, 2014). In that respect, collaboration with the NWP-research program ‘People, Space and Places in History’ will be explored in the near future.

3. With regard to individual-level datasets, fellows are also working on better and easier access to data files such as the Dutch HSN and Flemish COR-database. For instance, the COR-database is currently being expanded to the inter-war period in order to span a period of more than eight decades. Also, the Dutch database Linked Lives is extending the HSN by reconstructing the life courses of one brother or sisters of 3000 original HSN research persons. Indeed, much work is being done by developing online tools and by linking these datasets to others such as the European MOSAIC and the European Historical Population Samples. In fact, in 2010 the European Science Foundation prioritized the grant application for an EHPS-Network in which 30 large database from more than 20 countries participate, including HSN and COR. It involves the creation of an Intermediate Data Structure (IDS) that will allow direct comparison between historical databases with longitudinal micro data (such as life courses) in different countries. LFL-fellow Kees Mandemakers (IISG/EUR) as President of the EHPS-netwerk was the main applicant. Clearly, LFL is dedicated to study demographic behaviour in a comparative perspective, which implies sustained cooperation with research teams abroad and investing in the interoperability of international databases.

LFL fellows invest a lot in developing datasets at the micro level, as well as at the meso and macro levels, since high-level historical research is strongly dependent upon access to primary source materials. As a result, research in LFL is guided by a multi-level approach. Still, the strength of the program lies in the clear focus on the central theme of historical demography, and more specifically on the study of the demographic behaviour of free historical actors in a restrained environment. Despite their interdisciplinary nature, none of the projects are peripheral to the program. In fact, the comparative perspectives of historians, sociologists, demographers and increasingly also geographers and geneticists deliver an incentive structure for LFL-fellows to explore economic and social history in a novel way.

Looking at the three domains of LFL we see that:
1. The focus on the *family* as the central unit of analysis in the projects of Hilde Bras and Angélique Janssens shows that the family is experiencing a renewal in historical analysis. Whereas Bras studies the impact of family influences on the fertility decline, Janssens looks the role of the family in early death and exceptional survival. For instance, recent studies of children’s death clustering have made clear that young children depend strongly on their families for survival. Likewise, the role of siblings on the timing and outcomes of fertility and mortality, but also marriage and migration is increasingly a topic of interest. From the same perspective, the topic of heritability is novel as historians have always looked at socio-economic and/or the disease environment for explaining mortality. Using DNA-material of surviving descendants and collaborating with geneticists from UCLeiden, Janssens and her team will study to what extent familial influences in survival are due to genetic influences or shared environments, while at KU-Leuven DNA will be used to investigate the fertility of COR-descendants. As LFL-fellows are investigating how survival and fertility transmitted between generations, intergenerational effects are becoming a major issue on the research agenda (see also the recent work of Richard Paping).

2. Whereas *labour* was considered the LFL weak spot by the 2008 peer review, this is no longer the case. The domain has received renewed attention in recent years. We can refer to Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk’s project which tries to establish connections between women’s and children’s work in the Netherlands and the Netherlands Indies in the colonial period, and to the early modern projects on the subsistence strategies of never married women and prostitutes, both using a *life course* approach. By focusing on population groups in specific, these projects allow to gain more insight into the manner in which societies determine hierarchies and adapt to economic change. From the same perspective, the project on the life courses of veterans of the First World War permits to look at the effects of political crises. Apparent from these latter projects is that the chronological scope of the life course approach is being enlarged. Whereas it was mainly used to investigate the early stages of the demographic transition, it is now also used for exploring the inter-war period and the pre-industrial period. Devos for instance, developed ways that make the life course approach possible for sources from the early modern period.

3. These projects show that gender remains very much at the research agenda of many LFL-fellows. Gender differences are at the core of the ERC-project of Jan Van Bavel who investigates the long-term effects of the gender balance in education for reproductive behaviour in Europe. Other projects use the gender-orientated approach in a novel way as well. For Matthijs and Kok for instance the focus is on men, rather than women. They look at the male influence on fertility trends and at the male investment in children which involves methodological and conceptual innovations in this field of research.

Obviously, there is a renewal of fields of interest going on, which offers new opportunities for the way we practice historical demography. Still, whether fellows integrate these new approaches into their own research is up to them. It is the responsibility of the local research groups to develop new lines of research and raise the necessary funds to carry out this research. In fact, taking into account the limited funds of the Posthumus Institute and the different funding rules of the research councils in the Netherlands (NWO) and Flanders (FWO), collaborative projects between Dutch and Flemish scholars
are an important achievement. LFL remains dedicated to strengthen the program and considers as its mission to exchange and connect the research activities of LFL scholars in a comprehensive framework as much as possible.

Therefore, in the coming years LFL will continue to keep fellows informed about ongoing research and offer a comprehensible platform for exchange of ideas and knowledge among Dutch and Flemish scholars working within the field of historical demography. We will continue to organize meetings on a regular basis, and arrange LFL-input in national and international conferences. Furthermore, LFL will exploit the added value of the NWP cooperation by investing more energy in the training of young and senior scholars. Besides extending the datasets, we are dedicated to refine the knowledge of the toolbox of methods (multilevel modeling, agent-based modeling, GIS, etc.) to analyze these datasets by organizing methodological workshops and seminars.

**Examples of Major Projects**

The Annual Reports provide a survey of the number and height of grants that have been awarded to researchers in this program. We mention only:

- Hilde Bras (WUR) and Ineke Maas (IISG): Linking Historical Lives (Linked Lives): a database with life courses of brothers and sisters, 1850-2010, NWO Medium Investment Grant, 2010-2013, € 462,000.
- Isabelle Devos (UGhent) (with Anne Winter, VUB): STREAM. A spatiotemporal research infrastructure for early modern Flanders and Brabant, Hercules Foundation (Medium Sized Data Infrastructure), 2015-2019, € 1,350,000.
- Erik Thoen (UGhent) (with Eric Vanhaute and Isabelle Devos): Economic growth and inequality. Explaining divergent regional growth paths in pre-industrial Europe (Late Middle Ages-19th century), Ghent University, 2015-2019, € 940,000.
- Jan Luiten van Zanden (UU) (with Jan Kok, RU): CLIO-INFRA. Worldwide data on indicators of inequality and development, NWO Groot, 2010-2015 € 1,423,000.
- Kees Mandemakers (IISG), LINKing System for historical family reconstruction (NWO CATCH programme, 2009-2014, € 674,000.
- Kees Mandemakers (IISG) (with Anders Brändström and Koen Matthijs, KULeuven), European Historical Population Samples Network (EHPS-Net), European Science Foundation, 2011-2016, € 495,000.
- Kees Mandemakers (IISG) (with Andrea Scharnhorst and Frank van Harmelen), Census data open linked – CEDAR. From fragment to fabric - Dutch census data in a web of global cultural and historic information, KNAP (Computational Humanities Program), 2011-2015, € 689,000.
- Elise van Nederveen Meerkerk (WUR): 'Industriousness in an Imperial Economy. Interactions of households’ work patterns, time allocation and consumption in the
Netherlands and the Netherlands-Indies, 1815-1940’ (NWO VIDI 2013-2017, € 800,000).


**Key Publications (selection of 7)**

*(The Annual Reports contain a more extensive list.)*


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**4.5 Social History of Communities**


**Goals and Research Focus**

Social History of Communities is a Flemish-Dutch research program for scholars working on the broad field of the social history of communities from the late Middle Ages to the present. Since 2010, it has been the successor of the program ‘Group Formation and Civil Society’, with which it shares the selection of research themes, yet with more emphasis on the role of (urban) communities in social history. The program brings together PhD-students and postdoctoral fellows and senior researchers from the Netherlands and
Flanders who are active in a number of large research projects, such as the projects of Manon van der Heijden (UL) on the topic of crime and gender; the Belgian IUAP (Inter-university Attraction Pole)-network headed by Marc Boone on ‘City and Society in the Low Countries (1200-1800)’; a number of projects of Leo Lucassen (UL), Marlou Schrover (UL), Anne Winter (VUB) and Hilde Greefs (UA) on migration processes; and projects on social mobility, as apparent in the ERC Advanced Grant of Marco van Leeuwen (IISG/UU) on intergenerational social mobility 1700-2000. It also welcomes PhD-students who work on stand-alone projects that relate to the social history of communities.

The program looks at the formation of boundaries between social groups, at processes of inclusion and exclusion and at the rise of civil society. ‘Civil society’ is a central concept in the literature on the social history of communities, and refers to institutions that do not belong to the market, but are formed by citizens, such as guilds, churches, voluntary associations, charitable bodies, etc. These organisations are often seen as important when studying the processes of group formation, as well as processes of inclusion and inclusion in communities from medieval times to the present.

Three areas of research are particularly relevant:

1. The history of migration as a key phenomenon in the social history of communities.
2. The formation of boundaries between social groups and processes of inclusion and exclusion e.g. through marriages, through participation in litigation, or other processes of assimilation.
3. Changes in shared beliefs and feelings of (local) belonging. In what ways does membership of certain institutions result in a sense of creating shared resources and identities? Are some organizations more effective than others in this respect, and how, and why, does this change over time?
4. The impact that institutions have on the society at large with regard to a generalized feeling of trust, or conversely, social tensions and conflicts.

*Processes in Research, national and international activities*

The following list of activities exemplifies the engagement of the program both in the scholarly community and in graduate training:

- A selection of the international workshops and conferences that have been organized since 2009 by or in collaboration with the Social History of Communities Research Program include an ‘International workshop on Urban History’ (Antwerp, December 2009); a conference titled ‘Embattled territory. The circulation of knowledge in the Spanish Netherlands’ (Ghent, March 2011); a conference on ‘The Eurasian question’ (Leiden, March 2014); a mini-symposium on ‘Africa-Europe: migration and stigmatisation’ (Leiden, May 2014); a symposium on ‘Slavernij in het Nederlandse imperium’ (Amsterdam, September 2014); a workshop on ‘migration and ethnicity in coalfield history: global perspectives (Wassenaar, November 2014); a symposium on ‘Armoede en criminaliteit: bronnen voor Leidse geschiedenis’ (Leiden, October 2014) and one on ‘Traveling policies’ (Antwerp, June 2014).
- Organized Master classes since 2009 include one with Vanessa Harding (Antwerp, September 2010); with Patrick Manning (Leiden, November 2010); one on
'Crossing borders’ (Leiden, September 2011); with James D. Tracy (Amsterdam October 2013); with Tim Hitchcock (Brussels, December 2013); with Alison Twells (Leiden, October 2013); with Robbie Aitken (Leiden, May 2014) and a meet and greet session with David Parrott (October 2014).

- The program usually organizes two sessions at the Annual Posthumus Conference, including one on migration, and one on another topic related to the social history of communities, for instance on the role of religion in twentieth-century civil society (2014); on criminal and civil justice (2013); on Citizenship and institutions for collective action (2012) and on Families, gender and socio-economic change (2011).

- Important venues for dissemination of research by members of the program are the bi-annual conference on Urban History, organized by the European Association for Urban History (of which Marc Boone is an honorary member) and the bi-annual European Social Science History Conferences (ESSHC) organized by the International Institute for Social History (IISH). In the ESSHC, Marlou Schrover is chair of the network ‘Ethnicity and Migration’ and Marco van Leeuwen is chair of the network ‘Social Inequality’. Both PhD-students and staff members of the program typically organize sessions and present papers.

Academic Reputation

The 2008 report from the evaluation committee emphasised the diversity of the research program – that was then called ‘Group Formation and Civil Society’ – which comes at a cost in terms of coherence. The committee also suggested a closer link of the research program with recent research on new institutional economics. The research program leaders agree with the broad character of the program, yet see this as a strength rather than a weakness, exemplified by the change of the name of the program into ‘social history of communities’ to underline its inclusiveness. The change of the name of the program in addition emphasises its role in bringing together institutionally unconnected research initiatives that relate to rigorous social history, history of migration, and history from below. For that reason, research that relates to new institutional economics, as suggested by the committee, has remained less at the fore in the program.

Perspectives

As was explained above, the research program brings together research projects that relate to social history. A crucial line of research relates to migration history. For instance, both junior and senior researchers who are affiliated to research projects under the supervision of respectively Marlou Schrover, Leo Lucassen, Anne Winter, Hilde Greefs and Idesbald Goddeeris meet in the context of the above-described sessions, workshops and master classes organized by the Social History of Communities research program. The Annual Posthumus Conference is an important venue to meet as well. Especially PhD-students are thus facilitated to build up a network among migration specialists.

A second and strongly related key line of research relates to processes of inclusion and exclusion in the context of both urban and rural communities. Social history of community links up with existing strong research traditions on urban history in both the Netherlands and Flanders. For instance, staff member Manon van der Heijden has recently been appointed as professor in comparative urban history at Leiden University, and various
staff members – including Marc Boone, Manon van der Heijden, Bert De Munck, Jelle Haemers, Maarten Prak and Anne Winter – participate in a large scale Interuniversity Attraction Pole (IUAP)-project on the topic of ‘City and Society’, financed by the Belgian Science Policy Office. Furthermore, social interactions in rural communities are examined in the project of (among others) Maarten Prak on participation and representation in Dutch Water Boards in the pre-democratic era. Social history of communities reinforces these existing networks, and has more particularly organized workshops and master classes around topics relating to urban history, collective actions, and history from below.

These four connected research lines – migration, processes of inclusion/exclusion, urban history, civil society – will remain the point of departure of scholarly initiatives taken by social history of communities.

Examples of Major Projects
The Annual Reports provide a survey of the number and height of grants that have been awarded to researchers in this program. We mention only:

- NWO VIDI-project Manon van der Heijden (UL): Civil Services and Urban Communities, 1500-1800 (2005-2010, granted € 600.000); ‘Crime and Gender 1600-1900: A Comparative Perspective’ (€ 1.500.000, VICI NWO).
- Marco van Leeuwen (IISG) ERC Advanced Investigator Grant, Towards Open Societies? Trends, Variations and Driving Forces of Intergenerational Social Mobility in Europe over the Past Three Centuries (€ 1,921,000) 2008-2013.
- NWO VICI-project Marlou Schrover (UL): Gender and Migration in the Netherlands, 1945-2005 (2006-2011, granted € 1.250.000), University of Leiden;

Key Publications (selection of 7)
(The Annual Reports contain a more extensive list.)


Schrover, Marlou and Eileen Janes Yeo (eds), Gender, Migration and the Public Sphere 1850-2005 (New York 2010).

APPENDIX – Board and Committees in 2015

Members and substitute-members (our system of substitute members guarantees that all participating universities are represented at each meeting of the General Board)

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- Prof.dr. B. Blondé (UA)
- Prof.dr. U. Bosma (IISG)
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- Prof.dr. I. Devos (UGent)
- Prof.dr. Th.L.M. Engelen (RU)
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- Prof.dr. H. Greefs (UA)
- Dr. K. Hofmeester (IISG)
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- Prof.dr. L.A.C.J. Lucassen (UL)
- Prof.dr. R. Oldenziel (TUe)
- Dr. R.F.J. Paping (RUG)
- Prof.dr. M. Prak (UU)
- Dr. W.J.M.J. Rutten (SHCL)

**PhD representatives:**
- Alberto Feenstra MA (UvA), Stephanie Kerckhofs MA (KULeuven), Boris Horemans MA (VUB), Sandra de Pleijt MSc (UU).

**Executive Committee**
- Prof. dr. J. Kok (chair) (RU), Prof. dr. M.L.J.C. Schrover (UL), Dr. L.J. Touwen (advisor) (UL), Dr. A. Winter (VUB), Dr. C.J. Zuijderduijn (advisor) (UL).

**Examination Committee**
- Dr. B. Gales (RUG), Prof. dr. H. Greefs (UA), Dr. L.J. Touwen (UL).

**Education Committee**
- Dr. A. Schmidt (chair) (UL), Dr. A. Winter (VUB), Dr. C.J. Zuijderduijn (advisor) (UL), Dr. C. van Bochove (RU), H.A. Feenstra (UvA, PhD representative), S. Kerckhofs (KULeuven, PhD representative).