

Program Research Seminar

New Horizons in Military History, 27 February 2019, Amsterdam



Organization: Netherlands Research School Political History
in cooperation with Kim Bootsma, Tom Duurland, Francesca Hooft, Wim Klinkert and Samuel Kruizinga.

Date: Wednesday 27 February 2019, 9.30 – 18.00 hrs.

Location: Amsterdam University Library, Singel 425, Doelenzaal. There is virtually no parking space in the vicinity of the library. It is, however, easy to reach by public transport from Amsterdam Central Station: trams 2, 4, 11, 12, 14, 24, stop: either Koningsplein or Muntplein.

Instructions for registration and participation

Please send an email to bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl confirming participation in the seminar before 22 February. The RSPH offers lunch and drinks.

Program

9.30 Doors open

9.45 Welcome by Margit van der Steen on behalf of RSPH
Opening by Francesca Hooft

9.55 Two parallel sessions

Session 1 – Doelenzaal

Kim Bootsma: 'Reasonable discrimination? Gender and the integration of women in the Dutch armed forces, 1968-1978'

Tom Duurland: 'The Sword and the Esculape: medical responsibilities in total war, 1949-1989'

Senior discussant: Prof Jan Hoffenaar

Session 2 – Potgieterzal

Francesca Hooft: 'Identities and Emotions in Military History: Physicians and Nurses in the Conflict Zone'.

Sander Govaerts: 'Armies and Ecosystems in the Meuse Region, 1250-1850: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Premodern Military History'

Senior discussant: Jurriën de Jong

11.15 Break

11.30 Two parallel sessions

Session 3 - Doelenzaal

Koos-jan de Jager: 'Studying the religious dimensions of modern warfare: the case of Indonesia, 1945-1950'.

Vera van der Zee: 'Female conscription in 1908'

Senior discussant: Dr Samuel Kruizinga

Session 4 – Potgieterzaal

Frank Bethlehem: 'The Netherlands Border Guard policy, 1989-1995'

Pauline Onderwater: 'First World War and neutrality historiography: towards a new paradigm'

Senior discussant: Prof Wim Klinkert

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Keynote speech by professor Sönke Neitzel

14.45 Workshop introduction by Kim Bootsma

14.50 Workshops (see below)

16.00 Break

16.15 Workshop results and concluding remarks by Tom Duurland

17.00 Drinks

About the workshops:

In the workshops we would like to invite all scholars interested in military history in the broadest sense to share their knowledge and experience in a short round of sandpit discussions. The results will be used as input for a working paper on the state of the art in Dutch military historiography and ideas for future research. The sandpits will be discussing the following topics:

1. Institutional barriers?

Discussion leader: Ben Schoenmaker

As in many other countries, military history research in the Netherlands is closely tied to the institute it is examining, namely the defence organisation. The bulk of military history research is conducted by the Dutch Institute for Military History or is in another way funded by the Ministry of Defence itself. ? In this workshop, we will discuss if and how this system affects the academic freedom of historians working in the field and their possibilities for intellectual exchange with other academics.

2. Boundaries of military historiography

Discussion leader: Mieke Aerts

Since the 1970s, researchers working in the framework of the 'New Military History' have broadened the focus and scope of traditional military historiography. Although this has resulted in many new lines of research, allowing historians to formulate new problems, find new materials and use new methods, it has also blurred the lines between military history and other fields of historical inquiry. Can we still speak of military history as a field with its own theoretical principles and/or ways of conducting research? Or should we consider military history to be just a subfield of political history? And is this a problem?

3. Education

Discussion leader: Wim Klinkert

Although student interest in military history appears to be on the rise, the options for education remain limited. In the Netherlands, only the University of Amsterdam offers a Master's degree in Military History. What does this mean for the visibility and infrastructure of Military History as a discipline? Could - and should - the visibility of the discipline be increased in the universities' curricula?

Do we perhaps need more collaboration with the Faculty of Military Sciences in Breda? How could the enthusiasm for Military History be increased, and its infrastructure extended?

4. Gender and diversity in military history research

Discussion leader: Margit van der Steen

Although women's and gender studies have already begun to address themes of the military and war in the 1980s, the integration of their findings into mainstream scholarship on military history has remained rather limited. In the wake of the rise of the 'New Military History', researchers have expanded the field to include military mentalities, networks of relationships within the military and experiences of ordinary men as well, but have, as German historian Karen Hagemann stated, persisted "in accepting the maleness of the subject as a quasi-natural given, which thus does not need to be addressed." In this workshop, we will discuss why the field has been rather reluctant to take up the challenges posed by women's and gender historians and how research on the history of the military and war could benefit from a gender perspective.

5. Military history from an international perspective

Discussion leader: Samüel Kruizinga

Much research in the field of military history is carried out from a national perspective, focussing on the role of national armies in a particular conflict or the development of a specific military corps or unit throughout time. In this workshop, we will talk about the 'uniqueness' of Dutch military history and the possible (dis)advantages of comparative research. Do we ask enough 'Big Questions'? How can an international perspective help us to better understand the dynamics of our national military history? Furthermore we discuss the infrastructure of military history. How can we benefit from more exchange between researchers on a larger and more professional level?

Speakers and organization

Prof Sönke Neitzel is a German professor of military history at the University of Potsdam.

Prof Wim Klinkert is professor of military history at the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Defence Academy.

Prof Jan Hoffenaar is professor of military history at Utrecht University and the Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH).

Dr. Samuël Kruizinga is senior lecturer at the University of Amsterdam

Dr Margit van der Steen is coordinator of the Research School Political History in the Netherlands and assistant professor at Leiden University.

Jurriën de Jong is a researcher at the Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH).

Kim Bootsma is PhD candidate at Groningen University. In her project, she analyses the integration of women in the Dutch armed forces from the 1970s onwards.

Francesca Hooft is PhD candidate at Utrecht University. She works on the deployment of physicians and nurses with the armed forces during peacekeeping and humanitarian operations since 1990.

Tom Duurland is PhD candidate at Leiden University, working on military medicine during the Cold War period.

Frank Bethlehem is PhD candidate at the Netherlands Institute of Military History, specialising on Dutch border guard policy, 1914-1995.

Koos Jan de Jager is a PhD candidate at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam working on religion in warfare, focusing on Indonesia in the 1940s.

Sander Govaerts is a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam working on the armed forces and the environment in the premodern period.

Vera van der Zee works on a PhD research on female conscription in the army in 1908.

Pauline Onderwater is a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam. In her work, she focuses on the changing relationship between citizens and government in the Netherlands during the First World War.

Prof Mieke Aerts was professor of Modern Political History at the University of Amsterdam.

Prof Ben Schoenmaker is professor of Military History at Leiden University and director of the Netherlands Institute of Military History.