



**Bringing Politics Back In(to) ... Environmental Studies**  
**Opening Academic Year Research School Political History**  
**Amsterdam 24 September 2021 15.00 – 17.00 followed by drinks**



**Keynote by Diederik Samsom**

**Thematic introduction by Liesbeth van de Grift**

We warmly invite you for the inaugural session of the national Research School Political History, which also marks the tenth anniversary of the School. After a long period of digital meetings, we are finally able to meet in person again. This gathering provides ample opportunities for political historians to meet each other and to welcome our new research master students and PhD candidates. As always during our opening sessions, we discuss a specific theme relevant to our field. This year, the focus is on the booming multidisciplinary field of environmental studies.

**Environmental history** accolades widely different perspectives, ranging from the history of environmental degradation to new social movements or biographies of conservationists. Thus far, political historians have played only a minor role in this expanding field of study as compared with cultural historians, historians of science and technology and global historians. This is striking given that the environment offers a lens to study topics of core concern to political historians, such as democracy, legitimacy and social movements.

In 2021, the Research School of Political History will seek to change this by devoting its inaugural session to the theme of environmental history and by organizing a summer school on the Politics of the Environment. The opening of the academic year will raise the question of the **added value of (political) history to environmental studies**. First, it

will discuss **how environmental studies tie in with core concerns of political historians**: democracy, legitimacy, policy-making and interest representation, including those beyond the polity, such as “future generations.” Second, it will explore **the tension between environmental activism and academic (historical) studies**.

We are delighted to announce that **Diederik Samsom**, former environmentalist and currently head of the Cabinet of Frans Timmermans, features as our keynote speaker. **Liesbeth van de Grift**, who has recently been appointed professor of International History and the Environment, will introduce him and chair the session. Moderator is **Wim van Meurs**, professor for European Political History at the Radboud University.

The opening of the academic year will end with a welcome to our new academic director **Jacco Pekelder** and our new director of studies **Carla Hoetink**, succeeding **Ido de Haan** and **Dirk Jan Wolfram**, followed by drinks.

**Date:** 24 September 2021, 15.00-18.00

**Location:** KNAW Trippenhuis, Kloveniersburgwal 29, Amsterdam.

**Information and pre-registration:**

[bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl) on the basis of first come, first serve.

**Corona guidelines** of the KNAW should be respected, which includes access with the [CoronaCheck-app](#).