



Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

Spatial Humanities Netherlands. Towards a national collaborative network

Zijdeman, Richard L.; Stapel, R.J.; Beek, Wouter; Mac Gillavry, Edward; Mol, J.A.; Spaan, Bert; van Steensel, Arie; Vermaut, Thomas

2018

document version

Early version, also known as pre-print

[Link to publication in KNAW Research Portal](#)

citation for published version (APA)

Zijdeman, R. L., Stapel, R. J., Beek, W., Mac Gillavry, E., Mol, J. A., Spaan, B., van Steensel, A., & Vermaut, T. (2018). *Spatial Humanities Netherlands. Towards a national collaborative network*.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the KNAW public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain.
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the KNAW public portal.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

E-mail address:

pure@knaw.nl

Towards a national collaborative network: Spatial Humanities Netherlands

Over the past decades The Netherlands has fostered a rich variety of projects in a field we would today refer to as 'spatial humanities'. Such projects include long-running infrastructural undertakings, e.g. the municipality boundaries of NLGIS (Nijmegen University/IISG) and cadastral maps of HISGIS Netherlands (Fryske Akademy).¹ With the rise of Linked Data in recent years, the field of spatial humanities has gained a strong momentum in the Netherlands by cultural heritage orientated tech-companies creating smart geo-tools (Bert Spaan², Triply³, Webmapper⁴). Yet, the field is fragmented and there is little coordination regarding best-practices, tools, and vocabularies.

A key accelerator towards a spatial humanities network is the national infrastructural project CLARIAH (2014-2024), creating a critical mass of researchers and computer science engineers working with Linked Data. Examples are Amsterdam Time Machine⁵, Historical Leiden in maps⁶, and Adamlink⁷. Furthermore, existing spatial humanities projects, such as the Historical Atlas of the Low Countries (1350-1800)⁸, OpenGazAm⁹, and Golden Agents¹⁰ will also be integrated in the network.

The backbone of the network is formed by four research institutes of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Fryske Akademy¹¹, International Institute of Social History¹², Huygens ING¹³, and Meertens Instituut¹⁴ (the latter three part of the newly formed Humanities Cluster¹⁵ in Amsterdam). With the input of afore mentioned tech-companies, and other cultural heritage partners, the aim is to move towards a national spatial humanities platform, for exchange and collaboration, within and outside the Netherlands. To ensure the latter, the network communicates with Pelagios¹⁶ and the World-Historical Gazetteer¹⁷ for the exchange of infrastructural knowledge, data models and vocabularies, benefitting researchers worldwide.

¹ <http://www.hisgis.nl>

² <https://bertspaan.nl>

³ <https://triplify.cc>

⁴ <https://www.webmapper.net/>

⁵ <http://www.create.humanities.uva.nl/amsterdam-time-machine/>

⁶ <http://hlk.erfgoedleiden.nl>

⁷ <http://www.adamlink.nl>

⁸ <http://rombertstapel.com/2017/01/historical-atlas-of-the-low-countries/>

⁹ <https://www.clariah.nl/projecten/research-pilots/opengazam/>

¹⁰ <https://www.goldenagents.org>

¹¹ <http://www.fryske-akademy.nl>

¹² <http://www.socialhistory.org>

¹³ <http://www.huygens.knaw.nl>

¹⁴ <http://www.meertens.knaw.nl>

¹⁵ <http://huc.knaw.nl>

¹⁶ <http://commons.pelagios.org>

¹⁷ <http://whgazetteer.org>