

Strangers in a Strange Land

Exploring social **inclusion** and
exclusion in premodern times

programme

CMEMS Conference
29 June 2017

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On behalf of the first-year students of the Research Master we welcome you to the CMEMS Conference 2017!

Each year this conference is organised by the students of the Research Master's programme Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CMEMS) of the University of Groningen. In this programme, students from the fields of history, literature and classical studies meet each other to research various topics related to the premodern period. The yearly CMEMS Conference is the place where these different disciplines and fields come together for an interdisciplinary approach to premodern themes. Each year the conference focuses on a theme that is both topical in society and pertinent to current academic debates in order to contribute and comment on the most recent insights in premodern research.

This year we are proud to welcome Dr Nora Berend (University of Cambridge) as our keynote speaker, and we are looking forward to hearing her lecture on this year's exciting theme.

We wish you an inspiring conference and hope your thoughts and minds will be stimulated by the various approaches to today's theme.

The CMEMS Conference 2017 Team

The conference “Strangers in a Strange Land” deals with the theme of social inclusion and exclusion in premodern history. Interweaving and depicting the several lights and shades of this topic, a multiform representation will reflect the complexity and variety of past societies. The role of identity, migration flows, and the permeation of different cultures will be discussed following a timeline which runs from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period. The decision to select this theme finds its origin in contemporary migration flows and the heated social debates which these movements caused. Considering this, we felt the necessity to put the current problems in a historical context. The recent exodus from the Middle East and North Africa, which is impacting various countries across Europe, has parallels with past migratory movements. By a detailed analysis of these flows in the past, the effects of a large influx of strangers on a society and its impact on the individual can be assessed. The role of individuals is shaped by their position within society in relation to others; in an environment created by the inclusion or exclusion of different cultural groups. The importance of these issues explains the choice of this theme. “Strangers in a Strange Land” will reflect on social boundaries between cultural groups and their roles in society, ultimately developing a connection between the past and the present.

In order to provide unity to a conference that has to accommodate a wide variety of speakers from different academic backgrounds, we have chosen an article, written by Marlowe Schrover and Willem Schinkel, to serve as our key text. This text provides an overarching framework for our conference, and all student presentations will, in one way or another, link their research to Schrover and Schinkel’s theory on the language of inclusion and exclusion. Their introductory article provides an overview of some of the most relevant concepts in the discourse analysis of in- and exclusion. It discusses forms of discursive problematisation, such as defining, claiming, legitimising, expanding, sensationalisation and suggestion, and connects these to the discursive drawing of boundaries. It is our hope that through this conference we can convince you that historical discourse analysis of the language surrounding inclusion and exclusion of certain groups of people can contribute to our present-day understanding of the phenomenon itself, its preconditions, and contexts.

Marlou Schrover and Willem Schinkel. “Introduction: The Language of Inclusion and Exclusion in the Context of Immigration and Integration.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2013. Vol. 36, No. 7, 1123 -1141.

- 09:30 — Registration
Coffee & Tea
- 09:50 — Welcome
- 10:00 — **The Stranger from a Strange Land I**
Giel Maan
Laura Steenhuis
- 10:40 — Break
- 10:55 — **The Assimilated Stranger**
Yoram Poot
Miente Pietersma
Giulia Biagioni
- 12:00 — Lunch Break
- 13:30 — **The Stranger from a Strange Land II**
Bianca Seinen
Gooitske Nijboer
- 14:15 — Break
- 14:30 — **The Interior Stranger**
Shanshan Bai
Bas Teunissen
Sven Gins
- 15:35 — Break
- 16:00 — Keynote Lecture: “**Languages and Functions of Medieval Exclusion**”
Dr Nora Berend
- 17:00 — Concluding Remarks
- 18:30 — Conference Dinner
Restaurant 't Feithhuis
Martinikerkhof 10, 9712 JG Groningen

SPE

THE SPEAKERS

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KEY SPEAKER

NORA BEREND

Reader in European History
Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Languages and Functions of Medieval Exclusion

Dr Nora Berend is Reader in European History at the Faculty of History and Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Her research interests are centred around medieval history and the use of medieval themes in modern nationalism.

Dr Berend has worked on medieval social and religious history, including minorities and state building. Her book *At the Gate of Christendom: Jews, Muslims and Pagans in Medieval Hungary c. 1000 - c. 1300* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), which explores the relationship between Christians and non-Christians

in a kingdom on the frontier of Latin Europe, won the Gladstone Prize from the British Royal Historical Society.

Dr Berend's current work focusses on the formation of identity in medieval and modern times. This year, her book *Religious Minorities in Christian, Jewish and Muslim Law (5th - 15th Centuries)* which she edited with John Tolan, Capucine Nemo-Pekelman and Youna Masset will be published at Brepols.

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16:00 - 17:00



GIEL MAAN

Medieval History
1300-1600

Previous to the Research Master CMEMS, Giel studied History. He concluded his Bachelor cum laude with a thesis about a fifteenth-century play, *Le Mystère de la Passion d'Arnoul Gréban*, investigating how late-medieval social realities were ingrained in it. His focus lies in the late medieval and early modern period, mostly in France. He is interested in the interplay of diverse media (imagery, text, theatre) and has a preference for the microhistorical approach. Giel is currently involved as a student assistant in the "Cities of Readers" research project.

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Labelled in Lyon: Depictions of 'The Turk' in French Sources from the Early Sixteenth Century

10:00 - 10:15

On 7 July 1533 Jean Hannart, Imperial ambassador, wrote from Lyon "Sire, today a Moorish man arrived here, sent by Barbarossa to the Most Christian King [of France]." Three years later an alliance was established between the king of France and the sultan of the Ottoman Empire. In the conference's key text Marlou Schrover and Willem Schinkel claim that "Idiscourses compete with one another to become the dominant system of meaning within their discursive environment." (1125) Especially an event like the arrival of a new group of refugees brings about a multitude of discourses. Although in 1533 there was no case of migration, only of visitation, it is worth seeing how this first real-life contact for many Frenchmen with Ottomans in Lyon affected the local discourse. Does the aforementioned statement hold true for this case? I will investigate by comparing three sources which were all published in Lyon between the late 1530s and the early 1540s: *Lyon marchant*, *Copie d'une lettre venue de Adrinopoli* and *Recueil de diverses histories touchant les situations de toutes regions et pays*; respectively a play, a pamphlet and a geographical description of the world.

"There Is Much Kindness in the Jew": Christian Jews and Jewish Christians in Robert Wilson's The Three Ladies of London

10:20 - 10:35

Robert Wilson's 1581 morality play bears witness to changing attitudes to England's domestic state of affairs and international trade relations. This allegory addresses anxieties underlying relentless domestic usury practices as well as England's developing trade with Turkey. Punctuated by fierce anti-Catholic sentiments, the play provides an unusually nuanced picture of London's economic hardships and the characterisation of foreigners, bar Catholics, compared to contemporary plays. Wilson's play features a virtuous (or at the very least, neutral) Jew and Turk, while its main villains are characterised by Catholic vices. In my presentation, I will focus on signs of the reformulation of the discursive order (Schrover and Schinkel 1125) in Wilson's portrayal of the Jew and the Turk. Put in stark contrast to the play's Catholic villains, their interests ethically align with those of Wilson's contemporary audience, though they remain alienated in terms of religion. This ambiguous representation, I argue, indicates the presence of competing discourses of old stereotypes versus new, more nuanced perspectives on Jews and Turks.



LAURA STEENHUIS

English Literature

Laura completed her Bachelor in English Language and Culture at the University of Groningen in 2016. She wrote her final thesis about John Fletcher's 1611 play *The Woman's Prize, or The Tamer Tamed*, focusing on the extent to which the play can be interpreted as subversive. Laura's current research concentrates on medieval and early modern English drama and computational literary studies.

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YORAM POOT

Ancient History

Yoram obtained his Bachelor in History at the University of Groningen. He wrote his thesis about the pacification of radical Irish republicanism in the 1980s. While interested in societal conflicts and transformations in both premodernity and modernity, he is currently working on these themes within the ancient period, with a specific interest in the clash of cultures during the Hellenistic Period. He is also involved as a student assistant in the research project "Connected Contests" which examines networks of festivals in antiquity.

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The Discourse of Local Loyalty: Citizenship Debated after the Alexandrian Riots of 38 AD

11:00 - 11:15

In 38 AD there were violent riots directed against the Jewish population of Alexandria. In the aftermath of the riots both Jewish and non-Jewish Alexandrian embassies went to the court of Emperor Caligula to plead for their cause. Both ancient and contemporary scholars have debated the cause of these riots. In this presentation, the background of the riots will be interpreted by focusing on how the division of different civic rights among various Alexandrian ethnic groups raised tensions in the city. Specifically, this presentation will focus on how these tensions were influenced by the concept of local religious loyalty, meaning the bond between citizen and city that was established and affirmed by religious participation, which could also work as a mode of inclusion and exclusion to civic rights. The presentation will look at the competing discourses about the Jewish religious loyalty and its relation to the division of Alexandrian civic rights. These discourses include fragments from the work of the Jewish Philo of Alexandria and the non-Jewish *Acta Alexandrinorum*.

Moving Horizons: Locating the Conquest of the Regions East of the Elbe in the Chronicles of the German Empire

11:20 - 11:35

Throughout the High Middle Ages, the Slavic lands east of the Elbe experienced intensifying contacts with the German Empire through warfare, Christianisation, and trade. In this presentation, I intend to analyse the discourses of cultural inclusion and exclusion of the Slavic lands in German historiographical narratives from the eleventh to the twelfth century, aiming to understand the medieval frontier along the Elbe according to the political language of its own time. Among other things, this entails understanding the representation of cultural differences in the context of the specific genre-characteristics of medieval chronicles. Furthermore, this presentation takes into account the multiplicity of the discourses surrounding Slavic tribes. In one and the same chronicle, for example, Slavs and Germans could be represented as culturally different yet unified in their adherence, or future subjugation, to Christianity.



MIENTE PIETERSMA

Medieval History
900-1300

Miente completed his Bachelor in History cum laude at the University of Groningen in 2016. He wrote his bachelor's thesis about the interplay between social stratification and political culture in eleventh and twelfth century Germany, zooming in on the importance of collective bonds among ministerials in the relationships with their lords. Miente's research focuses on the formation and expression of collective mentalities in the Middle Ages as reflected in various sources, from legal documents to historiographical works. Miente is currently involved as a research assistant in the project "Histories of Healthy Ageing".

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GIULIA BIAGIONI

Medieval Italian History
1200-1500

Giulia completed her Bachelor in Italian Literature at the University of Florence in 2015. Due to her interest in medieval handwriting and correspondence, she wrote her thesis on an unpublished exchange of letters between Pietro from Candia and Pope Innocenzo VII. During her studies, she worked as a journalist in Florence and Pistoia, collaborating with several Italian newspapers.

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The Byzantine Diaspora in the Late Middle Ages: Greek Communities in Southern Italy

11:40 - 11:55

As a consequence of the pressure exerted by the Ottoman Turks on the Byzantine Empire, most of the inhabitants of the Eastern Roman Empire took refuge in Italy. While the Byzantine immigration has been studied as a phenomenon related to the activity of those Greeks who collaborated with the Humanists in Venice, Florence, Rome and Naples, less attention has been paid to the communities who lived in Southern Italy and had no contact with the northern humanists. Although the reconstruction of their settlements in Apulia, Calabria, Sicily and Campania is hampered by a lack of information on their activity in the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, linguistic and cultural evidence proves their wide presence in these regions. The aim of this research is to trace the Byzantine presence in Southern Italy during these centuries and investigate the reasons that could have led them to settle in this part of Italy.

What Has Been, Will Be Again: Marlowe, “The Dutch Church Libel”, and Anti-Alien Discourse in Late Sixteenth-Century England

13:35 - 13:50

“The Dutch Church Libel” is a “most insolent” piece of writing that appeared on the wall of the Dutch Churchyard at Broadstreet Ward in London on 5 May 1593. The document contains a clear anti-stranger message directed at London’s inhabitants of Dutch and French descent, as well as references to three works by the popular playwright Christopher Marlowe: *Tamburlaine the Great Parts One and Two* (1589), *The Jew of Malta* (1592), and *The Massacre at Paris* (1593). In the conference’s key text, Schrover and Schinkel state that “the situational, institutional and social contexts shape and affect discourses and discourses influence social and political reality” (1125). My research will demonstrate how Marlowe’s plays were shaped by contemporary events and discourse, and how they, in their turn, quite contrary to present-day scholarly opinions, played an active part in constructing the anti-alien discourse found in “The Dutch Church Libel”.



BIANCA SEINEN

English Literature
1300-1700

Bianca completed her Bachelor in English Language and Culture cum laude at the University of Groningen in 2016. Loving both the literary and the linguistic side of the English language, she followed the minor Applied Linguistics, while researching Christopher Marlowe’s *Dido Queene of Carthage* and its interaction with its historical context for her final thesis. Bianca’s current research focuses on late medieval and early modern drama in their socio-political context.

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GOOITSKE NIJBOER

History of Ideas
1300-1700

Gooitske obtained her Bachelor in History in 2016. Her final thesis focused on the Jansenist heresy and its influence on French political change in the eighteenth century. Currently, she is in her first year of the Research Master Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies. Her research interests cover late medieval and early modern thought on Catholic liturgy and divine knowledge, but do not exclude contemporary anthropological theories of these concepts.

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“Why do the English Have Tails?” Legitimising Exclusion and Ethnic Boundary Making during the Anglo-Dutch Wars

13:55 - 14:10

During the seventeenth-century Anglo-Dutch wars, Dutch pamphlets alluded to the centuries-old slander of the “Anglicus Caudatus”. This presentation does not aim to explain the satirical uses of the epithet. Instead, it analyses the legitimisation of this form of ethnic boundary making by discussing a Dutch pamphlet, *De Nederlandsche Nijptang*, which explained where the English tail came from. The pamphlet legitimised and expanded on the issue from a political and religious point of view and is part of a discourse on the meaning of the tail, and to whom it belonged. Two sources of English origin will be examined as well. The presentation aims to provide more insight into the struggle of making and shifting ethnic boundaries through discourses in early modern Europe.

Between Being a Risk and Being at Risk: Social Inclusion and Exclusion of Helots in Ancient Sparta

14:35 - 14:50

The helots, who belonged to the lower class of Spartan society, revolted against the Spartans on several occasions. Their substantial contribution to agriculture, however, ensured the Spartan male citizens' focus on military affairs. Were the helots threatening or contributing to Spartan society? Could the helots be defined by either “being a risk” or “being at risk”? This presentation attempts to unveil the situation of helots in ancient Sparta. In addition to previous studies, in which scholars depicted the helots' position through their involvement in war and their financial situation, this exploration of the helots' social situation will be undertaken from a cultural perspective. To reveal what it meant to be a helot in ancient Sparta, this research focuses on the origin of helots; their involvement in military affairs; their inclusion in cultural activities; marriage, enfranchisement, and liberation; and finally, killing helots.



SHANSHAN BAI

Ancient History

Shanshan obtained her Bachelor's degree in Event Management in 2016, but her focus has recently shifted to ancient history. She is currently in her first year of the Research Master Classical, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies in Groningen. Her research interests concern the history of ancient Greece, particularly Late Classical and Hellenistic Sparta. Her preference is to explore the situation of women and other marginal groups in the ancient world.

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BAS TEUNISSEN

Ancient Roman History

Bas completed his Bachelor's degree in History at the University of Groningen in 2016. He wrote his thesis about the second and first century BC Roman Slave Wars and compared these to a number of early modern slave uprisings in 19th century Southern USA to find out why there were so few slave revolts in Roman Italy. He focuses on ancient Roman history and tries to combine this with another interest of his: social psychology.

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Keep Yourself Alive: The Stockholm Syndrome in Ancient Roman Slavery

14:55 - 15:10

In 1973, the Norrmalmstorg robbery took place at a Kreditbanken building in Stockholm, Sweden. The hostage-taking lasted six days, during which the hostages developed certain feelings for their captivators as some kind of survival mechanism, referred to as the Stockholm syndrome. This sort of irrational and emotional bond develops when a person is in some kind of danger. Research on the Stockholm syndrome has been applied to historical events, even prehistoric ones. However, it has never been used as an approach to Roman slavery. This was a harsh institution in which the slaves were in constant danger of physical abuse, but also in hope of reward, maybe even freedom. In my presentation, I will focus on the question whether the Stockholm syndrome somehow played a role in subduing the Roman slaves.

The Nature of the Beast: Depictions of Otherness in the Roman de Fauvel (BN fr. 146)

15:15 - 15:30

My study contributes to the burgeoning field of historical disability studies by exploring somatic dis/ability in early fourteenth-century France. In the key text, Schrover and Schinkel refer to discourses of alterity, and how these can be invoked and further problematised by the insiders to shun whoever they deem Other to exclude them from society. Yet how does a group deal with difference among themselves? What if one who already is an insider suddenly becomes an outsider; how is this discursively constructed? To what extent can one speak of a dis/abling society in this context? In my presentation, I will investigate relationships between textual and pictorial depictions of dis/abled, abnormal, and beastly bodies in the *Roman de Fauvel*, an early fourteenth-century French allegorical satire play that subverses both crown and clergy by making the horse Fauvel a king and having everyone worship him, even though he is the very embodiment of sin.



SVEN GINS

*Intellectual History
1000-1800*

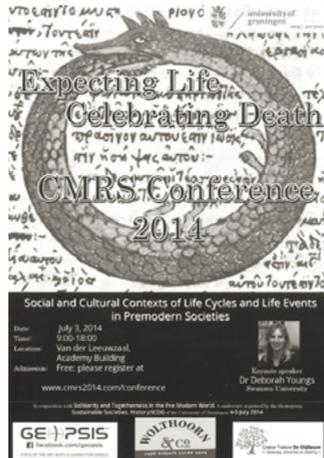
Sven obtained his Bachelor in History cum laude at Ghent University with his dissertation on nightmare interpretations in early modern Western Europe. As a Research Master student at the University of Groningen, he currently continues inquiry into intellectual history, representations, and digital humanities. His latest work has explored medieval dancing mania, and he is currently assisting in the setup of an exhibition that will conclude Dr Megan Williams' research project "Paper Princes".

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Over the past fifteen years, the CMEMS Conference has dealt with a wide range of major themes from an interdisciplinary perspective; one that traverses temporal, theoretical and methodological boundaries. As this year is in effect the third lustrum of the CMEMS Conference, it is appropriate to take a brief look backwards and reflect on its history. A cursory glance at the various topics of previous conferences attests to the great variety of themes, from "Creating Heroes and Villains" in 2012 to "Expecting Life and Celebrating Death" in 2014. A recurrent theme in the history of the CMEMS Conference is the experience with the unknown or the unfamiliar as their titles testify: "Reject or Embrace? Dealing with the Unknown from Antiquity to the Enlightenment" (2011), "Meet & Greet: Cultural Encounters in the Premodern Period" (2013), "Dealing with Novelty" (2015) and finally "Solidarity in Times of Crisis" (2016). In this regard, the choice of this year's topical theme, comprising included and excluded strangers, should hardly come as a surprise. Therefore, the CMEMS Conference Team of 2017 is inspired to be part of a tradition that proves interdisciplinary research into premodern history can be used to great effect in making sense of themes that hold their relevance up until this day.



2012



2014



2016

Colophon

This publication accompanies the conference "Strangers in a Strange Land" in the Marie Lokezaal in the Harmony building of the University of Groningen, on 29 June 2017, organised by the 2016-2017 cohort of the Research Master's programme Classical, Medieval and Early Modern Studies (University of Groningen).

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