

Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication
CENTER FOR HISTORICAL CULTURE

director prof.dr. Maria Grever
(update 02-12-2016)

Mission

On May 12th, 2006, the Center for Historical Culture (CHC) was established at Erasmus University Rotterdam. The Center initiates, coordinates and produces academic research on historical culture. The term *historical culture* refers to various forms of historical understanding and relationships to the past in society. The CHC has an international research network with academic and public sectors through cooperative relationships with institutions, such as:

- Center for the Study of Historical Consciousness (Canada)
- EUROCLIO the European Association of History Educators
- Georg-Eckert-Institute for International Textbook Research (Germany)
- Huizinga Research Institute and Graduate School for Cultural History
- International Society for History Didactics
- International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography
- KNAW Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Netherlands Expertise Center for Arts and Cultural Education / LKCA
- NIOD: KNAW Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG)
- The Centre for Global Heritage and Development (CGHC) (LDE)

Research program

The Center for Historical Culture investigates the impact of global encounters on historical cultures since the late eighteenth century. Its research program aims both to further on theoretical reflection and conducting empirical research.

Historical culture is closely linked to the mediation of memories and identities within a community, resulting in exclusion and inclusion of people. The construction of a 'we' opposed to a 'they' particularly plays a role in discussions on national identity and politics of assimilation. Politicians and policy makers often try to influence historical culture. Modern media contribute to the canonization and (re)mediation of historical knowledge that articulates the identity of a nation. In this way, 'good' behavior of the own group is emphasized in the past, mostly against the background of 'bad' behavior of others. Committed genocides must be forgotten rapidly, but the good and unifying elements from the past must be preserved and cultivated.

The **central question** of the CHC research program is: *what cross-cultural interactions and constructions of identities have been involved in giving meaning to the past since the late 18th century and what are the (unintended) effects on historical cultures in the globalizing, postcolonial world?*

Nine research projects focus on collective memory and historical consciousness; popular culture and violent legacies; social and political modernization; the traveling of things; the construction and appropriation of historical knowledge in history text books; collecting things and heritage education:

1. Collective memory - plural identities (Grever)
2. Education policy (Hagenaars)
3. Heritage and heritage education (Grever / Dibbits / Groffen / Van de Laar)
4. History textbooks (Van der Vlies / Van Berkel / Jüngen)
5. Memorizing mass violence (Benzaquen)
6. Modernization theory (Van Dijck)
7. Popular culture and heritage of war (Grever, Ribbens, De Jong, Slegtenhorst, Driessen, Van den Heede, Hogervorst with Reijnders and Jansz)
8. Times of Peace (Adriaansen)
9. Traveling Things (Dibbits)

See also <http://www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/research/>

Organization

The main activities of the CHC are the exchange of research in the research group with national and foreign scholars, the publication of books and articles, the organization of national and international workshops and conferences, and the cultivation of elaborate contacts with public history and educational institutes.

Based on the large international collection of history textbooks, literature and audio-visual materials, donated by the Dutch history teacher trainer and textbook author Leo Dalhuisen, the CHC and Erasmus University Library have created a unique collection in the field of history teaching and history didactics. The **History Didactics Collection** (HDC) is almost fully indexed and searchable through the Library Catalogue. More than 5.000 titles are available.

We closely collaborate with staff members of the two other departments in the ESHCC and Erasmus Studio: prof.dr. Koen van Eijck is second supervisor of the PhD project by Piet Hagenaars; prof.dr. Stijn Reijnders, prof.dr. Jeroen Jansz and prof.dr. Franciska de Jong are supervisors of the four research projects within the Research Excellence Initiative program *War! Popular Culture and European Heritage of Major Armed Conflicts*; prof.dr. Paul van de Laar and prof.dr. Hester Dibbits supervise the NWO project on collecting suburbia heritage of Mayke Groffen. Next, we collaborate with the Centre for Global Heritage and Development LDE (Leiden, Delft, Erasmus) regarding the theme Heritage and Identity.

In February 2016, the CHC has founded with two other organizations the **International Network Popular Uses of the Past (POPUP)**: the [Institute for Public History](#) (IPG) at Ghent University in Belgium and the [Master programme History](#) at the University of Cologne in Germany. Recently the Utrecht University has joined our network. In the near future the Australian Centre for Public History (Sydney) will join POPUP as well (see www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/center_for_historical_culture/popup/).

Recently, the CHC has initiated together with the Open University and the Hogeschool Rotterdam the **Professional Learning Network Heritage and Identity** (PLG Erfgoed & Identiteit) for history teachers and teacher trainers (see www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/research/plg_erfgoed_en_identiteit_in_dutch/).

The CHC produces a **CHC News Letter** twice a year, distributed to ca 500 scholars all over the world (www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/center_for_historical_culture/newsletter/).

Research associates CHC EUR (18)

Staff CHC

1. Prof. Maria Grever (Director CHC)
2. Dr. Maarten Van Dijck (Assistant Professor; co-editor of the CHC newsletter)
3. Dr. Robbert-Jan Adriaansen (Assistant professor; CHC webmaster)
4. Prof. Kees Ribbens (EUR / NIOD) (Endowed Professor)
5. Prof. Hester Dibbits (EUR / Reinwardt academy) (Endowed Professor)
6. Prof.dr. Francisca de Jong (REI / Erasmus Studio)
7. Dr. Susan Hogervorst (Postdoc REI / Open University)
8. Dr. Sandra Manickham (Lecturer)
- Em. Prof. Willem Frijhoff (Erasmus Chair for Humanities, Verhagen Foundation)

PhD candidates (internal and external) CHC

9. Mayke Groffen (NWO / Museum Rotterdam) supervisors Van de Laar / Dibbits
10. Tina van der Vlies MA (NWO) supervisors Grever, Klein (UL), Dane (Education Museum)
11. Siri Driessen MA (REI) supervisors Reijnders / Grever
12. Pieter van den Heede MA (REI) supervisors Ribbens / Jansz / Grever
13. Laurie Slegtenhorst MA (REI / Erfgoed Nederland) supervisors Ribbens / Grever
14. Drs. Marc Van Berkel (HAN) supervisors Grever / Ribbens
15. Stephanie Benzaquen MA (Independent curator) supervisors Grever / Bevers / Klein UvA
16. Piet Hagenaars (Former director LKCA) supervisors Grever / Van Eijck
17. Drs. Annemiek van der Veen (Heritage and Cultural Entrepreneur) supervisors Grever / Dibbits / Van Stipriaan
18. Drs. Jan Jüngen (Former Librarian Humanities EUR) supervisors Grever / Van Dijck

Former staff CHC

Dr. Joep a Campo; Dr. Marijke Huisman; Em. Prof.dr. Siep Stuurman

See for external research associates and the international advisory board

www.eshcc.eur.nl/english/chc/research/

Received grants (2006-2016): more than € 2.000.000.

On July 20, 2016, the Rathenau Institute visited the CHC for an extensive interview with the director about the role "excellence" plays in the promotion of research and what forms of financing the projects have been involved. Ms. Linda Jansen was informed about this visit.

Visiting fellows

- 2017 Dr. Christine Gunderman (5 weeks) assistant professor of Public History at the University of Cologne (Germany).
- 2015 Dr. Cesar Lopez (4 weeks) researcher at the Universidad Autonoma Madrid (Spain).
- 2010 Dr. Fernando Sánchez Costa (4 weeks) assistant professor at the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (Barcelona, Spain).

Some Highlights and Past Performances CHC 2006-2016

- 2016 The CHC was involved in the international symposium 'Rhetoric of the Past' on September 22: *How and why do people re-appropriate rhetoric from the past in present contexts?* Keynote speaker is **Michael Rothberg**, well-known for his book *Multidirectional Memory*. PhD students of the CHC Laurie Slegtenhorst and Tina van der Vlies are the main organizers. The symposium is funded by The Royal Netherlands Historical Society, Erfgoed Nederland and The Centre for Historical Culture.
- 2016 The CHC organized the international conference ***Vital Postwar Cities. Sensitive Heritage in a Globalizing Historical Culture***. Special conference as part of the Urban Transformation Conference, supported by the European Commission. Rotterdam, 17 May (attendance 70 guests).
- 2016 Visit of the board of **HistorieLab**, the Danish National Centre of Excellence for the Dissipation of History and Cultural Heritage. The Danish delegation, consisting of eight representatives of the cultural sector, was eager to learn more about the strategies of the CHC how to set up a network with museums, heritage institutes and schools. After Q&A and discussion, they visited the Rotterdam Museum, guided by director Paul van de Laar. Rotterdam, April, 14.
- 2016 The CHC was co-convener of the second National History Education Conference at Erasmus University - in cooperation with the history department of the ESHCC. **Paul Schnabel** and Maria Grever lectured about the possible consequences for history education of the advisory report Ons Onderwijs 2032 by Platform Education 2032. Rotterdam, March 4.
- 2016 Huizinga Institute conference '**Narratives of War**'. Several members of the Centre for Historical Culture presented research papers: Kees Ribbens, Laurie Slegtenhorst, Pieter Van den Heede, Tina van der Vlies and Susan Hogervorst. In addition, Maria Grever chaired one of the sessions. (<http://www.narratives-of-war.nl/>). Amsterdam, February 24-26.
- 2015 Special CHC Research Seminar **Heritage, Education and the Nation** with papers delivered by [David Ludvigsson](#) (Sweden), "Guided walks at Swedish historical sites" and [dr. César López](#) (Spain), "Re-thinking master national narratives". Rotterdam, November 17.
- 2015 The CHC organized the international kick-off meeting '**War! Popular Culture and European Heritage of Major Armed Conflicts**' of the Research Excellence Initiative program. Rotterdam, October 30. Speakers from Poland, UK and the Netherlands.
- 2015 Former CHC associate **Marijke Huisman** presented her new book [Verhalen van vrijheid. Autobiografieën van slaven in transnationaal perspectief, 1789-2013](#) (Stories of freedom. Autobiographies of slaves in trans-national perspective, 1789-2013) at a special CHC research meeting. The book was the result of the EUR-fellowship she received in 2010. Rotterdam, May 21.
- 2015 CHC research meeting **Representing Genocide** with Andrej Kotljarchuk (Stockholm University) and Laurike in 't Veld (University of Chichester, UK), Rotterdam, March 15.
- 2014 Co-convener master class with **Nancy Fraser**, 'PublicSphere.com - Emerging transnational mediocracies' with Jos de Mul. On the occasion of the honorary doctorate of Nancy Fraser at the dies of Erasmus University Rotterdam. Rotterdam, November 7.

- 2014 Convener master class with **Russell Shorto**, 'Urban History, Public History', on the occasion of the Mandeville Lecture Erasmus University 2014. Rotterdam June 5.
- 2013 The CHC was involved with Mario Carretero and Stefan Berger in the organization of the international seminar 'International Handbook of Research in Historical Culture and History Education'. Madrid, Universidad Autonoma. Madrid, December 4-6.
- 2013 Symposium The Future of Democracy on the occasion of the Erasmus Award to **Jürgen Habermas**. Amsterdam, KNAW, Huizinga Institute, Premium Erasmianum, CHC, 5 november.
- 2013 Master class (two afternoon meetings) with 24 selected PhD students, preparing the symposium with **Habermas** by reading texts and formulating questions. September and October.
- 2013 Organisation HOVO Jaarthemareeks 'Tweehonderd Jaar Koninkrijk. Monarchie en Democratie', met tien lezingen. Rotterdam, 7 oktober 2013-7 april 2014.
- 2013 The CHC organized in collaboration with LKCA the international conference ***Tangible Pasts? Questioning Heritage Education***. Rotterdam, 6-7 June (attendance of 120 guests).
- 2012 The CHC was involved in the organization of the international symposium 'Postcolonial perspectives on national historiographies and history education', in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield and the KNAW. Amsterdam, December 6-7.
- 2012 Guest lecture **Mario Carretero** (Universidad Autonoma Madrid, Spain), 'History education and the construction of national identities'. Rotterdam, December 4.
- 2012 Research visits of three CHC associates (Marc van berkel, Maria Grever and Tina van der Vlies) to the **Georg Eckert Institute** for International textbook research. Braunschweig (Germany), June and December.
- 2012 The CHC was involved in the organization and presentation of papers concerning the conference 'De klas, de wetenschap en de wereld. Het mondiale perspectief in onderwijs en onderzoek', The Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG), March 30.
- 2011 Organization of International Expert meeting 'Theorizing and Exploring Opportunities of Heritage Education' and International Master class on heritage education, with Stichting Erfgoed Nederland. Amsterdam, November 17-18.
- 2011 Organisation research symposium and book launch *Grenzeloze gelijkheid. Historische vertogen over cultuurverschil* on the occasion of the symposium for prof.dr. **Siep Stuurman**. Lecturers: Rosi Braidotti, Carel Davids, Bregje van Eekelen, Inger Leemans, Unger Üngör, Siep Stuurman. Rotterdam, September 29.
- 2011 The CHC was involved in the organization of the KNAW symposium about the research agenda of the Humanities, ***Cultuur en identiteit***. Amsterdam, KNAW, April 11. Maria Grever chaired the public debate in the KNAW.
- 2011 Organization research symposium and book launch *De mist van de geschiedenis*. Lecturers **Willem Frijhoff** and **Peter Raedts** (Radboud University). Rotterdam, April 7.
- 2010 Organization international session with **Peter Seixas** (University of British Columbia, Vancouver) 'Historical Consciousness and Cultural Identities in a Globalizing World: Changing Roles of School History?' CISH (International Society for History Didactics). Amsterdam, August 26.
- 2009 Guest lecture **Stefan Berger** (University of Manchester) 'The Nation as History. National Identity and Historical Consciousness in 19th and 20th century Europe?'. Rotterdam, November 5.

- 2009 The CHC was involved in the organization *Historici gaan voor de inhoud! Publieksdebat over het Nationaal Historisch Museum*. The Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG). The Hague, 26 June.
- 2008 Guest lecture **Frank Ankersmit** (University of Groningen) about his book *The sublime historical experience*, 'Postmodernist or rational romantic?' Rotterdam, October 8.
- 2008 Symposium 'Scientific history, memory culture and the politics of history'. Lecturers **Ed Jonker** (UU) and **Jo Tollebeek** (University of Leuven). Rotterdam, June 18.
- 2007 Organization international conference *Theorizing Historical Culture in a Globalising World*. Key-notes Keith Barton (USA), David Boucher (UK) and Maria Grever (EUR). Opening by rector prof.dr. Steven Lamberts Rotterdam, November 23.
- 2007 Guest lecture **Jocelyn Létourneau** (Université Laval Canada), 'Digging into the Historical Consciousness of Young Quebecers'. Rotterdam, May 14.
- 2007 Guest lecture **Keith Barton** (University of Cincinnati USA), 'History and identity among young people in Northern Ireland and the USA. Surprising findings, challenging implications'. Rotterdam June 21.
- 2006 The CHC was involved in organizing and presenting papers at the symposium **'Met of zonder canon'?**, on the occasion of the book launch *Controverses rond de canon*. Lecturers Willem Frijhoff, Susan Legêne, Arie Wilschut, J.M. de Wit and Maria Grever. Utrecht, November 10.

Upcoming events CHC in 2017

January 26: internal meeting with CHC research associates to discuss and update the CHC research program "Historical Culture in a Globalizing World" (10.30-13.30hrs).

January 26: **Dr. Tyson Retz** (University of Melbourne) will present a paper on *The History and Function of Empathy in Historical Studies. A Philosophical Approach* (15.00-17.00) <http://www.inth.ugent.be/directory-of-researchers/tyson-retz/>

February 23: internal meeting with CHC teachers and lecturers to inform each other about history courses (10.30-13.00).

February 23: CHC / CGHD research seminar *Heritage: Agency and Appropriation*. **Prof.dr. Hester Dibbits** and **prof.dr. Pieter ter Keurs** will present a paper (titles tba).

March, 30: **Piet Hagenaars** will present a paper (title will be announced).

April 6: CHC research seminar on *Public History and German Memories on World War II*. Papers will be presented by **Dr. Christine Gundermann** (University of Cologne) and **dr. Marie Muschalek** (University of Freiburg) (titles will be announced).