

**Mini-conference "History, Gender, Anthropology"**  
*Organised in memory of our colleague Karin Willemse*

April 9, 2024, from 12pm-5pm  
C1-1, Erasmus University



This afternoon mini-conference aims to bring together all members of the History department and those interested in the conference themes to share their work, insights and learning about the relationship between history, gender and anthropology. This event is held to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the passing of our colleague, Karin Willemse, whose work engaged with these issues throughout her career in research and teaching. Presenters will share their reflections on the connection between history, gender and anthropology in research and teaching, give research updates on related themes, and share insights from Karin's work as a researcher and teacher.

Organizers: Sandra Khor Manickam, Alex van Stipriaan, Lise Zurné

Preliminary program:

12.00	Lunch
13.00-13.30	Start programme, welcome by Paul van de Laar, Sandra Khor Manickam, Alex van Stipriaan
13.30-14.30	Panel 1 – Natália da Silva Perez, Daniel Curtis, Robbert-Jan Adriaansen
<i>Break (30 min)</i>	
15.00-16.00	Interactive panel 2 – Group session by Annie Heslinga, Jasmin Seijbel, Lise Zurné, Jelena Beocanin, Siri Driessen.
16.30-17.00	Roundtable and wrap-up discussion with Naomi van Stapele, Tina van der Vlies, Alex van Stipriaan
17.00	Drinks, also with Alumni

## Abstracts Panel 1.

### **Care Work in Colonial Contexts, Natália da Silva Perez**

Women perform most care work, but are inadequately compensated for that. What are the historical roots of our socio-cultural ideas concerning this topic? In this paper, I will address some of the questions that are part of my wider research project on the topic of *discourses about care work*. First, I will use a microhistorical approach to mentions of enslaved domestic workers in historical newspapers that circulated in the French, British, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and Danish Empires and their Atlantic colonies (1600-1900). Secondly, I will cross-reference these historical texts with present-day accounts by domestic workers from the regions in question. My goal is to comparatively appraise popular discourses about care work across imperial borders and across centuries, examining popular ideas about women's labour in transnational contexts, and accounting for differences and similarities between former empires and colonies.

### **EPIFEM: A Long-Term Perspective on the Impact of Epidemics on Women, Daniel Curtis**

Epidemics affect women, sometimes differently from men, but exactly how and why are poorly understood. I am going to talk about a project I am trying to get funded that examines women's short-term hardships and opportunities but also exploits the historical record to show how epidemic experiences shape female fortunes in the long term. EPIFEM avoids positivist questions such as whether an epidemic was "good" or "bad" for surviving women but instead shows that (a) different impacts co-existed together (some burdensome, some liberating), (b) these impacts potentially interacted, (c) these impacts did not occur equally among all women, and (d) these impacts included both tangible assets such as possessions and conceptual assets such as identities.

### **Redefining the Humanist Canon: Genderqueer Identities in the Internet Aesthetic "Dark Academia", Robbert-Jan Adriaansen**

Dark academia is a popular "internet aesthetic" that evokes the atmosphere of college life in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It expresses a fascination with literature, art, and Romantic longing, and was particularly popular during the coronavirus pandemic. Dark academia is also a form of counter-curation, as it challenges the dominant norms and narratives of contemporary society through the creation and sharing of curated social media posts. Using digital ethnography, this presentation examines how "dark academics" on Tumblr use affect and mood to re-imagine the past through de-historicization, which allows for the renegotiation of traditional gender identities and the inscription of genderqueer identities into the Western humanist canon, a context from which these identities have often been historically excluded or marginalized. This underscores that dark academia is not simply nostalgic escapism, but an ontological approach to experiencing the self and the world.

## Abstract Panel 2.

### **The gender of historical research: Access, interaction and knowledge while working in hypermasculinized fields, Jelena Beocanin, Siri Driessen, Anne Heslinga, Jasmin Seijbel, Lise Zurné**

When conducting academic research, researchers often engage with communities other than their own, sometimes for prolonged periods of time in new and unfamiliar areas. These engagements might be inspiring and fruitful, but can also be notably challenging. In particular, when working in traditionally 'masculine' realms such as war histories, gaming

cultures, sports and hip hop, one may encounter exclusionary discourses in which 'other' (gendered/racial/ethnic/etc) voices tend to be silenced or ignored, including those of (critical) community members or researchers. This session will explore the interplay between gender, race, empirical data collection, and knowledge production when working in hypermasculinized research contexts, drawing upon some examples of our own research. We aim to reflect upon the ways in which our identities and positionality may impact the communities we research, the questions we may ask and the methodologies we employ. As such, we aim to analyze how researchers navigate and negotiate their roles within various environments and how this shapes the research findings and, subsequently, the knowledges produced. We invite those attending this session to share their own insights and experiences in relation to the gendered and racialized challenges and opportunities they encounter within their research and education.

After the conclusion of the mini-conference, those present are invited to join the drinks session that is organized for the alumni day taking place at the same time. This will most likely be in the catering room next to the Forumzaal. More information will be available on the day itself. You can sign-up via [this link](#). We hope to see you there.