

Research School for Political History (RSPH) /
Onderzoekschool Politieke Geschiedenis (OPG)
Training program for Research Master students 2021-2022



Students in Research Master History programs of Dutch universities need to earn 10 ECTS of their program by participating in activities of national research school. The Research School for Political History offers courses and other training activities, which complement the programs of local research school with activities focused on historiographical, thematic, conceptual and methodological aspects of political history. The program of the RSPH brings you into contact with PhDs, junior and senior researchers in the field of political history, and offers an excellent preparation if you are interested to pursue a dissertation and a career in political history.

The program of the RSPH for Research Master students offers training in the following competencies:

- Knowledge of, and reflection on the current state and future of political history
- Knowledge of current debates, theories, historiography and methodologies in political history and adjacent fields of research.
- Reflection on the position and characteristics of political history in interdisciplinary research cooperation.
- Methods and techniques of research in political history.
- Oral and written reporting and participation in academic, political and public debates.
- Skills in the use of heuristic tools and techniques as well as digital humanities.

The RSPH program is open to all students in Research Master History programs of Dutch universities. Students need to register for the RSPH at the beginning of their Research Master program via the program director of their own Research Master program (who has to submit the names of registered students at the beginning of the academic year). Students have to register separately for each of the activities of the RSPH they want to participate in via bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl.

Once you have been registered as a student at the RSPH, you need to earn a minimum of 10 ECTS at our school. For each part of the program of the RSPH, the number of credits that can be earned is indicated below. For students who need a larger, or smaller amount of credits, specific arrangement (within reason) can be made, to adjust the number of ECTS to your needs.

Program for Research Master students

The program consists of training activities for Research Master students only (activity A, B, C) as well as options from the PhD program which are open to both PhD candidates as well as Research Master students (activities D and E).

A. Introductory Course: What is Political History?

Supervisors: dr. Peter van Dam and dr. Jeroen van Zanten (University of Amsterdam)

Spring 2022

Credits: 5 – 6 ECTS

Registration: before 1 December 2021 (bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)

What is political history? Among historians and social scientists definitions of and approaches to political history have diverged immensely. In this course, students explore approaches relevant to the history of politics and discuss the conceptualization of political history and the use of key concepts.

Participants in this course will learn:

- How to define and analyze key concepts in the history of politics;
- How to evaluate historical studies from a conceptual and theoretical perspective;
- How to use and incorporate key concepts in the analysis of sources for the study of the political history

Themes and concepts to be discussed include the concept of the political, power & state formation, political culture, international politics, citizenship, politics beyond the nation and civil society.

The course will be taught in Dutch or English (depending on the language skills of the participants).

Requirements

- Participation: students have to be present and prepared.
- Preparing a discussion: a weekly discussion is prepared and introduced by a selected group of participants.
- Pitch and book review: at every meeting, one or more students pitch (ca. 2 minutes) a historical study which she or he deems a good example of what political history is or should be. A more extensive review of this study is handed in in writing (1000 words max.) a week after the initial pitch.
- Final paper: Participants write a paper of 3000 words, which answers the question of this course: What is political history?

B. Summer School

Date: June 2022

Credits: 3-6 ECTS

Registration: before 1 February 2022 (bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)

The theme of the Summer School will be announced in September 2021.

The aim of the Summer School is to develop insight and research skills in political history with a focus on a broad theme within the field of political history: to formulate a research question and a research strategy, and execute an analysis of primary sources as the basis for writing a research report. Students acquire skills and insight in the use of specific methods and approaches of political history . A substantial part of the course will be devoted to practical training. Students develop insight in specific themes under the supervision of leading experts in the field, and they present their own

research. Added value is the networking opportunities with staff and other students. If you consider writing a PhD, it is recommended to attend the Summer School.

C. Tutorial Key publications in Political History

Contact: Dirk Jan Wolffram

Date: January-June 2022

Credits: 3-5 ECTS

Registration: before 1 December

In-depth conversation in small, focussed groups about state-of-the-art questions in political history, reviewing key-publications and debating preparatory essays from the students

D. Course Oral History

Supervisor: Selma Leydesdorff

Dates: 18 and 25 November, 2 and 9 December 2021, 1-5PM in Amsterdam (place TBA)

Credits: 4 ECTS (adjustable within reasonable limits via additional assignments)

Registration: before 15 October (bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiegeschiedenis.nl)

This Course is optional for RMA- and PhD-students. Historians and others who interview about the past often talk about memory and how they are informed by memory, while they know memory is a difficult and problematic source for historical knowledge. During this course, we shall concentrate on the use of memory in historical research and look at the kind of knowledge we get when we interview. We will investigate various efforts to create a more systematic and theoretically grounded approach than 'just talking about days long gone' or 'having a chat about the past'. How can we create a research pattern that overcomes the incidental and replace it by an integration of the changing character of spoken narratives about the past? When can we trust a story, why? And if we cannot, why can it still be important to listen. In addition, how do we listen?

E. Tutorials, workshops, seminars and master classes

Optional activities from the PhD program open for RMA-students.

Contact: bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiegeschiedenis.nl

Date: September 2021 – June 2022

Credits : 1-2 ECTS for active participation in a tutorial, workshop, seminar or master class plus writing a paper

Registration: before 15 October 2021

Tutorial Themes in Political History: governmentality and gender

This tutorial consist of a 4 hour meeting, prepared in a limited set of readings, with an open discussion based on the input and research interests of the participants.

Course aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Theories and concepts
- Methods and techniques

Requirements and credits:

One ECTS roughly equals 28 hours (3,5 days).

- Minimum: 1 EC per tutorial. Preparation: reading the literature and writing a preparatory paper of 750 words with main ideas, comments and question; Active participation in the discussion.
- Additional 1 EC per tutorial: Writing an additional paper of 3000 words on the central topic of the tutorial, to be submitted after the meeting.

Friday 11 March 2022 (Geertje Mak)

In this tutorial, we bring together conceptualizations of the political, relevant concepts for the study of politics, methodologies and sources, by focusing on a specific theme in political history. Based on readings and presentations by senior researchers, the participants will practice the integration of these various aspects of research in political history in a coherent research outline. This year's tutorial departs from Foucault's notion of governmentality – the capacity of any administration to direct and transform people governed. Crucial to this notion is that you cannot govern people when you do not know them, but you cannot know them if you don't have any control over them. Power and knowledge (over people) is thus entangled. As James Scott explained in his seminal *Seeing like a State*, reordering the population and the land is a necessary precondition for rule or 'development'. Therefore, categorizations – even in very mundane techniques of administration - are key to governmentality (see for example Peter Miller and Nikolas Rose *Governing the Present*). For this tutorial, we specifically consider the crucial role of gender and sexuality in colonial categorizations.

Workshop

Workshops are an advanced follow-up on the Tutorials. Based on the research projects of the participants, interdisciplinarity and advanced methodology are explored and links with topical issues and practical applications are elaborated. Students learn to present their project in front of a forum of experts and discuss key choices in their research design.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Methods and techniques
- Communication
- Professional Development

Organization

A workshop is a one-day meeting, focused on practical training and interactive learning, based on the input and research interests of the participants. Preparation consists of practical assignments in relation to the individual research project of the students. Specific topics may change, depending on the expertise of the workshop conveners and requests of the students. Workshops require active preparation, involvement and participation. RMA-students can build on their thesis-in-progress or any other subject they have been dealing with in their master program.

Requirements and credits

· 1 EC per workshop: Preparing assignments and presentations; active participation in the discussion.

Workshop Applied History and Current Affairs

Friday 11 March 2022, Beatrice de Graaf, Stefan Couperus, Harm Kaal

This Workshop has a dual goal. First of all, it invites students to reflect on the links between their own research project, their research methodologies, and current affairs. Students are asked to rethink the relevance and the methodologies of their project from the perspective of current social and political concerns. What is the 'big question' that you are trying to respond to? Second, in interaction with people working in the sphere of policy making, heritage, the press and think tanks students reflect on how they can develop methods of 'applied history', how their research can be considered 'usable history' for others outside academia, and/or how they may present their academic skills and knowledge to the world beyond academia, also with an eye towards a career outside academia.

Seminars

Seminars prepare for, and practise participation in academia, and prepare for a professional career after finishing the thesis. Active participation in, and contribution to the organisation of a seminar is mandatory for 3rd year PhD-students, attendance and participation is open for all PhD-students and RMA-students.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Concepts and theories
- Methods and techniques
- Communication
- Professional Development

Organization

Seminars are one-day (and if required two-days) meetings on professional development or a specific topic. The meetings consist of a variety of activities: keynote lectures, paper presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentation, etc. Seminars can be organized on site, integrating the potential of the site into the event (e.g. an archive, exhibition). Seminars are proposed to the director of studies and supervised by the Seminar committee. PhD-students are invited to propose a theme, and prospective participants, for a seminar.

Requirements and credits

- Organisation: students participate in the organisation of one of the seminars. Active participation in the organisation of a seminar is rewarded with 2 EC (3 EC for a two-day seminar).
- Contribution: students contribute to seminars by presentation of their research. This is rewarded with 1 EC.
- Report: students can write a 500 word report on a seminar, to be published on the website of the OPG. Writing a report is rewarded with 1 EC.

Opening Academic Year

Friday 24 September 2021.

Theme: tba

Seminar History at the Intersection of Sports and Politics

Date 30 September 2021. Coordination dr. Marjolein van Bavel (Antwerp University)

This webinar consists of two sessions: The first session will consider different ways of conducting historical research into sports history, both from more 'top down' as well a more 'bottom up' approaches. Consequently, this session will consider the place of sports history within the broader history discipline and the domain of political history more specifically. Attention will be paid to the types of sources and methodologies that are of interest to the political sports historian as well as the methodological difficulties that one may encounter. Sport being a global phenomenon, the second session will also ask the question to which degree and in which ways sports history may help to make political history more global.

Seminar Military History

Spring 2022, Wim Klinkert and Samuël Kruizinga

One-day seminar on current research in military history and the relevance of military historians in public debates on imperial history and war remembrance. The aim of the seminar is threefold: (1) to present current and discuss current research by PhD students in military history; (2) to debate current issues in societal debates surrounding military history; (3) to provide opportunities to connect with and learn from fellow academics from Belgium and the Netherlands.

Specific topics.

Fridays, dates to be set with organizing PhDs

Senior scholars in collaboration with PhD-students organize seminars, based on a shared interest in specific topics in political history. Topics may include the theme of specific (NWO-, FWO- or ERC-funded) research projects in which PhD-students participate. Specific topics may be combined in a single conference.

International conference RSPH/APH

June 2022

Master Classes

The RSPH offers master classes by prominent political historians. We aim to have at least two master classes each year. Master classes are open to RMA students and PhD-students, and affiliated members of the OPG; others can attend on invitation only.

Aims

- Disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity
- Concepts and theories
- Methods and techniques

Organization

Master classes consist of a meeting of 2 to 4 hours, in which the expert introduces the topic, and several PhD-students and other scholars present their own research in a short position paper and a presentation. Master classes are proposed to the director of studies and supervised by the Master class committee.

Requirements and grades:

- Participation in master classes is not obligatory, yet when registered, all participants are expected to come prepared and to have read the literature.
- Participation is rewarded with 1 EC when you have prepared a position paper (1000 words) and a short presentation of your comments or questions on the theme of the master class.

Program

Schedule tba; depending on the availability of Masters. Suggestions for interesting scholars to be invited are welcome; please contact the bureau of the RSPH.

Mission Statement Research School Political History

The objectives of the Research School Political History are:

**Promoting the quality of research and (inter)national cooperation*

**Providing high quality training for PhD candidates and Research Master (RMA) students, the next generation in political history*

**Providing a platform for and representation of political historians in the Netherlands and Flanders*

The Research School Political History is member of the Association for Political History

<https://onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl/>

<https://www.associationforpoliticalhistory.org/>

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