



RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR POLITICAL HISTORY (RSPH) | ONDERZOEKSCHOOL POLITIEKE GESCHIEDENIS (OPG)

# PHD training program 2023-2024

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## *Introduction*

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The Research School for Political History (RSPH) aims to offer PhD students in the history of politics and the political a high-quality training program supervised by some of the leading scholars in the Low Countries.

The RSPH training program is open to all PhDs based in the Netherlands, Flanders or affiliated with the Zentrum für Niederlande-Studien in Münster, conducting research in the broad field of political history, history of international relations, conflict studies, military history, area studies, global history, and other subdisciplines in premodern and modern history with an emphasis on politics.

We offer an comprehensive curriculum of in-depth tutorials and workshops, focusing on the historiographical, thematic, conceptual and methodological aspects of political history in general and your PhD project in particular. In addition to this, considerable attention is paid to professionalization and transferable skills.

The RSPH is dedicated to creating a research environment which brings you into contact with fellow PhD candidates at other universities, postdocs and senior researchers in the field of political history. We provide excellent network and platform facilities for all researchers in political history, whether ambitious to pursue a career inside or outside academia.

The RSPH program for PhD students offers training in the following competencies:

- 1 **Disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity:**  
Students have an informed and critical awareness of the historical and conceptual underpinnings and contexts of political history as an intellectual tradition and academic discipline, and of its relationship to other fields of study. They have knowledge and understanding of the foundations and insights of other disciplines relevant to the study of political history.
- 2 **Theories and concepts:**  
Students have specialized knowledge and critical understanding of theoretical, conceptual and analytical notions relevant to political history. They can reflect on the principal theoretical approaches to political history, evaluate the state of the art in political history, and recognize and develop innovative research orientations in political history.

3 Methods and techniques:

Students have focused knowledge and critical understanding of relevant methods and techniques for the study of political history, and the ability to apply proper methods and techniques to research problems. Students have an advanced and critical understanding of sources and data for political-historical research and their associated conceptual frameworks.

4 Communication:

Students have an informed and critical awareness of the specific methods used to communicate information about one's field in scholarly/academic and public contexts. They can use and apply the proper means of communication, suited to the aims of their scholarly and public interventions.

5 Professional Development:

Students have an informed and critical awareness of the concrete ways that the political-historical perspective can be developed in professional situations and be of benefit to society.

This document contains all the necessary information about the training activities and how to register.

In addition to our training program, PhDs are warmly invited to take part in other events organized by or in close cooperation with the RSPH, e.g. master classes, seminars and conferences. Stay informed of our activities by visiting our website or subscribing to our newsletter.

Come and join us!

### **Opening of the Academic year – Global perspectives on political history**

Date: 22 September 2023

Location: Allard Pierson, Amsterdam

Time: 14.30 – 17.30 (including drinks) NB: for first-year PhD candidates the program starts at 13.00.

The beginning of a new academic year is marked by the annual RSPH opening event. The theme of this year's opening is **global perspectives on political history**, with a key-note from **Susie Protschky** (VU Amsterdam).

Before the plenary thematic session, there will be a meet & greet for first-year PhD candidates enrolled in the school (starting time: 13.00pm). For PhD candidates at the start of their trajectory, this is the moment to get acquainted with the program, and meet the program directors and fellow PhDs.

As a bonus, the thematic session following the meet & greet offers a sneak preview of the summer school scheduled at the end of the academic year. This summer school is open to both RMA and PhD students.

### *How to register?*

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The PhD training program is open to all PhD candidates in the field of political history that are based in the Netherlands, Flanders or affiliated with the Zentrum für Niederlande-Studien in Münster. We explicitly welcome external PhDs too.

In most instances, the Graduate School of your home university takes care of your registration as soon as you indicate you want to join the RSPH. If this is not the case, or if you have any further questions regarding your enrolment, please contact us via [bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl). After your first registration, we will send you a form in which you can give more details about your PhD trajectory. You can also find this form on our website.

### *Work load, credits and certificates*

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As a member of the RSPH PhD community, we assume you are willing to take full advantage of our training program. We highly recommend you follow all the tutorials and workshops on offer in year 1 and year 2 of your trajectory, given the structure of the program and the building up of competencies. This recommendation also goes for the seminars in year 3 of the training program, devoted to deepening your skills as well as to professional development. Participation in other RSPH events is optional (see schedule below).

As standard, each training activity (tutorial, workshop or seminar) is awarded with 1 ECTS for preparation and active participation with an open discussion based on the input and research interests of the participants. Active participation is considered self-evident. Each activity requires preparation in the form of reading literature, writing a preparatory paper of ca 750 words according to the assignment given. Often you are asked to prepare in advance for commenting on the papers of your peers.

If you wish to earn more (or less) credits, a specific arrangement will be made in consultation with the director of studies of the RSPH. In case you wish to consider this, please send us a reasoned proposal via [bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl).

At the end of the program, each participant will receive a certificate, specifying the credits that have been obtained. In general, the school offers two types of certificates:

- Basic (10 ECTS)
- Advanced (10+ ECTS)

### Basic program - schedule

The program is structured in accordance with the end terms and competencies:

- Modules in **year 1** discuss disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, theories and concepts, and methods and techniques on an advanced level
- Modules in **year 2** are devoted to the application of methods and techniques, disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, and introduce international outreach and science communication
- Modules in **years 3/4** are devoted to the individual application and assessment of disciplinarity and Interdisciplinarity, theories and concepts, methods and techniques as well as science communication and professional development.

BASIC		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
<b>Opening of the Academic year</b> <b>Introduction meeting</b> <b>22 Sept. 23</b>		
1. <i>State of the Art in Political History:</i> Positioning your project <b>13 Oct 2023</b>	5. <i>International networking</i> <b>2-day workshop Antwerp</b> <b>Feb 24</b>	7. <i>Career event</i> <b>9/10 Nov 23</b>
2. <i>State of the Art in Political History:</i> Interdisciplinarity <b>3 Nov 2023</b>	6. <i>Advanced Research Design:</i> Presenting and defending your thesis <b>March 24</b>	8. <i>Academic outreach</i> in Political History <b>Apr/May 24</b>
3. <i>Methods and Sources</i> in Political History <b>Jan 24</b>		
4. <i>Crucial themes and concepts</i> in Political History <b>Apr 24</b>		

### What, when and where?

You might be interested to know that – unless specified otherwise – all training activities

- require a preparatory assignment, send to you in advance
- take place in Amsterdam
- are scheduled at regular intervals on Fridays (unless otherwise stated, for example in case of a two-day activity)
- include a drink afterward

## **0. Opening of the Academic Year**

*Supervisor:* not applicable

*Date:* Friday 22 September 2023

*Time:* For first-year PhD candidates: 13-17.30

Other attendees: 14.30-17.30

*Location:* Allard Pierson Amsterdam

The beginning of a new academic year is marked by the annual RSPH opening event. The theme of this year's opening is **global perspectives on political history**, with a key-note from **Susie Protschky** (VU Amsterdam).

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As a bonus, the thematic session following the meet & greet offers a sneak preview of the summer school scheduled at the end of the academic year.

## **1. State of the Art in Political History: Positioning your project**

*Supervisor:* Prof. Ido de Haan (Utrecht University) and others

*Date:* 13 October 2023 (10.30 - 17.00)

*Location:* Oost-Indisch Huis, NIAS Conference Room, Korte Spinhuissteeg 3, Amsterdam.

During this module, you familiarize yourself with the state of the art in Political History and you position your own research project in the field. This module serves as a 'pressure cooker' giving you a brief glimpse into the diverse themes that are and can be studied as political history. You present your own research and get to hear more about the projects of your fellow PhD candidates.

## **2. State of the Art in Political History: Interdisciplinarity**

*Supervisor:* dr. Lorena de Vita (Utrecht University) and dr. Iva Pesa (Groningen University)

*Date:* 3 November 2023

*Location:* Spinhuis Amsterdam (room to be announced)

This module looks beyond the limits of the discipline of political history. It prompts you to think about your project as part of a bigger field. How is your project embedded in and how can it be enriched by concepts, methods or findings from other disciplines? This module is particularly inspired by approaches from the social sciences and social history and looks at relevant examples of interdisciplinarity in political history research.

## **3. Methods and Sources in Political History**

*Supervisor:* TBA

*Date:* January 2024 (exact date to be announced)

This module is focused on the operationalization of your research project. How are you going to answer the

main questions of your project? How can you legitimize your methodological approach? Which sources do you need and how can you make best use of those sources, perhaps using digital tools?

#### **4. Crucial Themes and Concepts in Political History**

*Supervisor:* TBA

*Date:* April 2024 (exact date to be announced)

The exact content of this module is to be determined by the PhD candidates themselves. Which concepts (could) play in role in several projects? Which concepts are crucial for the political historians of today to unravel? PhD candidates start preparing this module during the 2-day meeting in October.

*Year 2*

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#### **5. International networking**

*Supervisor:* TBA

*Date:* February 2024 (exact date to be announced – NB: this is a 2-day meeting)

This module helps you think about the international aspects of your project and of your work as a researcher. More information follows soon.

#### **6. Advanced Research Design: Presenting and defending your thesis**

*Supervisor:* TBA

*Date:* March 2024 (exact date to be announced – NB: this module consists of 2 days)

This module helps you to explore the challenges and limitations of the theoretical and methodological choices you have made for your PhD project. During the module, you discuss your choices with fellow PhD candidates, but you will also present your project to experts in the field.

*Year 3*

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#### **7. Career event**

*Supervisor:* dr. Carla Hoetink, in collaboration with other History Research Schools

*Date:* 9 or 10 November 2023

More information follows soon.

#### **8. Academic outreach in Political History**

*Supervisor:* TBA

*Date:* April or May 2024 (exact date to be announced)

Now that you have reached an advanced stage of your PhD trajectory, this module invites you to reflect upon your role as a professional, an academic and a political historian. Why is your project significant? Can you contribute to current debates or is your project relevant for policymakers? How can you make sure your reach the audience your project deserves?

***Mission Statement Research School Political History***

*The objectives of the Research School for 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 for History is a member of the Association for Political History*

<https://onderzoekschoolpolitiegeschiedenis.nl/>

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