



Announcement

Research School Political History / Onderzoekschool Politieke Geschiedenis Module Interdisciplinary Approaches to Political History

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Date: 3 November 2023, 13.00-17.00

Location: Oost Indisch Huis, entrance Korte Spinhuissteeg 3
Amsterdam, room A.03

This workshop looks beyond the limits of the discipline of political history. How do/can other scientific disciplines inspire and inform political history research (and vice-versa)? Which debates outside the confines of political history are of interest to you, and to which debates can your PhD-project contribute? This meeting will particularly be inspired by approaches from the social sciences and social history. We will engage with how to write international political history 'from below' as well as the challenges of writing political histories of non-Western localities and topics. We will look at relevant examples of interdisciplinarity in political history research, for example political anthropology, political economy and political ecology approaches.

Readings

- Q. Edward Wang, 'Toward a Multidirectional Future of Historiography: Globality, Interdisciplinarity, and Posthumanity', *History and Theory* 59, 2 (2020), 283-302.
- S. Couperus and L. van de Grift, 'Environment and Democracy: An Introduction', *Journal of Modern European History* 20,3 (2022), 276-280 plus one of the articles of your own choice included in the special issue.

Discussion Questions

- What is 'interdisciplinarity'? And (why) does it matter to political history writing?
- What are the challenges and opportunities of adopting interdisciplinary methods in historical political research?
- How can ideas and approaches from different disciplines enrich your own work?

Preparation

In order to prepare for the workshop, we ask you to:

- A)** Critically **read** the materials indicated above: Which comments or criticisms do you have on the texts?

B) Think of your own definition of 'power' and **write** this down in half a page. Do *not* use academic books/articles for this writing exercise.

C) **Write** a one-page reflection, explaining which methods and approaches from other disciplines have inspired your own PhD research, focusing especially on *why* and *how*. Which challenges are you facing in adopting interdisciplinary approaches? Don't forget to put your name and the title of your research project on top of your document.

PhD candidates in their first year all receive a more detailed program.