



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

# RMA training program 2023-2024

Version date: 15 June 2023

## *Introduction*

---

The Research School for Political History (RSPH) aims to offer research master students in the history of politics and the political a high-quality training program supervised by some of the leading scholars in the field working in the low countries.

The RSPH training program is open to all students enrolled in a research master in history at a Dutch university. Our courses are designed to complement and deepen the research master study program, focusing on the historiographical, thematic, conceptual and methodological aspects of political history.

The RSPH program brings you into contact with fellow research master students at other universities, with Phds, junior and with senior researchers in the field of political history. It offers an excellent preparation if you are interested in pursuing 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.

This document contains all the necessary information about the courses on offer and how to register.

In addition to our RMA training program, research master students are warmly invited to take part in other activities 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!

## *How to register?*

---

The RSPH program is open to all students enrolled in a research master history programs at a Dutch university. 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).

As registered student at the RSPH we expect you to follow an individual program of 10 ECTS in total. If for any reason you wish to earn more (or less) credits, a specific arrangement can be made in consultation with the director of studies of the RSPH.

As soon as you have decided to join the RSPH training program, we kindly ask you to fill out the registration form and give notice of the courses and (if already applicable) other activities you want to participate in. You can find the registration form attached to this Training Program and on our website: <https://onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl/>. Please send your form via email to: [bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl).

## *Credits and certificates*

---

At the end of each course / summer school the participants will receive a certificate, specifying grade and credits that have been obtained. The courses have a basic study load of 5 ECTS, with a possible extension or reduction to 6 resp. 3 ECTS. Please indicate upon registration how much credit points you wish to obtain for each course / summer school. The requirements for the final assignments will be expanded accordingly.

By way of exception, an additional credit point can be earned by actively participating in and writing a report about a platform activity of the RSPH (e.g. the opening, a seminar, master class or conference). In case you want to consider this, please send us a reasoned proposal via [bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl).

*Program schedule*

| Course  | Period    | ECTS (optional) |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Introductory course:<br>What is Political History                               | Feb-March | 5 (6)           |
| Back to the source<br>Archival Research in the Digital Age                      | Apr-May   | 5 (3)           |
| Summer school<br>New International/Global History                               | July      | 5 (3)           |
| Optional: active participation in a RSPH platform activity (1 EC; max. of 3 EC) |           |                 |

### **Opening of the Academic year**

Date: 22 September 2023  
Location: Museum 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 will be announced soon – keep an eye on our newsletter!

Since the opening offers a sneak preview of the summer school scheduled at the end the academic year, all research master students are encouraged to attend.

### C.1 Introductory Course: What is Political History?

*Supervisors:* dr. Dries Raeymaekers and dr. Adriejan van Veen (Radboud University Nijmegen)

*Course period:* 2<sup>nd</sup> semester | February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and March 7, 14, 2024 | 6 meetings

*Credits:* 5 (6 optional) ECTS

*Registration:* via your registration form or via email, before 15 October 2023

([bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto: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 range from the concept of the political, to state formation, political culture, citizenship, civil society, and politics before and beyond the nation state.

The course will be taught in English (if all participants master Dutch, classes may be taught in Dutch).

#### *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 a historical study which they deem 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. (30% of final grade)
- Final paper: Participants write a paper of 3000 words, which answers the question: What is *your* political history? This paper is based on course literature as well as additional literature selected by students. (70% of final grade)

## C.2 Back to the Source: Archival Research in the Digital Age

*Coördination:* dr. Carla Hoetink (Radboud University; RSPH Director of Studies)

*Supervisors:* researchers of Huygens ING

*Course period:* 2<sup>nd</sup> semester | April – May (weeks TBA), Friday mornings 10.00-13.00 | 5 meetings

*Credits:* 5 (3/6 EC optional) ECTS

*Registration:* via your registration form or via email, before 15 January 2024

([bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl))

Long gone are the days when political history was only described from official state documents. In today's historical practice a great deal of attention is paid to multi-perspectivity, seeking opportunities to hear different voices. No one doubts the relevance of looking beyond the text and incorporating visual, auditory and material sources. In addition, new approaches and rapidly developing digital techniques shed fresh light on classical sources and open different possibilities for organizing, analyzing and presenting sources on a larger scale. What does this mean for writing political history today?

In this course, students develop a broad view of the potential of resources to analyze the history of politics and the political. Students also learn to critically reflect on the limitations of various types of sources, archives, and datasets, and to recognize their 'political' nature. What were the roles of e.g. the state and social movements in collecting and archiving materials? What blank spots does this leave in the archives and analyses? Although Dutch archives are the starting point of this course, the literature and methodological analogue and digital skills are universally applicable.

Participants in this course will:

- Gain insight into a range of sources relevant to study political history;
- Reach a next level in source critique;
- Get acquainted with new technologies to access, comprehend, analyse and manage primary sources relevant to political historians;
- Obtain the skills to use various primary sources – both physical and digital – and apply methods in a sound way.

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

### *Requirements*

- Specific requirements TBA  
(you may expect weekly preparations, active participation, written reflections and a presentation to be part of the assessment)

### C.3 Summer School New International/Global History

*Dates:* Beginning of July 2023

*Credits:* 5 (3 optional) ECTS

*Registration:* via your registration form or via email, before 15 January 2024

([bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl))

More information on the theme, supervisors and dates will follow soon

#### ***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/>

[bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)