



RSPH Tutorial Sources in Political History (Module 3A)

Organizer: Dr Marijke van Faassen (Huygens Institute)

Date: Friday 19 January 2024, 13.00-17.00pm

Location: Spinhuis, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 185
(Amsterdam), room 2.18

Please register before 05 January 2024

The increasing use of digital techniques for researching both analogue and digital texts, archival sources and data clouds requires a new research methodology in which traditional knowledge is closely interwoven with digital skills. In this tutorial, an interdisciplinary team of political historians and information scientists from the Huygens Institute will use case studies from their research to provide insight into this current methodological discussion and to more practically discuss ways to find, criticize, contextualise and finally prepare such complex sources to use them for research. To prepare for the tutorial, the PhD candidates are requested to write a text in which they describe the digital and 'paper' sources they use in their research and reflect on the advantages and disadvantages of using them. During the tutorial, there will be ample time to interactively discuss the problems they experience and to create awareness for alternative sources to work around the problems they face.

Program

13.00-13.15	Welcome and opening
13.15-13.30	<i>Combining analogue and digital sources in research.</i> Marijke van Faassen: introduction to the case: International Migration and Technocracy, the Dutch case
13.30-14.20	Rik Hoekstra & Marijn Koolen: using 'data scopes' and 'search' in research
14.20-14.30	Q&A and discussion
14.30-14.45	Break (coffee/tea)
14.45-17.00	Dialogues on the papers (and the literature) During this session certain aspects of the papers will be analysed in couples or clusters, each time followed by a short plenary discussion.
17.00	Drinks

Preparations

1. Read the required literature.
2. Write a text of 750-1000 words in which you describe the digital and 'paper' sources you use to answer your main research question. We will use the onepager you wrote for Tutorial 1, so only elaborate on the RQ if you want to update it.

Please use the required literature and note that the article on *Data scopes* explicitly is about combining analogue and digital research methods and sources, and is relevant for either type of research. Please reflect in your paper on the following questions:

- Where do you find your main sources and how do you cope with problems of accessibility (are there alternatives)?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the sources you use?
- What kind of information (or data) do you expect to be able to extract from your sources?
- Where do you expect your sources to have shortcomings and how will you remedy these?
- How do you plan to organize the sources and data you gather during your research and keep it accessible in order to facilitate your analysis and writing?

Submit your paper before **10 January 2024** in the folder with your name in the Surfdrive folder:

<https://surfdrive.surf.nl/files/index.php/s/8ck6vmerMqxPAS9/authenticate>

On **Monday 15 January 2024** we will ask you to prepare some feedback on one of the papers of your fellow PhD's (you can find these in the Surfdrive folder).

Required literature

- Milligan, I. 2022, *The Transformation of Historical Research in the Digital Age* (Cambridge University Press), H 1. Introduction, p. 1-9
- Hoekstra, R. and Koolen, M., 2018. Datascope for digital History Research. *Historical Methods. A Journal of Quantitative and interdisciplinary History*, 2, pp.1-16
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/328982105_Data_scopes_for_digital_history_research
- Van Faassen, M, Hoekstra, R., Koolen, M. 2023. Fifty years of Technocracy. International Migration Management as an Evolving Discourse Coalition. *Journal of Digital History* (2022, issue 2) <https://journalofdigitalhistory.org/en/article/VeaK58WBS82C> (or: <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/jdh-2022-0004/html>)

Recommended reading

- Milligan, I. 2022, *The Transformation of Historical Research in the Digital Age* (Cambridge University Press), e.g. H3, Archives and Acces, p. 29-44
- Z. Tufekci, 2017. *Twitter and Tear Gas. The power and fragility of networked protest* (Yale University Press, New Haven / London) (e.g. preface and epilogue)
<https://www.twitterandteargas.org/downloads/twitter-and-tear-gas-by-zeynep-tufekci.pdf>

Speakers

- **Dr. Marijke van Faassen** is senior researcher at the Huygens Institute (KNAW). Her research focuses on the political-institutional history of the Netherlands, International Relations as well as migration history.
- **Dr. Rik Hoekstra** is digital historian at Huygens DH-Lab (HuC, KNAW) . His research focuses on early modern socio-political issues and digital research methodology.
- **Dr. Marijn Koolen** is information scientist at Huygens DH-Lab (HuC, KNAW). His research focuses on information retrieval, information behaviour and digital humanities.

Registration

Participants need to register at bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl before **05 January 2024**. There is a limit of 15 participants; first year PhD candidates have priority.

Requirements and credits

- Minimum (1 EC): Preparation: reading the literature and writing a preparatory paper of 750-1000 words with main ideas, comments and question; Active participation in the discussion.
- Additional (1 EC): Writing a paper of 3000 words on the central topic of the tutorial, to be submitted after the meeting.