

Research School Political History

Advanced research skills | Workshop Audiovisual media sources and digital methods

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Location: [Beeld en Geluid](#)/Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, Mediapark Hilversum

Credits: 1 ECTS

In this full-day workshop, RMA students and PhD candidates will get acquainted with the possibilities of incorporating digitised audiovisual media sources in their research. The workshop will introduce the participants to media-historical approaches in political history, by reflecting on historiographical trends and experimenting with digital methods to study primary source materials. The workshop will start with exploring methodological starting points and bottlenecks in the fields of media studies and discourse analysis, and will discuss the current state of the art at the intersection of media and political history. Then, and most importantly, the workshop will introduce PhD candidates to a specific digital platform, the Clariah Media Suite, that holds a large amount of audiovisual sources and will provide them with hands-on training of techniques and tools for their own research. Through a meet-and-greet with the main curator and a guided tour, the students will finally get acquainted with the ways in which the Netherlands Institute of Sound and Vision archives and digitises vast amounts of audiovisual material. This workshop is especially suitable for participants working on the 20th century and on Dutch political history.

Introduction

In the course of the twentieth century, the influence of radio and television on how politics was experienced from day to day grew significantly. Especially in the post-war period, politics and audiovisual media have become closely interwoven, as political information was made more accessible.¹ Television became an important part of daily lives and increasingly functioned as ‘a fund of values, ideals, morals, and ethical standards’ and ‘a purveyor of shared frames of reference’.² Just as politicians engaged in a process of ‘claim making’ vis-à-vis citizens, media makers also made ‘claims to speak for others’ as negotiators of the interaction between citizens and politicians.³

Recently, political historians have become more interested in the interaction between citizens and politicians within mediated frameworks. The increased digitisation and accessibility of the audiovisual archive of the Dutch Institute of Sound and Vision through the Clariah Media Suite, now allows for historians to easily include these sources into research on post-war political culture.⁴ The [Clariah Media Suite](#) is a ‘networked, university-level access point to a large variety of digital collections –

¹ Huub Wijfjes and Gerrit Voerman (eds.), *Meditization of politics in history* (Leuven 2009); Liesbeth van Zoonen, *Entertaining the citizen. When politics and popular culture converge* (Lanham 2005); Peter Dahlgren, *Television and the public sphere. Citizenship, democracy and the media* (London 1995), xi, 7, 19; Christina von Hodenberg, ‘Mass Media and the Generation of Conflict: West Germany’s Long Sixties and the Formation of a Critical Public Sphere’, *Contemporary European History* 15(3), 367–395, 369. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20081317>

² Janet Wasko (ed.), *A companion to television* (Oxford 2005), 3; Dahlgren, *Television and the public sphere*, 40.

³ Michael Saward, *The representative claim* (Oxford 2010), 3–10, 38.

⁴ How this can be successfully integrated, is for example shown by the Dutch project ‘Media Oorlog’. Vincent Kuitenbrouwer en Huub Wijfjes, ‘Radio, geschreven pers en propaganda tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog’, *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 135:2/3 (2022), 179-199.

comprising key broadcast, film, paper and oral history collections from NISV, Eye Filmmuseum, the KB and DANS'. The Media Suite 'offers new ways of browsing, searching and analysing the collections made available with digital tools'.⁵

These audiovisual sources, however, remain in need of contextualisation with a focus on their reception, as well as their preparation behind the scenes. An interdisciplinary approach helps to shine light on how media makers perceived politics and politicians, and how they presented them to their audience. In sum, the political historian has to become a media historian, and vice versa.

Aims and objectives

In this course, ReMA and/or PhD students of the Research School for Political History will get acquainted with the possibilities of incorporating digitised audiovisual media sources in their research. The workshop will introduce the students to an interdisciplinary approach, through tracing the overlooked use of audiovisual media sources back to certain historiographic trends. Moreover, the workshop will discuss methodological starting points and bottlenecks based on the field of discourse analysis, and discern the current state of the art at the intersection of media and political history. Finally, the workshop will introduce and familiarize students with the Clariah Media Suite and will provide them with hands-on techniques and tools for their future research.⁶

After following this workshop, students will be able to:

- Discern historiographic trends on the intersection of media history and political history
- Access and incorporate audiovisual media sources in their research
- Navigate and utilise the digital platform of the Clariah Media Suite
- Develop an interdisciplinary methodological framework

Preparation

- Read the following literature (see: [OneDrive](#)):
 - Huub Wijffjes, 'Introduction' in: Huub Wijffjes en Gerrit Voerman (eds.), *Mediatization of politics in history* (Leuven 2009)
 - Patricia Moy, David Tewksbury and Eike Mark Rinke, 'Agenda-Setting, Priming, and Framing' in: Klaus Bruhn Jensen et al. (eds.), *The International Encyclopedia of Communication Theory and Philosophy* (New York 2016), 1-13.
 - [Vincent Kuitenbrouwer en Huub Wijffjes, 'Radio, geschreven pers en propaganda tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog', *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 135.1/2 \(2022\), 179-199](#); [Vincent Kuitenbrouwer, 'Mediaoorlog. Reflecties en perspectieven', *Tijdschrift voor Geschiedenis* 135.1/2 \(2022\), 309-313](#).
 - Solange Ploeg, 'A trial in democratic decision-making'. Television and political interaction beyond parliament in the Netherlands (1967-1977)' in: *Parliament contested? Rethinking the relationship between national politics, global crises, and pressure from below in the 1970s* (forthcoming chapter in edited volume)
- Write a short paper (approx. 750 words) on how you plan to incorporate audiovisual sources into your research. Include a brief overview of your research project, a clear research question and a reflection on the literature mentioned above.
Deadline: 21 March 2025. Please email your paper to Solange.Ploeg@ru.nl
- Watch and complete [this tutorial](#) and make an account in the [Clariah Media Suite environment](#)

⁵ See: [Huizinga workshop 03/23](#)

⁶ Media Suite tutorials in corporation with [Dr Christian Olesen](#) (Clariah/UvA), modeled on [Huizinga workshop 03/23](#). Corporation with Dutch Institute of Sound and Vision ([Bas Agterberg](#)) on archival policy and possible field trip.

- Bring headphones and a laptop (plus charger) to the workshop.

Program

9:30 – 10:30 Welcome and mini-lectures: political history meets media history

Mini lecture on Media Oorlog-project – Vincent Kuitenbrouwer, senior lecturer
History of International Relations (UvA)

Mini lecture on Voice of the People-project – Solange Ploeg, PhD candidate and
lecturer Political History (RU)

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 11:30 Historiographical trends: introduction and discussion

Why are media sources relevant to political historians? – Solange Ploeg

What are useful central concepts? How can historians operationalise these? – Vincent
Kuitenbrouwer

11:30 – 12:30 Back to the source: discovering the audiovisual archive

Presentation and tour – Bas Agterberg, curator at Netherlands Institute for Sound and
Vision

12 :30 – 13 :30 Lunch

13 :30 – 15 :00 Media Suite Tutorial

Searching, bookmarking and annotating – Christian Olesen, teaching & training officer
for the CLARIAH Media Suite and assistant professor Digital Media and Cultural
Heritage (UvA)

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 16:15 Media Suite in action: looking for your own source material

16:15 – 16:30 Final discussion