



PhD training program Research School Political History

Module 1 State of the art in political history: Positioning your project

Date: 24 October 2025 | **Time:** 10:00-16:15 (drinks afterwards)

Location: Spinhuis (Oudezijds Achterburgwal 185, Amsterdam). Room 3.05

Credits: 1 EC

Registration deadline: 10 October 2025

Submit assignments by: 17 October 2025

Please send your assignments for the afternoon session to Ido de Haan
(i.dehaan@uu.nl).

There are also preparations for the morning session, but these do not need to be submitted in advance.

Please register by sending an email to:

bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl

Speakers

Prof. Dr. Carla Hoetink – University of Groningen

Prof. Dr. Ido de Haan – Utrecht University

Please find the full program and course description below

Schedule

Morning session – Carla Hoetink

10.00 – 11:15	Welcome Introduction round (based on the object you brought with you)
11:15 – 12:15	Discussion: the norms for a professional historian
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch (provided by the OPG)

Afternoon session – Ido de Haan

13:15 – 13:45	Introduction to the discipline of political history & discussion
13:45 – 14:45	3 minute statement by each participant & discussion Which approach to political history as identified by Pombeni, Kaelble, Pero/Formigoni, Pojman, Cavazza and Mergel, is the most useful for your own research (and why)?
14:45 – 15:45	Debate on the question how the concepts of (de)legitimization and (de)politicization might be relevant for your own project (relate to the contributions of Cammarano and Orsina).
15:45 – 16:15	Final discussion: what is political history to you (and what – or why – not)?
16:15 – 17:30	Drinks (optional)

Morning program

Positioning yourself: what makes you a historian?

Supervised by prof. dr. Carla Hoetink

In the morning part of this first module of the PhD basic training program we will get to know each other and discuss what it means for us to be a professional historian. We will do this by reflecting on two important codes of conduct for Dutch based scholars: first, the 'Netherlands Code of conduct for research integrity' issued by the national research council NOW, and secondly the 'Standards for Historians'. The latter drawn up in 2023 by a working group of the Royal Netherlands Historical Society (KNHG) has recently been revised.

The Standards for Historians are the result of an investigation into 'unethical reuse' of historical work by historians and others, and the felt need to come up with a code of ethics for historians in the Netherlands. Subsequently, the KNHG working group examined whether existing codes of sister societies would be applicable in the Dutch context. This led to the translation of the code of the American Historical Association (translated with permission) and adaptation to the Dutch context.

In this session, Carla Hoetink will supervise a discussion on integrity codes in general and these Standards in particular. For this occasion, the emphasis will not so much be on unethical scientific behavior – although of course that is an important aspect as well – as on the distinctives of the professional historian, his/her role as an academic and in public debate.

Readings morning session

Nederlandse gedragscode voor integriteit (2024)

(via <https://www.nwo.nl/nederlandse-gedragscode-wetenschappelijke-integriteit>)

Normen voor historici (2023) published by the KNHG (in Dutch)

(via https://knhg.nl/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Normen-voor-historici_25-juni-2025.pdf)

Or (in English)

Netherlands Code of conduct for research integrity (2018)

(via <https://www.nwo.nl/en/netherlands-code-conduct-research-integrity>)

Statement on Standards on of Professional Conduct published by the American History

Association (via <https://knhg.nl/focus/beroepsethiek/?lang=en>)

Assignments morning session

In the morning, the focus is on your ideas about ‘doing being’ a historical researcher. For this first acquaintance, we ask you to prepare the following:

- **Find yourself an object that symbolizes what drives you as a scholar and/or a historian.** Bring the object with you. During the meeting, you may give an explanation: what does this object symbolize for you?
- **First, scroll through the NWO Code of conduct for research integrity. Then, read the entire ‘Normen voor historici’ or – if you only read English – the AHA ‘Standards’. Prepare yourself for a discussion.** For example, you can ask yourself:
 - What do you think about the need for such a code?
 - What do you take from it about the essence of being a professional historian?
 - What should and can you do with this, as a PhD?
 - What surprised you?
- **If you were to advise the KNHG on a revision, what would you suggest changing or adding to these Standards?** Work out at least one concrete suggestion that you can bring to the table.

Afternoon program

Introduction to the discipline: what is political history?

Supervised by prof. dr. Ido de Haan

The national research school for political history OPG offers first-year PhD-candidates a series of five tutorials to explore the approaches, concepts, theories, methods and techniques for research in political history.

In this first tutorial, we will discuss the very general, yet at the same time crucial question: 'what is political history?' The discipline of political history has changed quite dramatically in the last couple of decades. From a well-established, yet also rather stuffy history of national political institutions, it has become a vibrant study of the political as it manifests itself in a variety of places and a multiplicity of forms, and is informed by various disciplines, ranging from law and philosophy to political science and anthropology. In this tutorial, we discuss reflections on the history of 'the political' and invite you to reflect on your use of the term, how your research is a contribution to an interdisciplinary political history, and how you account for processes like politicization and depoliticization.

Readings afternoon session

One of the symptoms of the revival of political history since the end of the previous century was the emergence of all kinds of new initiatives in the field of political history. A very early sign of the new times was the establishment of the Italian journal devoted to political history, the *Ricerche di storia politica*, founded in 1987 by Paolo Pombeni from the University of Bologna. On the occasion of its thirtieth anniversary, the journal published a series of short contributions on the development of the discipline and the state of the art of political history – in English, which in itself is indicative of the trans-nationalization of political history.

For this meeting, **please read the contributions to this special issue** of the *Ricerche di storia politica: Political History Today: Power. Subjects. Categories* (October 2017).

Together these contribution cover many of the relevant themes of political history today:

- Raffaella Baritono, *Introduction*, pp. 3-6
- Paolo Pombeni, *Political History. An Overview or the Tortuous Path of Political History*, pp. 7-14
- Hartmut Kaelble, *Comparative and Transnational History*, pp. 15-24
- Mario Del Pero, Guido Formigoni, *Toward a New International History*, pp. 25-32
- Thomas Mergel, *Cultural Turns and Political History*, pp. 33-42
- Wendy Pojman, «To the Future in the Distance»: *Women and Gender in Political History*, pp. 43-52

- Stefano Cavazza, *Suspicious Brothers: Reflections on Political History and Social Sciences*, pp. 53-64
- Fulvio Cammarano, *Delegitimization: A Useful Category for Political History*, pp. 65-75
- Giovanni Orsina, *Perfectionism Without Politics. Politicisation, Depoliticisation, and Political History*, pp. 74-83

Assignments afternoon session

- **Read the required readings;**
- **Write a paper of 500-750 words** on the question how the concepts of (de)legitimization and (de)politicization might be relevant for your own project (relate to the contributions of Cammarano and Orsina). Please send your paper to the supervisor at **i.dehaan@uu.nl** before **17 October 2024**;
- **Prepare an oral contribution** related to the question which of the approaches to political history as identified by Pombeni, Kaelble, Pero/Formigoni, Pojman, Cavazza and Mergel, is the most useful for your own research (and why).