



# PhD training program Research School Political History

## Module 2 State of the art in political history: Interdisciplinarity

**Date:** 21 November 2025 | **Time:** 10:00 – 14:15 (including lunch)

**Location:** Spinhuis (Oudezijds Achterburgwal 185, Amsterdam). Room 2.18

**Credits:** 1 ECTS

**Registration deadline:** 5 November 2025

**Submit assignment by:** 10 November 2025

Please send your assignment to [bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)

**Please register by sending an email to:**

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

### Speakers

Dr. Lorena De Vita – Utrecht University

Dr. Iva Peša – University of Groningen

*Please find the full program and course description below*

## **Schedule**

10:00 – 10:30	Introduction
10:30 – 11:15	Part 1: Definitions & Theories
11:15 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:10	Part 2 & 3: Identifying Challenges & Opportunities
13:10 – 13:30	Conclusion
13:30 – 14:15	Lunch

## Course description

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

- 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.
- R. Koekkoek, 'Rethinking the History of Reparations for Historical Injustices: An Early Modern Perspective', *The Journal of Modern History* 96:2 (2024)  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/730043>.

## Assignments

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

- A. Before coming to the session, think about the following questions:
  - a. What is 'interdisciplinarity'? And (why) does it matter to political history writing?
  - b. What are the challenges and opportunities of adopting interdisciplinary methods in historical political research?
  - c. How can ideas and approaches from different disciplines enrich your own work?
- B. Critically **read** the materials indicated above: Which comments or criticisms do you have on the texts?
- C. Before coming to the session, 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. You don't need to submit this in advance, but please bring your notes to the session.

D. **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.

**Please submit the one-page reflection before 10 November 2025 via:**  
[bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl](mailto:bureau@onderzoekschoolpolitiekegeschiedenis.nl)