



Faculty of Arts Research Meeting - Pitch your Research!

Date: Monday 23 November

Location: Van Swinderen Huys, Oude Boteringestraat 19.

This Faculty research meeting offers researchers the opportunity to present their research to fellow Faculty of Arts researchers in a pitch up to seven minutes in length.

By organizing this research meeting, the Faculty Board wants to give Faculty of Arts researchers the chance to get to know each other and each other's research better. The Board also hopes to stimulate interdisciplinary and other partnerships.

Programme:

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| 7 – 7.15 p.m. | Reception with coffee and tea |
| 7.15 – 7.25 p.m. | Introduction by the Dean, Prof. Gerry Wakker |
| 7.25 – 8.10 p.m. | <u>Pitches:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. David van der Linden – <i>Signed, Sealed & Undelivered</i>2. Marietta Messmer – <i>Outsourcing and Offshoring</i>3. Gosse Bouma – <i>Treebanks</i>4. Tymon de Haas – <i>Managing the Marshes</i>5. Tom Koole – <i>The Interaction Organization of Understanding</i> |
| 8.10 – 8.20 p.m. | Break |
| 8.20 – 8.50 p.m. | <u>Pitches:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Mark Thompson and Joanne van der Woude – <i>Amerigo</i>7. John Hoeks – <i>Convincing Conversations</i>8. Jacqueline Klooster and Inger Kuin – <i>After the Crisis, after the Wars</i>9. Martijn Wieling – <i>Patterns in Large Digital Corpora</i> |
| 8.50 – 9 p.m. | Closing by the Dean, Prof. Gerry Wakker |
| 9 – approx. 9.45 p.m. | Drinks reception |



Short summaries:

1. David van der Linden – *Signed, Sealed & Undelivered*

In 1926, a seventeenth-century trunk of letters was bequeathed to the *Museum voor Communicatie* in The Hague, then as now the centre of government, politics, and trade in The Netherlands. The trunk freezes a moment in history, allowing us to glimpse the early modern world as it went about its daily business. The letters are uncensored, unedited, and 600 of them even remain unopened. The archive itself has remained virtually untouched by historians until it was recently rediscovered. An international and interdisciplinary team of researchers has now begun a process of digitization, preservation, transcription, and editing that will reveal its secrets for the first time – even, we hope, those of the unopened letters.

2. Marietta Messmer – *Outsourcing and Offshoring: A Comparative Analysis of Current Trends in US and EU Migration Management*

In order to negotiate the large streams of (irregular) migrants and refugees, the US and the EU have both started to outsource immigration control measures to, on the one hand, local and private (for-profit) actors and, on the other, to countries of transit such as Mexico, Morocco, Senegal and, currently, Turkey. These buffer-countries increasingly become responsible for preventing migrants from reaching the US or the EU, and for sending them back to their countries of embarkation or origin. My aim in this research project is to explore the complex legal, social, political, economic, and ethical consequences that this extraterritorialization of immigration control has on individual migrants/refugees as well as on designated transit countries. My central argument is that nation-states effectively employ the outsourcing of migration management to circumvent basic human rights obligations because these are either not applicable extraterritorially or because they cannot be enforced vis-à-vis non-state actors.

3. Gosse Bouma – *Treebanks*

Treebanks are corpora annotated with syntactic information (lemma, part of speech, constituency, dependency relations). Over the years, we have created both manually corrected and automatically parsed treebanks for Dutch. These have been used for corpus based studies on clefts, fronting, reflexives, and verb clusters, among others. Automatically parsed text from novels has also been used to study syntactic differences between literary novels and popular 'chic-lit' novels. The PaQu web interface provides an on-line search interface to some of these corpora, as well as the possibility to upload new material for automatic annotation. Search results can be visualized, and various frequency statistics can be computed. We believe PaQu is a valuable tool for linguists interested in the syntax of Dutch.

Since 2011, we have also collected over 2 billion Dutch language tweets along with meta-data. We have some experience with inferring demographic properties of users (gender, age, location, ethnographic background). Approximately 3% of the data comes with geographical co-ordinates, approximately 10% of the data is from Flemish users. Several on-line tools exist for browsing the data. It remains a challenge to add linguistic annotation to this type of



material. However, the sheer size of the data means that shallow queries (i.e. the frequency over time of *hij wordt* vs. *hij word*) can be effective and informative. This suggests that in its current form the data can already be of interest to linguists.

4. Tymon de Haas – *Managing the Marshes: Wetland Reclamation and Territorial Expansion in Roman Italy*

In the course of its expansion over the Italian peninsula (late 4th and 2nd centuries BC), Rome founded colonies, established an extensive road network and reclaimed vast stretches of wetland. These reclamations, known through associated cadasters (centuriations), play a minor role in current scholarship: it is unclear when they were laid out and what impact they had on landscape and agricultural output. The proposed research will deal with such issues through an interdisciplinary study of a case study, the Pontine marsh (Lazio, central Italy). It will: 1) reconstruct the centuriation, its functioning and chronology through GIS-based studies and geophysical and geo-archaeological fieldwork; 2) study its impact on landscape, land use and settlement using palaeo-ecological and archaeological approaches; and 3) quantify its implications, economic and demographic, using both archaeological data and historical comparative data.

5. Tom Koole – *The Interaction Organization of Understanding*

When we talk and engage in interaction with others, we – and they – continuously show each other *that* or *how* we understand each other. One way to do this is to use tokens that are specialized in the work of showing understanding: linguistic tokens such as hm, oh, yes, and no, and embodied tokens such as head nods. My research aims to characterize these tokens as part of the ‘organization’ of doing understanding. This organization is designed to deal with:

- (i) The object of understanding: what is understood? A referent (what are we talking about)? A proposition (what are we predicating about it)? An action?
- (ii) The scope of understanding: how much is understood? The prior word? The prior turn-constructive unit? An entire activity such as a narrative or an explanation?
- (iii) The epistemic stance: to what extent do we understand? A certain or a more tentative understanding?

6. Mark Thompson and Joanne van der Woude – *Amerigo: Tracing Atlantic Connections by Making Digital Heritage in Groningen*

For five centuries Groningen has been connected to the Atlantic World. Although scholars have examined certain aspects of this relationship, Groningen’s place in this larger pattern of interactions has been little studied and less understood. With our private partner Knowlogy, a software design firm based in Groningen, we will identify, map, and demonstrate these connections using new technology and we will use this technology to investigate how this history and cultural heritage are perceived by a broad audience.

Our goal is to develop an application called “Amerigo” that would enable users to explore these relationships within the real space of the city and the virtual space of a knowledge



network. A wide section of society including tourists, residents, family historians, students, educators, and researchers would gain the ability to reimagine and reconstruct the city's past and present by using Amerigo on their smartphones, tablets or PCs.

7. John Hoeks – *Convincing Conversations: Creating a Dialogue System to Motivate Sustainable Behaviour*

Few people are aware of the livestock industry's major impact on our planet. Keeping livestock requires vast quantities of land, water and other resources; it leads to deforestation, causes huge greenhouse gas emissions (more than the entire transport sector), and is responsible for the suffering of animals on an industrial scale. The most obvious (and healthiest) solution to all these problems lies within reach: a more vegetable-based lifestyle. It would be helpful if people can be convinced of the usefulness and necessity of such a change on a large scale. The project *Convincing Conversations* combines recent developments in the Human-Machine interaction with the latest insights into the psychology of persuasive communication. The goal of the project is to develop a computer-based dialog system that can provide information and resolve misunderstandings with regard to a vegetable-based lifestyle.

8. Jacqueline Klooster and Inger Kuin – *After the Crisis, after the Wars*

How did Roman society and politics re-invent themselves after a century of Civil Wars, which was tenuously overcome by the 'peace' of Augustus? And how did Athens recover from these wars, which were fought on its doorstep, while also having to find a new role as a provincial city in the Roman Empire? These two questions form the focus of the research group 'After the Crisis', a collaboration of the departments of Ancient History and Classics. In investigating these questions we are particularly interested in how representations of the past were used by individuals and communities to anchor the changes and innovations with which they had to cope. Our collaboration allows us to take into account fully textual and material evidence, and we also aim to meditate on strategies for overcoming civil conflict, resilience in traumatized populations, and processes of political change in a broader historical perspective.

9. Martijn Wieling – *Patterns in Large Digital Corpora*

In my research I am interested in uncovering group-specific patterns. While I currently study non-linear patterns in tongue and lip-movement during speech of L2 learners in experimental work, I also enjoy uncovering the secrets of already existing digital data sources. For example, in collaboration with researchers from the US and the UK, we have found that women and younger people show a greater frequency of use of "UM" (as opposed to the alternative "UH") as a hesitation marker than older people and men, across several Germanic languages. It seems that "UM" is on the rise, as also over time its frequency of use is increasing at the cost of "UH". In digital dialect corpora many interesting patterns can be found as well. For example when comparing Dutch, Tuscan or Catalan dialects to the respective standard languages, geographical location plays an important role, but also other factors including speaker age.