

Leiden University Services & Facilities Studium Generale Activities



Universiteit Leiden

Newton and Christiaan Huygens: Science and Politics in 1688

Wednesday evening, 21st of April 2010

The Dutch Republic proved to be remarkably receptive to Newton's ideas. In the course of the eighteenth century, Newton's ideas (in different guises and interpretations) became a veritable hype in Dutch society.



So far, surprisingly little research has been performed to explain Newton's sudden success in the Netherlands. To address this and other topics focusing on what is vaguely described as 'newtonianism', a three-day conference is organized in Leiden by Museum Boerhaave, the Huygens Instituut (KNAW, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), Nadine Akkerman (Pallas Institute /ICD, Leiden University), and Pete Langman (Goldsmiths College).

While the symposium *Newton and the Netherlands* (see link in right column) is open to registrants only, Studium Generale is honoured to host the public opening lecture by professor Lisa Jardine (University of London), one of the leading scholars of the scientific revolution.

Abstract of the lecture:

When William III became King of England in 1689, his first secretary was Constantijn Huygens junior -- Sir Constantijn Huygens's eldest son. Constantijn's brother, the scientist Christiaan Huygens was tempted out of scientific retirement by his brother's elevation, and revived his interest in optics and motion -- interests he shared with Newton. Constantijn and Christiaan together were involved in Newton's bid for preferment under the new regime. I shall tell the story of that joint venture, and argue that the Huygens brothers thereby helped shape Newton's successful post-1689 success.'

Entrance is free and you don't need to register in advance.

Studium Generale

Speaker

Professor Lisa Jardine, University of London

Time and location

7.30 pm

Lorentztaal, Kamerlingh Onnes Building, Steenschuur 25, Leiden

Last Modified: 21-04-2010