

Master North American Studies

Dr. Joke Kardux | Leiden



**Universiteit
Leiden**
The Netherlands



Dr. Joke Kardux
Chair



Damian Pargas,
Sackler Professor



Giles Scott-Smith
Prof. of New Diplomatic
History



Dr. Eduard
van de Bilt



Els Munter,
Coordinator of Studies



Dr. Sara Polak



Dr. Mike Schmidli



Dr. Albertine
Bloemendal

Raymond and Beverly Sackler Chair in the History and Culture of the U.S. and the Americas



Prof. dr. Adam Fairclough
Appointed in 2005,
Retired August 2016



New Chair from September 1, 2017
Prof. dr. Damian Pargas

“Top Opleiding”

Elsevier Oct. 2018: “Leiden best North American Studies program in the Netherlands.”

Keuzegids 2019:

Leiden NAS program: “Top rated program”

<https://www.keuzegids.org/ol/gidsen/ma19/opleiding17642-noord-amerika-studies>

NSE: National Student Survey 2018 (max. = 5):

- Study program in general: 4.5
- General atmosphere: 4,7
- Quality of guidance your teachers provide: 4.7
- Academic guidance/counseling: 4.4

Approach + Leiden profile

Integrated, multidisciplinary approach to the study of the U.S., with special attention to the influence of the past on contemporary social, political, and cultural developments, and the place of the U.S. in the region and the world.

Special (but not exclusive) focus on:

- Slavery and emancipation movements
- International relations and human rights
- Immigration and ethnicity
- Cultural identities and memory politics

MA requirements

- 4 courses (10 EC each) 40 EC
(1 required + 3 electives*)
- Thesis seminar + MA thesis 20 EC
- Total 60 EC (30 per semester)

- You're permitted to replace 1 elective course by a **10 EC internship**

For more information on course content: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/education/study-programmes/master/north-american-studies/about-the-programme>

MA Course program 2019-2020

Semester 1:

- *Major Issues in American History and Culture (required)*
- *Deep Rivers: Great Migrations and African Americans*
- *The U.S. and Human Rights*
- *Working Through 9/11: Literature, Film, and Memory Culture*

Semester 2:

- *The Rise and Decline of American Empire*
- *Comics Against the Code: Autobiography and Journalism in American Graphic Novels*
- *Thesis Seminar and MA thesis (required)*
- *Readings in American History* (required for students starting in Feb. 2020)

For a detailed programme please see the e-prospectus:

<https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/studies/show/6491/north-american-studies>

Career prospects NAS alumni

According to the most recent survey conducted in Spring 2016, among Leiden NAS graduates,

70% found a job within 2 months

100 % found a job within 6 months

80 % found a first job on academic or professional (HBO) level

Note that, in Feb. 2016 when the survey was last held, the economy was just recovering. The current career prospects for NAS students are even better.

Click [here](#) for list of jobs found by recent NAS graduates.

Internships (10 EC)

NAS students have done internships at:

- Voice of Witness, California
- NL Embassy, Washington
- NL Consulate, New York
- National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington
- Internship NOS News in Washington
- Min. of Education, Culture and Science
- Roosevelt Institute of American Studies, Middelburg
- Elsevier Magazine
- GameHouse, Utrecht, etc. etc

Internship testimonial:

Email from Sophie Oostelbos , who did a 6-month internship at **NL Consulate in New York (2015/16)**:

“De afgelopen week zijn we hier ontzettend druk geweest met de Algemene Vergadering van de VN. Ik zelf heb onderdeel uit mogen maken van het sociale media team van premier Rutte, wat een ontzettend gave ervaring was.”

Stage-onderzoek: “Ik ga voor het evenement Northside Festival de sociale media *posts* vanuit het Consulaat analyseren. Waar ligt het bereik het hoogst, welke posts doen het goed, etc ., om daar dan een advies over te schrijven.”

For other testimonials by NAS students about internships, click [here](#)

Transferable skills taught in Leiden NAS program:

National Student Survey scores Feb. 2018:

- Critical assessment of scholarly work: 4.5
- Analytical thinking: 4.4;
- Critical thinking: 4.5
- Oral communication skills: 4.5;
- Academic writing skills: 4.6
- Team work: 4.3
- Debating/reasoning skills 4.5

Note: most of these scores are above the national average.

Annabelle van Waes

NAS alumna, graduated February 2017

Information Manager, City of Leiden



About transferable skills: “The **analytical skills** I learnt during my studies are **very useful** in this field. Every day I’m challenged to see the bigger picture and establish links between things. As an information manager I also try to uncover the ‘question behind the question’. To do so I also **use many of the skills I developed in my studies.**”

Read Annabelle’s complete testimonial as well as other testimonials by Leiden NAS alumni [here](#)

Teaching career

Some NAS graduates go on to do a one-year educational master program (ICLON U Leiden).

However, to be eligible for the teacher training program in **English**, NAS graduates must have a **BA degree in English** Language and culture

To be eligible for the teacher training program in **history**, NAS graduates must have a **BA degree in History**.

One NAS graduate did the World Teacher's Program at ICLON.

Admission requirements to MA NAS:

- Admissible are students with a BA in Humanities (e.g. history, English, or International Studies) or Social Sciences **with at least 30 EC** courses in American Studies (usu. 30 EC minor American Studies)
- Pre-master track American Studies (30 or 60 EC) is required for students with a:
 - University BA in Humanities or Social Sciences with insufficient background in American Studies (pre-master **30 EC**)
 - HBO BA in English, History, Journalism, or European Studies (pre-master **60 EC**)

For more details about entry requirements, check [here](#)

Pre-master track for HBO BA students (60 EC)

Semester 1, 2019-20 (three courses, 3 x 10 EC))

- *From the Pilgrims to the Present* **and**
- *Lit.5a: American literature, 1917-present*
- *Rightwing Politics in the U.S.* **OR**
- *Transatlantic Relations: Europe and the U.S. in the 20th C.*

Semester 2 (2 of the following courses + pre-master thesis)

- *Slavery and Memory in the Black Atlantic* (10 EC) **and**
- *Minds Matter: American Public Intellectuals and their Ideas*, **or**
- *U.S. Peace Movements*
- BA premaster thesis (required for 60EC pre-master; 8000 words, 10 EC)

Information Leiden North American Studies:

[Department website prospective students](#)

[Department website for enrolled students](#)

[E-prospectus NAS 2018-19 \(course descriptions\)](#)

[E-prospectus Premaster 2018-19](#)

More information:

[Coordinator of studies: drs. Els Munter, e.c.munter@hum.leidenuniv.nl;](#)

[Dept. Chair: dr. Joke Kardux, j.c.kardux@hum.leidenuniv.nl](#)

Leiden NAS student wins thesis prize

The 2018 [Theodore Roosevelt American History Award](#) was awarded to Leiden NAS alumna Megan Griffiths for her master's thesis on the Salem witchcraft 'crisis' of the 1692.

For blog interview with Megan, click [here](#)



Topics of recent MA Theses:

- Henry Clay, the Colonization Society and the Compromise on Slavery
- Marriner S. Eccles, the Federal Reserve System and the New Deal 1933-1939
- "Anybody Out There?!" Henry Waxman and the Congressional Response to the Aids Epidemic of the 1980s
- West Germany and the Year of Europe: A Coalition Under Pressure - West German - American Relations 1973-74
- Legitimacy in New York Politics: The Political Machine vs Civil Service Reformers
- Representing the Muslim “Other”: (Neo-)Orientalism in Selected Post-9/11 Fiction and Film
- North versus South: A Textual Analysis of Journalism During the 1961 Freedom Rides
- Rodney King, the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, and the Rise of Gangsta Rap
- David Halberstam: A Case Study of a Journalist's Role and Vision on the Vietnam War
- Post-war Austria through American Eyes, 1945 - 1948
- The Suppression of Resistance to Japanese-American Wartime Evacuation and Incarceration

Topics of recent MA Theses continued

- Character vs. Caricature: The Construction of Blackness in Carl Van Vechten's *Nigger Heaven* and Claude McKay's *Home to Harlem*
- Exhibiting the Jewish Lower East Side and Black Harlem: The Representation of Place and the Construction of Ethnic Identity in Two 1960s Museum Exhibitions
- Stuck In Denial versus Moving With Science: Climate Change Discourses and the Influence of the Denial Machine on Left and Right News Media
- Paul Ryan: True Conservative or Enemy of the Base? An analysis of the Relationship between the Tea Party and the GOP
- An Analysis of the Use of Historical and Rhetorical Devices in President Barack Obama's Speeches
- Commodified Kin: Enslaved Families' Responses to the Antebellum Domestic Slave Trade in the Chesapeake
- "Rapresenting: The Miscellaneous Meaning of Gangsta Rap in 1990s America"
- Rebellion in the Borderlands: Slave Flight and the Runaway Slave in Antebellum Texas, 1836-1860
- Black Power Youth Literature: Trying to Overcome the Cultural Deficit
- The Spirit of 1943: Zoot Suits, Riots and Racial Anxiety on the Los Angeles Home Front
- From "The Cincinnati Effect" to "The Ferguson Effect": Media's Growing Involvement in Police Brutality Against Black Citizens
- Mr Europe, Mr Atlantic? Paul Henri Spaak's Efforts to Safeguard Atlantic Unity against Franco-American Hostilities
- The Federal Anti-Lynching Debate: Walter White and Mary McLeod Bethune's Struggle for Justice
- Food for Thought: Food Practices, Identity and Memory in Post-Civil Rights Era Southern Literature

Apply Now!

Have you made your decision yet?!

Start your application for the [MA North American Studies](#)

Questions?

For questions about the MA North American Studies, please get in touch with our study advisor: E.C.Munter@hum.leidenuniv.nl



Thank you!



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