

THE LEIDEN AUSTRIA CENTER IN 2019-2020

Introduction

The academic year 2019-2020 was a highly unusual one, as events had to be abruptly cancelled from the second semester onwards, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We hope that at least some of these events can be organised in the coming academic year(s). On the positive side, there were numerous occasions for celebration and joy: while in June 2019 Jeroen Duindam was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Arts and Sciences First Class, in February 2020 our chair Steven Engelsman received the same distinction for his outstanding service to Austrian culture. In December 2019 Hans van Eenennaam received the Golden Decoration for Service of the Republic of Austria, an honour also granted to Ida van Veldhuizen and Reinildis van Ditzhuyzen in July 2020. Willemijn Tuinstra, who was participant at the Alberta Convention in 2018, completed her MA thesis in 2019 under the supervision of Jeroen Duindam: *Conscience & Connections. Marcellus Franckheim (1587-1644) and his contacts in the Habsburg World at the eve of the Thirty Years War* and was awarded the prestigious Uitgeverij Verloren/Johan de Witt thesis prize.

All Leiden team members have been involved in the shared initiatives of our centre – the distinctions can thus be seen as a collective reward. Moreover, although Hugo Weiland stepped back as chair two years ago, he and his wife Heidi have continued to be the heart and soul of the Foundation and the hospitality they offered at their Oegstgeest domicile gave a special touch to the annual cycle of activities.

After the departure of Anthonya Visser from Leiden to take up the role of Dean of the Faculty of Arts in Groningen, the Faculty has approved the appointment of Johannes Müller as curator of the Foundation. We look forward to working together in the future.

The Annual Convention

The XIII Annual Convention of Austria Centres was organized by Professor Marija Wakounig in Vienna and it was a special pleasure to take part in a convention taking place in the ‘heart’ of the Austrian centres. In addition to the two students from Leiden who gave papers – Frédérique Visser and Lilian Ruhe – Steven Engelsman and Willemijn Tuinstra also took part in the meeting in order to gather experiences for the Leiden convention. Moreover, to our pleasure, Hugo and Heidi Weiland attended some of the events. Leiden participants express thanks to Marija Wakounig, Christoph Ramoser, Florian Gerhardus and Felix Wilcek and all the other colleagues from Vienna who made the event so memorable, both intellectually and socially. Both students found the feedback they received extremely beneficial, as well as the networking aspect, and they submitted their drafts to the publication series.

The unpredictable situation arising from the COVID-19 outbreak made necessary the postponement of the XIV Annual Convention originally planned for 21-24 October 2020 in Leiden. Intensive preparations were well underway, and we were dismayed to see the chances for the

meeting this year evaporate. We are confident, however, that we will be able to welcome our guests here in Leiden between **20-24 October 2021**.

Key Leiden Events

On 29 November 2019 we inaugurated the Annual Austrian Studies Lecture. The first Annual Austrian Studies Series Lecture was delivered by Professor Mark Cornwall (Southampton University) with the title: *A Typology of Traitors in Late 19th Century Austria-Hungary*. The text of the lecture will be published in booklet form and the publication will be made available to all those interested in the subject. Currently, we are planning the second annual lecture, but the arrangements will depend on the loosening of COVID-19 restrictions.

On 22 January 2020 an informal workshop on The East-West Dynamic and the Making of European Culture after 1989 was held in Leiden with the participation of the following colleagues: Ferenc Laczó (Maastricht), Meike Wulf (Konstanz/Bremen), Kim Christiaens (KU Leuven/KADOC), Jos Claeys (KU Leuven) and Maria Falina (City University Dublin). Its point of departure was that a main goal of the European project after 1989 consisted of overcoming the East-West divide to thereby 'reunite the continent.' After three decades since the end of the Cold War, it appeared to be timely to start approaching the making of European culture in the 1990s – its agenda and specific manifestations, its achievements as well as shortcomings – from a historical point of view. This exploratory workshop therefore aimed to discuss, through select case studies in intellectual and cultural history, the making of European culture after 1989 with a specific focus on East-West relations and dynamics. Plans were made for a future publication, in cooperation with *Eurozine*. The Central and East European Studies Center (CEES) was also hit by cancellations in the second semester. However, the following events were organized in the first half of the academic year:

- 10 October 2019 CEES. cinema documentary screening 'Breaking News: Spending the Same Day in Two Different Newsrooms'
- 26 November 2019 'Political Parties and Referendums in Eastern Europe: The Effect of Cues and Pre-Campaign Attitudes' by Sergiu Gherghina (Glasgow University)
- 5 February 2020 'Political Economy of EU Structural funds: Institutional Quality, Oversight, and Corruption Controls' by Mihaly Fazekas (Central European University)

Publication highlights

Monika Baár

- 'Of Communism, Compromise and Central Europe: the Scholarly Persona under Authoritarianism', in Herman Paul (ed.) *How to be a Historian: Scholarly Personae in Historical Studies 1800-2000* (Manchester University Press, 2019), pp. 164-181.
- With Anna Derksen, 'Das Internationale Jahr der Behinderten 1981 in historischer Perspektive', in Marc van Miquel and Theresia Degener (ed.), *Behindertenpolitik und Behindertenrecht seit den 1970er Jahren*, (Transcript Verlag, 2019), pp. 161-184.

- Blogpost: Lessons for the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Cruciality of Peripheral Knowledge: Handwashing and the Semmelweis Reflex
<http://rethinkingdisability.net/lessons-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic-on-the-cruciality-of-peripheral-knowledge-handwashing-and-the-semmelweis-reflex/>

Jeroen Duindam,

- *Dynasty. A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press 2019; audiobooks.com 2020)
Currently a book publication of Jovan Pesalj's 2019 Leiden dissertation 'Monitoring Migrations: The Habsburg-Ottoman Border in the Eighteenth Century' is being discussed with several publishers; the Leiden Foundation has decided in principle to sponsor open access of this important book.

Guest Professor

It is with great pleasure to see Guest Professor Marija Wakounig returning to Leiden for the academic year 2019/20. She offered two courses, at the BA level: *From the First Serbian Uprising to the First World War. The Balkans in the 19th and 20th Centuries*, at the MA level: *(East)-Central Europe before and after the Paris Peace Treaties*. Both courses were very popular, but teaching for all courses in Leiden and other universities, had to be moved online in the second part of the semester. We are glad to note that Marija courageously dealt with the multiple challenges of online teaching, but greatly regretted not to have her as our guest in Leiden!

In the academic year 2020-21 our guest professor will be literary scholar Uta Degner from Salzburg who will be offering courses in the MA Literary Studies and the BA German Studies: one focusing on Elfriede Jelinek (MA) and the other either on Bourdieu (MA) or on German literature (BA). We look forward to welcoming our new guest professor and her family in Leiden in February 2021.

New in the team

Frédérique Visser, who presented her research at the Vienna 2019 Convention, started her task as student assistant in February 2019 (3.6 hours per week) and already within a short period of time, this has resulted in great improvement in terms of visibility and practical support. Her work will enable us to support events with a greater scope in the future. For her MPhil thesis, Frédérique did research in Austra, a report on her experiences can be found at: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2020/01/experiencing-austria-through-archival-research>

Graduate student exchange and student stipends

Between October and December 2019 Anna Csicsics, who is completing her PhD at ELTE Budapest co-supervised by Monika Baár, spent her Erasmus traineeship in the Institute for History. Although the main purpose of her stay was related to Monika Baár's Rethinking Disability ERC

project- she is completing her PhD thesis on the history of the deaf community in communist Hungary –she actively participated in the activities of the Centre as part of her traineeship. Moreover, on 22 November 2019 she gave a talk for the Leiden Deaf Studies Network on her research with the title: ‘These People are Listening to the Radio’ which was attended by 25 people and translated into International Sign and tactile sign language.

In the second semester, we expected Rimantė Jurgaitė, a Lithuanian student completing her MA studies in the Institute for Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans at the University of Bologna for April-June 2020. She has expressed her willingness to contribute both to the activities of the Center and to CEES. Unfortunately, her stay had to be postponed because of the Corona crisis.

Marijan van den Pluijm is currently completing her MA thesis on the influence of the Danube commission on the Danube regulation of Vienna. She has been approved to have her membership fee covered for accessing the online materials of the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek.

Special Chair teaching and individual activities

In addition to the teaching of our guest professor Marija Wakounig, in 2019-2020 Monika Baár taught the MA course *History of Everyday Life under Authoritarianism* in Leiden. In January 2020 Monika Baár gave a lecture at the University of Vienna in the framework of the Ringvorlesung: ‘Disability Studies: Interdisziplinäre Zugänge zum Umgang mit Behinderung’ and a workshop at the University of Vienna upon the invitation of the convenors of the Disability Series workshop Julia Gebke and Julia Heinemann (both University of Vienna)..

In March, 2020, Monika Baar contributed to the panel discussion on Language as a Catalyst and Barrier for Knowledge Transfer, hosted by Austrian Ambassador Heidemaria Gürer in the Residence. Monika Baár was also member of the jury of the Richard Plaschka Scholarship.

In June 2019 Jeroen Duindam enjoyed a brief research stay in the Vienna Haus- Hof- und Staatsarchiv (see a Dutch blog at: <https://www.monarchie-in-beroering.org/post/impressies-van-een-bezoek-aan-het-weense-haus-hof-und-staatsarchiv>, gave a lecture on ‘Vergleichende Dynastiegeschichte’, and participated in a workshop on ‘Von dynastischen Nachfolge(Ordnung)en und Erbteilungen’, both organized by Marija Wakounig at the Vienna Institut für Osteuropäische Geschichte. Another round of research in the HHStA and participations in a series of other activities, planned for July 2020 in consultation with Marija Wakounig, had to be canceled because of COVID-19. In all likelihood this research will now take shape in early 2021, when two new Vienna-based projects on the history of the Habsburg court will be initiated.

Plans for 2020/21

We hope the epidemiological situation will allow us to organize the Second Annual Austrian Studies Lecture during the next academic year (ideally in late November-early December). Furthermore, we look forward to the next selection round for the Mr H. Weiland Prize now

including Flemish universities, with a deadline at 1 December 2020 (extended because of COVID-19).

Monika Baár will be teaching in the 2020/21 academic year two courses: the BA course *Vienna Through the Centuries: Politics, Culture and Society* and our team members will contribute to this course with their expertise. She will also offer the MA course *History of Everyday Life under Authoritarianism*.

Two seminars will be organized in 2020/21 as part of a collaboration between our former Guest Professor Marie-Agnes Dittrich and Monika Baár on behalf of their respective institutions. The chosen topic is music & cultural studies & marginality and special emphasis will be placed on female composers and composers in displacement / emigration. Part of the funding has been offered from the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien. We expect to offer an opportunity to six candidates from Leiden and six candidates from Vienna. Collaboration is planned with the Huizinga Institute which is the National Research School on Cultural History so that the participating students would be able to earn credits for their Research Masters and/or PhD programme.

CEES will continue to act as a hub for events focusing on contemporary issues thereby maintaining connections with other institutes and faculties.

In conclusion

We warmly thank the Austrian ambassador, Dr. Heidemaria Gürer for her support. The activities of the embassy have been increasing steadily, a consequence of Dr. Gürer's characteristically energetic approach. On July 10, we will say goodbye to Dr. Gürer; we look forward to an equally fruitful cooperation with her successor. Finally we repeat our warm gratitude towards our Viennese sponsors and friends Dr. Christoph Ramoser, Dr. Felix Wilcek, and Florian Gerhardus.

MONIKA BAÁR