

## RESEARCH CLINIC

### General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Jacqueline Hylkema
Title of clinic:	Fake News & the Dutch Republic (1600-1800)
Number of students:	Max. 6
Major ( <i>if applicable and approved by the Major Convener</i> ):	CHS & WP
(Pre)requisites ( <i>if applicable</i> ):	Students who read Dutch and/or French are particularly encouraged to apply but the clinic also has places for those who read one or more of the following languages: English, German, Spanish, Italian, Swedish and Russian. Prior knowledge of forgery and forgery studies is not necessary but taking the 300-level course 'Faking the Past: Forgery, History and Propaganda' in block 4 is recommended.

### Research context

This research clinic is part of my research project 'Mapping the Fake Republic (1550-1800)', which is the first structural study of early modern Dutch forgery (ranging from fake news to forged science) and will result in a new special collection, the Leiden University Collection of Fakes and Forgeries. In this research clinic students will spend a semester participating in the project and help to build the fake news section of the new collection. Much of the fake news in the Dutch Republic concerned subjects that are crucial to the CHS and WP majors, such as nation-building, religious and social diversity, and international conflicts, but students from LUC's other majors are welcome to apply too.

## **Students' tasks and activities**

The students' main task will be to identify fake news items in pamphlets, newspapers and engravings printed in the Dutch Republic between 1600 and 1800, and to trace their possible impact in other publications in this period. The project will also include research into fake news about the Dutch Republic in other European countries, especially in relation to international conflicts and religious propaganda.

The research will be conducted at the Special Collections at Leiden University Library, where students will be trained in doing research on historical documents, and in a range of digital databases. The students will also learn how to record their findings in the collection list and will conclude the clinic with a social media assignment (in collaboration with the university library's communication department) as well as a presentation of their findings.