RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Jacqueline Hylkema
Title of clinic:	Book Piracy and Printing Privileges in the Dutch Republic (1600-1800)
Number of students:	Max. 3
Major *(if applicable and approved by the Major Convener)*:	IJ (elective for other majors)
(Pre)requisites *(if applicable)*:	A good reading knowledge of Dutch or French – being able to also read Spanish, German and/or Latin is a bonus. Prior knowledge of the history of copyright legislation or forgery studies is not necessary.

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 counterfeit section of the new collection. The subject of pirated books is part of legal history, especially in relation to the so-called printing privileges (the forerunner of copyright) – as such, this clinic is of particular relevance to IJ students with an interest in the history of copyright but students from LUC's other majors are welcome to apply too.

Students' tasks and activities

The students' main task will be to compile a list of counterfeit books, published in the Dutch Republic between 1600 and 1800, at Leiden University's Special Collections and to research books that were granted a printing privilege and were pirated nevertheless. Particular attention will be paid to the societal role of piracy (for instance in terms of the types of books that were legally protected) and the international dynamics of printing privileges.

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conducted at the Special Collections at Leiden University Library, where students will be trained in doing research on historical documents, and in a range of digital databases.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 assist with the compilation and presentation of raw data for a research publication.