



## Rethinking Liberal Education: Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

Friday June 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Organizing committee:

Prof. dr. Michael Burke (University College Roosevelt)

Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara (Amsterdam University College)

Dr. Paul Hudson (Leiden University College)

Dr. Diederik van Werven (Amsterdam University College)

### **Friday June 14<sup>th</sup>**

18:00 pm      Dinner at Grand Café Frankendael

### **Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am      Registration desk open

9:00 am      Welcome by organizing committee

9:05 am      Opening speech by Prof. dr. Marijk van der Wende, Dean of Amsterdam University College and Professor of Higher Education at VU University Amsterdam

09:30 am      First sessions

11:15 am      Break

11:30 am      Second sessions

13:15 pm      Lunch at AUC

14:30 pm      Plenary speech by Prof. dr. René van Woudenberg, professor of Epistemology and Metaphysics and Director of the Science Beyond Scientism Project and the Abraham Kuyper Center for Science and Religion, VU University Amsterdam

15:30 pm      Break

15:45 pm      Third sessions and roundtables

17:30 pm      Drinks at Restaurant-Café Polder

19:30 pm      Dinner at Restaurant-Café Polder

09:30 am - 11:15 am FIRST SESSIONS

**Panel 1A: The history of liberal education**

Dr. Ria van der Lecq (Utrecht University), Orators and Philosophers. Studying the roots of liberal education.

Dr. David S. Thiele (University of Mount Union, USA), Vulgarians at the gate: Victorian literature and the democratization of liberal culture.

Bas van Bommel, MPhil (Utrecht University), The challenge of encyclopedianism.

Dr. Rolando Vázquez (University College Roosevelt), Dealing with difference and decolonial education.

Chair: Dr. Claudia Heuer (Leuphana College, Germany)

**Panel 1B: Liberal learning and legal studies**

Prof. Dr. Barbara Oomen (University College Roosevelt), Arranging encounters: The world in the law classroom and the law classroom in the world

Prof. dr. Bart van Klink (VU University Amsterdam), Liberal learning and language: The role of multidisciplinarity in legal education.

Dr. Bald de Vries (Utrecht University), Liberal legal education: A case study on self-organization, critique and academic learning.

Dr. René Brouwer (Utrecht University), Some historical and comparative observations on the interdisciplinary nature of the study of law.

Chair: dr. Olaf Tans (Amsterdam University College)

**Panel 1C: In search of robust insights: Philosophy of science as a resource for the adequate integration of liberal arts and sciences**

Drs. Machiel Keestra (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam), Integration of insights, without denial of pluralisms.

Liesbeth Beneder, MA (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam), Critical thinking and philosophy of science.

Yrrah Stol, MSc (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam), A critical look at science as social problem solving.

Dr. Fred Wiegant, dr. Floris van den Burg, dr. Rosemary Orr, drs. Karin Scager, dr. Christel Lutz (University College Utrecht), Evolution, culture and human nature: An interdisciplinary LAS course created and designed by honours students at UCU.

Chair: Dr. Daan van Schalkwijk (Amsterdam University College)

**11:30 am – 13:15 pm    SECOND SESSIONS**

**Panel 2A: The roots and relevance of liberal education**

Dr. Christian Krijnen (University of Tilburg / VU University Amsterdam), The idea of liberal education at a university.

Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara (Amsterdam University College), Great books and the bridging of academic disciplines.

Dr. Jonathan Gill (Amsterdam University College), Lux and/or veritas: The place of religious texts in the great books curriculum

Dr. Melvin Schut (Amsterdam University College), Permanence and renewal: Becoming who we are.

Chair: Dr. Diederik van Werven (Amsterdam University College)

**Panel 2B: Science, Philosophy, and Learning**

Prof. dr. Rob van der Vaart and Kim Zwitserloot, MSc (University College Utrecht), Teaching a subject in LAS context: Analysis of UCU practices.

Dr. Sebastian de Haro (Amsterdam University College), Science and philosophy: A love-hate relationship. On the pedagogical importance of philosophy for science.

Sylvia Blad, MSc and Lucas Rutting, MSc (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam), Interdisciplinary research – a student manual.

Daniel Rutten and Robert Schoo, BSc (University College Utrecht), A student's perspective on liberal education: Experiences and reflections on participation in a SIRIUS course at UCU.

Chair: Dr. Christel Lutz (University College Utrecht)

**15:45 pm – 17:30 pm    THIRD SESSIONS AND ROUNDTABLE**

**Panel 3A: Promoting critical thinking and writing in the LAS classroom**

Dr. Alexei Karas (University College Roosevelt), Towards reviving intrinsic motivation...

Dr. Anya Luscombe and dr. Helle Hochscheid (University College Roosevelt), Critical students, critical professionals: Critical thinking, writing and course design across disciplines.

Prof. dr. Michael Burke (University College Roosevelt), LAS education and public speaking: Pitfalls and principles of teaching the art of effective public communication.

Drs. Joyce Aalberts, Dr. Edwin Koster, and Dr. Rob Boschhuizen (VU University Amsterdam), Liberal education as processing academic judgment.

Chair: Deirdre Klein Bog MA (Amsterdam University College)

**Roundtable 3B: The challenge of teaching natural sciences in the Dutch LAS context**

Dr. Forrest Bradbury (Amsterdam University College)

Dr. Ramon Puras (Amsterdam University College)

Dr. Leo de Wit (University College Roosevelt)

Chair: Dr. Paul Hudson (Leiden University College)

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**Email and affiliation of conference participants:**

Drs. Joyce Aalberts, Department of Psychology, Department of Education, VU University Amsterdam

[j.m.c.aalberts@vu.nl](mailto:j.m.c.aalberts@vu.nl)

Liesbeth Beneder, MSc, Philosophy of Science, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam

[e.beneder@uva.nl](mailto:e.beneder@uva.nl)

Sylvia Blad, MSc, Beta-Gamma bachelor program, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam

[s.blad@uva.nl](mailto:s.blad@uva.nl)

Bas van Bommel MPhil, MA, Research Institute for History and Culture, Department of Modern Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University

[s.p.vanbommel@uu.nl](mailto:s.p.vanbommel@uu.nl)

Dr. Rob Boschhuizen, Department of Education, VU University Amsterdam

Dr. Forrest Bradbury, Physics and Mathematics, Amsterdam University College  
[f.r.brADBURY@auc.nl](mailto:f.r.brADBURY@auc.nl)

Dr. René Brouwer, Department of Legal theory, Faculty of Law, Utrecht University  
[r.r.brouwer@uu.nl](mailto:r.r.brouwer@uu.nl)

Dr. Floris van der Burg, Philosophy, Utrecht University College  
[f.g.vanderburg@uu.nl](mailto:f.g.vanderburg@uu.nl)

Prof. dr. Michael Burke, Professor of Rhetoric, Rhetoric Department, Academic Core, University College Roosevelt  
[m.burke@ucr.nl](mailto:m.burke@ucr.nl)

Dr. Emma Cohen de Lara, Political Science, Amsterdam University College  
[e.coenelara@auc.nl](mailto:e.coenelara@auc.nl)



Dr. Jonathan Gill, Literature, Academic Core, Amsterdam University College  
[j.p.gill@auc.nl](mailto:j.p.gill@auc.nl)

Dr. Sebastian de Haro, Physics, Amsterdam University College, Theoretical Physics, Institute for Theoretical Physics, Faculty of Science, University of Amsterdam  
[s.deharo@auc.nl](mailto:s.deharo@auc.nl)

Dr. Claudia Heuer, Humanities, Leuphana College, Lüneberg, Germany  
[claudia.heuer@inkubator.leuphana.de](mailto:claudia.heuer@inkubator.leuphana.de)

Dr. Helle Hochscheid, Antiquity Department, University College Roosevelt  
[h.hochscheid@ucr.nl](mailto:h.hochscheid@ucr.nl)

Dr. Paul Hudson, Physical Geography, Leiden University, Director of Studies and Senior Tutor, Leiden University College  
[p.f.hudson@luc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:p.f.hudson@luc.leidenuniv.nl)

Dr. Alexei Karas, Economics Department, University College Roosevelt  
[a.karas@ucr.nl](mailto:a.karas@ucr.nl)

Gesche Keding, Teaching Center, Leuphana College, Lüneberg, Germany  
[keding@leuphana.de](mailto:keding@leuphana.de)

Drs. Machiel Keestra, Beta-Gamma bachelor program, Interdisciplinary Honors program, Brain and Cognitive Sciences Master program, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam  
[m.keestra@uva.nl](mailto:m.keestra@uva.nl)

Deirdre Klein Bog, MA, Head of Studies Academic Core, Amsterdam University College  
[d.v.kleinbog@auc.nl](mailto:d.v.kleinbog@auc.nl)

Prof. Dr. Bart van Klink, Professor of Legal Methodology, Legal Theory and Legal History, Faculty of Law, VU University Amsterdam  
[b.van.klink@vu.nl](mailto:b.van.klink@vu.nl)

Dr. Edwin Koster, Faculty of Philosophy, VU University Amsterdam  
[e.koster@vu.nl](mailto:e.koster@vu.nl)

Dr. Christian Krijnen, Faculty of Philosophy, VU University Amsterdam, Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Tilburg School of Humanities, Tilburg University  
[c.h.krijnen@uvt.nl](mailto:c.h.krijnen@uvt.nl)

Dr. Ria van der Lecq, Department of Philosophy, Director of Studies of the Dutch LAS program at Utrecht University, Utrecht University  
[r.vanderlecq@uu.nl](mailto:r.vanderlecq@uu.nl)

Dr. Anya Luscombe, English Department, University College Roosevelt  
[a.luscombe@ucr.nl](mailto:a.luscombe@ucr.nl)

Dr. Christel Lutz, Psychology Department, University College Utrecht  
[c.i.lutz@uu.nl](mailto:c.i.lutz@uu.nl)



Prof. dr. Barbara Oomen, Dean of University College Roosevelt, Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, Utrecht University  
[b.oomen@ucr.nl](mailto:b.oomen@ucr.nl)

Dr. Rosemary Orr, Department of Linguistics, University College Roosevelt  
[r.orr@uu.nl](mailto:r.orr@uu.nl)

Dr. Ramon Puras, Vice Dean and Director of Education, Amsterdam University College  
[r.a.puras@auc.nl](mailto:r.a.puras@auc.nl)

Daniel Rutten, Physics, University College Utrecht, Utrecht University  
[ruttenwolf@gmail.com](mailto:ruttenwolf@gmail.com)

Lucas Rutting MSc, Future Planet Studies and Beta-Gamma bachelor programs, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam  
[l.rutting@uva.nl](mailto:l.rutting@uva.nl)

Drs. Karin Scager, Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Utrecht  
[k.scager@uu.nl](mailto:k.scager@uu.nl)

Dr. Daan van Schalkwijk, Biology, Amsterdam University College  
[d.b.vanschalkwijk@auc.nl](mailto:d.b.vanschalkwijk@auc.nl)

Robert Schoo, BSc, University College Utrecht  
[r.e.s.schoo@students.uu.nl](mailto:r.e.s.schoo@students.uu.nl)

Dr. Melvin Schut, Political Science, Amsterdam University College, Philosophy, Leiden University  
[m.l.schut@auc.nl](mailto:m.l.schut@auc.nl)

Yrrah Stol, MSc, Beta-Gamma bachelor program and the Interdisciplinary Honors Program, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Amsterdam  
[y.h.stol@uva.nl](mailto:y.h.stol@uva.nl)

Dr. Olaf Tans, Legal Philosophy, Amsterdam University College  
[o.j.tans@auc.nl](mailto:o.j.tans@auc.nl)

Dr. David Thiele, English Department, University of Mount Union, USA  
[thieleds@mountrunion.edu](mailto:thieleds@mountrunion.edu)

Prof. Dr. Rob van der Vaart, Dean of University College Utrecht, Honors Dean of Utrecht University, Vice-Rector for Learning and Teaching of Utrecht University, Professor of Human Geography, Utrecht University  
[r.j.f.m.vandervaart@uu.nl](mailto:r.j.f.m.vandervaart@uu.nl)

Dr. Rolando Vázquez, Sociology Department, University College Roosevelt  
[r.vazquez@ucr.nl](mailto:r.vazquez@ucr.nl)

Dr. Mr. Bald de Vries, Department of Legal Theory, Faculty of Law, Utrecht University  
[u.devries@uu.nl](mailto:u.devries@uu.nl)



Prof. dr. Marijk van der Wende, Dean of Amsterdam University College, Professor of Higher Education, VU University Amsterdam  
[m.c.vanderwende@auc.nl](mailto:m.c.vanderwende@auc.nl)

Dr. Diederik van Werven, Literature, Senior Tutor, Amsterdam University College  
[d.l.vanwerven@auc.nl](mailto:d.l.vanwerven@auc.nl)

Dr. Fred Wiegant, Life Sciences, University College Utrecht, Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Utrecht University  
[f.a.c.wiegant@uu.nl](mailto:f.a.c.wiegant@uu.nl)

Dr. Leo de Wit, Physics, Director of Education, University College Roosevelt  
[l.dewit@ucr.nl](mailto:l.dewit@ucr.nl)

Prof. dr. René van Woudenberg, Professor of Epistemology and Metaphysics and Director of the Science beyond Scientism Project and the Abraham Kuyper Center for Science and Religion, VU University Amsterdam  
[r.van.woudenberg@vu.nl](mailto:r.van.woudenberg@vu.nl)

Kim Zwitserloot, MSc, Economics, University College Utrecht  
[k.r.l.zwitserloot1@uu.nl](mailto:k.r.l.zwitserloot1@uu.nl)