Rethinking Liberal Education:
Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

Friday June 14th - Saturday June 15th, 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 14th
18:00 pm Dinner at Grand Café Frankendael

Saturday June 15th
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 Zwitsersloot, 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 de 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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